

57/62.

INSIDE RAMPTON:

This is Rampton. Target of intense criticism in recent months the famous mental hospital invited Pathe News to make a film report, so that all the world might see for itself. Treated here are eleven hundred patients, 700 men, 400 women. It is not a prison; only the violent are under restraint, for their own good no less than the safety of others. The remainder enjoy them freedom in the grounds and buildings. Well chosen work, outside and in, serves as occupational therapy. Like sport it heals the patients' minds, for Rampton is primarily a hospital. That point was stressed when twelve members of Parliament (six Tory, six Labour) visited the institution to see patients, their quarters, how they worked and were treated. Neither Rampton nor Medical Superintendent Dr. Mackay had anything to hide. They have one obligation to the public, to see that no dangerous patient escapes. Dr. Mackay readily answered all questions put to him by Pathe's representative:

Among London Newspaper Editors criticising Rampton is George Grafton Green, Empire News. He said that during his visit there he saw violent and non-violent patients:

Many of Rampton's women patients learn embroidery, work calling for concentration and therefore admirably suited for soothing the mind. Some of the elaborate designs take two years to complete.

The standard of the work shown here is remarkably high. Incidentally neither Pathe News nor the M.P.'s saw anything to substantiate all allegations of violence. As men can't embroider much of their skill goes into high class weaving. To all who are fit enough to work, indoors or outside, there are occupations to suit nearly everybody.

For those who fall sick, there's hospital treatment of the most modern kind. By the way, regulations do not allow us to show the faces of any Rampton inmates. The idea, spread by Newspaper criticism that Rampton willfully detains healthy people and treats them harshly are not brought away by Pathe representatives. The delegation of M.P.s (here entering the Recreation Hall) have not yet reported on their visit and therefore could not be interviewed.

Yet there remains a doubt. Are there some patients in Rampton who should be at liberty? Back home to Dalston recently came 18-year-old Marie Mayo. Her release followed a vigorous campaign by the Star Newspaper. Many say she should never have been there at all. If that is so then Society owes an unrepayable debt to poor Marie Mayo...