

## THE DEPRECIATION OF THE R.R.C.

The War Office issued on Monday a list containing the names of 1,035 Matrons, Nurses, and others brought to the notice of the Secretary for War for valuable services rendered. We congratulate them all and hope some honourable recognition of their work may in the future be forthcoming.

There is, however, a very strong feeling throughout the profession that the broad-cast bestowal of second class Red Crosses has been a mistake. Once upon a time the honour of the Royal Red Cross was sparingly bestowed for special service and correspondingly valued. The institution of a second class distinction has materially decreased its value. It is thought that some other form of military decoration should have been originated other than for the most meritorious work and in recognition of war service, and that

profession in its determination to protect our sick and injured sailors and soldiers from the "manipulation" of unregistered practitioners which certain Members of Parliament appear to favour, who are advocating treatment by "bone setters." These gentlemen have formed a committee to carry out an investigation on their own account. We, of course, can trust the General Medical Council and the Royal Army Medical Corps to see that justice is done both to the sick and to registered medical practitioners in the matter; but it is the irony of fate that the R.A.M.C. should be faced with a situation which it failed to realise in managing the interdependent profession of Nursing. Military nurses have been associated in their professional duties with every form of nursing quack—have been placed under untrained "Matrons" and "Lady Superintendents" and "Commandants," and have been made



MEMBERS OF THE NURSING STAFF OF THE FIRST EASTERN HOSPITAL, CAMBRIDGE, WHO HAVE BEEN INVESTED BY THE KING WITH THE ROYAL RED CROSS.

for clerical work and to untrained women the R.R.C. should not have been awarded.

Our illustration shows the Matron, Miss A. Macdonald, R.R.C., and members of the nursing staff of the 1st Eastern General Hospital, Cambridge, after their investiture by the King at Buckingham Palace, on Saturday last, with the Royal Red Cross. It will be remembered that the King visited the hospital last August, and was much interested in its arrangements—the open-air wards, and the bath ward, which is so much appreciated by the men with foul and suppurating wounds.

## MANIPULATIVE NURSING.

We have every sympathy with the medical

responsible for the "manipulations" of V.A.D.'s totally unqualified for the serious professional duties delegated to them—more especially "at the front" and abroad. Only this week, we learned that one of these inexperienced girls (who deplored her own ignorance) was in charge of 320 sick and wounded men on night duty—and that the quality of military nursing has necessarily suffered from the high percentage of untrained in relation to trained and qualified Sisters and nurses on duty. Had trained Nurses been registered by Act of Parliament, as they would have been years ago had not the Nursing Schools opposed the reform, they also could have prevented "manipulative" nursing in military hospitals with which the War Office has compelled them to be associated.

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