

The out-patient department occupies a large part of the tenth and eleventh floors. Waiting rooms, offices and examination rooms are provided. Treatment facilities on these floors are so arranged that they are available to patients in the hospital as well as to the out-patient clinic.

In the tower are laboratories for research in chemistry, bacteriology, pathology and psychology. The twelfth floor is given over to the library and medical museum. In the building are an auditorium seating 150, gymnasium and two classrooms.

Dr. H. W. Potter is assistant director. Among the research associates are Dr. Armando Ferrero, specialist in neuro-pathology; Dr. Erwin Brand, formerly of Montefiore Hospital and Home, and a leading student in metabolism; Dr. Leland Hinsie, who has made special studies in the value of psycho-analysis in treating mental disorders and in the treatment of general paralysis; and Dr. Nicholas Kopeloff, who has made a study of the influence of focal infections in mental disorders.

The complete staff will include three senior and two junior psychiatrists, a research associate in psychiatry, chemistry, bacteriology, internal medicine and psychology; three assistant research associates, a chief and five assistants in occupational therapy, a chief and three assistants in social service, a physical training instructor, a nurse and four assistants in the out-patient department, a nurse and six assistants in the hydro- and electro-therapeutic department, seventy-nine nurses and attendants in the ward service, and a photographer and X-ray technician.

J. R. LORD.

JORDANBURN NERVE HOSPITAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, EDINBURGH.

OPENING OF THE LECTURE THEATRE.

A lecture theatre as part of the Jordanburn Nerve Hospital and Psychological Institute, Morningside Park, Edinburgh, was formally opened on October 15, 1929, by Mr. William Adamson, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland.

The wide support which the new voluntary venture for treating "nerve" cases is receiving was reflected in the large and representative gathering which had assembled.

The lecture theatre, which has been built at a cost of £8,000, will be available not only for the classes of psychiatry in the University and in the Royal Colleges and School of Medicine, and for post-graduate and special courses of lectures on psychological and neurological subjects, but also for popular lectures to educate the public in the value of good mental health and the prevention of mental ill-health. It holds 250 persons comfortably; its floor is sloped to obtain a good view of the platform, which is 12 ft. wide and 34 ft. long. Much attention has been given to the acoustics, which are perfect. It has a cinema, and an epidiascope is contemplated. It is intended later to erect psychological laboratories at a cost of £20,000, and the site for these, connected up with the lecture theatre and the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, has already been selected.

Lord Provost Sir Alexander Stevenson presided, and among those present were the Hon. Lord Murray; the Deputy-Keeper of the Signet, Mr. W. C. Johnston, W.S.; Sir Samuel Chapman, M.P.; Sir Patrick Ford, M.P.; Sir Ludovic Grant; Sir David Wallace, Mr. George Mathers, M.P.; Sheriff Brown, K.C.; the Very Rev. Principal Martin, D.D.; Principal Sir Thomas Holland; Dr. R. A. Fleming, President of the Royal College of Physicians; the Dean of the Thistle, the Very Rev. Charles L. Warr; the Very Rev. Dr. J. Harry Miller; Colonel Young, C.B.E., D.L.; Mr. H. O. Tarbolton, architect; Mr. T. M. Gardiner, Chairman of the Board of Managers, Jordanburn Hospital; Sir Robert Philip; Prof. George M. Robertson, Physician-Superintendent and Professor of Psychiatry, Edinburgh University; Sir Norman Walker, Prof. Lorrain Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and other Professors in their robes.

The Lord Provost, in introducing Mr. Adamson, said that he would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the Corporation and citizens, of expressing their high appreciation of the invaluable work carried on in the institution, under the leadership

of Prof. Robertson. Indeed, to him it was one of the most hopeful signs of the times to observe how every enlightened community was admitting that they had a duty towards their fellow citizens who were either mentally or physically afflicted.

A generous donor had given anonymously a sum of no less than £10,000 as an endowment for working expenses. There they had a fine example of true citizenship. Might he go one step further and make an appeal, which he hoped would find an answer? There was still a capital debt of some £20,000. Might he express the hope that some other generous donor in Edinburgh would follow the lead given by that anonymous gentleman? (Applause.)

Mr. ADAMSON, in declaring the theatre open, said that he appreciated the honour that had been conferred upon him of being invited there to open the lecture theatre. With the enlightened and sympathetic co-operation of the Board of Control, their mental hospitals in Scotland had done great work in restoring to happiness and usefulness many a precious life, and in caring for those whom Fate had doomed to life-long illness. In carrying out those great services for humanity, the Scottish mental hospitals had achieved an enviable reputation, and had earned the admiration of every nation, and as a man interested in public affairs, he rejoiced in being associated with them in the opening ceremony. It was the duty, and ought to be the privilege, of every civilized nation to make ample provision for the welfare, the health and the happiness of that section of their people who, by reason of either bodily or mental infirmity were unable to take care of themselves.

