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THE Nursing Record

EVERY SATURDAY
ONE PENNY.

AND

The Hospital World.

"QUI NON
PROFICIT DEFICIT."

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Editorial.

A NEW NURSING ORDER.

THE King has recently conferred the decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon medical women and nursing sisters for their devotion to the sick and wounded in China and West Africa. We are always heartily pleased when such services receive recognition, and congratulate these ladies on the honour bestowed upon them, but the award of the Royal Red Cross from time to time brings into prominence the fact to which we have on previous occasions drawn attention in this journal, that there is no equivalent of the Red Cross which may be gained by nurses, who as civilians, have rendered conspicuous service to their profession, or braved danger in the discharge of their duty. It is true that the Order of St. John of Jerusalem has lately been given to civil nurses, but the honour so conferred bears no comparison to that which surrounds the recipients of the Royal Red Cross.

This lack of adequate recognition of the services of civil nurses is the more regrettable, because, for one reason or another, whether it be patriotism, the glamour of things military, the excitement of the hour, or the love of

change, there are always plenty of nurses ready to come forward in time of war to care for the sick and wounded. Indeed, there is hardly a woman in the kingdom, trained or untrained, whose services would not be at the disposal of the Government if required. Army nurses frequently do heroic work, and it is right that their work should be recognised. But heroism is not the exclusive prerogative of the army, or of its allied services, and continuous effort is a surer test of character than spasmodic, though brilliant, feats. The devotion to duty, and the disregard of personal danger shown by those nurses who have worked through plague epidemics, of some of those who have been notable for their courage in infectious and other hospitals at home, are as worthy of reward as the same qualities displayed by their sisters in the field, and it in no way detracts from the merits of the latter to plead for recognition of the former. This truth, indeed, is well established in the case of decorations bestowed upon men. It would be a happy precedent at the beginning of the reign of the new King and Queen if a civil Order, ranking equal in honour with the Royal Red Cross, were established for nurses who have rendered conspicuous services to the sick, and to the nursing profession.

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