respectively; in how many have reception orders been signed without the boarder having been seen by a magistrate; in how many of these has a notice of right of appeal to a judicial authority been served upon the boarder; in how many has this right been availed of; in how many has a prejudicial certificate in regard to the boarder been sent up to the Board; and in how many has the Manager, availing himself of the authorisation of a relative, taken upon himself to summon the certifying doctors?—Sir W. JOYNSON-HICKS: Of the 977 voluntary boarders resident in licensed houses and registered hospitals during the year 1922, in licensed houses 88 were certified and detained therein, and three were certified and sent to other institutions; in registered hospitals 57 were certified and detained therein, and five were certified and sent to other institutions. Information with regard to the points raised in the remainder of the question is not at present available, but will be supplied to the hon. member as soon as it has been obtained. The Board of Control, however, have no reason to think that the provisions of section 8 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, have not been carried out in every case.

March 12, 1923: *Death-rates in Mental Hospitals.*—Asked by Mr. LANSBURY as to the high death-rate prevailing in the Powick Mental Asylum in certain years, Mr. NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN replied that the death-rates for the years in question at Powick Mental Hospital were as follows (the rates for all county and borough mental hospitals in corresponding years are given in brackets): 1916, 11·2 *per cent.* (12·5); 1917, 22·7 *per cent.* (17·3); 1918, 32·6 *per cent.* (20·2); 1919, 12·7 *per cent.* (12·7); 1922, 6·7 *per cent.* (9·0). It would be seen, he said, that in only two years—that is, 1917 and 1918—were the rates higher than the mean for all asylums. The increase for those years caused much anxiety at the time; it was due to an outbreak of tuberculosis; the death-rates from this cause in 1917 and 1918 were 74 and 162 per 1,000 of the population of the asylum. Two commissioners of the Board of Control made a special inquiry into the matter. They found that the outbreak was due mainly to two factors: (1) subnormal (war) feeding and (2) defective segregation, the result of overcrowding due to war conditions. It was satisfactory to note that by 1919 the death-rate from all causes at Powick had drawn level with the mean for all asylums, and that in 1922 it was much below it.

[It is to be hoped that Mr. A. V. Alexander found comfort in the reply given to Mr. Rhys Davies.—EDS.]

EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

London County Council: The Maudsley Hospital.—Lectures and practical courses of instruction for a Diploma of Psychological Medicine, sixth course, 1923.

Part I.—(1) Eight Lectures on the Anatomy of the Nervous System. By Sir Frederick Mott, *K.B.E.*, M.D., LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.P. On Tuesdays, at 2.30 p.m., commencing on May 1, 1923. The evolution of the nervous system in the animal series; physiological levels; macroscopic and microscopic anatomy of the nervous system; the neurone concept—the projection, association, and autonomic systems; ultimate distribution of the cranial nerves, spinal nerve roots and sympathetic nerves; the meninges—cerebral arteries and their distribution—the intra-cranial venous and lymphatic systems; the congruence of structure and function in the brain; the congruence of experimental investigation with anatomical observation; the clinico-anatomical methods of investigating the functions of the central nervous system—spinal cord—medulla oblongata—pons—cerebellum—mesencephalon—basal ganglia—cerebral hemispheres; the cortex cerebri in relation to cerebral localisation, including the cerebral mechanism of speech; the structure of the endocrine and reproductive organs.

Practical Instruction and Demonstration: Methods of staining nervous tissue and preparing it for microscopical examination; the living nerve cell—the nerve fibre; degeneration and regeneration of nerves; distribution of sections, illustrating the principal diseases of the nervous system, for mounting as a permanent collection.

(2) Eight Lectures on the Physiology of the Nervous System. By F. Golla, M.D., F.R.C.P., Physician, St. George's Hospital. On Fridays at 2.30 p.m., commencing on May 4, 1923. Reflex action—co-ordination and proprioceptive

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system; motor system, including muscle and nerve; sensation—fatigue—localisation and reference of sensation, normal and abnormal—special senses—mental work and fatigue—methods of investigation—physiology of the emotions—endocrinology—the autonomic system—action of alcohol and drugs—physiological chemistry—trophic and vegetative functions.

Practical Instruction and Demonstration: Physiological Chemistry: Chemistry of the nervous system, and the cerebro-spinal fluid; metabolism—vitamins and food deficiency; physico-chemical methods as applied to bio-chemical research; blood and urine analysis—acidosis, uræmia, uric acid. Practical Physiology: Physical concomitants of emotion; recording reflexes and tremors in man; action of drugs on autonomic system; the study of reflex action in the spinal animal.

(3) Eight Lectures on Psychology. By Henry Devine, M.D., F.R.C.P. On Thursdays at 2.30 p.m., commencing on May 3, 1923. Definition and scope of psychology: Behaviour; adjustment; classification of responses; instinct; habit; thought; relation of mind to body; the psycho-physical organisation as a biological unit; integration; methods of psychological investigation; analysis and classification of modes of consciousness; cognition—sensation—perception—imagination—memory—association—judgment—conation—attention—volition—affection—emotion—mood—sentiment—personality—temperament—character—sleep—dreams—suggestion—hypnosis—dissociation—illusion—hallucination—delusions—disorders of attention—fatigue—effects of drugs on reactions.

Practical Instruction and Demonstration: Sensation—psycho-physical methods—statistical methods—reaction times—association—memory—intelligence tests—muscular and mental work.

