

"V.A.D." realise how many of the best years of her life the trained nurse has given to the cause, when, without the glamour of war and war heroines, she quietly performed her duties to suffering humanity? Did the civil hospitals close their doors at 8 p.m. and re-open them at 9 a.m. we might also have shone in that social sphere to which "V.A.D." belongs, and thereby acquired the art of personal fascination which seems to speak so loudly for the preference of the V.A.D.'s amongst the doctors and patients. No, we were helping some poor sufferer through the weary night hours.

Familiarity! Surely "V.A.D." mistakes this for wholeheartedness in the welfare of the "case," not the individual. Taking the Profession—or should I say Calling—as a whole (of course, there are black sheep in every sphere of life), the life of a trained nurse is one of self-sacrifice.

Money. Does "V.A.D." know the remuneration of a civil hospital Sister? and if so, does she imagine that without private means the majority live on it? My experience is otherwise.

The trained nurse has for years been agitating for Registration in the interests of the public at large and long before this present war brought the very commendable V.A.D. into existence. While we appreciate the valuable services this body has rendered, we still contend it is outside the pale of the trained nurse.

Yours truly,

E. IDDON.

1st Southern General Hospital,
Birmingham.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I think it would be well for "V.A.D.," whose highly seasoned letter appears in our professional journal this week, to realise (1) that she is not a real "upper," as many of the V.A.D.s are, or she would not be devoid of gentle feeling; and (2) that in any scheme of registration we support, neither V.A.D.s nor any other class of untrained or uneducated women can be included.

Such an impertinent letter could only have been written by an uncultured woman, no matter what class she represents.

Sincerely yours,

JEANE H. MACDONALD,
Member R.N.S. and
Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I am glad a "V.A.D." reads our journal, but she should have had no doubt that her deliciously refreshing letter would have been published. I hasten to agree with her where she wishes to be just, for I have it on excellent authority from patients that it is most disconcerting to them to find themselves under the care

of young, untrained women, and from their account no amount of good looks makes up for their ignorance.

However, what I wanted to ask is, Why V.A.D.? I have heard it stated that these girls are very well paid, if so, of what quality the volunteer? Why not P.A.D.?

Yours faithfully,

M. V. W.

Sunderland.

[We have received a dozen more letters on this question.—ED.]

THE REGISTRATION OF V.A.D.'S.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—May I, through the medium of our JOURNAL send a few words of sympathy to a "Nerve Wreck" from a fellow-sufferer? I belong to a Women's Club in London, and have been asked by the Secretary not to enter the dining-room in nurses' uniform. Imagine my surprise last week to find myself seated at the next table to a lady in a scarlet dress, nurse's blue bonnet and flowing veil (not regulation), apron and all complete. After dinner I enquired if the rule had been abrogated, and was told, "That was a Commandant, a lady of title, she is in the King's service and has a right to wear her uniform where she pleases." How is that for justice? The trained professional woman may not wear her own uniform, whilst the law protects the untrained woman who adopts it. It is indeed high time we workers helped to make the laws. I wonder what happened to that poor nursemaid Noales, run in for breaking a law which she probably knew nothing about?

Yours truly,

TIED OF TYRANNIES.

[This letter has been held over. We reported last week Edith Noales had been sentenced to a month's imprisonment with hard labour.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

June 10th.—What is Trachoma: how is it best treated and cured?

June 17th.—Mention the principal symptoms of nervous exhaustion, and the nursing care of a patient suffering from it.

June 24th.—Describe the methods principally employed to apply artificial heat to a collapsed patient and how you would proceed.

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