

NURSING ECHOES.

On May 12th Princess Mary will lay the foundation-stone of the Nurses' Home in the grounds of the Royal Hospital and Home for Incurables, Putney, and is to be presented with a dainty silver trowel, with an ivory handle, which has been presented by Walker & Hall, of Holborn and Sheffield. The Princess will receive purses of five guineas and upwards.

The Canadian Nurse reports that a silver cross, hung from a purple ribbon, is to be given to any mother in Canada who lost a son in the war.

A meeting of the Council of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute for Nurses was held last week at the offices of the Institute. The report for 1919 was approved for submission to the Patron, Queen Alexandra. The number of associations affiliated during the year was the largest since the foundation of the Institute. At the same time, although a considerable number of nurses have been attracted to district nursing, there is still a great deficiency, especially of those who are willing to practise midwifery. It was recommended that, with the approval of Queen Alexandra, the gold badge should be awarded to Miss A. M. Peterkin, the General Superintendent, in recognition of the services she had rendered to the Institute. While the demands on the Institute are increasing in every direction, the funds at the disposal of the Council are inadequate. It is estimated that the expenditure for this year will exceed the income by at least £5,000.

Now that the Irish Secretary has done so well with his General Nursing Council—only one flaw, a working nurse should have found a seat—English and Scottish Nurses are on the *qui vive* as to what their fate is to be. Dr. Addison has promised to do his best. We don't envy him his task.

In the House of Commons last week, Major Hurst asked the Secretary of State for War whether masseuses of the military massage service were entitled to receive gratuities on the termination of war service; and if not, why there should be any differentiation between them and other nursing sisters. Sir Archibald Williamson replied that war gratuities, broadly speaking, were given to commissioned officers and enlisted soldiers, and were not given to the very large number of civilians, men and women, who in various ways worked for the Army during the war. An exception was made in the

case of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and other Staffs performing similar duties, for special reasons, and in accordance with precedent. After very full consideration he was not prepared to extend this exception.

We sympathise with the nurses of Victoria in having their Registration Bill held up at the last moment, after it had passed through all its stages, owing to the objection of hospital committees to the provisions made for reducing the hours of work and increasing the wages of nurses. On being returned to the Legislative Assembly by the Legislative Council, that body made the proposal that hospitals should be recouped, out of public funds, for the additional expense that would be entailed in the restriction of the hours of employment of trainees. This amendment the Speaker held to be an infringement of the privilege of that Assembly, as it was an attempt to impose financial charges or burdens on the people, and moved that the House should decline to accept it. This was agreed. As the Legislative Council had already adjourned, the Bill could not be further considered.

The nurses, however, may take comfort from the fact that there is now a possibility of amending the Bill, which at present is far from a good one. It is a cardinal error to introduce into a measure dealing with the education, registration and discipline of nurses, provisions dealing with their hours of work and pay, which should be incorporated in an entirely separate Bill. This was a vital mistake in the Bill promoted in this country by the College of Nursing, Ltd., for if all these matters were controlled by one body, trained nurses would be reduced to a condition of serfdom.

"The Nurse and the State" was the subject of a paper by Dr. N. M. Falkiner at the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, at a meeting on February 13th. In 1872, he said, he visited the Dublin hospitals, and there were no trained nurses at that time, but reforms assumed a concrete basis on the establishment of the Dublin Technical School for Nurses in 1893, the founder of which was Miss Margaret Huxley. The paper referred in eulogistic terms to St. Patrick's Nurses' Home, and St. Lawrence's Catholic District Nurses' Home; commended them to the continued support of the public; and advocated the extension of the district nursing system to the overburdened and struggling middle classes.

The author concluded by saying that the following points should be considered regarding

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)