

Miss Lückes is, however, thoroughly offensive on the V.A.D. question. She writes: "No one could doubt Mr. Arthur Stanley's genuine desire to promote the welfare of nurses (if only the laity would leave us alone, as they do clerks and other women-workers devoid of a 'halo'). But it is difficult to imagine anything more inopportune than the decision to found a College of Nursing, and to do this in war-time.

"The assumption is that such large numbers of trained nurses exist that their supposed interests must suffer from the influx of the many V.A.D.'s and other partially trained workers, who may wish to continue nursing when the war is over. So much the better for the country if they do. There will be plenty of work for women who are not fully trained, but the experience V.A.D.'s will have already had will show many of them the wisdom of obtaining proper training as soon as they can. There was a great shortage of nurses for a long period before the war began . . . The inevitable wastage of war where nurses are concerned will increase this difficulty, and without necessarily injuring the standard remuneration or prospects of Certificated Nurses, the uncertificated women who are now doing most useful work may bring back a wholesome element into the Nursing Profession by tending to destroy the growing spirit of Trades Unionism, which is so unadapted for nurses and so much to be deplored. They may also demonstrate once more what folly it is to insist upon the fetish of three years' training being necessary to make an intelligent woman into a competent nurse."

In simple Saxon this means that the nursing profession must be flooded by the unskilled to keep us thankful for our bone; and it is an oligarchy of matrons with no more care for our economic condition than these two letters expose, who have presumed to exclude the direct representatives of our professional organizations from the Council of the College of Nursing and its Scottish Board.

We have no Trades Union, but a few more such effusions and we shall be compelled in self-defence to form one.

Yours truly,

A SISTER T.F.N.S.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly allow me space to ask of the proposed College of Nursing if a fixed curriculum for the training of nurses is to include the cleaning of brasses, and housemaids' work generally, as is the custom in some of our leading hospitals.

Yours truly,

AN ANXIOUS ENQUIRER.

A MOTHER'S PROTEST.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—I read with warm approval your remarks in last week's issue on the abominable Cornwallis-West scandal, in which thousands of

pounds had to be spent to vindicate the character of an innocent man.

Now the woman who attempted to ruin him is the Hon. Commandant of a V.A.D., and of the hospital in which her victim was warded, terribly wounded. How about the characters of the trained nurses at the mercy of this high official recognised by the Joint War Committee. The majority of them have no friends sufficiently rich and powerful to protect them from malicious attacks, but there is one way in which they can protect themselves, and that is for reputable women to refuse to remain in any hospital where the "Lady in the Case" has power and influence. It is degrading for professional women to be compelled to associate with persons of her type, and the authorities are greatly to blame that, in several instances, trained nurses have been placed under them.

Yours truly,

ELEANOR C. MAYHEW,

A Mother of Nurses and Soldiers.

DISTINCTIVE UNIFORM PREFERRED.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Permit me through your columns to express my surprise at the indignity the M.A.B. are about to thrust upon the nursing profession. I am a very junior Sister, but, even so, I have been five years training to qualify for that position. Two years M.A.B. fever, and three at St. Bart's., London. Surely we who have gone through this very necessary schooling are entitled to a distinctive uniform from that of a raw probationer. I agree with "Open-minded" that the Army officer wears khaki with his men, but the public are well acquainted with the existing distinctions. It is not so with nurses' uniform; and in these days, when the evil of the untrained woman is doing so much to lower the status of nursing and nurses, one expects progress at least from such a body as the M.A.B. Surely it is not progress to take from the officers of that Board that which they have worked for?

A JUNIOR SISTER.

[We have received another budget of letters on this question from this point of view.—ED.]

OUR PRIZE COMPETITIONS.

January 27th.—What are the causes of dysentery, and how is it treated?

February 3rd.—Describe the symptoms in a severe case of influenza. Suggest proper nursing to be employed in such a case. State the period of incubation and the period of isolation. What complications may occur in the course of the disease?

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