Two Cases of Ill-treatment of Children [Zwei Fälle von Kindermisshandlung]. (*Intern. Zeitschr. f. Indiv. Psych., March–April,* 1928.) *Credner, L.*

Two case-histories, the one of an 11 year old girl, and the other of a woman of 26 who had both been ill-treated by their mothers. Re-education on the principles of Adler's individual psychology produced improvement and promised cure of the neurotic symptoms. A. WOHLGEMUTH.

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8. Mental Hospital Reports.

ENGLAND.

Devon County Mental Hospital.—There was a decrease of 3 males and 1 female in the number of patients in this hospital at the end of the year 1927 compared with the previous year, resulting in a total of 1223 (M., 490; F., 733) patients on the register on December 31. An attempt has been made to relieve the overcrowded state of the hospital by boarding out under Sec. 25 of the Lunacy Act, and it is also proposed to convert the existing nurses block into patients' accommodation.

The admissions for the year were 275 (M., 101; F., 174) and the recovery-rate was 35·6% on the total direct admissions, but as high as 47% on the private cases only.

Under the guidance of Dr. Solly (pathologist to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital) a considerable amount of routine work has been carried through in the laboratory, and a special investigation of blood-films in connection with the ultra-violet ray treatment of mental cases is proceeding.

There were 6 cases of post-encephalitis lethargica under treatment during the year; treatment by hyoscine and ultra-violet rays failed to produce any beneficial result.

"Five cases of G.P.I. (all males) were treated by induced malaria. Of these three improved considerably, one (R. W—) sufficiently to justify discharge, one shows no noticeable change, and the other has become worse.

"This makes a total of 18 cases (15 males and 3 female) who have undergone this special treatment since it was started here in December, 1925, and of these, 3 have been discharged (all males), 10 have improved (8 males and 2 females), 2 males have made no improvement, and 3 have died (2 males and 1 female).

"The three cases from which treatment was purposely withheld at the time this was started are still here, and serve as controls to the results. Two of these cases are in the bedridden stage."

A considerable amount of valuable work is done in this hospital under the heading of occupational therapy, the report under review being very creditably produced, both in format and type, by the "Devon Mental Hospital Printing Press."

31·8% of the nursing staff have passed the Final Examination of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association (50·7% of the men; 19·2% of the women) and several of the staff, male and female, hold the General Nursing Council Certificate.

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Dorset County Mental Hospital.—At the end of the year 1927 there remained in this hospital 880 cases (M., 362; F., 518) or 22 less than at the beginning. There were admitted 146 cases (M., 62; F., 84) and 57 patients died during the year, giving a death-rate of 6·47.

On the subject of recovery-rate or discharge-rate Dr. Bedford says:

"Discharges numbered 111, *i.e.*, 19 more than last year; of these 68 were recovered, 28 were relieved, and 15 not improved; these last-named being transfers to other institutions. The official recovery-rate which is calculated on direct admissions and refers only to those patients who have been discharged as fully recovered, is 48·22%, as compared with 31·61 last year. If the discharges as relieved are taken into account the rate is then 68·08, as against 50·32 last year.

"This extraordinarily high discharge-rate is not only pleasing in itself, but if it were known by the public, as it should be known, it would be recognized as the best answer to the question of whether persons are unnecessarily detained here. It should also serve to allay the fears of those who are inclined to believe that once a person has been 'put away' in the hospital, as they say, he has bid goodbye to the outside world for ever."

The laboratory at this hospital, under Dr. G. W. T. H. Fleming, has done much good work during the year, and interesting original research is still proceeding, especially in connection with the significance of the Boltz test and the tryparsamide treatment of general paralysis.

"Of 13 cases treated with tryparsamide during the past eighteen months, 3 are recovered and in their former employment, 3 have shown well-marked improvement, more particularly physically, 1, although his paretic symptoms are ameliorated, has developed tabetic symptoms, 2 have shown no improvement, and 4 have died. Seven of the 13 have shown marked mental improvement. There has been a complete absence of seizures during 1927. Two of the cases are also receiving intra-muscular injections of a suspension of metallic bismuth in isotonic glucose.

"Those who have employed the malarial treatment of general paralysis are well aware of the attendant risks, not only to those undergoing the treatment, but to their associates, of the elaborate safeguards that are necessary, and of the special knowledge required to control the treatment. These factors have prevented a more widespread use of a form of treatment that has undoubtedly done good. On the other hand, the safety, simplicity and apparently equally good results obtained by tryparsamide therapy, commend it to the wider usage which it is steadily gaining."

An out-patient clinic, in connection with the Dorset County Hospital, is held weekly. It is maintained principally at the expense of the various Boards of Guardians of the county, a small fee being charged to a few patients who can afford to pay. All Boards of Guardians and medical practitioners in the county are invited to send suitable cases to the clinic for advice or treatment.

