

except those who have had direct experience with it. This waste will be eliminated to a large extent by housing patients in separate single rooms. And the keynote of the whole thing will be the flexibility of the service.

In the first place, it is the business of a hospital to cure people. No one will say that noise, confusion and unsightliness are conducive to cure. A separate room for each patient together with other provisions for privacy and comfort in this new hospital will eliminate noise, confusion, and unsightliness—and with them, fear. What that will save in energy and worry to doctor and nurse and patient is incalculable.

Next, the single-room system will save the nurse's time. In the ordinary ward all the supplies are kept at the end of the ward, and the nurse has to travel its entire length to get what she requires every time she goes to any one of the beds. We shall have each patient's equipment at the patient's bedside and save the nurse's time and strength.

Every bed will be working 100 per cent. We shall not be troubled by the necessity for sex segregation or disease classification.

With the ward system there is often a waiting list for the women's surgical ward, while several beds are empty in the men's ward. This means that two things happen: People who urgently need surgical treatment are denied it and empty beds add their quota to the overhead without working for it.

Again, in the classification of diseases, the maternity ward of the old type hospital may be half empty and the surgical and medical wards full. Yet it is impossible to put surgical and medical cases into a maternity ward, for fear of infection. That means more beds wasted, also heat and light and service. It is equally wrong to put children with adults. But in a wardless hospital in case of an epidemic among children the children can easily be put into adults' rooms.

Pneumonia and typhoid patients should never be put in open wards at all, because it is impossible to control the source of infection. These cases need varying temperatures; some, moreover, are of a virulent form and some are not; and some may be fairly safe at the start and develop into virulent cases later and infect others.

I have often seen a fifteen-bed ward occupied by only two patients. Of course, in cases like this it would be cheaper to put the patients into single rooms and close the wards; but frequently there is

no single room vacant, and all the heat and service and light and equipment needed for fifteen people have to be expended upon two.

On the other hand, when a single room is unoccupied the lights are put out, the heat is turned off, the door is locked—and that room costs nothing for upkeep until it is occupied again.

Occupants of wards are invariably distressed by the rigid rules concerning visiting hours. These rules are necessary. People who are critically ill and those who are convalescent are all together in the same ward. Their requirements, of course, are different—those who are recovering need to be amused, to see their friends; and this is sure to disturb the critically ill even during a very limited visiting period. When all are in separate rooms, visiting hours will be limited only by the physician in charge.

The advantages in respect to ventilation and other conditions which should vary with varying types of illness are obvious. A pneumonia patient and one recovering from an operation need totally different conditions, and only by separating them can the greatest comfort be secured for each.

#### THE EMPLOYMENT OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES IN ENGLAND

ACCORDING to the *British Medical Journal*, the special schools after-care committee of the City of Birmingham Education Committee has the duty of keeping a record of the subsequent history of former pupils in the special schools for the mentally defective. The total number of cases included in its records has increased from 2,282 in the year 1919 to 2,504 during the past year, males numbering 1,503 and females 1,001. These figures indicate very clearly the ratio of three boys to two girls, which is frequently found in the various special schools for the mentally defective. Of the 2,504 cases in last year's records, 969 are doing remunerative work, 913 of these earning wages which average 30s. 10d. per week, while 56 are soldiers. The general depression in industrial and trade conditions has naturally had an effect upon the mentally defective cases in employment, and, while the number of men and youths under review this year has increased from 1,380 to 1,503, the number in employment has only risen from 630 to 655; the number of women and

girls in employment has actually decreased from 320 to 314, although the total number of cases reported on has grown from 902 to 1,001. During the war, and for some time afterwards, no difficulty was experienced in procuring situations for such mentally defective persons as were capable of employment, but under the present conditions of industry considerable difficulty arises. The earnings of those, however, who have remained in employment show the general upward tendency which wages had during 1920, and three men are each reported as able to earn £5 per week, while two others in business on their own account are reported to be making comfortable livings. The percentage of cases in institutions again decreased last year, and the committee says it finds that institutional accommodation for the mentally defective continues to be deplorably inadequate throughout the country as a whole.

#### BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN OHIO

THE eighty-third General Assembly of Ohio appropriated \$10,000 "for the training of teachers for subnormal and delinquent children." One sentence in an appropriation bill provided that this sum should be transferred to one of the state colleges of education "to be designated by a committee composed of the director of juvenile research, the president of Ohio University, the president of Miami University, the superintendent of Bowling Green State Normal School, and the superintendent of Kent State Normal School for such purposes." On December 30, 1920, the committee decided to place the work under the administration of Miami University. Practically all the initial appropriation was used for the purchase of psychological, anthropometric and medical apparatus, intelligence and educational test blanks, office and classroom furniture and equipment, material for special class work, a piano, a victrola, a portable projector, a Burroughs adding machine, etc., and the payment of salaries up to the end of the fiscal year, July 1, 1921.

Instruction was first offered in the summer

session under the temporary direction of Dr. J. E. Wallace Wallin, who has been director of the psycho-educational clinic and special schools in St. Louis during the past seven years, and who during the preceding four years was director of laboratories of clinical psychology and anthropometry in the State Village for Epileptics in New Jersey and the University of Pittsburgh, and who has offered courses for the training of teachers and examiners of abnormal children during the last eleven years in the Vineland Training School, the Universities of Pittsburgh, Iowa, California and Montana, and the Harris Teachers College of St. Louis.

Dr. Wallin has been retained as permanent director of the department, which is known as Bureau of Special Education. The present staff includes, in addition to the directors, one assistant to the director, one stenographer on part time, and two critic teachers, a part of whose salaries is paid by the local school districts in which are the observation and practise centers. The main practise center during the present year is in Hamilton. It is hoped to locate the bureau eventually in a large city, which will afford, in connection with the public-school system, ample opportunities for observation and practise teaching in many kinds of special classes and which will also afford superior clinical advantages.

#### A FOREST EXPERIMENTAL STATION AT ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

THE continued steady depletion of the timber supply in the Appalachian region has led the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to establish a new forest experiment station at Asheville, North Carolina. This is the first organization of its kind to be established in the eastern United States.

The staff will be engaged mainly in silvicultural research to secure information greatly needed for the proper management of forest lands in order to insure a continuous supply of timber and other forest products. E. H. Frothingham has been appointed director. He comes to the station with a background of over twelve years of investigative work with the Forest Service throughout the east-