

And, equally, I appeal to all those matrons who have made, and are making, their hospital spheres a centre of light and learning, an atmosphere of true nursing, to join with those bodies which, like the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, the Irish Matrons' Association, and the Poor Law Matrons' Association, are doing what lies in their power to raise standards and to broaden nursing life and education. They include still the large minority of matrons only. Until they number amongst their members the overwhelming majority of our "Superintendents of Nurses" (we have the name in Dublin) filled with the highest spirit of nursing and of progress, let none rest from their labours.

I am, yours faithfully,

ALBINIA BRODRICK.

Ballincoona, Caher Daniel,  
Co. Kerry.

#### THE PREMIER'S PROMISE.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I support the suggestion of "Clara Lee," that we "decent" trained nurses hold a public meeting to protest against prostitutes and white slave traffickers covering their crimes with our now defenceless cloak. I would suggest some Minister of the Crown be requested to receive a deputation on the subject. The only remedy is registration, and the sooner the Premier redeems his promise the better.

Yours truly,

EMILY C. MOORE.

Liverpool.

#### "VADETS."

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I am glad you are having a Protest Meeting on the subject of the abuse of nursing uniform, and I hope that at your meeting the idea of getting all Red Cross and St. John Ambulance voluntary aid detachments members to be called "Vadets," will be adopted. I see a First Aid paper proposes this and I think it a good name—and no one would object to being called a Red Cross Vadet.

I hope, too, it will be admitted at your meeting that the Red Cross uniform, except as regards the indoor cap, does not really imitate a nurse's uniform too closely. It is very distinctive, the dress is only an overall put over one's ordinary dress and the very conspicuous red cross on the breast of the apron differentiates it entirely from an ordinary trained nurse's uniform. The cap should be altered, I think, a three-cornered bit of cambric, or little pocket handkerchief put on the head, is what the special pupils wear at Chelsea, and I think that would do for Vadets, and prevent the use of a real nurse's cap.

It would not be possible to keep up voluntary aid detachments without a uniform, it is really one of the things that attract members to join, and

once in it they get keen and interested and learn to be useful, and indirectly an enormous amount of hygiene is taught by these classes being got up. I have a class of about twenty village girls, and it is surprising how well they can bandage and render first aid, change sheets, &c., but it is really since they have had a Red Cross uniform that I have been able to get them really keen and disciplined, discipline seems to come with uniform, and they are so proud of themselves and attend so well since they have had it.

Learning about home nursing, open windows, and *no* alcohol is so good for them, so I hope your meeting will be merciful and not demand the sweeping away of all uniform so long as it is very distinctive and recognisable for what it is. The out-door uniform of Red Cross nurses is a serge coat with brass buttons and motor cap, very different to that proposed for St. John's Vadet out-door dress, which is trained nurses' out-door uniform pure and simple—except for the small badge which the public would never notice. It is quite wrong that a responsible body like the St. John Ambulance Association should encourage girls who have only passed perhaps two very elementary exams in first aid, to appear in the entire dress of the fully-trained nurse. Could not representations be made to this body before it is too late?

Yours truly,

ONE WHO IS INTERESTED.

(The Misuse of Nurses' Uniform Meeting is arousing wide interest, and there is no reason why a resolution should not be sent from the meeting to the St. John Ambulance Association on the question. Nurses' uniform in the dock, and its misuse by prostitutes and procurers is the principal abuse we want to tackle.—ED.)

#### PROPOSED NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NURSES.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR EDITOR,—I am sure you will allow me to avail myself of the opportunity which your leader on the 22nd ult. has given me, to endeavour to remove a misconception about the "Nurses' Social Union." It has been largely a case of "give a dog a bad name"—only the dog, in this instance, has had too much life in him to be hanged. The word "Social" has been misunderstood to stand for sociability whereas it was intended to be used in the sense in which it is defined in the dictionary "uniting for the common weal and good."

Our aim is "To promote by co-operation the effectiveness of the profession, and through the profession the good of the community." That is surely large enough and wide enough to include the objects of the proposed National Union of Nurses, as well as any other that is deemed by the members to be worth striving for. It is an ambitious aim, I grant, but we found our faith in its achievement on our faith in the nursing

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)