

collar, with its disagreeable pressure on the throat and its rub-line on neck and dress?

Many of us are very loth to return to the above, after the more healthy and equally neat turned-down collar, most practical for District or other visiting nurses, in its stiffened form, but much more convenient in some lines of work if soft, as it is then so easily washed and ironed ready for wear again.

Are black stockings to be the rule? If the uniform be grey, would not grey stockings, thick or thin, according to weather, &c., be very nice?

May we know yet if there is to be a R.N. outdoor uniform? Some of us now in need of new uniform are unwilling to get it now that the official uniform is expected soon.

Hoping you will kindly consider the above ideas if you have not already done so,

I am, yours faithfully,

GRACE S. HARDY.

Newton Road,
Southampton.

BONUSES PAID.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—Some correspondence took place a short time ago in the *Poor Law Officers' Journal*, between the Clerk to the Guardians of Bethnal Green and myself, re certain nurses in that district who had not received the bonuses promised to them.

I am happy to state that these ladies have recently been notified to the effect that the bonuses will be awarded them, and in arrear. This, I may say, is largely due to the good offices of a very well-known Alderman, who has kindly taken an interest in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

MAUDE MACCALLUM.

Hon. Secretary.

(Professional Union of Trained Nurses).

NURSING CONTROVERSY AT THE WEST MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

DEAR MADAM,—My attention has been directed to a letter from Miss A. B. Cumberbatch appearing in your issue of the 7th instant respecting the Nursing Controversy at the West Middlesex Hospital.

Miss Cumberbatch refers to the unhappy example of this Union in publishing information received without testing its accuracy. That is, she asks you in effect not to believe the statement as published by Miss MacCallum on account of an inference of inaccuracy.

At the same time Miss Cumberbatch definitely asserts that three Nurses (not six) were recently dismissed from the Hospital for deliberate violation of rules and open defiance of authority, and she asks you to believe this statement without any test being applied as to its accuracy.

If the Brentford Guardians are so sure of the grounds—why have they in the first instance refused to hear any statement from the Nurses themselves or any statements that might be made on their behalf? This appears to me so one-sided that I must leave your readers to draw their own conclusions. We are not afraid of facing any enquiry either by the Guardians or the Ministry in this matter, and we are able to prove definitely the whole of the statement as published by Miss MacCallum. We realise what we are up against in our fight for justice being meted out to Probationers—but in the end we shall win.

I am quite content to leave the question to any impartial enquiry—but after my own experience of training of Nurses, I am also prepared, until a fair enquiry has been held conclusively proving the Nurses to be in the wrong, to give to those Nurses the benefit of the doubt. The Nurses say, with proof and confidence, that they have been unjustly treated. The Guardians say nay—but refuse either to meet the Nurses or to substantiate their charges.

To maintain such an attitude is, in my mind, a sign of weakness, and there must be some doubt as to whether their defence of their actions can be substantiated.—Yours faithfully,

G. VINCENT EVANS,

General Secretary

(Poor Law Workers Trade Union
of England and Wales).

90, Charing Cross Road,
London, W.C. 2.

[Our readers will understand, as stated at the head of "Letters to the Editor," that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents, but that our columns are open to all within the limits of space at our disposal.—ED.]

KERNELS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

ECHO ANSWERS WHEN?

Territorial Reserve: "When are trained nurses who served their country at home during the war to have some recognition? Now that the British Red Cross Society has struck a medal for V.A.D.'s who have received no British decoration, is it time the Nursing Board at the War Office looked after the interests of qualified nurses." [So it is.—Ed.]

PRIZE COMPETITION QUESTIONS.

May 28th.—Describe how to care for the bed-pan, urinal, spittoon, and baby's bottle.

June 4th.—What are the signs of Prematurity in the new-born child? What are the difficulties which may be encountered in the management of a premature child? How should these be dealt with?

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