qualified to carry out the work required? This is the real practical point. Did the Hospitals Committee appreciate the fact that a whole afternoon devoted to this work might and often does result in only two or three cases receiving attention? It is conceivable that one case might take up the whole of that time if done properly.

It will be some years before mental clinics will be able to dispense with the services of mental specialists of local authorities. Psychiatry will need to occupy a more prominent position in the medical curriculum, and the general practitioner to be better equipped for this work before this consummation can come about. In the meantime the mentally afflicted are to be penalized in order to carry out a formula!

Contrast the attitude of the Council of the British Medical Association with that of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association in this matter. It is proposed by the latter that the general practitioner shall be invited to attend its Divisional Clinical Meetings, as this is the only way at present in which he can conveniently receive post-graduate education and experience in mental disorders.

Did the general practitioners or the medical superintendents of public mental hospitals first preach the doctrine that if mental cases were adequately treated in their early stages, many would never reach the stage of certification and subsequent detention in a mental institution? We have in mind public asylum reports of eighty years ago in which this was urged. It is a long cry which has lasted from then till now. It has been heard, but only here and there. Is its full realization to be delayed by a shibboleth which disintegrates before the tribunal of common sense? *Carpe diem.*

J. R. Lord.

The New Nurses' Home at Barming Mental Hospital.

It is not vouchsafed to everyone to see the capping-stone put on an edifice he has been erecting during many years of toil and patient adherence to carefully laid plans; yet this may be said of Dr. H. Wolseley-Lewis almost literally and certainly ideally in regard to the new Nurses' Home at Barming Mental Hospital opened on Tuesday, June 7, 1927, by H.R.H. Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles.

The building, solidly built of brick and mortar, and well designed and furnished for its purpose, besides being a home is, in its highest sense, a symbol of that special education and training so essential before men and women (however well blessed with all those nursing attributes of heart and mind we hear so much about) can be

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considered properly equipped to tend the mentally afflicted—a form of nursing which lays claims to be the highest and most difficult of all nursing.

Without in the least minimizing the homage we pay to those earlier pioneers in this direction, exemplified by Sir James Crichton-Browne, Campbell Clark, Ernest White, Hayes Newington, Elkins, Robertson and others, it will be conceded that, of those who have given inspiration and strength to the movement in recent years, the name of Wolseley-Lewis stands out prominently, and that he was rightly described by the Chairman of the Kent County Council (Lord Cornwallis) as "the master mind" of an effort which was no sudden inspiration, but the culmination of long endeavour.

The new Nurses' Home—for an account of which and its Royal inauguration our readers are referred to other pages of this number (*vide* pp. 504)—may be truly regarded as a "pioneer effort" for it is the first, we understand, which carries out the recommendations made in this relation by the Board of Control (England and Wales) Committee on Mental Nursing, of which Dr. Wolseley-Lewis was a very active and influential member.

We take this opportunity of cordially congratulating Dr. Wolseley-Lewis and the Visiting Committee of Barming Mental Hospital on the success of their efforts to raise the status and standard of the mental nurse.

Child Guidance and Fathercraft.

ALEXANDER TCHEKHOV, a kinsman of the now well-known Russian writer, has published certain scenes and sketches from Anton Tchekhov's childhood which show us what manner of man his father was. "I wonder," he writes, "if there are many readers and admirers of Tchekhov who know that in the early years of his life fate made him play the part of a boy shopkeeper in a small grocer's shop, kept by his father." "And one would hardly believe," he adds, "that Anton, the strict and absolutely honest writer and idealist, was familiar in his childhood with all the methods of false weight and measure and with all the tricks of a little business. Anton was forced to go through that horrible mill, and he remembered it with bitterness all his life."

The family *régime*, too, was so unfortunate that Anton had no chance of running about, playing and being happy. There was no time for it, for all his time, out of school hours, he had to spend in the shop. Apart from this, his father had placed a taboo on all that sort of thing; he was not to run about, for "you will wear out your shoes"; playing was forbidden, for "only urchins in the street play about"; and Anton had with grief and with tears

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