

increase of salary for thoroughly trained nurses than continue to pay for insufficiently training village nurses.

A course of special evening classes for trained masseuses desiring to take the Swedish Remedial Exercises certificate of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses, is being arranged at the General Hospital, Birmingham, in preparation for the examination in July, 1921. The first class will be held on June 2nd, at 5.30 p.m., and the classes will be continued three times a week. The opportunity of taking this additional qualification is one which should not be missed. Intending pupils should apply immediately to the Matron.

Everyone is agreed that Miss Hill, the matron, and staff behaved splendidly when the alarming outbreak of fire was discovered at the Aberdeen Hospital for Sick Children. The matron and nurses were assisted by several medical students and about a dozen other men who came on the scene. In a very short time the children were out of reach of danger. On the Fire Brigade's arrival it was discovered that the outbreak had been caused by overheating in an old-fashioned stove of the laundry. A quantity of clothing in the laundry had caught fire, and the flames had spread to the woodwork, and had penetrated upwards to the Röntgen rays room. A good deal of damage was done to the laundry and the room above before the fire was extinguished. The children were taken back apparently none the worse for their exciting adventure. A new Children's Hospital is greatly needed in Aberdeen, the construction of the present building being out of date and difficult to work. No ward should be placed over a laundry—the risk of fire is too serious.

### THE 48-HOUR WEEK FOR NURSES.

We learn that a good deal of influence is being used throughout the country to influence hospital and institution nurses to vote against being included in the Hours of Employment Bill, and we have been asked to express an opinion on the question. (1) We approve of hospital and institution nurses being included in the Bill. (2) We disapprove of nurses in Private practice being included. Because hospital and institution nurses (especially probationary nurses) are not free agents and should be protected by the State as other workers are; and because Private nurses are free agents, and need not undertake more arduous duties than necessary, for any prolonged period; that is to say if they work on the co-operative principle, which they should do.

We advise every nurse to write to her member of Parliament, and give her reasons for or against inclusion.

## THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE CENTENARY.

### THE SERVICE IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

It is characteristic of the best work that it stands the test of time, and of those who build on sure foundations that their greatness is seen in truer perspective by posterity than by their contemporaries. From this rule even Florence Nightingale is not exempt for, though at the close of the Crimean War she was acclaimed as a popular heroine, her right to fame is not based upon her work for our soldiers in the Crimea, brilliantly successful though it was, but on the far more difficult task of laying the foundations of modern nursing.

So it came to pass that on the centenary of her birth, May 12th, 1920, those who took part in the service at Westminster Abbey, designed in her honour, were able to judge at its true value the indebtedness of the world to her greatness, and to estimate the forces which inspired her remarkable personality.

It seemed a fitting and appropriate thing that in the Abbey, where lies the dust of so many of the greatest of the sons and daughters of the Empire, and within a stone's throw of the hospital where she founded the training school for nurses which bears her name, that British nurses should assemble to do honour to her memory.

The choir, the space under the lantern, and the north and south transepts were well filled with a congregation composed mainly of nurses in uniform, those of the Nightingale Training School for Nurses being conspicuous by their indoor uniform, the Sisters in dark blue, with white pin-point spots, the staff nurses and probationers in blue and white striped galatea and blue-grey gingham respectively, with the neat spotted net cap always worn by the nurses of the School.

The brief special service included the Sixty-fifth Psalm, the Magnificat, the Nunc Dimittis, the anthem "Where Thou reignest, King of Glory, Throned in everlasting light," to Schubert's music, and the hymn "The King of Love my Shepherd is," sung with the exquisite finish which always characterises the music at the Abbey; the special Lessons selected were Isaiah 61 and St. Matthew 25, the words "He hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted," and "I was an hungered and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink . . . sick and ye visited me," calling to the remembrance of those present the vision of the slight resolute figure bending over the pallet beds in the fever-stricken wards of the Crimean hospitals, bringing healing and comfort, so that the sick and wounded men turned to kiss the shadow of Florence Nightingale as she passed by.

The Dean, Dr. Ryle, took as his text the twenty-ninth verse of Proverbs 31, "Many

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)