

now decided to discontinue the private nursing branch of the work, and the district nurses have moved into new quarters at 2, The Quadrant. The work of these nurses is of supreme importance to the sick poor of Coventry, and it is hoped that the Institution will receive liberal financial support.

The Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Alderman H. J. Sayer, presiding at the opening ceremony of the District Nursing Society's new Home in Summer Hill Road, on Friday, October 2nd, by Mrs. William Kenrick, said that it was quite impossible to over-estimate the beneficent work of the Society. He said further that whereas Manchester and Salford had five such homes with a staff of fifty-five nurses, Birmingham had only two homes and twenty nurses. He hoped the movement would be considerably extended in Birmingham at the earliest possible opportunity. Mrs. Kenrick said that if they considered the arduous nature of district nursing work, they would realise how heartily the committee rejoiced at seeing their staff installed amid bright and healthy surroundings.

The Bishop of Birmingham, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Kenrick, said that what was here combined was the willingness to help with the science which enabled help to be efficient. When he was a curate in Liverpool he did not think anything impressed him more than the incredible difference in the whole atmosphere of a sick room in a miserable home when a nurse was installed in possession.

After an address by Miss Amy Hughes, a presentation was made, on behalf of the nurses, to their Superintendent, Miss Hayward, and the proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor, proposed by Professor Barling, Dean of the Medical Faculty of Birmingham.

During the terrible floods in India news comes from Haidarabad of the heroism of the nurses at the Victoria Zenana Hospital. They carried the patients on to the roof just in the nick of time, as the rushing waters of the River Musi, which burst its banks, quickly rose to within two feet of the roof. Indeed, all the officials worked heroically.

La Garde Malade Hospitalière for the present month contains an admirable article on Military Nurses in foreign countries by Dr. Lande, member of the *Conseil Supérieur* of the Assistance Publique. The article is of special interest to French nurses at the present time, when their own Army Nursing Service is in process of formation.

Many nurses, when they first take up private nursing are greatly at a loss as to some of the details of the toilet which to their patients have become almost indispensable, and which the well-trained maid, of whose services they are for the time being deprived, performs with deftness and as a matter of course. A hospital training does not afford opportunity for the acquirement of a knowledge of the niceties of "surface nursing," which the private patient who pays for the whole time of a nurse has a right to expect. Attention to the hygiene and care of the face, well kept and becomingly dressed hair, nails which are carefully tended, are personal refinements which are sorely missed by patients who have been accustomed to pay considerable attention to these details.

A helpful little book to nurses who feel their need of further knowledge on the hygiene and care of the skin is "The Face, its Care and Treatment," by Mrs. Helen Best, 526, Oxford Street, Marble Arch, W. Mrs. Best has made an exhaustive study of the subject under medical training and supervision, and the book referred to, which is now in its 16th thousand, is much in request amongst nurses. On receipt of a postcard she will send it gratis and post free to any readers of this Journal. Mrs. Best makes a special feature of instructing nurses in face massage, or in electrolysis, and during the past five years some hundreds of nurses from the leading hospitals have gone to her for instruction.

REGISTRATION IN BELGIUM.

In April of the present year, a system of State Registration of Trained Nurses was inaugurated in Belgium under the control of the Health and Hygiene Department under the Minister of Agriculture. A Royal decree has now been promulgated, on the initiative of this Minister, that candidates for the State examination who intend to take up mental nursing as a speciality must pass an additional oral examination of half-an-hour's duration, in the subjects named in the syllabus attached to the Order. These include elementary anatomy, with (1) a detailed knowledge of the nervous system, elementary psychiatry, with reference to the different classes of the insane; (2) their classification in asylums, and the therapeutic means adopted in their treatment, including forced feeding, rest in bed, bathing, isolation, and moral treatment; (3) conduct towards mental patients, the responsibility of nurses, supervision, accidents, evasions, morality, etc.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)