

UNIFORM

By Miss Patterson, Q.A.I., M.N.S.

"I disapprove of Sisters of the Nursing Services having commissions." This was a remark made by a senior Military Officer at a social gathering and it was endorsed by a hearty "I agree" from an equally senior R.A.F. Officer.

Several of the women of the party raised a chorus of protest against what they considered to be male exclusiveness and conservatism. Two of the women happened to be officers of the Nursing Services and very naturally they demanded to know why Sisters particularly should not be considered suitable for commissions in these war days of Womens Defence Forces. The answers were illuminating for the root of both soldier and airman's objection lay in the fact that many sisters show disrespect to the King's Commission in their uniform, in fact, according to these men, it is sometimes difficult to know if sisters are in uniform, since they think nothing of impartially introducing additions or replacing items by civilian wear. The blatant use of make up with uniform was roundly condemned although discreet aid to beauty was pronounced to be a 'morale upholder'.

Both male officers were full of admiration for the Nursing Profession, the wife of one was a trained nurse and they made all sorts of excuses for sisters not appreciating their duty and pride as officers in the matter of uniform. They said that they quite understood that sisters were not drilled on parade as other Women's Services are—in fact they more or less implied that one couldn't expect ministering 'angels' to know the difference between uniform and fancy dress!

The two Nursing Officers looked thoughtful. They themselves were in uniform, both very neat, but at the moment one was acutely conscious that she had a jewelled pin in her tie, and what WAS she to do if she suddenly sneezed violently before this party was safely over? She remembered with horror that the exceedingly pretty beflowered georgette handkerchief in her pocket was most suitable for use with a BALL DRESS! but by no stretch of imagination consistent with uniform. The other sister recalled uneasily that she had, on more than one occasion, combined mufti and uniform-unthinkable in the eyes of these men!

Yes—She had one evening worn slacks—Green-corduroy too—with her uniform jacket, but only just down the road. Also she had sometimes used her uniform overcoat with an evening dress. Fancy shoes, gloves and scarf had been allied to uniform, usually because they just happened to be handy—no-no-truth at all cost—it was because she imagined they looked nice!

Come—Nursing Officers—Come! Show that you are proud of your uniform and fully understand its significance! Why should excuses be made for you by kindly male Officers? Why must you be less of an Officer than women in any other Service? Remember that your Nursing Auxiliaries will follow your example.

YOU ARE A KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICER LET IT BE OBVIOUS!

NOTES & CORRESPONDENCE.

Our Great Appreciation.—The President, Officers and Members wish to take this opportunity of thanking all the Army Nursing Officers from Great Britain and the Dominions, who have joined the Trained Nurses' Association of India during their short stay in this country.

Their motive in becoming members has been to help and support the cause of the Nursing Profession in India and we very much appreciate the kindness and the interest they have taken in our work.

They have not only shown their concern for us by joining the Association but have contributed most generously to the fund raised by all members of the Army Nursing Services for the Trained Nurses' Association of India.

The help they have given us should be recorded in the history of Nursing in India. They have not only been content to lend us their influence and support by becoming members, but have contributed greatly to the most generous gift we have received of Rs. 10,826/12/0 from the Military Nursing Service.