

relate the case of the German who bit the fingers of the nurse, saying, "Don't touch me our army and nurses will soon be here." If the reverent kissing of hands and the brutal biting of fingers is not indicative of the spirit of men then are we savages, for even a dog shows his gratitude with a lick. Surely then, our men who are giving their precious lives in our defence have the right to protest against their women (as many French men have done) nursing the Germans, leaving them to male nurses. Why should it be a hardship? Mr. Yearsley is only corroborating the opinion of other doctors, of clergy and priests. It is not long since a surgeon wrote to the *Morning Post*: "Ye Gods, how are we to make the people at home understand what is actually going on in France—mutilated children, old men and women bruised, burnt and beaten; young women with their breasts cut off. . . ."

What woman, let alone a nurse, would turn away from a wounded German, but she does not pick him up on the battlefield—the doctor and orderly do; they alone should continue their treatment to the wounded enemy, who has given them moral wounds which can never be forgotten. Is there no such thing as "righteous wrath?" If the Germans think that their savagery to the women of the invaded parts of France and Belgium will be forgotten, the statues erected in memory of Edith Cavell, the untouched crucifixes of the village churches which lie in a heap, the ruins of Louvain and of Rheims which were destroyed with frigid, cold calculation, will still remind the world of their cruel deeds and bring down their fame in the history of the world to their everlasting shame. "As ye sow, so shall ye reap."

Yours faithfully,

G. R. WORTABET.

Woodberry,
Hindhead.

PROTECTION OF OUR PROFESSIONAL CLOTH.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—The Nursing profession has indeed received another "snob in the eye" as my Yorkshire boys would say. For years we worked like slaves in hospitals and infirmaries, in districts and elsewhere—raising nursing from disorganized drudgery to a highly skilled profession and working it up to one of the greatest assets the nation possesses, and we have received nothing but neglect and discouragement from the Government and the public. When I think of what I cheerfully endured during my three years' training, the long hours, bad food, weariness of the flesh, not to mention flattened feet and loss of good teeth from hospital air; how the whole time I denied myself rest, holidays, really warm clothes, and that all this self-denial was taken as a matter of course by the hospital committee and the charitable subscribers; you can imagine my feelings when I read in the daily press that the Government in time of war had had time to patent the

V.A.D. uniform, and thus protect, recognise, and give honourable status to these well-meaning women, who have given a few hours' work daily in comfortable little hospitals looking after sick and wounded soldiers, or in well-organized military hospitals—a delightful change for the majority from their dull and narrow existences.

What appears to me so unjust is that any abortionist, and may be murderess, any prostitute and white slave trafficker, can and does wear *my* uniform if she chooses, either in the dock, or in the brothel. And who cares? We are only *working women*. The one aim of the purely masculine Government is apparently to keep us *cheap*, disorganized, helpless, and poor. When the *Times* begins to realise that trained nurses have been unjustly treated by the whole community we must indeed be in a parlous state. You see I am writing this letter when I am red hot, but I mean every word of it.

Yours gratefully,

MARION G. MORRIS.

London.-

REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Miss P. (Bromsgrove).—There seems at present to be an ample supply of applicants for vacancies as probationers in the principal hospitals, and we are not surprised that you will have to wait for some time to get into the School you mention. But the training there is excellent, and we should strongly advise you to do so. There are many ways in which you can usefully fill up the waiting time. For instance, by taking a course of domestic hygiene and sick-room cookery.

Miss E. James (London).—The National Council of Trained Nurses is composed of leagues and societies of self-governing nurses, not of individuals. Why not endeavour to secure the formation of a league in connection with your own training school, through which you would be eligible for affiliation? If you are a member of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses, as every nurse should be, that is one of the affiliated societies.

Pupil Midwife.—You should explain your difficulties to the teacher who is preparing you for your examination. A teacher will always be glad to make things plain to a pupil, providing she asks for information at a suitable moment.

Sister Plummer (Bristol).—The address of the Society for the State Registration of Trained Nurses is 431, Oxford Street, W. The Hon. Secretary will be glad to furnish you with any information required.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

December 11th.—What care would you give mother and child for first five days after birth?

December 18th.—What is meant by (a) public hygiene; (b) personal hygiene; (c) mental hygiene; (d) sanitation?

December 25th.—(a) Name three diseases requiring special diet; (b) give proper menu for a meal for each disease.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)