

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

*Whilst cordially inviting communications upon all subjects for these columns, we wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not in ANY WAY hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.*

## THE PROTECTION OF NURSES' UNIFORM.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I hope you will pardon my intrusion on the subject, *re* "The Protection of Trained Nurses' Uniform" that appeared in a recent issue.

The grievance of the misuse of uniforms of the Sisters and Staff Nurses in hospital is greater than appears on the surface.

There are members of the profession who have given anything from three to twenty years of their career for the noble cause of nursing, and younger and vastly more inexperienced helpers have stepped, and are continuing to step, into the profession to receive exactly the same privileges as their sisters who have made a study of the art of Nursing for years. Could not something be done in the way of a distinctive badge or a special uniform sanctioned by the State for the members who have graduated and passed examinations for this noble cause?

After all, it is only fair, because, taking a line through the Navy and Army, a man because he can row a ferry-boat across a river does not, and what is more would not be allowed to, wear a Naval officer's uniform, nor does the Scoutmaster of the Boy Scouts parade in an Army officer's dress.

Could not the question of uniformity of dress be settled by a committee specially formed for the purpose. I know this is a vital point with the sisterhood of Nurses; but in the Army and Navy the question of uniforms is and has been for years settled by committees formed for the purpose, and altered from time to time as the authorities think fit.

I am, Madam, very sincerely yours,

"A WOUNDED SERGEANT IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL."

## IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—As one who has taken a deep interest in the Territorial Force Nursing Service from its foundation and followed its distinguished career with pleasure and, I may add, pride, I was much interested to read the lines published in last week's JOURNAL by "A Tommy" in grateful recognition, for it seems that he found in the Sister who had care of him just the kind of woman one thinks Sisters ought to be—something more than a skilled nurse, though she was all that of course, for the Territorial standard is high, but tender, sympathetic, comforting the dying, caring for the dead, a Sister who realises the

nobility of her vocation and finds her pleasure in it, not outside it. She has her reward in the gratitude of her patients, and any woman might be proud that by her skill and knowledge she is able to earn the appreciation of the splendid men to whom the women of England owe undying thanks, for were it not for them England would be as Belgium, and Englishwomen treated as Belgian and French women have been treated, to the everlasting disgrace of a nation professedly civilised.

Yours faithfully,

CIVILIAN SISTER.

## THE SHORTNESS OF V.A.D.S.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—We all know the probationer—V.A.D. or otherwise—who considers her ward Sister unappreciative and her Matron possibly vindictive, but I don't think I ever have met the pro. who considered the Sister jealous of her because of the perfection of her (the pro.'s) nursing. We Matrons are quite accustomed to the misunderstood probationer. I once told such an one that I did not consider nursing her vocation, and she had better take up some other work. She thought me very hard and lacking in understanding. Years afterwards I had a message from her to say that her judgment now endorsed mine, and that she was happy in the sphere of usefulness which she had found for herself. So sometimes we get credit for doing our duty.

Yours faithfully,

VETERAN.

## OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

September 9th.—What do you know of Acute Poliomyelitis, and the nursing care necessary in cases of this disease?

September 16th.—How would you feed (a) a healthy child, four months old; (b) a child suffering from marasmus, four months old; (c) a child suffering from acute diarrhoea and vomiting, four months old.

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