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EDITORIAL.

A STATE UNIFORM.

For years, Registrationists have been looking forward to a protected State uniform. What type of dress had they in their minds as distinctive and suitable for the purpose? Something "worth wearing." Something which, dignified, distinctive, and in good taste, could be recognised at once. We meet a Navy, Army, or "Flying" Sister in the street: we know the corps she adorns with half an eye. We greet the blue and red, the grey and scarlet, and the tasteful horizon blue with respect wherever met. Thus we have waited patiently for the past three years for the General Nursing Council to select a uniform which we could recognise at home and abroad, and which could not be confused with any other.

So far as one can gather, only the coat-frock is yet on view, and having seen it, we regret to find it a mere little navy gabardine garment, trimmed with an infinitesimal bit of very narrow blue braid, with nothing to distinguish it from a dozen such garments turned out by factories and on sale in any draper's shop. It is insignificant and commonplace, and can never rank as the popular uniform of the Registered Nurse, because one meets dozens of nurses in navy gabardine every day, and every maid in her Sunday coat is at liberty to wear an almost identical trimming.

Without being garish, the State uniform should be unique and catch the eye. It is to be hoped it is not yet too late to select garments which will commend themselves to the Registered Nurses, so that the State uniform

may not end in a farcical travesty of what such a uniform should be.

During the late war, we were waiting for a train in the French war zone at 5 a.m. Even thus early some officers of high rank were parading the station. One was a perfectly beautiful creature. His uniform was exquisite even at that hour of the day. It consisted of a long true blue coat, fitting his slim figure like a glove, sparingly braided in black, with just a touch of narrow gold, but it was his shako which attracted the eye. This cap was dark blue, mounted on a lovely shade of fuchsia (rose purple) velvet and flat gold braid. The whole uniform was nevertheless sombre and in beautiful taste, and the idea flashed through our mind that a dress in such a combination of colour would make a really attractive and popular State uniform for the Registered Nurse to be.

When, therefore, we had, as Superintendent of the French Flag Nursing Corps, to fit out the group of nurses who passed out by the back gate of a hospital in the war zone, as the Germans rushed in at the front, and who lost all their belongings and arrived home after a terrible tramp almost in rags, we chose that fuchsia shade of ribbon to trim their blue hats, and with their long blue cloth coats of a sympathetic shade they presented an exceedingly charming appearance. Of one thing we are quite convinced, and that is that unless the Registered uniform is distinguished, attractive, and becoming it will never be sufficiently adopted to become a recognised State dress, and a great opportunity will be lost, and great disappointment experienced by hundreds of nurses, who have anticipated wearing with pride and pleasure a regular dress distinctive of their honourable standing in their profession.

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