Kent County Mental Hospitals: (1) *Barming Heath.*—The outstanding event of the year 1927 at this hospital was the completion and opening of the Nurses' Home.

"Since 1911 obtaining a Certificate in Mental Nursing has been obligatory for the staff here. It is becoming more generally recognized that it is difficult for any but an educated girl with well-formed character and high ideals to succeed in mental nursing, for it requires more than ordinary ability, versatility and resource to lead

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and direct the activities of those whose minds are weakened or distorted by disease. Out of her experience the mental nurse must learn to substitute useful and invigorating emotions for those which are sordid and depressing; ennobling thoughts for those which are debasing; habits of industry, helpfulness and contentment for idleness, destructiveness and turbulence. To attract suitable candidates it is necessary to provide proper accommodation, with appropriate social amenities, and a highly-organized system of training The Nurses' Home, which provides these essentials, was formally opened, in the presence of a distinguished company, by Her Royal Highness Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, on June 7."

There were admitted during the year 341 patients (M., 142; F., 199), and of these practically 59% had been ill for more than a month prior to admission, 30% had had previous attacks, and in nearly 57% some form of hereditary defect was ascertained. The recovery-rate was 36·1%, and the death-rate 8·7%; the number resident at the end of the year was 1840 (M., 737; F., 1103).

Occupational therapy is a form of treatment that has always engaged Dr. Wolseley-Lewis's attention, and holds a high position in this hospital.

"On entering the wards of a mental hospital one cannot fail to be struck by the large number of patients sitting about doing nothing. A large proportion of the patients do not care to read, write or play games, but it is of the greatest importance that they should not be left to lose themselves in a delusional world of their own, or occupy their minds with morbid fancies and imagined wrongs, and for this reason occupation-therapy in its widest sense should be developed as fully as possible, and we are trying to inculcate habits of industry in our patients during their earliest days here, so that it may become the fashion for everyone to try and do something useful. Experience shows that conduct and mental outlook are improved, self esteem re-established, opportunity for self-expression afforded, and the creative and artistic faculties developed by this means."

It must be a source of great satisfaction, not only to the hospital, but to all mental nurses to know that the King has been pleased to confer the Membership of the Order of the British Empire on Sister Copeland in recognition of her pioneer work in mental nursing.

"She sacrificed an assured position of staff nurse here, with a salary of £86 per annum, in order to become a probationer at a large London hospital at £20 per annum, so that she might qualify as a general trained nurse. She did this not only to gain more knowledge of her profession, but as an example to others, feeling how important it is for the mental nurse to establish a status by obtaining general hospital qualifications, instead of accepting the position that general hospital nurses should be introduced into mental hospitals and take the leading positions there."

(2) *Chartham Downs.*—The number of patients on the register of this hospital on December 31, 1927, was 1275 (M., 599; F., 676), an increase of 47 during the year; the admissions were 288 (M., 122; F., 166), and of these 48 were suffering from organic disease of the brain.

Dr. Collins deplores the continued influx of cases of mental deficiency.

"It is regrettable to have to report that, owing to the absence of accommodation for the mentally deficient in the county, that children of tender years continue to be admitted under the Lunacy Act. This is very bad for the children, as they are liable to learn depraved habits, and is very troublesome to other patients, who are thus deprived of the quiet that they need and might otherwise obtain. It is

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also noteworthy that the mentally deficient who are not given proper care, control and training early enough in life are often admitted later to mental hospitals, and form a very difficult and dangerous type of patient, for whom little can be done; they require much restraint of liberty, and in this way cause others to be deprived of such freedom as could otherwise be given them."

The clinical laboratory under the charge of Dr. McGowan has done much valuable work during the year, and the X-ray installation has been in regular use in the examination of cases on admission.

As regards discharges Dr. Collins says:

"The total number of discharges was 139, as compared with 118 last year, but the percentage considered to be recovered completely is slightly lower, at 29. It is to be feared that there is a reluctance to take the risks of certifying cases early enough for treatment to be of any avail."

Staffordshire County Mental Hospitals: (1) *Stafford.*—At this hospital there were in residence at the end of the year 1927, 1003 patients (M., 484; F., 519) indicating overcrowding to the extent of 54. The Mental Hospitals Board for the county has apparently decided on extension by means of admission hospitals at each of the three hospitals under their administration.

There were admitted during the year 197 patients (M., 96; F., 101), and of these Dr. Shaw estimated that possible recovery could only be looked for in 88 of the first-attack cases. The recovery-rate on the total direct admissions was 24% in the case of the men, and 36% in the case of the women, while the death-rate was 7·6% on the total cases under treatment.