Part II will follow in October, 1923. A further announcement will be made as to times and lectures.

Fees: For the whole course of Part I and II, £15 15*s.*; for Part I separately, £10 10*s.*; for Part II separately, £10 10*s.*; for one single series of lectures in Part I, £4 4*s.*; for one single series of lectures in Part II, £2 2*s.*

Inquiries as to lectures, etc., should be addressed to "The Director of the Pathological Laboratory," Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, S.E.

University of London Extension Board.—A course of lectures for medical practitioners on "Mental Deficiency with Clinical Instruction" has been arranged by the University Extension Board in co-operation with the Central Association for Mental Welfare. The course will commence on Monday, May 28, and end on Saturday, June 2.

It is intended for qualified medical practitioners and more especially for those who are engaged as Certifying Officers to Local Authorities under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as School Medical Officers, or as Medical Officers of Institutions, or who are otherwise definitely concerned with defectives. The course will be based on the requirements of the syllabus for the University of London Diploma in Psychological Medicine. The University will grant a Certificate of Attendance to those who have attended the whole course regularly, taking both theoretical and practical work. All communications with reference to the course should be addressed to Miss Evelyn Fox, c/o University Extension Department, University of London, Imperial Institute Road, South Kensington, S.W. 7.

The lectures will be delivered at the University of London, South Kensington, unless otherwise stated. (1) "Mental Deficiency": Seven lectures by A. F. Tredgold, Esq., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.S.E. (2) "Administrative Procedure in the Ascertainment and Treatment of the Mentally Defective": Three lectures by F. C. Shrubsall, Esq., M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P., (3) "The Psychology of Mental Defectives": Two lectures by Cyril Burt, Esq., M.A., Psychologist to the L.C.C. (4) "Crime and Mental Defect": Lecture by Wm. Norwood East, Esq., M.D. Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Senior Medical Officer of H.M. Prison, Brixton.

Clinical Work.—The clinical work will consist of visits to L.C.C. and other special M.D. schools during rota and admission examinations, and to residential institutions in or near London, and demonstrations by well-known experts to small groups of students of individual cases of defect. An endeavour will be made to adapt the clinical work to individual requirements, and time-tables and further detailed particulars will be sent to each person proposing to attend the course in May. In order, therefore, that the clinical work may be satisfactorily arranged

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it is important that forms of application should be filled up and returned as soon as possible, in any case not later than May 7th.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC MENTAL HOSPITALS (ENGLAND AND WALES).

THE Board of Control, in a circular letter, refer to the Report of the above Committee, which was reviewed in "Occasional Notes" in our last issue (*vide* p. 90). The following is a synopsis of the Board's remarks:

The Report, while disposing in the main of the allegations which Dr. Lomax made against the administration of public mental hospitals generally, contains a great number of helpful suggestions and valuable recommendations.

There are several recommendations which can be adopted without involving heavy financial commitments.

The Board agree that the head of the institution should be a medical practitioner, and they wish to emphasise the importance of his possessing high medical attainments, of his having had ample experience in the hospital treatment of mental disorders, and of his being fully conversant with the use of the laboratory as an adjunct to treatment. In addition to these medical qualifications he must be a man of tact and sympathy, with kind and thoughtful regard for the comfort and well-being of the patients, with ability for organisation and the delegation of detailed work to suitable officials working under him. The Board are of opinion that, save in exceptional circumstances, the post of medical superintendent should always be advertised. The Board of Control have arranged to call together a small Advisory Committee whenever a Visiting Committee wishes to consult them in regard to new appointments to the office of medical superintendent.

The Board attach much importance to the advantage to be gained by the appointment of visiting specialists. Experience shows that the cost of such appointments need not be great. The Board are glad to observe that at most institutions the services of a dental surgeon have already been arranged for. This should be the practice at all institutions: it is of great importance that proper attention should be given to the teeth of the patients. In reference to the appointment of assistant medical officers, the Commissioners desire to remind the Visiting Committee of the Board's Circular of March, 1920, as to medical staff.

Every endeavour should be made to provide patients with occupation and, as far as possible, to arouse their interest. The question of authorising payment to patients is under consideration.

As regards after-care, the Board agree with the Committee that its importance can scarcely be over-estimated, and they wish to draw special attention to the observations of the Committee on pages 62 to 64 of this Report. The Board suggest that Visiting Committees should call local conferences with a view to the formation of local branches of the Mental After-Care Association. It is anticipated that some enabling provision will be included in the proposed Mental Treatment Bill, which it is hoped to introduce in the coming session, but voluntary action should not be delayed pending the passage of the Bill.

As regards Section 79 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, the Board agree with the Committee as to the importance of drawing the attention of friends and relatives to the provisions of this section, but they think it preferable that this should be done in the rules as to visitation.

There can, of course, be no question as to the importance of research in regard to mental illness. The Committee draw attention to the fact that a large amount of valuable work is now being done in many mental hospitals. But notwithstanding this fact, the Board consider that much more extensive use should be made, as a routine matter and by the aid of the laboratory, of modern methods of diagnosis and treatment. It is intended to include a clause in the proposed Mental Treatment Bill facilitating the combination of local authorities for any purpose, including research and the provision of properly equipped laboratories.

With regard to co-option on Visiting Committees a provision will be inserted in the proposed Mental Treatment Bill.

The following recommendations are to a larger extent dependent on financial considerations; and, in drawing the attention of the Visiting Committee to them,

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