During the latter part of the last century there was a steady awakening of the social conscience to the need of making ample hospital accommodation for those of their people who suffered from well-established bodily illness, and illness that had gone to a stage beyond recovery. Gradually there had crept into the minds of their people the true inwardness of that fine old Highland proverb which said: "Where there is heart-room there is house-room."

Within the present century, however, their medical men had recognized that they were tackling the problem of bodily disease at the wrong end—that they were making provision for disease when recovery was difficult or altogether remote, and that if they were to safeguard their people, then they must deal with the earliest manifestations of illness and prevent those illnesses by dealing with their origins. The result had been the steady growth of a new work of great preventive services all over Scotland—the maternity and child-welfare service, the school health service and a dozen other beneficent services whose aim was to protect the individual from disease.

In the wide field of mental disablement they had been in precisely the same position, but the provision of an essentially preventive service for mental diseases was only now having a comprehensive inception.

The rapid rise of the important nerve hospital and its continuous development as a vital centre for teaching and research were fully described in the admirable annual report of the Royal Morningside Hospital for 1928, and he only required to emphasize the far-reaching effect of that beginning to a hospital provision for conserving the mental health of the Scottish people and raising it to a higher level.

Their people required to understand that the Hospital and all it stood for was a new departure—a new institutional provision, not only for the recognition and cure of early mental disorder, but still more for the investigation of early mental signs, the complete understanding of which meant the prevention of mental disease. At present there was much room, and, indeed, need, for a propaganda of enlightenment. The old fears which had enslaved the public mind in relation to the problems of mental disorder must be robbed of their power. The opening of that theatre offered a platform and a sounding-board for such propaganda.

The Jordanburn Nerve Hospital, which had already commenced its mission of healing, formed only a part, though an important part, of the plans of the managers of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital to deal with a serious public problem. They were there to inaugurate another part of their programme. The theatre in which they were met was designed as a deliberate challenge to the exclusiveness of former methods of dealing with disorder of the nervous system. They were very much indebted to that band of enthusiasts who were busy trying to bridge the gaps which still existed before their knowledge of preventive methods would be complete. There they would find a rallying point and a stimulus to further efforts. There, too, the medical profession would be kept in touch with the developments which occurred from time to time.

The general practitioner must also be encouraged to keep alive his interest in the things of the mind and nerves as well as the body. The family doctor and the specialist must co-operate, if the best results were to be achieved. The interest of the medical student must also be awakened to the importance of the institution and its work.

He need hardly emphasize the importance of all that to Edinburgh—to have under one roof a hospital and out-patient clinic, a psychological institute, and a lecture theatre, all specially designed to tackle a particular social problem; a place, where provision was being made for the prevention of those first complex nervous disturbances that were the forerunners of nervous breakdown. Prevention was better than cure; and the stitch in time which saved nine was as applicable to mental treatment as it was in any other aspect of their lives. The prevention of disease, whether of mind or body, was an economic proposition. It would pay the Nation in pounds, shillings and pence to provide all the facilities for that much-needed social service.

The work of the Institution would reach deep down into the life of the nation. The individual sufferers, the difficult and backward children, handicapped for life in many cases, and those who were mentally and morally weak, and doomed to become derelict, would be helped. The Hospital and its Institute would mean much to the patients. It would actually serve and win more to the Nation.

There was hardly one branch of social service in which the co-operation of the medical profession could be safely dispensed with. It was almost impossible for them to assess at its true value the service rendered by the medical profession to their fellow men. In no part of the world was the service rendered of a higher standard than in Edinburgh. As the person responsible meantime for the conduct of Scottish affairs, he tendered them the cordial thanks of their people for their great service to them and to humanity.

He understood that some £20,000 was still required to provide the laboratories that were the vital centre from which the whole of their research activities must radiate. That great work for social medicine was being undertaken by a voluntary corporation, and he could not doubt that the inspiration to help, which had imbued the founders of their other renowned voluntary hospitals, would fail them in that instance.

He had much pleasure in formally declaring the lecture theatre open, in the full assurance that it would worthily serve the purpose for which it had been erected. (Loud applause.)

