to sanity and normal life, the benefit to them was, of course, beyond price, but he hoped that the fine example of Northampton would be more generally followed."

Concluding, the Lord Chancellor offered cordial congratulations on the work so well begun and declared the building open, with all good wishes for success.

The BISHOP then dedicated the hospital "in the faith of Jesus Christ, the Divine Healer, to the glory of God and the benefit of His people."

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Lord Chancellor, said that it had been a great venture on the part of the Governors, but it was a joy to them to know that their labours had been so successful, and to hear such encouraging words from his lordship.

Sir CHARLES V. GUNNING, in seconding, said that the sub-committee over which he had presided kept before them, not only the need for up-to-date equipment, but they also tried to make the hospital as comfortable and home-like as possible.

The vote was heartily accorded.

The company then had tea in the theatre and lounges of the main building.

THE NEW TREATMENT BLOCK AT RUBERY HILL MENTAL HOSPITAL.

WE have visited recently an interesting and useful addition to a mental hospital which, though not as old as some, was behind the times structurally as to provisions for modern lines of treatment. Unlike the new admission hospital at St. Andrew's Hospital, an additional block was needed for special treatment only, and not for the reception of new cases or for bio-chemical, bacteriological or pathological work. In this latter respect the hospital is amply provided, for here are situated the laboratories of the Joint Board of Research for Mental Diseases of the City and University of Birmingham, where excellent work is being done as reported in our last volume (*vide* p. 503).

This new treatment block has been in use since September, 1926, and Dr. T. C. Graves, the Medical Superintendent, who, with Mr. D. E. Turner, his manager of works, drew up the plan, expresses himself as pleased with the fruit of their joint labours. We can commend this additional building as convenient, economical, and unostentatiously serving entirely practical purposes.

Thus, though each room has a principal purpose as marked on the plan, it can also be put to other uses. For instance Room A is used for all operations, including dental operations, performed under general anæsthesia. B, when not used as an anæsthetic room, is a waiting- and dressing-room, while C, ordinarily for ultra-violet ray therapy, serves also as a recovery room after operations, and as an ear, nose and throat and dental department. In D is kept the stock of instruments, and Room F is used for both Plombière treatment and continuous colonic irrigation.

The largest room is 18 ft. by 14 ft. The building, all ground floor, is of brick, and the floors of terrazzo—the latter by the Venetian Flooring Co., of Birmingham. The extract ventilators are of the air pump type manufactured by Robert Boyle & Son, of Holborn Viaduct, London, E.C. The locks and fittings of new type and attractive appearance (white metal) are by Gibbons, and the water blender, for the continuous bath, was supplied by Royles, of Manchester.

The hospital works department designed and made all the cabinets, cupboards, sterilizers, trollies, stretchers, Plombière table, etc.

The building and corridor of approach were erected at a cost of £3,036.

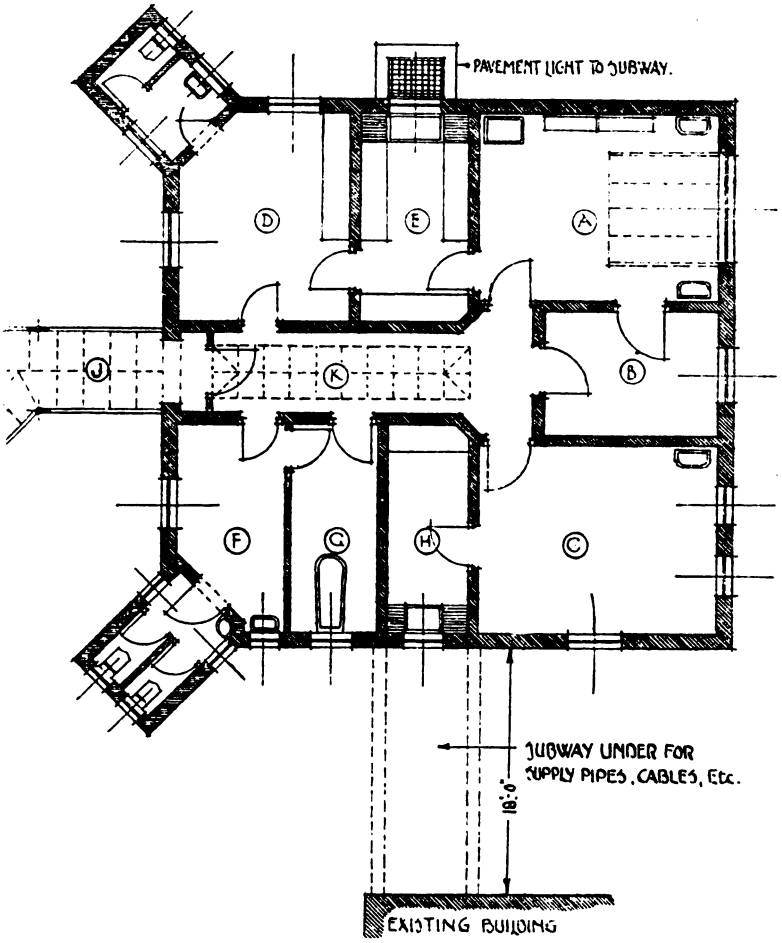
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

AMONG many wonderful exhibits of handicraft in mental institutions, displayed during the Annual Meeting of the Association at Bangour Village, was a unique model of a house constructed by patients in Aberdeen Royal Mental Hospital. A description of this by Dr. Dods Brown may be of interest to many of our readers.

