

Miss Mary Dendy, who will be remembered as the first woman Commissioner, died during the year. A graceful appreciation of her life and work is given. It is pleasing to learn that the Sandlebridge Colony will be known, in future, as the "Mary Dendy Home".

Mortality among Patients with Mental Disease. By BENJAMIN MALZBERG, Ph.D. New York: State Hospitals Press, Utica, 1934. Pp. 234.

This book describes an investigation into the mortality-rates of patients in the mental hospitals in the New York Civil State for the three years commencing July 1, 1928, and terminating June 30, 1931.

Following introductory remarks, the mortality-rates from physical processes are discussed without reference to the mental conditions. Chapters then follow dealing with the causes of death in dementia præcox, manic-depressive psychoses, psychoses with cerebral arterio-sclerosis, general paralysis and alcoholic psychoses.

The data are compared with those of the general population. Approximately 25 per cent. of deaths in the mental hospitals were subject to autopsies, and doubtful classifications of psychoses and causes of death were discussed at staff conferences. The data are consequently more accurate than those of the general population. The total deaths from all causes occurring in the mental hospitals during the period under review were 12,613.

At early ages, the death-rate from all causes was much greater amongst the mental hospital patients than amongst the general population. From 15 to 19 years of age the rate was 24.3 times as great, whereas at 85 years and over the rate was only 1.6 times as large. Similar proportions occur in each sex.

Of the total deaths amongst the mental cases, 33 per cent. were due to diseases of the heart, 11.9 per cent. to pneumonia (all forms), 10.1 per cent. to general paralysis, 9.5 per cent. to tuberculosis (all forms), 8.9 per cent. to diseases of the arteries, and 6.1 per cent. to nephritis.

The author finds that pulmonary tuberculosis is the leading cause of death in dementia præcox, diseases of the heart in the manic-depressive conditions and in cerebral arterio-sclerosis. In the latter, deaths from diseases of the arteries were less than half as frequent. In the alcoholic psychoses, diseases of the heart are also the most prominent cause of death.

The work in this book is a painstaking study of the subject purely from the statistical view-point. No reasons are suggested for the variations in the death-rates from those of the general population, nor for the variations between the different rates associated with the various mental conditions. The author gives the figures without arranging or sorting them in order to make an attempt to determine the reasons for the variations.

The work must have involved a considerable amount of labour, and can be recommended to all those who are interested in the study of the causes of death amongst sufferers from mental disorders in institutions.

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Psychology and Psychotherapy. By WILLIAM BROWN, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P. Third edition. London: Edward Arnold & Co., 1934. Pp. vii + 252. Price 12s. 6d.

If one had to criticize any particular statement in this work, it would be Dr. Brown's claim (in the Introduction) that it is "synthetic rather than