

NEED FOR RESEARCH IN MENTAL DISORDERS.

JULIA L. MASTERS.

It heartens one to read in *The Times of India*: That, Major M. Taylor, Medical Superintendent, Mental Hospital, Ranchi, appeals for encouragement and support of Research in presenting the Report of the hospital for the triennium 1933-1935.

'Mental Hygiene' writes Major Taylor 'as a public health measure needs no justification to-day, and its place in the broad field of public health and social welfare must be firmly entrenched and permanently assured. It is surely just as important to study the causes of mental disease and the methods of controlling it, as it is to compile the statistics of cholera, smallpox and typhoid fever.'

The Trained Nurses Association of India realizing that this need existed convened a committee on Mental Nursing and Hygiene. I grieve to state that it has become a dormant committee because the chairman has tried to arouse interest among the staff of the Mental Hospitals in different provinces and invited (by letters) discussions about the behaviour, etc., of patients suffering from certain forms of mental disease so that nurses could compare notes and thus learn something about the cause, and not always be met by the Bar of the Medical Rule of Reticence about the disease of patients under treatment.

It appears to the writer that if Government would lift this 'Medical Bar' much could be done by enthusiastic Doctors and Nurses to help those who wish to study the causes of mental disease and methods of control.

Another very insistent problem is the need of an 'Aid Society' for the mental patients, who have recovered from their illness or are well enough to live away from Hospital Environment. But who have no where to go, and are handicapped in finding work, due to their late residence in a Mental Hospital.

SIR HENRY WELLCOME

A Biographical Sketch

Sir Henry Wellcome was born in Wisconsin, U.S.A., and spent his early childhood in the midst of the Dakota Indian tribes. He attended the schools of the frontier, including one which was held in a typical Western log school house.

As a youth he was in the midst of the great Sioux Indian War in Minnesota, when more than a thousand whites were massacred. He was made captain of the boys whose appointed duty was to cast rifle bullets for the defence of the settlement and actively assisted his uncle—a famous surgeon—in treating the wounded. Having at an early age chosen chemistry and pharmacy as his career, Sir Henry Wellcome studied these and cognate subjects in Chicago and Philadelphia and shortly after taking his diploma at the latter city went to New York, where his strong bent towards literary activity was shown by various articles contributed to the scientific journals.

Sir Henry Wellcome visited most parts of the North American Continent, and finally South America, where he studied the native cinchona (quinine) forests. On his return from South America, he contributed to scientific publications the result of his observations. Attracted by the idea of London as an ideal manufacturing and distributing centre for chemical industries, he