

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to ensure publication.

EDITH CAVELL HONORED

Dear Editor: In a recent letter from England, written by an American woman who has lived there for many years, is the following description of the funeral of nurse Edith Cavell, which may be of interest to your readers: "We went to see the Edith Cavell funeral procession, and from where I stood on the steps of Westminster Hospital, I saw one of the clergy lay on the coffin, after the guards had lifted it from the gun carriage to their shoulders, a beautiful wreath of red and white carnations and lilies, which Queen Alexandra had sent; and to-day a friend sent me these words, copied from the card, in her own handwriting:

'Life's race well run,
Life's work well done,
Life's crown well won,
Now comes rest.'

They are, as you may know, from Edward Hayne Parker's ode to President Garfield. I have never known anything more simple nor of more dignity; nor was there anything *tense* in the crowd, which very much puzzled me and made me wonder if we were in the presence of the new spirit of the age, when a soldier woman was accepted as a matter of course. All up Victoria Street, soft and full of tone, the Guard's band played Chopin's funeral march, more beautifully than I have ever heard it played; and then the coffin, draped with the Union Jack, the wreath of English flowers, and the voices of the choirs and clergy—and silence."

Philadelphia

M. G. R.

THE TRIALS OF UNCERTAINTY

Dear Editor: I have noticed that a number are talking about "lack of patriotism" of the Army nurses that are still in the service of our Uncle Sam. I don't hesitate to say that it is not lack of patriotism that is the cause of so much seeming complaint. The real cause is lack of anything definite. If we knew that the Army Nurse Corps would need us six or even twelve months, the majority of us would be more than willing to stay, I am sure, and the chief nurses would hear less often, "When am I going to get my discharge?" If one of us had a hospital position before enlisting, she can't make any definite arrangements with the hospital to assume her former position for the very simple reason that she can't say when she will be discharged from the Army! On the other hand, she knows that she will be discharged from the Army some time in the near future, only to find herself without a position of any kind, and that is enough to worry any one! Don't you think so? And I don't think very many of us that have served in the Army can rest many months. We all know that we must go to work and try to prepare for that "rainy" day, that will come even to nurses. We, Army nurses, know that the A. E. F. boys must be taken care of, and we are more than willing to stay and see that our boys who have done so much for us are given all the care and encouragement that only a nurse can give, for we also know what it means to be away from home and loved ones. The