

Services, some reference should be made to the Catholic psycho-therapist. Many seeking out-patient treatment ask to see some one of their own religion. Much time can be lost obtaining the necessary information. The Catholic Psychological Society, when it closed down a few years back undertook to promote a register of all Catholics engaged in psychological work and this has no doubt been attempted. Some method of making the appropriate part of this register available for consultation would meet a real need.



TEMPLEWOOD: A NOTE ON ITS WORK

THERE are very few Catholic mental hospitals and in England not a single place of treatment on Catholic lines for the admission of cases of neurosis. Templewood Nursing Home was originally started to meet a need of the day: to provide a place where priests and religious, too ill to work but not so disturbed as to require mental hospital treatment, could recover and at the same time lead a life in keeping with their religious vocation. These cases would ordinarily be made worse by the secular atmosphere of a public mental hospital. Suitable lay-men were also admitted. In 1937 a chapel built in the grounds was opened by the late Bishop of Clifton and a resident chaplain appointed. In 1942 a house on similar lines was opened for women, primarily for religious sisters, thus forming two groups within the one community, both under the direction of the chaplain and staff. Certain duties such as work on the farm was undertaken by the men, and others, such as domestic employment, were more suitably left in the hands of the women.

Further developments were possible on the women's side as the number of permanent helpers increased. These were drawn chiefly from those who had come as patients, but also there were those attracted towards the work vocationally. Gradually a regular community life was established with daily Mass, the recitation of the Divine Office in the Chapel

and Meditation. Patients join in all the services, but without compulsion. Experience showed that lay-people appreciated this spiritual background and regular life and their improvement in character and health was very marked. There was also a noticeable happiness throughout the community, and a very understanding kindness in their dealing with one another. All this went to prove that given a spiritual background these cases could learn to make spiritual use of their condition. The self-centredness of the personal trouble was eased by an attitude of concern for others in a spirit of charity, and the sufferer under God's grace was enabled to grow in a true spirit of reparation. That they had failed God, or that God had failed them, ceased to be the bugbear of their lives since every action, prayer and work could be done in community in atonement for sin and in loving sacrifice to God. In this the patients were helped by word and by the example of the community life led by all.

The community is distributed amongst a number of small houses each under the care of a house-mother. Many here learn for the first time what it is to enjoy home-life and in such an atmosphere the patients more easily unburden themselves of their troubles. It is in the give-and-take of everyday life that most of the psychological work is done. Out of a wide experience the staff have evolved a simple but sound psychological technique. There is always a qualified nurse on the staff. Last year the Community received formal ecclesiastical approbation. A Dominican Tertiary Chapter was instituted at St Raphael's, Browns-hill, Stroud, and a Dominican Father appointed Spiritual Director. Nine of the staff were clothed as tertiaries.

In latter years, owing first to the destruction of their house, Templewood, by fire and latterly to the failing health of the Chaplain, who for years had lived amongst the patients and directed their activities, the work on the men's side has not been able to continue on community lines. It is still carrying on but on a smaller scale, waiting for future developments. It is hoped that men and women with vocations will come forward to assist in this work. It is much needed and has many possibilities for good.