

To relieve the strain upon Junior probationers the governors of Guy's Hospital have, states the *Daily Telegraph*, instituted a scheme by which candidates receive in the hospital's preliminary school an elementary course in

anatomy, physiology, hygiene,	invalid cookery, allied subjects,
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and a full course of lectures from teachers in the Medical School in more advanced anatomy and physiology.

This advanced course has hitherto been taken by probationers only after their entry into the wards as full-time probationers. The advantage of the arrangement is that the physical strain of the early months of training is greatly lessened.

The governors have also sanctioned the creation of the Nurses' Representative Council, a body elected by the nurses themselves and consisting of the matron and representatives chosen by each class of nurses in the hospital. The council may discuss any matter of hospital management in which the nurses are concerned, only questions of personal discipline being barred.

The Westminster Broadsheet is issued monthly by Westminster Hospital, with the object of keeping friends informed of its activities. To quote under the heading "Nurses":—

"It has been laid down by High Authority that we shall not debase the Broadsheet by using it merely as a medium for pestering our friends for money. That is not its province; and all must know already, without tiresome repetition, that the efficiency of our work, not only in the treatment of patients, but also in Research into the causes of Disease, must depend largely, in the last resort, upon the support we receive from without. We hope, however, that we shall escape censure if we just mention the Scheme for providing a Preliminary Training School for Nurses. It will be readily understood how great a benefit it will be to the patients if Probationer Nurses, instead of going straight into the Wards on arrival, can go into a Preliminary School, where they will be taught bed-making, invalid cookery, the taking of temperatures and pulses, and so on. £1,500 out of the £2,000 which is estimated as the initial expense has already been collected, mostly by the Nurses themselves.

"In March last there was inaugurated The Westminster Hospital Nurses' League. All Nurses trained at 'Westminster' are eligible for membership, and the main object is that they may be kept in touch with one another through the Register, in which all details of present work, residence, etc., are kept. It is hoped to start a Benevolent Fund in connection with the League; and it is even hinted that in time a League bed in the Hospital may be endowed."

We advise the Westminster Hospital Nurses' League to affiliate with the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, and thus come into touch with their colleagues in other hospitals, and special branches of nursing, to form a unit in the great International Federation of Nurses which now encircles the world, and which is of the utmost educational value. We shall hope to see "Westminster" nurses at the Paris-Brussels reunion next year.

A large house at Fleet, Hampshire, has recently been

purchased as a residence for retired members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. The Queen has taken the greatest personal interest in the scheme, and has given a donation and expressed her intention to help in furnishing the house.

A general committee of control has been formed, with the Dowager Lady Airlie as president. The necessary structural alterations are now being carried out under the direction of a local committee, and if sufficient funds are available it is hoped that the house will be ready for occupation in the spring. With her Majesty's approval it will be known as "Queen Mary's House."

### A MOMENTOUS DAY IN NURSING HISTORY.

How both proud and humble one felt when on Sunday, November 13th, we attended at the Liverpool Cathedral a Centenary Service to two famous women—one a nurse—connected with the City. Women whose wonderful story every student of nursing history knows.

AGNES JONES, who as Matron of the Brownlow Hill Poor Law Infirmary, Liverpool, was the first trained Matron in a Poor Law Infirmary in the Country.

KITTY WILKINSON.—The first Public Health Worker and the first Infant School Teacher in Liverpool.

There was a large attendance of both men and women, and I like to think many of them nurses.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Gates) rendered the City's homage to the two Pioneers, and with Miss M. Jones, Matron, Royal Infirmary, Liverpool, was Miss A. Lloyd-Still, Matron, St. Thomas Hospital, London, at which hospital, after passing through Kaiserswerth, Agnes Jones received her training.

The service was simple and beautiful. In his address, Archdeacon Howson, referring to Agnes Jones, quoted from a letter written by Miss Nightingale, "Agnes was always training herself to train others to walk in the footsteps of Him who went about doing good"; also Kitty Wilkinson's own oft repeated maxim "Nobody is never the poorer for what they give to a neighbour in distress." He emphasised the sacred duty of remembrance of honourable women "from which might radiate the sunshine of achievement."

"It had been said the character of a nation never rose above the character of its womanhood." We were urged to make full use of the advantages and opportunities that had grown as the hundred years had passed. "The call to-day was for gravity not frivolity, for vital religion, for solid determination to do and to serve and not to chatter about it."

The Lesson was read by Mr. Hugh Rathbone, whose father-in-law, the late Mr. William Rathbone, persuaded Agnes Jones to come to Brownlow Hill Infirmary and undertake the almost superhuman task of reducing order out of the most appalling chaos. The task she so wonderfully accomplished in an incredibly short time.

As we left the quiet beauty of the Cathedral one thought with humility of one's own small efforts in spite of advantages, as compared with the achievement of these two magnificent women.

J. H.

Jesus! confirm my heart's desire  
To work, and speak, and think for Thee;  
Still let me guard the holy fire;  
And still stir up Thy gift in me;  
Ready for all Thy perfect will,  
My acts of faith and love repeat;  
Till death Thy endless mercies seal,  
And make my sacrifice complete.

Charles Wesley.

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