

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED
THE NURSING RECORD
EDITED BY MRS BEDFORD FENWICK

No. 1,535.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1917.

Vol. LIX.

EDITORIAL.

HONOURS FOR WOMEN.

The institution by His Majesty the King of two new Orders, for which men and women are equally eligible, has been welcomed by his subjects, for these Orders afford a means of recognizing the manifold services, voluntary or otherwise, of British subjects and their Allies in connection with the war.

The "Order of the Companions of Honour" consists of one class only. It carries no title or precedence, and is conferred on persons for whom this special distinction seems to be the most appropriate form of recognition.

"The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire," on the other hand, is an Order of Knighthood, consisting of the Sovereign, a Grand Master, and five several classes. The King has appointed the Prince of Wales the first Grand Master, the Queen is the first Dame Grand Cross, and the Duke of Connaught the first Knight Grand Cross. The first two classes in the case of men carry the honour of Knighthood, and in the case of women the privilege of prefixing the title of "Dame" to their names, with precedence as to rank. Thus it is ordained that in all solemn ceremonies, places and assemblies, the members of the first class of the Order, the Knights Grand Cross, shall have precedency next to and immediately after the Knights Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, and the Dames Grand Cross shall have place and precedency next to and immediately before the wives of Knights Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath. The "Dames Commanders" have place and precedency next to and immediately before the wives of Knights Commanders of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

The Third Class is that of "Commander," and the Training Schools for Nurses have been recognized by the Matrons of the four largest London hospitals having been made Commanders; but there is naturally indignation throughout the two Royal Services—the Royal Naval Nursing Service and Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service—that after bearing the highest nursing responsibility during the war, they have been omitted from recognition, while the Commandant-in-Chief of Women's Voluntary Aid Detachment has been awarded the highest honour possible, that of Dame Grand Cross of the Order.

Again, the omission of the names of Mrs. Garrett Fawcett, Mrs. Pankhurst, and many "intellectuals" doing splendid work for the Empire, while a number of unknown Red Cross workers are included, mars the standard of the honours. If these honours are to be of any value social influence must be eliminated in their bestowal, otherwise they will do more harm than good to women.

The fourth and fifth classes of the Order are those of "Officers" and "Members."

We are glad that a number of patriotic industrial workers receive recognition, and that the Medal of the Order will be awarded for services of special merit rendered to the Empire by men and women in manual and other work done for the war. Such services will include acts of great courage, self-sacrifice, or high example; of initiative or perseverance; of skill, resource, or invention; and we note with pleasure that it is hoped that in some industries arrangements may be made under which weight can be given to recommendations made by the workers themselves of men and women most deserving to receive this honour. The list of those to whom the Medal has already been awarded and of the deeds which have won it, will be read with a thrill of pride.

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