

THIRTY-FOURTH CONGRESS OF FRENCH-SPEAKING ALIENISTS
AND NEUROLOGISTS.

This Congress will be held at Lille from July 21 to 26, 1930, under the presidency of Prof. Abadie of Bordeaux.

Discussions will take place on the following subjects :

1. "The Cerebro-Spinal Fluid in Mental Disorders," to be opened by Dr. Lamache.
2. "Postural Reflexes," to be opened by Dr. Delmas-Marsalet.
3. "Social Insurance Law as applied to Patients with Mental Disorder," to be opened by Dr. Calmettes.

In addition numerous individual papers will be read, and various institutions will be visited.

The Secretary-General is Dr. P. Combemale, 93, rue d'Esquermes, Lille, from whom particulars as to membership may be obtained. The members' subscription will be 50 fr. (8s.). Reduced fares will be available on the French railways, and various tours will be organized after the meeting.

These congresses, although conducted exclusively in French, have a definitely international character. In view of the easy accessibility of Lille, it is hoped that there will be a good attendance of British visitors.

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR MENTAL HYGIENE, U.S.A.

THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

The twentieth anniversary of the inauguration of the mental hygiene movement and the founding of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene was celebrated on Thursday evening, November 14, 1929, with a dinner at the Biltmore Hotel in New York City, attended by nearly 700 psychiatrists, psychologists, educationalists, social workers and prominent laymen from various parts of the country, and presided over by Dr. William H. Welch, Director of the Department of the History of Medicine of Johns Hopkins University and Honorary President of the National Committee.

Addresses were given by President James R. Angell, of Yale University, Dr. William A. White, Superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, and Dr. Frankwood E. Williams, Medical Director of the National Committee, all of whom paid tributes to Mr. Clifford W. Beers, author of *A Mind that Found Itself*, the publication of which twenty-one years ago led to the organization of the National Committee.

Mr. Beers described the events incidental to the establishment in 1903, at the home of Anson Phelps Stokes, in New Haven, Connecticut, of the pioneer Connecticut Society for Mental Hygiene, from which the national movement grew, and reviewed the development of the work to the present time.

Dr. White, speaking of the aims and objects of the National Committee, said : "The average patient admitted to a State Hospital has already been getting mentally ill over a period of a number of years, sometimes throughout a lifetime of thirty or forty years, and it could not be expected that miracles of cure could be worked in this material, and so naturally those who were interested in mental hygiene began to ask themselves the questions : When does mental disease begin ? What are its earliest manifestations ? How can these manifestations be prevented ? And how can the prospective patient who is for the time being on the wrong track be gotten back in the right direction ? And so over a considerable period of time we see movements calculated to attempt answers to these questions. We find psychiatrists at our instance being introduced into the universities where they make contact with the adolescent youth of the country, and we find those same psychiatrists realizing that the adolescent who is headed for mental disease has been on

the wrong path for some considerable time. And so then we find the psychiatrist in the schools, the public schools. We find him prominent in the parent-teachers' group. We find him busily engaged in segregating the defective, the backward and the abnormal child, and advising for them special methods. And then finally we find him engaged with the whole problem of the care and bringing up and education of children, beginning even before school days with the pre-school child and attempting to correct at the very start habits in the early months of childhood."

President Angell described the mental hygiene work that is being done at Yale University to relieve students of mental stress, to build up healthy emotional and mental attitudes, and to prevent mental and nervous breakdowns.

Dr. Frankwood E. Williams and Dr. George K. Pratt, Assistant Medical Director of the Committee, stressed the need for trained workers and psychiatrists in the mental hygiene field. A partial report of preparations being made for the reception of the First International Congress for Mental Hygiene was rendered by John R. Shillady, Administrative Secretary of the Congress. Dr. George S. Stevenson, Director of the Division on Community Clinics, traced the growth and development of community and child guidance clinics in the United States.

STUDY TOURS AND POST-GRADUATE EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION SUB-COMMITTEE.

TOUR OF SCOTTISH MENTAL HOSPITALS.

A Study Tour of Scottish Mental Hospitals has been arranged to take place from Monday, June 2, to Thursday, June 12.

The party will meet in Dumfries on the first evening, and the same week will visit the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, the Glengall Hospital, Ayr, the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital, Gartnavel, Govan District Asylum, Hawkhead, Duke Street Infirmary Mental Wards, and Stonevetts Institution.

Provision is being made for the week-end at Callander, for the Trossachs.

The programme for the second week commences with a visit to the Murray Royal, Perth, and to groups of boarded-out patients in Fifeshire.

From Edinburgh it includes the Bangour Village, the Gogarburn Certified Institution, the Laboratory of the Scottish Asylums, and the several establishments of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Morningside.

The tour from Dumfries to Edinburgh will be by motor coach, unless a sufficient number of members elect to bring their own cars and to convey other members, so that no additional conveyance may be required. It is requested that members of the Association who desire to take part in the Tour will notify the Hon. Secretary, at the address given below, stating—

- (i) If he will be accompanied by members of his family.
- (ii) The number of bedrooms required.
- (iii) Whether a private car will be used, and what number of other members can be conveyed in it from Dumfries to Edinburgh.

Reduction of fares, where members are travelling by rail to Dumfries and from Edinburgh home, will depend upon the number of bookings.

Messrs. Dean & Dawson, who will secure accommodation and transport, estimate that the hotel charges will be about £8 for the eleven nights, exclusive of dinner, and £11 including this meal. If 18 persons use the coach, the charge will be about £2 each.

It will greatly assist the booking arrangements and the comfort of the party if members wishing to join will be so good as to send their applications before April 4, together with the particulars above requested, to Dr. A. EDWARD EVANS, 3, Rotherwick Court, Golders Green, London, N.W. 11.
