

## RAMPTON STATE INSTITUTION.

Dr. F. E. E. Schneider, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.M., has been appointed Medical Superintendent in succession to Dr. W. Rees Thomas. Mr. J. H. Cobb, M.B., F.R.C.S., has been appointed Honorary Consultant for Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat.

PATHOLOGICAL, BACTERIOLOGICAL AND BIOCHEMICAL  
SUB-COMMITTEE.

Attention is drawn to the fact that a number of eminent scientific men have agreed to act as Advisers to the Pathological, Bacteriological and Biochemical Sub-committee, and any institution or member of the Association desirous of technical advice in research should communicate with the Honorary Secretary, Dr. F. A. Pickworth, Hollymoor, Northfield, Birmingham.

## OBITUARY.

WILLIAM FRANCIS NELIS, M.D.Durh., L.R.C.P.Edin., L.R.F.P.S.Glasg.

We regret to record the death, in his 76th year, of Dr. W. F. Nelis, late Medical Superintendent of the Newport Mental Hospital. He was born in Australia, of Irish parentage; he came to this country to study medicine and proceeded to Anderson College and Glasgow University. He took the Scottish Triple qualification in 1879, and in 1896 proceeded to the M.D.Durham. After qualifying, he was House Surgeon at the Glasgow Infirmary, and then sailed for a short sea voyage as ship's surgeon. On his return he decided to take up psychiatry as his life's work. He was Medical Officer to the Carmarthen Mental Hospital for a year, and subsequently Assistant Medical Officer at the Monmouthshire Mental Hospital, Abergavenny, for twenty-five years. In 1905 he was appointed Medical Superintendent of the newly erected Newport Mental Hospital at Caerleon. This post he held until his retirement in January, 1929.

The opening of the new Hospital entailed much hard work and foresight, and under his fostering care it grew to maturity. He took the greatest delight and pride in it, earning the confidence of the Committee, who were as zealous as himself in promoting the well-being of the patients under their care. His relations with the patients were of the kindest; time and custom never dimmed the sympathy he felt for them in their tragic affliction, and his ear was ever ready to listen to their grievances, however trivial.

He had an extensive knowledge of psychiatry, though an innate modesty and shyness prevented him from giving vent to his views in public. He realized that there was a long road yet to travel before the secrets of mental diseases were laid bare, and to this end he thought that the best chances of their elucidation lay in the establishment of coordinated research centres staffed by specialists and supplemented by clinical experience.

Dr. Nelis was under middle height, but in spite of lack of inches, he had a dignified personality; his eyes were keen and shrewd, and he was endowed with common sense and excellent judgment. In addition he was blessed with an extraordinarily retentive memory, which remained unimpaired to the end. He could recall by name patients who had left the hospital many years before, together with their peculiarities.

He had more than a passing acquaintance with botany, and the fine avenue of trees leading from the hospital gates to the main building, with shrubs arranged throughout the grounds (the laying-out of which he personally supervised) is a tribute to his skill as a botanist and to his artistic bent.

He was widely read and had the gift of memorizing long quotations of prose and poetry, much of it of melancholy beauty. He himself possessed in a marked degree the melancholy of the Celt, and this trait in his character became more accentuated as the years rolled on and the first warning symptoms of physical infirmity manifested themselves.

He was never very robust and latterly the chest weakness from which he suffered became aggravated with attendant disabilities. When the symptoms abated from time to time he had intervals when his wit and fund of Irish stories found full play. As the shackles of ill-health fastened on him more closely he resigned the office he had held so long and honourably, and retired to Teignmouth, where he hoped the milder southern breezes would benefit his embarrassed breathing.

On leaving he was made the recipient of gifts from officers and staff, together with a handsome cheque from the Committee.

During the three years of his retirement he was watched over faithfully by his housekeeper, for he never married, and he kept up to the last the keenest interest in the affairs of the Hospital. That his interest was not wholly a sentimental one was revealed in his will, by which he bequeathed £3000 for use in connection with the after-care work now being carried on at this Hospital, and he made numerous bequests to other charities.

The glass of his years grew steadily more brittle, the long day was drawing to a close and the last year of his life was a painful struggle against increasing ill-health. Most of his contemporaries had passed beyond the Veil, and it was not without justification that he repeated Moore's lines—

“ When I remember all the friends so linked together,  
I've seen around me fall like leaves in wintry weather ;  
I feel like one who treads alone some banquet hall deserted ;  
Whose lights are fled, whose garlands dead and all but he departed.”

In the early morning of Tuesday, March 29, 1932, conscious to the end, he passed peacefully away. *De Mortuis nihil nisi bonum* is an old adage, but in truth it would be difficult to speak or write anything but good of one who was so singularly free from even the most ordinary human failings. M. R. MACKAY.

## EDUCATIONAL NOTES.

### COURSE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY.

A six months' course in occupational therapy has been arranged by the College of Nursing in conjunction with the Maudsley Hospital, and will begin in October, 1932.

The Syllabus will include :

- (1) Three half-days a week training in handicrafts at Goldsmith's College, New Cross.
- (2) Three days a week graduated practical work with the patients at the Maudsley Hospital, under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
- (3) A course of 24 lectures at the College of Nursing, given by one of the Medical Officers of the Hospital.
- (4) Practical clinical demonstrations at the Maudsley Hospital.

Candidates must be State registered, general or mental nurses, or hold the Nursing Certificate of the Royal Medico-Psychological Association.

The fee for the course is £7 7s.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Director, Education Department, College of Nursing, Henrietta Street, London, W. 1.

No responsibility can be accepted by either the College of Nursing or the Maudsley Hospital for the finding of posts for those who have taken the course.