

trembling, herself exhausted, and altogether unfit for work! Let her have her bicycle by all means, but shall we not be practical, and refuse to trammel her with garments altogether unsuited to it. The Church dignitary discards his regulation dress when cycling; why may the Nurse not do the same?

May we suggest that she should wear a costume something on the lines of the following, until the "Nurse of the future," as seen in the Exhibition, becomes a fact, when all difficulties of a "cycling dress" would indeed vanish. Until that time, however, let her have a Norfolk jacket and a properly weighted skirt, reaching to the ankles, made in summer of dark blue or grey beige, and in winter of serge. She should wear gaiters to match her dress and shoes on her feet. Her under garments should consist of woollen combinations, riding corsets, and knickerbockers of the same material as her dress. It is with some diffidence we mention her head gear, for the dear little uniform bonnet must be discarded altogether; and as no one has yet invented a really practical cycling hat, she must wear the next best thing—a sailor hat, the ribbon of which may bear the arms of her hospital, or the badge of her order.

On her handle-bar she can carry a neat leather case containing her implements of war; and in showery weather a light waterproof cycling cape. Thus equipped, she will impress others with the fitness of things, and be herself comfortable and free.

S. P. B.

NURSING EDUCATION.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—I read with the deepest interest your Editorial of last week, reporting the details of the new curriculum, adopted for training nurses at the John's Hopkins Hospital at Baltimore. It is, indeed, most encouraging to those amongst us who have been working on progressive lines for so many years, to see the inauguration of a real collegiate course of education adopted, even in America. This denotes the unmistakable advance on scientific lines of the education of Nurses all over the world. Naturally those amongst us, who founded the Royal British Nurses' Association, hoped that long ere this that body would have inaugurated these just reforms in Nursing education in England. But alas! I fear we have but built a stronghold for the imprisonment of our just aspirations. It is indeed galling to see our colleagues over the sea strong, united, free, progressing, when we at home, imbued as we are with the same desire for advance, are seemingly stationary, owing to the tyrannous and illegal autocracy of a few persons, who are absolutely out of sympathy with trained Nurses. The whole condition of Nursing education in this country is a disgrace to womanhood. Canada, although a British colony, has had to join with the States to effect reforms in Nursing matters. Would it be possible to have co-operation between the British and American Nurses, and so help one another?

Yours faithfully,

M. R. B. N. A.



A COLLIERY NURSING SERVICE.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

MADAM,—I have been reading some extracts from the most interesting investigations made by Dr. Haldane, the Lecturer on physiology at the University of Oxford, on the subject of the cause of death of the colliers after mine explosions. I will not go into the details of his discoveries beyond the fact that it would seem as if his investigations will completely alter all conceived views on the subject.

The point I specially wish to call attention to is the following extract from the *Daily Chronicle*, which deals with the subject, and quotes Dr. Haldane, who deals with the condition of the miners after they are rescued, and are suffering from the effects of *after-damp*. He says:—"The process of convalescence may be long, painful, and critical. Good Nursing is essential, and good Nursing, as a rule, is not to be had in a pit village remote from Hospitals. The sufferer is often left on his bed, smeared with coal-dust, and in the clothes he had on at the time of the explosion. The neighbours and relations troop into the room and stay there discussing the disaster, and lamenting the fate of the poor fellow who lies panting in a burning fever, or writhing in epileptic convulsions. Long after the carbon monoxide has been expelled from the blood, a man may be helpless and almost unconscious with a temperature of 103° or higher. The nervous system has sustained a severeshock by the action of the poison, and the greater the shock the greater the need of quiet and skilled Nursing. Could not something be done, one wonders, to organize an Ambulance Nursing Service in such colliery centres as Cardiff, Leeds, and Newcastle to meet this need? The presence of three or four Nurses skilled in the treatment of carbon monoxide poison and of burns would be an unspeakable blessing to doctors and sufferers."

This is extremely interesting, and it certainly seems as if it would be easy to organise a Corps of Nurses and give them the necessary special training which would make them more valuable in helping such cases as Dr. Haldane describes. It certainly seems, in these days of philanthropy and scientific Nursing, that the colliers, whose lives are so laborious, and who are in such constant danger, should be better looked after than this description suggests.

What a thousand pities it is that the Royal British Nurses' Association is doing nothing of a practical nature in its present stand-still state. It is helping neither the public nor the Nurses. It is to them that we have been looking for years for the organisation of a Volunteer Corps of Nurses. We would look to them now to form such a special Nursing service, as would meet the requirements of the colliers. But it seems as if, in recent times, we get nothing but cold-stones for the bread we ought to get from our Corporation. Will it always be so?

Sincerely yours,

A WOMAN OF ENTERPRISE.

NURSING PROGRESS.

To the Editor of "The Nursing Record."

DEAR MADAM,—Having been present at the Nursing Conference last week, I wished for the opportunity to thank you for all the trouble you had taken to bring it about. The papers read were very interesting, and I feel sure this Conference will not have been without good results. Hoping the Exhibition, too, will have proved of much use to many, which you have been at so much pains to arrange. Believe me, yours truly,

HARRIETT E. WALLIS.

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