

remains to be done. The provision of a pumping system in the Evansdale Glen has relieved much of the anxiety about the water-supply; in periods when the reservoir at Double Hill has failed it has provided a supply which, if not ample, is sufficient for the needs of the hospital if great care is exercised in its use. The contractors have started on the demolition of the unsafe parts of the administrative block, and shortly the tower, with many of the ornamental turrets and battlements which made the building picturesque, will have disappeared.

At Waitati a villa to accommodate 56 patients is nearing completion, and it is hoped to occupy it early next year. It will give comfortable and adequate accommodation for the elderly male patients for which it is intended and at the same time provide much needed relief in the male side at Seacliff. On its occupation, I hope to be able to evacuate the worst dormitory of D Ward. At the rear of the new villa comfortable quarters are provided for the staff.

The farm has had a satisfactory year, and the provision of a tractor has been a great boon. The gardener has kept the hospital well supplied with fresh vegetables.

On the arrival, at the beginning of the year, of the necessary apparatus, electro-convulsant treatment was begun, and by now quite a number of patients have been given this form of treatment. It is too soon to give figures or statistics in regard to it, but the results here are much in keeping with those recorded in medical literature; the results in the affective psychosis have been very good, and, in the case of involutional melancholias, almost startling. In cases of schizophrenia, the results have been disappointing, and I am still of the opinion that insulin shock, despite its difficulties and dangers, affords a better chance of recovery or of relief.

Prefrontal leucotomy has been performed on three of our cases by Mr. Murray Falconer, Neurosurgeon. These patients suffered from, apparently, chronic mental illnesses, they had not responded to other forms of treatment, and they showed great mental tension and grave depression. The operations were preformed in the neuro-surgical unit of the Dunedin Hospital, and the patients were brought back to Seacliff afterwards as soon as they were fit to travel. None of them showed the dramatic and almost immediate recovery reported in some of these cases, but all three required a long spell of careful psychiatric nursing and re-education. Two of the cases have left the hospital, and the third was transferred to another hospital. While I am prepared to advise leucotomy only in a restricted number of cases, more cases might have been done if accommodation in Dunedin Hospital had been available. I would urge that in the new hospital at Cherry Farm the surgical unit be such that the operation can be done by a visiting neurosurgeon and the post-operative treatment carried out by the resident medical and nursing staff.

I would like to emphasize that I do not think that any of these forms of treatment, be it insulin shock, electro convulsive therapy, or leucotomy, is in itself a complete treatment; in my opinion, far from it. The other resources of a mental hospital, psychiatric treatment from the medical staff, occupational therapy, and, above all perhaps, the proper nursing from a trained staff of psychiatric nurses and attendants, contribute a very large factor in the care of patients even when they undergo these more specialized forms of treatment. I should like to resume insulin shock treatment, but until such time as there is a full nursing staff that is quite impossible.

During this year, as during the other war years, the entertainment of the patients has not been what I would have liked. Petrol and travel restrictions have prevented the many concert parties and bands that entertained as in the past from visiting. While the weekly picture-show has gone on, a depleted and overworked staff has caused the cessation of dances except on very special occasions. The two victory days were such occasions, and we did out best to let our patients rejoice with their fellow-citizens. The annual sports were held as usual. A very occasional entertainment has been provided by Mr. Steven, of the Patients' and Prisoners' Aid Society, and I am deeply grateful to him for his help in this, as well as in many other directions.