

studies and is a striking example of how such work should be carried out. To quote from Sir Aubrey Lewis' introduction :

"Miss Bree has succeeded in conveying the human problem as well as the medical and social outcome, of these sufferers from a destructive disease that is now happily rare; there are other conditions still plentiful which call for the same sort of unpretentious, skilled help."

R. S. ADDIS

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## OBITUARY

Miss Jean Mackenzie, M.A.

Another gap in the rapidly thinning ranks of mental health workers who look back with gratitude to their training under Dame Evelyn Fox, has occurred with the death of Miss Mackenzie, on May 5th in Edinburgh, where she had lived since her retirement in 1952.

After training in social work in Birmingham and London she joined the staff of the London Association for Mental Welfare by whom the duties of Statutory Supervision under the Mental Deficiency Acts were being carried on for the London County Council, and this work gave her an intimate knowledge of the needs of mentally handicapped children and the value of Occupation Centres.

In 1932 she came to the Central Association for Mental Welfare to fill the post of Case Secretary. Later she became Education Secretary when she was then actively concerned with courses for school medical officers and teachers and with the initiation of training for Occupation Centre Supervisors. (In the preparation of evidence for the sub-committee of the Ministry of Health's Standing Mental Health Advisory Sub-Committee, it was to her the N.A.M.H. looked for information about this period and only a few weeks before her death she came to the office for consultation). After the merging of the C.A.M.W. into the N.A.M.H., her responsibilities as Head of its Training and Education Department widened still further and brought her still more closely in touch with educational psychologists, both as colleagues and lecturers in the many Courses which she organised. Miss Ruth Thomas writing of this period, and in particular of Miss Mackenzie's work in connection with the Psychiatric Community Care Scheme initiated by Dame Evelyn Fox at the beginning of the War, pays tribute to her as follows :—

"During this period she was busied in organising workers, psychologists and psychiatric social workers, in the evacuee areas and kept herself closely in touch with the problems throughout the country met by these workers, helping them to keep in touch with each other. As a result the features of

organisation could be taken over from one area to another. Her relationships with all these workers was always excellent. She was a person to whom one could talk in shorthand and she quickly learnt the shorthand of the various professions with whom she had to deal so that none of them ever had the feeling that they were dealing with other than a colleague with the same experience and training as themselves."

"During these years also, she was in close touch with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. It was a period in which co-operation between the Ministries and the voluntary services was very firm and it was in part through Miss Mackenzie's work that the N.A.M.H. was used so considerably by them to help in the solution of national problems. Her relationships with Ministry officers were always exceptionally cordial and they valued her intelligence and quick administrative ability."

"She could brief any lecturer coming for a few days to a course on what had already been done and where his work fitted into the general scheme. The students loved her because she was always so willing to do something practical about their problems, and as often as not, we lecturers heard through her of what students would like taken up next in their programme."

In her years of retirement, her outstanding organising gifts were fully used by the Saltire Society in Edinburgh of which she was for a time, Hon. Education Secretary and then a Vice-President. As Hon. Treasurer of the Federation of Associations of Mental Health Workers, she continued to keep in touch with old colleagues and with many of those in whose professional training she had played a part.

Those of us who worked with her at the N.A.M.H. recall the staunchness of her friendship, her readiness to give practical (and always efficient) help to anyone in need of it, her response to the many often exacting demands made upon her, her sensitive nature hidden under an outward casing of Scottish reserve. For all these qualities in her and for her life of service we hold her in grateful and affectionate remembrance.

### **Mrs. Nora Aris**

Mrs. Aris, who died in March at the early age of 51, will also be remembered with affection by many psychiatric social workers and by those members of the Child Guidance Council's staff and the staff of the Central Association for Mental Welfare who were her colleagues when she was in charge of the Foster Homes Register for Nervous, Retarded and Difficult Children run jointly by the two bodies before their merging into the National Association for Mental Health. During the last ten years of her life she became widely known through her work for the "Family Centre" section of "Good Housekeeping" involving the giving of advice and help to the many correspondents all over the country who applied to her. Her book, "Parents and Children" published in 1940 won