

The Order of Merit.

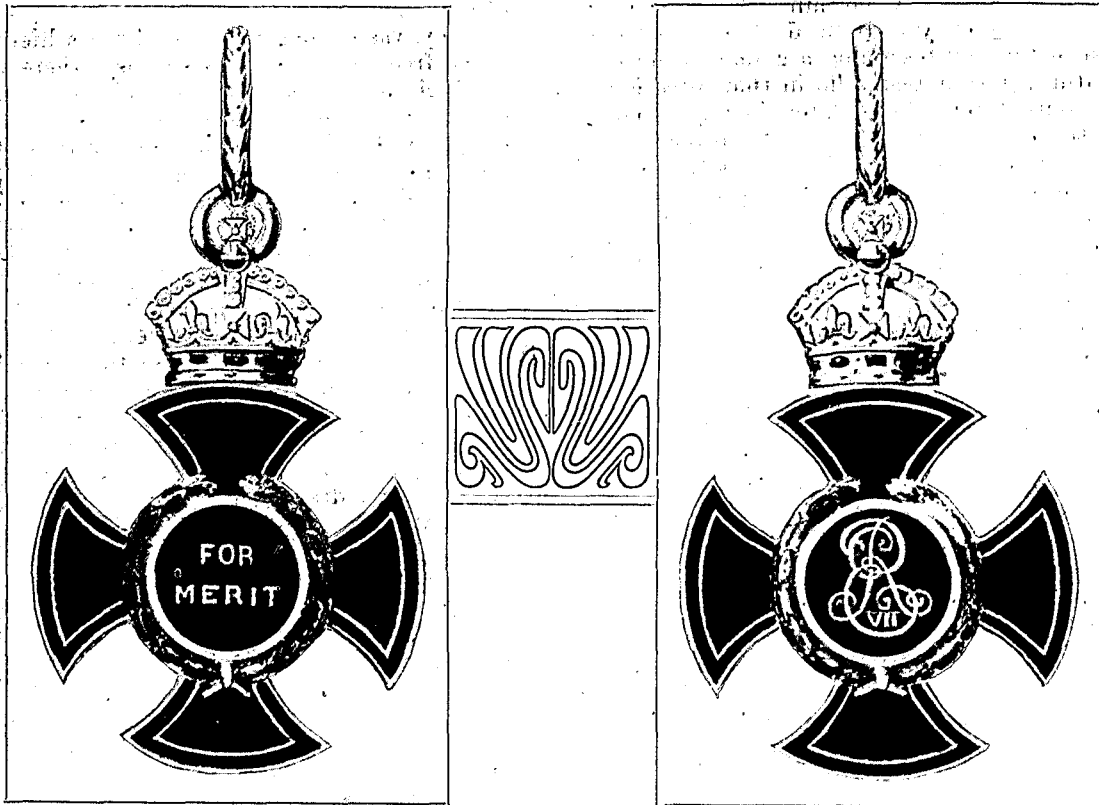
The insignia of the Order of Merit were conveyed to Miss Florence Nightingale by Colonel Sir Douglas Dawson, Registrar and Secretary of the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood, on Thursday in last week. Sir Douglas Dawson drove from St. James's Palace in a Royal carriage to Miss Nightingale's residence in South Street, Park Lane, W., where members of her family were waiting to receive him.

"By command of his Majesty the King I have come," said Sir Douglas, "to convey

done her in graciously appointing her to the Order of Merit. She feels keenly the honour it is to be associated with the distinguished men already members of the Order."

The message was at once conveyed to Sir Douglas Dawson.

By the courtesy of the Lord Chancellor's Office we are able to give the accompanying illustrations of the Order, which represent its actual size. It is carried out in blue, red, and green enamel. The centre of the cross bearing the words "For Merit," is of blue enamel surrounded by a wreath of laurels, and the



the insignia of the Order of Merit to Miss Florence Nightingale."

The case containing the cross of the Order, with its beautiful blue and rose ribbon, was then conveyed to Miss Nightingale, who remained in her own room, but received the insignia with much pleasure, and dictated her thanks for the honour conferred upon her by her Sovereign as follows:—

"His Majesty King Edward VII.—Miss Florence Nightingale desires to express to his Majesty her gratitude for the honour he has

arms, which are eight-pointed, are carried out in red. The reverse side bears the King's monogram. The cross is surmounted by a crown, and is suspended by a handsome ribbon, two inches wide, in soft shades of royal blue and rose red.

The German Emperor on Tuesday sent a beautiful bouquet to Miss Florence Nightingale through the medium of his Ambassador. The gift was accompanied by a letter expressing his Imperial Majesty's esteem and his appreciation of her great services to nursing.

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