

discipline amply show that men can be taught by simple instruction to use a simple disinfectant with remarkable and undeniable success. He asks: "Why should not the civil population be similarly instructed?"

RAISING THE STANDARD OF MASSAGE.

The Conference convened by the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, and held on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week, was very well attended, and the programme as originally planned and announced in our issue of last week, was carried out with one exception, in spite of the dislocation of traffic caused by the Railway strike. The exception was that Major Mackay, R.A.M.C., who was to have lectured on "Muscle Re-Education" was held up in Aberdeen. At a few hours' notice, however, Dr. Agnes Keen very kindly came to the rescue and delivered a most interesting special lecture on "The Treatment of Recent Fractures by Massage."

It is of interest to learn that at the earnest request of doctors, and of training school authorities, the Council of the I.S.T.M. has for some time had under consideration the advisability of a longer training for Masseuses, and of endeavouring to secure in the future a uniform course of instruction which will include Massage and Medical Gymnastics. There is at present not a sufficient number of qualified teachers to meet the requirements of all schools which intend to extend their present massage classes, and this lack of teachers also makes it impossible to insist that to be in order for the Society's Examination, candidates must take the full training in both subjects, but no new schools will now be accepted by the Council which do not undertake to give not less than one year of training (48 weeks) either in Massage only, or in Massage and Swedish Remedial Exercises conjointly, and no new teacher of Massage will now be accepted by the Council who does not hold the Society's Certificate in S.R.E. From Jan. 1st, 1921, no candidates will be admitted to the Society's examinations unless they have fulfilled one year of training.

This extension of the training period must result in an increase of the prestige attached to the certificate of the Society and of the professional standing of those who hold it.

NURSES' SALARIES.

Dr. Addison, Minister of Health, delivering the introductory address at the opening of the winter session of the London (Royal Free Hospital) School of Medicine, said that we should never get a sufficient and efficient staff of nurses until these were properly paid. The salaries paid to nurses in some of our best hospitals were less than those paid to their own cooks and scullery-maids. That was not right, and called for a drastic remedy.

NURSING ECHOES.

We note that the concrete foundations for the Nurse Cavell memorial in St. Martin's Place are now being laid. The memorial will consist of a full-length figure of Nurse Cavell in marble facing Charing Cross Road, with beautiful supports, which are sure to be very artistic, considering the great artist who is executing the work. The memorial is to be very imposing, and will rise to about thirty feet. A special iron gantry has to be erected for transferring the figure from the lorry to its pedestal.

The President of the National Council of Nurses has reluctantly informed the President of the Ecole des Infirmières des Hôpitaux de Bruxelles that, owing to the strike of railwaymen, it is improbable that any member of the Council will attend the forthcoming Conference upon the opening of the School at the Hôtel de Ville. This is greatly to be deplored, as colleagues of Edith Cavell would naturally wish to show every interest possible in the progress of Trained Nursing in Belgium, and a visit to the beautiful Hôpital Saint-Jean would well repay the visitor. Here, as in so many foreign hospitals, the probationer is termed pupil, and is instructed as a student, and not classed as a hybrid domestic worker. We shall have to give more attention to the theory on which professional nursing is based in the future, and now that Sisters are being appointed for the special purpose of teaching—a reform put forward as necessary in this Journal for the past twenty years—nursing standards will become systematised, if a State Registration Act defines and maintains such standards. Otherwise, if the schools are to be permitted to continue "to go as they please," very unequal curricula will be in force in the future as in the past. A strong Bill is our only hope.

The Overseas Nursing Association, the office of which is at the Imperial Institute, S.W., has evidently had a very busy and useful year. Since April, 1919, seventy fully-trained nurses have been supplied to the various Colonies and Dominions as private nurses, and for Government Hospitals. Eighteen trained nurses have been recommended to the Victorian Order of Nurses for Canada for post graduate course. These nurses have gone to centres at Halifax, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, and will find the life fresh and interesting. Miss G. A. Wharton has been appointed as Matron at the Bangkok Nursing Home, and nine Sisters to King Edward VII Order of Nurses, South Africa.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)