

A COMMENT

DEAR EDITOR: The nurse's letter on page 545 of the April issue seems quite inconsistent with the difficulty of the Red Cross in obtaining volunteers and the advertisement of the National Headquarters of many positions to be filled.

H. F. K.

SUGGESTIONS

DEAR EDITOR: The other day while reading an editorial article in the nursing journal I came to a part which said, "that nurses doing private duty seldom write about their work, and that it sometimes seems as if all the women of ability had taken up hospital work."

I, for one, believe that to-day no nurse with much individuality or ability can remain long in private practice and therefore they either give up the profession altogether or commence to do institutional work, if they feel they can afford to work for the small salary paid.

I continue to do private nursing not that I wish to, but, first, because I enjoy taking care of the sick and am happy while doing it; secondly, I do not approve of caps, aprons, bibs, etc., that nurses are obliged to wear when in an institution—superintendents excepted. I do not wear any of the above while doing private nursing and why should we be compelled to while in hospitals as graduates or when nurses in training. Nothing is cleaner or neater than a plain well-made white dress and I am sure the nurses would soon adjust themselves to keeping a dress spotless when once they became accustomed to not having an apron to spot and change at will; as for laundry, two white dresses a week is a great deal less than one dress and half a dozen aprons, bibs, and cuffs. On the other hand white will boil and gingham won't.

Again, take the District Nursing Associations of some of the cities. The hats the nurses are compelled to wear make most of them look "frights." In no other profession, except where it is due to the individuals' eccentricity, do they show such lack of all beauty in dress as in the nursing profession. It is much more economical to get something you will look your best in, even if you have to wear it three times as long, as to buy some cheap, gaudy, or dowdy clothing that only helps to spoil the beauty around us.

I have always felt that it would be of benefit to the public if the rich who give money to build hospitals in small towns, in memory of themselves or some relation, or as in some cases where the town appro-