

capacity, and simultaneously they wrote the one to the other, Mr. Herbert asking for her services and promising those essentials to success, a free hand and strong support, and Miss Nightingale offering her services with the proviso that obedience to her orders should be rendered with military discipline.

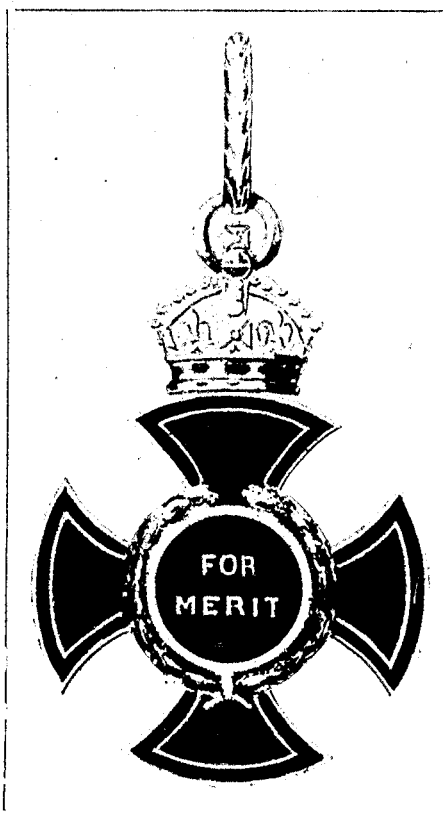
• So the "Lady-in-Chief," as Miss Nightingale was named, left for the Crimea, with her little band of nurses, to wrestle with a task so Herculean that the power of man had failed to compass it. Her triumph is a matter of history, and remains a record of what organisation and trained woman's wit, united with genius, can achieve, although from Lord Stanmore's life of Mr. Sidney Herbert—always her firm ally and supporter—it is evident that that Statesman must have had the not unusual experience that genius is not an easy quality to work with, but the genius was there triumphant; for the saving of thousands of lives, and the comfort and solace of thousands of adoring sick soldiers. The qualities which could successfully surmount the difficulties of nursing in the Crimea did not make for honied words, but for directness of speech and methods, and intolerance of opposition.

After nearly two years' heroic work in the hospitals of the Crimea, Miss Nightingale quietly returned home, endeavouring to avoid a popular demonstration, but public feeling was too strong to be denied expression. The commendation of her Sovereign was immediately bestowed upon her, she was bidden to stay at Balmoral, and presented by Queen Victoria

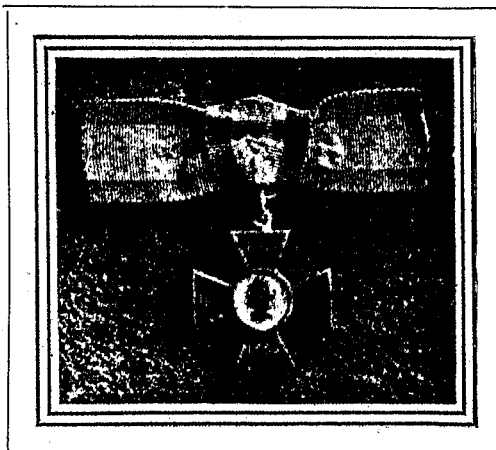
with a magnificent jewel designed by the Prince Consort, and in a letter to the Duke of Cambridge her Majesty, commenting on Miss Nightingale's "wonderful, clear, and comprehensive head," wrote, "I wish we had her at the War Office."

The public were not behindhand in their appreciation of her services, and as she would receive no personal gift, on the motion of the Duke of Cambridge, at a public meeting in London, it was agreed, "That the noble exertions of Miss Nightingale and her associates in the hospital, for the sick and wounded of the British forces, demand the grateful recognition of the British people . . . and that as she has expressed her unwillingness to accept any tribute designed for her own personal advantage, funds be raised to enable her to establish an institution for the training, sustenance, and protection of nurses and hospital assistants."

So was founded the Nightingale Training School in connection with St. Thomas's Hospital which has been fruitful in good work in two directions, *i.e.*, in sending out its pupils when trained to superintend other training schools, or to nurse in other institutions, and in stimulating the authorities of other hospitals to abolish their old bad systems of nursing, and to institute training schools in which the pupils are taught their work by experienced nurses. The rules for the training school were drawn up by Miss Nightingale, and she kept in close touch with its work. The plans for the inauguration of many new schemes connected with nursing were submitted to her keen and wise criticism,



The Order of Merit.



The Royal Red Cross.

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