Owing to the unfortunate breakdown in health of Dr. Farran-Ridge and the necessity of employing a *locum tenens*, original research was considerably interfered with, but routine laboratory work was carried out, and further investigation regarding venom hæmolysis was undertaken with the object of ascertaining its usefulness in diagnosis.

(2) *Burntwood.*—At the end of the year 1927 there were 943 patients in residence at this hospital, or 7 more than the year began with; there were admitted 196 patients (M., 103; F., 93) and among the admissions the greatest ætiological factor was mental stress, followed more or less closely by some disease such as influenza, epilepsy or syphilis; alcohol was a factor in only 4 men and 4 women

The solaria at this institution are all fitted with vita-glass.

"Vita-glass in the male sun-room has benefited the patients. A suitable skin reaction, a steady increase of weight, and a warmer room temperature have been obtained. Convalescing mental cases, others with intractable wounds or sinuses, or those suspected of early tuberculosis of the lungs are suitable for this treatment. Along with tuberculin treatment, a case of tubercular hip has had several sinuses heal up, and the only remaining sinus much benefited."

(3) *Cheddleton.*—The number of patients resident at the end of the year 1927 in this hospital was 1134 (M., 610; F., 524), an increase of 12 in the year. There were admitted in all 265 cases (M., 121; F., 144). Amongst the admissions Dr. Menzies draws attention to the steady increase of cases of dementia præcox, and the anticipated post-war increase of general paralysis.

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"It is usual now in mental hospitals to subject all admissions to the Wassermann test. This was done last year on the male side and we hope in future to include the women also; it is a question of laboratory facilities. The malarial inoculation treatment has been applied to all cases and it is really remarkable in what a small percentage good does not accrue. Even if complete recovery is not attained, most patients become quieter and more manageable, cleaner in habits and less difficult to nurse. Dr. Stewart has initiated a modification of the method, which consists in stopping the malarial attack by quinine as soon as the parasites are recognized in the blood during the first rigor, then a few months later inducing a second and then a third short attack. This is much safer for the patient and cuts out the risk of deaths from malaria, nor does it, in our short experience, appear less efficacious than allowing a succession of rigors to occur before giving quinine. That a high temperature has nothing to do with cure is shown by the case of a man who recovered and is now at work outside, in whose blood parasites were abundant without any rigor occurring at all. Coming to statistics of general paralysis, 2 men, out of the 1927 admissions, were discharged recovered during the year, as well as 1 man who had been here since 1925. Three others will almost certainly be discharged this year. Two men and one woman died without inoculation, being considered too feeble, one man and one woman died before the first rigor had time to develop, and two men died of malarial broncho-pneumonia, one before the parasites had appeared in the blood. One man has greatly improved and the rest have not changed, in most of whom insufficient time has elapsed. No case has been made definitely worse. Including admissions in former years the total death roll from general paralysis was 7 men and 3 women."

The cases of encephalitis lethargica that were admitted were all definitely Parkinsonian with the exception of one girl (apache), and one boy (acute katatonia). None of these cases showed any improvement. One girl died suddenly, and at the *post-mortem* was found to have enlarged pineal and pituitary glands and a large persistent thymus.

Difficulties in connection with the nursing staff are well illustrated by a paragraph in the Committee's report.

"The position regarding candidates for the post of probationer nurse, which last year showed signs of improvement, has again deteriorated. Of late, advertisements in the Nursing Press produce an inadequate result. It is scarcely recognized what heavy additional organization a teaching school entails, for it predicates the dismissal of those who refuse to work during training and repeatedly fail in the professional examinations. In the past year 33 nurses left the service out of a staff of 64, although 3 of these were ward sisters given three years' leave for general hospital training, who will presumably ultimately return. Of the 30 remaining no fewer than 10 were dismissed for repeated failure to enter for or pass the R.M.P.A. examinations; 1 was dismissed for misconduct. Six probationers broke their contract and left without notice. Formerly the Committee used to prosecute such persons in the County Court, but this custom has fallen into abeyance. Mostly such girls desert from a passing whim or temporary homesickness, and many who would do the same, were it not for their contract, afterwards turn out excellent nurses. Six left on the expiry of their contract, and four were released by the Committee, three alleging impending marriage. Three were released by the medical superintendent under section 4 of their contract on account of illness. This analysis gives some idea of the restless spirit abroad in the nursing world of women, and may be compared with the male side."

BURMAH.

The accommodation provided for mental disease in the Burmese portion of British India consists of three mental hospitals, two at Rangoon (St. John's Road Hospital and Tadagale), and a smaller one at Minbu. Thus an area of about 240,000 square miles having a

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