The model, which measures 3 ft. 2 in. by 2 ft. 2 in. by 1 ft. 8 in., was constructed by forty male and female patients. It is a two-storied villa. On the ground floor are the dining-room, sitting-room, kitchen and bedroom; and on the upper floor are the bathroom, maid's room, studio and box-room. It is

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RUBERY HILL MENTAL HOSPITAL—SPECIAL TREATMENT BLOCK.



Scale—12 feet (approx.) to the inch.

A. Operation. B. Anæsthetic. C. Electrical. D. Surgeons. E. Sterilizing. F. Plombière. G. Hydrotherapy. H. Dark and Store. J. Approach corridor. K. Entrance hall.

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completely furnished throughout, and is tastefully decorated. The dining-room is oak-panelled, and the chairs in it are upholstered in leather. On the walls are plaques and willow-pattern plates. The sitting-room furniture is covered in brocade. The piano, made of paduck wood, has a hinged lid and music rest; the keyboard consists of separately cut notes. On two sides of this room are shelves containing 168 suede-covered books with gilt edges. It contains also a nest of tables, a standard lamp and pictures. The latter are all copies of exhibits in the Royal Academy. The furniture of the bedroom is made of rosewood. This apartment contains a hand-woven carpet, twin beds, a wardrobe, a dressing-table, with hinged mirrors, rush-seated chairs, electric radiator, etc. The kitchen floor is covered with stencilled linoleum, and in this room are found a Dutch dresser, a roll-top sink, table and chairs. On the range are pots and pans. In the bathroom, the floor of which is tiled, is a bath and washhand basin with taps, a cork-seated stool, etc. All the rooms, the entrance hall and staircase are lit by electricity, and each lamp and radiator has its own switch. The house, furniture, etc., solely the work of patients, it took four months to complete.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HYGIENE.

DAME MARY SCHARLEIB, *D.B.E.*, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., gave an address at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the National Council for Mental Hygiene, which was held on December 9, 1927, in the Hall of the College of Nursing, London.

[*An Abstract.*]

She said: I have long felt that the study of mental hygiene is badly neglected, not only by the public, which is excusable, but by our own beloved profession, which is by far less excusable. The truth is that the study of mental hygiene is not at all a welcome subject. We have schools for the tubercular, for the ordinary physically defective and for the mentally defective children. Now, if anyone were invited to go and see any hospital or school for children who had some physical ailment or deformity, blindness, deafness, they would gladly go. They would say they were so sorry for these poor little children, and they were so sorry for their parents and their families, but if you were to ask anyone to go to a mental hospital or a school for mentally deficient children they would say, "Oh, I would rather not. That is just not the thing that I would like to do. I do not understand anything about it." Well, that is very true; they do not understand anything about it; but I assure you—indeed most of you know this—that the prevalence of mental deficiency is one of the vital questions for the Empire at the present day. I have been involved once before in a most unpopular cause, and that was the cause which gave rise to the Royal Commission on Venereal Disease presided over by Lord Sydenham from 1913 to 1916. We worked hard for those three years, and at the end Lord Sydenham said to us, "Your work here on this subject is done. Your work outside is now going to begin. Those of you who can speak must speak. Those of you who can write must write. You must all use your influence, and you must all talk about it, until the people understand that the disease is preventable, and is to be prevented; that it is curable and is to be cured. I engage you all to go out and be missionaries in this cause." Well, I think we did as our Chairman asked. A very large number on that Commission were doctors, and I am sure that we all most faithfully preached on this subject, unpleasant as it was. You know the result; you know how wonderfully the knowledge of the public on this subject has improved.

Now, it is exactly the same with regard to mental hygiene. We have got to make people see that there is nothing in the subject so offensive, so repellent, or so difficult as to justify the public in paying no attention to it. I am an old woman, and I remember well the mid-Victorian days, the days of the Daisy Chain, the days of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and so on, and I remember how the hearts of all my old friends, with the children and the young people of these days, went out towards the attractive hero and the delicate heroine, the people who were always breaking blood-vessels and making a mess of one sort or another. How many mid-Victorian novels owed their charm and interest to a lame, blind, or consumptive hero? Now would a book have sold whose chief interest centred round a mental defective? The mother who has a child afflicted with

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