

work had come to hand. They in that county were fortunate in having their own training centre for midwifery, and in receiving most generous support from the County Council. In addition to the midwives trained at their Tredegar centre, they had also trained two pupils in general district work during the year. This, however, was not nearly enough, and they would have to resort to other measures to obtain a sufficient supply of nurses for the rural districts.

Our desire is to see thoroughly trained nurses, with the addition of the C.M.B., provided for the sick poor in rural districts. This can only be done by offering them much higher salaries than the so-called nurse-midwives are satisfied to accept.

A late member of the staff of the Registered Nurses' Society, now married and living in Finland, who has recently been in a hospital in Viborg for a serious operation, writes that all the staff are very interested in English methods of nursing. No one could speak English except a surgeon and the Matron, but fortunately the night nurse could speak Russian, which she understood. She writes that the rooms for private patients are ideal—the colour scheme and all the arrangements designed to please the eye. The inclusive charge is 25 marks a day, the value of the mark being 60 to 80 to the English £1. The children's ward Sister describes as "perfectly sweet" a big round room with a large stove in the middle for ornament only, as the whole place is steam heated and beautifully ventilated. "What the English hospitals would save in work if they only knew!" Then around the top is a frieze of figures just like a nursery, all in green and white. Each ward has its own dressing room and bath room, as no dressings are done in the wards except those of very bad cases. There are about four large operating theatres and a Röntgen-Ray room, and huge bath rooms for every imaginable kind of bath, as well as rooms for massage, radiant heat, and orthopaedic work. The whole thing is kept up by the Government.

The nurses receive no salaries for the first two years, but there are plenty of applicants for probationers' posts; "they do not have to slave as they do in England." In the hospital in Viborg there is a delightful dormitory at the top of the building for the Sisters and Nurses. The doctor told our correspondent that the Sister who was looking after her was as clever as any surgeon—she assists him every day at his

operations, as there are only a few surgeons in Viborg. Sister writes that she has never been so well looked after.

It is proposed to hold a representative Conference of the Irish Nurses' Union in Dublin next month. This body is in favour of a forty-eight hours' week for private nurses, and a special committee of the Union is being set up to collect and express the views of private Nurses on the matter, while information is also being collected as to the institutional aspect. The *Irish Citizen* offers a prize of 5s. each for time-tables suggested by its readers for applying an eight-hours' day, or a forty-eight hours' week, or ninety-six hours' fortnight, to their own hospital.

NURSES' REGISTRATION.

A new generation has arisen since the proposals for the State Registration of Nurses took shape over thirty years ago, and there may be members of the General Nursing Councils who have not studied the history of the question; such members would be well advised to acquaint themselves with the Blue Books dealing with this question, principally those dealing with the House of Lords Inquiry into the management of the Metropolitan Hospitals in 1891, and the reports of the proceedings of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Registration of Nurses in 1904 and 1905. In addition, there are the Acts providing for the Registration of Nurses in our Colonies, the nurses of which, under our own Acts, may be registered in the United Kingdom on reciprocal terms. The first Act to deal with the Registration of Nurses was the Medical and Pharmacy Act of the Cape of Good Hope in 1891, and the first to deal with nurses in a separate Act, the New Zealand Nurses Registration Act of 1901.

The whole history of the movement for the State Registration of Nurses in the United Kingdom is to be found in the *NURSING RECORD* and the *BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING*. For the benefit of the nursing profession a complete file of this journal has been placed in the Nursing Library of the International Council of Nurses, in the Board Room of the Registered Nurses' Society, at 431, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. Members of the General Nursing Councils will be given facilities for studying these reports if they wish to do so at the above address.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)