Principal Sir THOMAS HOLLAND, speaking on behalf of the University, said that he was very glad indeed that the first public ceremony in which he was privileged to take part in Edinburgh should be the dedication of that lecture theatre to a work which would supplement the activities of the University. He spoke to them as one who had been responsible in other ways for activities of a similar sort—activities which he wished could have been extended—in the country with the government of which he was associated for some years. It was extraordinary to him that they had got over the old difficulty of regarding physical disabilities as due to intervention of Providence. Those who had followed the history of the medical profession would realize what a revolution had occurred since Pasteur discovered that diseases were due to a germ and infection. Yet they still went on imagining that mental aberrations were something beyond the process of research. The work of that institution was going to be great, for not only would it increase the facilities for lectures to students, but it would also go much further—it would undertake research into the causes of mental disturbance. A movement of that sort ought to be considered of great importance in Edinburgh, which had acquired its reputation largely because of its Medical School. Here was another opportunity, largely due to the irresistible enthusiasm of Prof. Robertson, of leading the medical schools of the world in opening up new ground in that particular line of study. Although there was this old popular prejudice against the possibilities of curing mental disorders, they were up against something which was quite curable in medical science. If he could do anything towards helping that forward during his term of office, he would consider it a service to the public of Edinburgh and to the whole community. (Applause.)

Prof. J. LORRAIN SMITH, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and Dr. R. A. FLEMING, President of the Royal College of Physicians, expressed the gratitude of the medical profession for the opening of that centre of study of nerve diseases.

Mr. T. M. GARDINER, Chairman of the Board of Management of the Jordanburn Hospital, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Adamson, stated that their enterprise had created world-wide interest, Prof. Robertson having received letters of congratulation and communications asking for information from distant parts of the earth.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Lord Provost, on the motion of Sheriff Brown.

[Summary of reports published in the *Scotsman* and *Glasgow Herald* for October 15, 1929.]

CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH.

A Conference on Mental Health, convened by a Joint Committee of the National Council for Mental Hygiene and the Tavistock Square Clinic, was held in the Central Hall, Westminster, on October 30–November 2, 1929.

The European and American Leagues and Committees of Mental Hygiene had been invited to send representatives, and though only two were able to do so—the Belgian, who sent Dr. F. Sano, of Ghel, and the Swedish, who were represented by Dr. Josef Lundahl, of Wisby—messages of goodwill and congratulation were received from Austria (Dr. Pilcz), Germany (Dr. Sommer), Italy (Dr. Ferrari), Russia (Dr. Rosentein), Spain (Dr. Rubiano), and Switzerland (Dr. Répond). Mr. Clifford Beers, the Founder and General Secretary of the American National Committee for Mental Hygiene, sent warm good wishes and regrets that he could not be present, and the Massachusetts Society for Mental Hygiene wrote expressing its great interest in the programme.

Amongst those attending the Conference were visitors from Australia, Tasmania, the United States, Canada, India, South Africa (the Chairman of the Johannesburg Committee for Mental Hygiene), and a party of students from the International League of Red Cross Societies, representing nearly every country in Europe. People were present from most of the cities, large towns and country areas in England, and many came from Scotland. The audiences were not only cosmopolitan in character, but were also representative of every aspect of social work—doctors, nurses, teachers (both elementary and secondary), magistrates, probation officers, social workers of all kinds, members of Education and Public Health Authorities, School Care Committees, Boards of Guardians, etc.

The Inaugural Meeting, held on Wednesday, October 30, at 8.30 p.m., was presided over by Viscount Brentford. The Minister of Health (the Rt. Hon. Arthur Greenwood, M.P.), sent a cordial message of good wishes. A message was also read from the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening remarks, emphasized the progress that had been made of late years in the treatment of mental disorders, and the urgent need at the present day for preventive work. He expressed the hope that the next few years would see the establishment of a Chair of Mental Hygiene at every University and Medical School.

Sir MAURICE CRAIG (Chairman of the Council) spoke of the history of the mental hygiene movement, and laid stress upon the fact that it was pre-eminently a layman's movement, and had, in fact, been initiated by a layman, Mr. Clifford Beers of New York. He emphasized the need for the reform of the Lunacy Laws, and of the importance of increased facilities for the treatment of early symptoms of mental disturbance, particularly in childhood. Finally he spoke of the proposal to extend the scope of the Tavistock Square Clinic by the establishment of an Institute of Medical Psychology.

Mr. LAURENCE BROCK (Chairman of the Board of Control) spoke of the need for a kinder and more understanding attitude on the part of the general public with regard to mental patients. Legislation was urgently needed to enable mental hospitals to treat voluntary patients, and thus to bring the treatment of mental illness into line with that of physical illness.

Canon T. W. PYM spoke with great appreciation of the admirable work done for early mental and nervous cases by the Tavistock Square Clinic, and Dr. LETTIE FAIRFIELD took as her particular subject that of child guidance.