

HONOURS FOR NURSES.

The King held an Investiture in the Quadrangle at Buckingham Palace, on May 22nd, and conferred, amongst others, the following decorations:—

Bar to the Royal Red Cross.

Matron Johanna Clay, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (retired).

The Royal Red Cross. (FIRST CLASS.)

Matron Nellie Blew, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Assistant Matron Mary Graham, Q.A.I.M.N.S.; Sister Alice Milburn, T.F.N.S.; Matron Isobel Alexander, S. African M.N.S.

The Royal Red Cross (SECOND CLASS.)

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Sisters Edith Beedie, Caroline Crawford, Irene Benson, Catherine Ferguson, Mary Fletcher, Ada Gabriel, Olive Niles, and Helen Ripper.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.—Assistant Matron Lillian Noble, Sisters Annie Bell, Daisy Hutchings, Elizabeth Jenkin, and Kathleen Topham.

Civil Nursing Service.—Matron Jane Peebles and Sister Nora Rutledge.

British Red Cross Society.—Sister Henrietta Auden, *St. John's Ambulance Brigade.*—Miss Nathalie Dodd.

Voluntary Aid Detachment.—Miss Elsie Buller, Lady Lillian Digby, Miss Edith Dimmond, Miss Madge Kitchener, Miss Elizabeth MacMillan, Sister Rachel Slocock, and Miss Mary Stafford.

Australian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Lucy Boughton and Sister Lucy McIntosh.

The Military Medal.

Miss Nellie Dewhurst, V.A.D.; and Miss Stella Dickson, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

Queen Alexandra received at Marlborough House the members of the Military and Civil Nursing Services who have been awarded the Royal Red Cross and the Military Medal, subsequent to the Investiture at Buckingham Palace.

MEDAL FOR SISTER M. STUART-NAIRNE.

The colleagues of Sister M. Stuart-Nairne, with whom she was so great a favourite, will be pleased to hear that she has been awarded the "Medaille des Epidémies en Argent" by the French Government for her devoted services as a member of the F.F.N.C. Sister Nairne worked as Sister and Matron at Talence, in the war zone under fire, and in caring for the seriously gassed cases at Luzarches came into touch with some of the most tragic results of the war, and with terrible suffering which can never be erased from the mind.

MILITARY CROSS FOR COURAGEOUS COOK.

The King of the Belgians recently decorated with the Military Cross the cook of the Marquise de Zeller for having saved by her eloquence the life of her mistress, who was sentenced to death on the charge of possessing a number of copies of *La Libre Belgique*.

NURSING ECHOES.

Father Bernard Vaughan made a special appeal at Farm Street Church on Sunday, at noon, on behalf of the Edith Cavell Homes of Rest for Nurses. We have no doubt there was a generous response.

At a recent meeting of the Board of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, approval was given to a new scale of remuneration and to a proposed reduction of hours to an average of 56 per week, to take effect from the first day of the present month.

The scheme has been decided on in spite of a diminishing income and an enormously increased expenditure—in the absence of some extraordinary income there is an estimated deficiency of £13,000 at the end of the present year.

It is obvious that the reduction of hours to 56 per week is the most costly part of the changes made. This relief in the time of duty will necessitate considerable addition to the nursing staff, and the heavier expenditure entailed will be an increasing quantity for some time to come.

As for the increases in pay, whereas the salaries of ward sisters were £40, advancing by annual increments of £5 to £60 a year, the new scale commences at £50, and provides for increases to £80 a year. The salaries of the administrative sisters are somewhat higher. They were £55, £65, and £75, and the increases are to £75, £85, and £90.

Probationers undergoing training are subject at St. Mary's to an arrangement which is not common to all hospitals that train nurses, in that they take, in a lying-in institution, the special course of midwifery to qualify them for the certificate of the Central Midwives Board. They do this in the last months of their fourth year, exclusively for their own advantage, and not in any way for the benefit of the hospital—unless in the comparatively infrequent contingency of their subsequently becoming members of its permanent staff. In these circumstances the value of this special training is regarded as equivalent to the addition of £21 to their total salaries during the four years of their engagement. Under the old scale the total was £87; it will now be £95.

We think we can throw a ray of light on the circumstances which have involved the new Association of Hospital Matrons, recently founded at St. Thomas' Hospital, in such an invidious position.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)