

New Year Honours.

His Majesty The King has conferred many New Year Honours upon his subjects at home and overseas, in which the Nursing Profession has been included.

ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

D.B.E.

Miss Gladys Taylor, Matron in Chief, P.M.R.A.F.N.S. (retired); Miss Myra Curtis, Principal, Newnham College, Cambridge, lately Chairman, Committee on children deprived of a normal home life; Miss Anne May Curwen, National General Secretary, Y.W.C.A. of Great Britain.

ROYAL RED CROSS.

Queen Alexandra's Royal Naval Nursing Service.

FIRST CLASS R.R.C.

Matron Doris E. Johnston.

SECOND CLASS A.R.R.C.

Senior Sister Eleanor G. Foster; Senior Sister Joan M. Woodgate.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.

FIRST CLASS R.R.C.

Matron Ethel Prescott; Matron Phyllis Widger.

Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

FIRST CLASS R.R.C.

Matron Roberta M. Whyte.

SECOND CLASS A.R.R.C.

Senior Sister Dorothy M. Schilling.

O.B.E.

Miss I. B. Clunas, lately Matron of Lewisham Hospital, London; Principal Matron D. Girdlestone, R.R.C., Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Miss M. G. Paddon, formerly Superintendent, Inter. Grenfell Station at N.W. River, Newfoundland; Mrs. A. M. M. Walsh, Matron, King Edward Memorial Hospital, Western Australia.

Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps.

The Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service is to change its title to that of "Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps."

His Majesty The King has intimated that as soon as the Army and Air Force (Women's Service) Act has been brought into operation he will be pleased to constitute the existing Army Nursing Services, namely the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, and its Reserve, and the Territorial Army Nursing Service, a Corps of the Army under the title "Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps."

History.

1854.—Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of the employment of women nurses in Military Hospitals, formed the first nucleus of a recognised Nursing Service in the Crimean War.

1856.—Florence Nightingale established Military Nursing in Military Hospitals in England.

1860.—Lady Jane Stewart-Shaw was appointed as first Superintendent of Military Nursing Services and the

Army Training School for Military Nurses at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, was opened.

1881.—Army Nursing Service inaugurated under that title.

1902.—Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service was established by Royal Warrant. This Service was placed under the immediate control of Her Majesty, who graciously consented to be the first President.

1904.—Her Majesty Queen Alexandra devised the Badge, ribbon and the Motto "Sub Cruce Candida" for Her Nursing Service.

1925.—Death of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.

1926.—Her Majesty Queen Mary graciously consented to be President of Q.A.I.M.N.S.

1926-27.—Absorption of Q.A.I.M.N.S. (India) and the Military Families Nursing Service, Q.A.I.M.N.S. From this time onwards Q.A.I.M.N.S. was responsible for the nursing of the men and children of the British Army wherever they were stationed in the world.

1948.—Title changed to Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps with Her Majesty Queen Mary as Commandant-in-Chief.

In 1799 women were employed in attending the sick and wounded of the Army. At that time they were not trained nurses, but mostly the wives of soldiers. It was not until October 21st, 1854, when that pioneer of nursing—Florence Nightingale—left England with a party of 40 nurses for the Crimea, that nursing in the Army can be said to have begun.

On the return of the Army from the Crimea in 1856, Florence Nightingale devoted her organising abilities to the formulation of a scheme for Army nursing. So successful was she that women nurses were employed in the General Hospital at Fort Pitt, Chatham, to look after the soldiers sent home from the Crimea, and the question of an establishment of Army nurses was seriously considered.

On May 19th, 1856, Queen Victoria laid the foundation stone of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, while a little later the building of the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich, was begun. Each of these hospitals was staffed with Army nurses. In 1860 the Army Medical School was transferred from Chatham to Netley and Lady Jane Stewart-Shaw, with her staff of nurses, was also transferred.

In 1866 provision was made for the appointment of nurses to all Military General Hospitals but it was not until 1881 that an Army Nursing Service was formed. Meanwhile, in 1879-80, several Sisters were sent to the Zulu War.

The Egyptian Campaigns (1882) again led to a reorganisation of the Nursing Service, Sisters being sent to Hospitals at Gibraltar and Malta. In the same year a staff of nurses was appointed to the Brigade of Guards Hospital, London, and later Sisters were posted to Military Hospitals at Aldershot and Egypt. Finally, in 1883, every military hospital of 100 beds or more had a staff of Sisters.

As the Crimean War led to the employment of nurses in military hospitals and the eventual inauguration of the Army Nursing Service, so the South African War and the experiences obtained during that campaign led to the reorganisation of the Army Nursing Service and the formation of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service in 1902.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)