NOTICES BY THE REGISTRAR.

Nursing Examinations.

Preliminary	Monday, May 6th, 1918.
Final	Monday, May 13th, 1918.

Papers for Bronze Medal to reach Registrar before June 14th, 1918.

Examination for Certificate in Psychological Medicine will be held early in July, 1918.

OBITUARY.

William Joseph Seward.

The death of Dr. Seward on February 11th, 1918, came as an unexpected shock to his friends and colleagues in the work of caring for the insane, and although he had been in retirement owing to ill-health since 1911, the announcement of his death came to the writer of these lines as a special reminder of the strain and stress involved in the medical and administrative control of a great mental hospital, for such in the fullest sense was the Colney Hatch Asylum in the North of London.

Seward may be said to have devoted his life to the service of this Institution for he had worked in no other. He joined its staff in 1878 as a graduate of the London University, and he was proud to be one of its Bachelors of Medicine. Educated at University College Hospital, he was appointed to Colney Hatch immediately after completing house appointments at the Bristol Royal Infirmary, which gave him a valuable experience and a full practical knowledge of general medicine and surgery. His hospital appointments always stood him in good stead, for he was an able clinician and he never relinquished his medical interests, although of necessity these tended to be submerged in his official work by an almost overwhelming amount of compelling administrative details.

At Colney Hatch Seward was firstly the assistant to Mr. W. G. Marshall, whose reputation for personal devotion to his patients was a matter of notoriety to the older generation of asylum physicians; then later he became the assistant to Dr. Edgar Sheppard—of fame as the father of the Sub-Dean of the Chapels Royal—and one of the first Lecturers on Psychological Medicine at a London Medical School, *viz.*, King's College. In 1882, when barely 30 years of age, he succeeded Dr. Sheppard as the Medical Superintendent, and with his old chiefs he remained upon terms of intimate friendship to the end of their lives.

When the London County Council, with a new sense of public responsibility assumed the Government of the London (then the Middlesex) Asylums under the Local Government Act of 1890, Seward was appointed by them, upon the retirement of Mr. Marshall, to be the administrative medical head of the whole institution, taking over the care of both the male and female sections and thus abolishing what until then had been a dual control. The Chairman of that Committee was the present Member of Parliament for Hampstead, Mr. J. S. Fletcher, who takes much interest in public affairs. The reconstruction of so great an undertaking under one head was no easy task, and probably Seward was the only person who could have assumed this supreme direction for the Asylums Committee of the Council not only without friction but also with the full help and confidence of the governed—a task much more delicate and much more difficult than the responsibility of opening a new asylum, but Seward accomplished his work with efficiency and credit.

During his period of service in this Institution was inaugurated the After-Care Association for the rehabilitation into social life of those patients who had been discharged recovered; and the inspiring leadership of its founder, the Rev. Henry Hawkins, the Chaplain, was always a source of personal gratification to Seward. He continued throughout his life to take the deepest interest in the Society's welfare, as he also did in the Asylum Workers' Association of the Executive Committee, of which he was a member.

One great event cast a deep shadow upon Seward's life, and he never recovered from the shock. On January 23rd, 1903, a destructive fire occurred in the new wooden annexe, adjacent to the main buildings of Colney Hatch, which was

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