

20 beds, should therefore provide adequately for the needs of the country as a whole. If Phelps's figures are accepted, there are 7 cerebral palsy cases born every year per 100,000 of the population. Of these 7, only 2 would be suitable for or would require treatment in a residential establishment. In terms of New Zealand's population this would mean that about 35 new cases a year would require to be catered for. It is, of course, of no use setting up such training-schools until trained and efficient staff are available to man them. One of the most important functions of the centre at Rotorua will be to train staff for this purpose.

DEPARTMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

QUEEN MARY HOSPITAL, HANMER

Since 1943 the work of this hospital has been gradually reoriented to the treatment of functional nervous diseases, a process which is still under way. A definite advance has, however, been made, evidenced mainly by the appointment of two Psychiatrists. The main difficulties experienced during the year have arisen from an insufficiency of medical staff and a very rapid turnover of non-medical staff. During the year, 172 appointments to the staff were made and 164 resignations were received (all among non-medical staff); as at 31st March, 1949, the total staff employed in the institution was 167.

The hospital is faced with a large waiting-list, both of men and of women. Experience has shown that this burden could be considerably lightened if greater use were made of psychiatric out-patient facilities. At the same time, it is a fact that earlier reference of suitable applicants would make the therapeutic task easier and would help to lessen the economic burden on the State.

Patients come to the hospital from all parts of New Zealand. During the year ended 31st March, 1949, there were 550 admissions (266 men, 284 women), 540 patients were discharged, and 4 died, leaving 100 patients in the institution at the end of that period. In addition, 1,556 out-patients attended the hospital during the same period.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL, ROTORUA

In December, 1948, with the gracious permission of His Majesty the King, this institution was renamed the "Queen Elizabeth Hospital." Up to that time it was known as the Services Convalescent Hospital.

The work of the hospital is very closely connected with that of the Division of Physical Medicine, and has been referred to in outline in the report of that Division. It is stressed that this hospital should be reserved for the treatment of such cases of rheumatic disease as have a chance of benefiting from treatment.

The institution has been handicapped during the past year by shortage of staff, and in some sections by a very rapid turnover of staff. In addition, problems of accommodation and building maintenance are very pressing and have not yet been completely solved.

During the year, 325 patients (191 men, 134 women) were admitted and 266 patients (186 men, 80 women) were discharged. The number of patients remaining in the institution as at 31st March, 1949, was 98 (44 men, 54 women).

Included among those treated during the year were 82 servicemen, of whom only 8 remained in hospital at the end of the year.

ST. HELENS HOSPITALS

During the year the four St. Helens Hospitals (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Invercargill) continued their valuable work, an important aspect of which is the training of midwives. Statistics relating to their work are given in the report of the Division of Maternal Welfare.