

"fancy dress," to be worn irrespective of any title to it. I know some young women who have had three months in hospital, and they do not seem to understand that they are only masqueraders when they continue to wear their uniform after leaving their hospital. In some out of the way places it causes quite a sensation when the rector's or squire's daughter comes back after her thirteen weeks in Hospital, and, on the strength of this, appears on all occasions in her regulation bonnet and cloak. Her friends admire her, and express the opinion that "she looks so sweet in it she really ought to become a Hospital Nurse." A few months' training undoubtedly is of the utmost value to those young ladies who wish "to be useful in the parish," but as a matter of honour they should not aspire to the dignity which of right belongs only to years of hard work. I have known two or three young ladies who went through the St. John's Ambulance Courses of Nursing and First Aid, and on the receipt of their certificates, have blossomed out into over-dressed Hospital Nurses. And these are the "sham Nurses" who smoke cigarettes, and bring discredit on the cloth. It seems to me that a pupil who has not gone through the full course of training should be required to relinquish her uniform—at any rate the out-door part of it—and leave it at the Hospital. In this way the number of frauds would be minimised. England and America are, I believe, the only countries which do not protect the uniforms of their soldiers. Not long since a man of some position, who was anxious to win the affections of a certain young lady, conceived the plan of adopting the dress of an English Field Marshal. Love of uniforms is proverbial among women; and this young lady confusing her love for the coat, and her desire to be a Field Marshal—or whatever is the feminine of this position—with her love for the individual, was conquered and accepted the man. Disillusion came when she found he was a masquerader; and her visions of martial glory were dimmed. An indignant brother brought the matter before the authorities of the War Office, and found to his surprise, that a man may habitually

figure in the uniform of a general or an admiral without fear of penalty. So I fear it is too much for Nurses to ask that their uniform be protected. REGISTERED NURSE.

#### "NURSE."

*To the Editor of "the Nursing Record."*

MADAM,—It appears to me that the word "Nurse" is a most unfortunate one. Can we not coin a new word which will indicate a professional woman with full Hospital training. As you remark in your Editorial of last week, Nurse Gillespie is regarded by the public as a Hospital Nurse; and we Nurses have to bear a part of the shame attaching to her conduct. Many ladies of position engage as Nurse a woman who has been ward-maid in a children's Hospital; they insist on dressing her in full uniform, and she parades the streets wheeling a perambulator; or she drives with the baby and children in a victoria, the mistress regarding the theatrical *cortège* as one that reflects the highest credit upon herself. Unfortunately, we true Nurses have to bear the brunt of the conduct of the frauds; and when these young women "off duty" go to the Empire and other such places with their "young man"—still wearing Hospital uniform—the public are amazed, and ask what will Nurses do next?

"A PROTECTOR OF MY UNIFORM."

#### LETTERS RECEIVED.

- A. Mrs. Roberts-Austen, London.
- B. Miss Bateson, London.
- C. Mrs. Gordon, London.
- M. Miss Lina Mollett, Naumburg; Miss Morrison, New York.
- P. Miss Power, Belfast.
- R. Mrs. Rose, London; Miss Ramsay, Thurso.
- S. Miss Stevens, London; Miss Sullivan, Dublin.

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