

sisters; it was not fair that trained nurses should waste their time doing the routine work of a ward, they were needed for the actual nursing. Men could not be spared to staff all the new hospitals, even if they could be found in sufficient numbers. The War Office turned to the Red Cross and St. John's for aid. Here were thousands of women who had taken practically the same examinations as the orderlies of the R.A.M.C. We were asked to volunteer for "special service" under the War Office, pay £24 per annum (board and lodging found).

I don't think when "M. V. W." takes into account the fact that we provide our own kit altogether she could call us "*well paid*." The R.A.M.C. orderly draws 1s. 4d. a day as a private and has full kit provided; he can also gain N.C.O. rank, which will increase his pay. We draw 1s. 3½d. per day and buy our own kit, and our rank is stationary. It is not likely that educated women are unable to earn more than that in their own profession or if of independent means are likely to have been attracted by the magnificent pay.

A soldier draws pay, but he is called a volunteer if he is not a professional soldier.

Because we came originally from the Voluntary Aid Detachments the name V.A.D. has stuck. Give us a better one and we will use it. We have no right to the title nurse. While there are still R.A.M.C. orderlies in the hospital it would only cause confusion to call us orderlies. In hospital slang we are often known as the Red Crossers, but that would hardly do for an official title.

May I beg just a little charity. Surely there must be *one* trained nurse who reads this journal who has met at least one V.A.D. she could respect and who was useful to her. If there is such a one, won't she say a word for us?

Nurses, don't let those members of your profession who have never worked with us judge us altogether by the one sample we have so far provided in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

Pardon me the length of my letter.

Sincerely yours,

HESTER KENNEDY, V.A.D.

Fulham Military Hospital, S.W.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some of the V.A.D. staff of one of the largest of our military hospitals having read a letter in your issue of May 27th entitled "A Few Home Truths," feel compelled to ask permission to reply by saying how much they regret that any woman signing herself "V.A.D." should make her ideal public when she was so obviously feeling bitter and self centred. They feel that the question of social position is left outside a hospital gate by a sensible V.A.D. The sisters are superior officers in work which V.A.D.s have undertaken during the war, and though it is most obvious that V.A.D.s are representatives of all classes it is more certain that neither good breeding, brains nor education are the monopoly of their ranks. If there are trained nurses who

are unfit socially for positions they hold, there are also many cultured and intellectual women contented to serve in subordinate positions. If there are V.A.D.s of exalted rank they are much to be pitied if they have not also learnt to "play the game" in the hospital in which they are privileged to serve.

With regard to registration, V.A.D.s hope that their work may be recognised as *V.A.D. work*, and their position, though entirely separate from one gained by the practical hard work of a professional nurse, is not without its value in the day of the Great War.

We are, yours faithfully,

V.A.D. PROBATIONERS.

Camberwell.

REPLIES.

Sister ("Somewhere in France").—We sympathise with your difficulty. If senior officers do not maintain discipline in military hospitals it is almost impossible for juniors to do so. Personally we should ask the Matron-in-Chief to be removed elsewhere, unless by leaving the patients would suffer.

T. C. (Manchester).—Many nurses with fever nursing experience only have been refused work in military hospitals. It is necessary that nurses should have experience in a general hospital for military nursing.

FRENCH FLAG NURSING CORPS.

Candidates for the French Flag Nursing Corps Service in France can be interviewed on Friday, June 23rd, 2.30 to 4.30 p.m., at 431, Oxford Street, London, W., or by arrangement with the Hon. Secretary. Candidates must be well educated, and hold a certificate for three years' general training, which they should bring for inspection. Experience in fever nursing and massage, and a knowledge of French are additional advantages.

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

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

July 1st.—What points should a nurse attend to in the general management of a patient suffering from valvular disease of the heart?

July 8th.—Describe briefly the object and effects of vaccination. Describe the method of introducing the lymph and the stages of development in a successful vaccination.

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