

"E.M.W.," writing in the *Australasian Nurses' Journal*, puts out the restrictive spending power of £2 a week, and reminds the public that a trained nurse sometimes costs them less than the price of a coffin, and she adds some interesting details as to the canny care of money by the rich. Again she writes: "Sometimes a private nurse has to sell her soul for the sake of money. She finds herself in an environment of filth and roughness, and sits down to endure it—for the sake of the profession? Not always, but for the sake of the fee. In a house where the fowls run round the living room, and the pigs live on the back verandah, where there is no bed for her to sleep in, where the folks are never known during three weeks to have a bath, where one tablecloth lasts the three weeks, and the food is indescribable, she endures the three weeks. These people have plenty of money, and do not grudge the fee. . . . If New Zealand and West Australia—our working-class State—can afford the three guineas, surely pleasure-loving Sydney, commercial Melbourne, and cultured Adelaide can climb up to it. . . . The washerwoman earns at the same rate as a nurse—6s. per day—and has her nights in bed.

Well, we have none of us saved any money by working at the cheap rate. Let us see if we can save by raising our fees."

MASSAGE.

A course of instruction in massage, specially planned to meet the needs of nurses who can only give time to study between private cases, is that arranged by Mrs. A. Creighton Hale, 89, Mortimer Street, Oxford Circus, W. Pupils can join the class at any time, and resume without extra fee, a certificate being given when proficient. Mrs. Creighton Hale prefers that the instruction should be taken consecutively, as if pupils break off, they are apt to lose ground, and have to go over some of the work again, but, knowing the exigencies of a nurse's life, she is prepared to meet their needs. She also makes a reduction in her fees to trained nurses, the ordinary charge for the course in massage and the use of medical batteries being £6 6s., while to nurses it is £5 5s. The course in Swedish Remedial Exercises is £2 2s., and in Nauheim Treatment £1 1s. Private Lessons cost 10s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. per lesson. Classes are held daily, Saturdays excepted, in the morning from 10.30 to 12.45 p.m., and in the afternoon from 2 to 3.45 p.m.

FROM OVER SEAS.

The eight-hour day for nurses has so many pros and cons that we are glad to read in *The Pacific Coast Journal of Nursing* the opinion

of Miss M. Adelaide Nutting. She approves of it. And this in reference to the 48-hour week of work recently made law for pupil nurses in California, which by the decision of the United States District Court has been pronounced constitutionally sound, so that protesting hospitals in that State must conform to it. Miss Nutting bases her approval on the contention that long hours affect injuriously the quality of nurses' work (thus acting directly upon the patient, and indirectly to the discredit of nursing), shorten their active working period, and finally react seriously upon the whole profession by making it unattractive and undesirable to the best type of candidate. Refined, educated, far-seeing women are largely kept out of the nursing profession by the long hours of work, and sometimes by that condition only. . . . Miss Nutting advises strongly against the repeal of the new law, and advises Californian nurses to hold what they have gained.

The following are the views of Mrs. Charles Farwell Edson, speaking at Los Angeles:—"It has been demonstrated by practical statistics that 95 per cent. of the women who come under it are materially benefited by the law, and consequently an amendment was added during the last session of the Legislature including the student nurses. Graduate nurses are still permitted to work as long as they choose, but we felt that it is unfair to the public to permit student nurses to be put on cases that require skilled attention and kept on them for weeks at a time at the rate charged for trained nurses. That frequently has been done to the detriment of the nurse and the patient. Since patients dislike a frequent change of nurses, it becomes necessary for trained nurses to attend only to serious cases, which is good for the enforcement of the eight-hour law, but which has excited the animosity of the commercial hospitals, which are forced to pay higher wages for skilled attention. But the public benefits, if the hospitals do not, from this change."

THE NEED FOR LEGISLATION.

Lady Helen Munro Ferguson and Miss E. S. Haldane, LL.D., signed conjointly a most admirable letter which appeared in the *Times* on Wednesday, in support of the necessity for consideration by the Government of the Nurses' Registration Bill. They contend that it is useless to spend millions of money on schemes for the benefit of the national health, if such beneficial schemes are to be nullified by inefficient nursing, as they may be without the maintenance of educational standards and discipline.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)