

### THE ROYAL RED CROSS WARRANT.

By the King's command a new Royal Warrant has been issued cancelling all previous Warrants for the award of the Royal Red Cross.

The principal points ordained by the new Warrant are that:—

The Decoration shall be styled and designated "The Royal Red Cross," and shall be divided into two classes (as at present).

It may be worn by the Queen Regnant, the Queen Consort, or the Queen Dowager, and either class of the decoration may be conferred on any of the Princesses of the Royal Family of Great Britain and Ireland, also upon the Queens or Princesses of foreign countries who may have specially exerted themselves in providing for the nursing of the sick and wounded of foreign armies and navies.

*The First Class of the Decoration may be conferred upon a fully trained nurse* who is a member of one of the officially recognised nursing services, and who has shown exceptional devotion and competency in the performance of actual nursing duties with the Army in the Field, in the Naval, Military, or Air Force hospitals, or in an Auxiliary War Hospital over a continuous and long period, or who may have performed some very exceptional act of bravery and devotion at her post of duty.

The Second Class of the decoration may be conferred under the above conditions upon a fully-trained nurse, or an Assistant Nurse, Probationer, or V.A.D. nursing member who belongs to one of the officially recognised nursing services.

The awards in the First Class of the Decoration are not to exceed two per cent., and, in the Second Class, five per cent. of the total establishment of nurses, the allotments to be proportionate to the numbers of each nursing service. It is competent to His Majesty to make such additions, as under exceptional circumstances he may deem fitting.

Recipients of the Second Class, if trained nurses, will be eligible for advancement to the First Class as vacancies may arise.

Recipients of the First Class of the Decoration who are British subjects will be designated, M.R.R.C., and of the Second Class, A.R.R.C.

Either class of the Decoration may be conferred on ladies, whether subjects, or foreign persons, recommended to His Majesty's notice by the Secretary of State for War, the First Lord of the Admiralty, or the Secretary of State for Air, as having *voluntarily undertaken* nursing duties and shown special devotion and competency in the performance of such duties, over a continuous and long period, in hospitals which have been specially established for the treatment of sick and wounded personnel of the Naval, Military, or Air Forces, including the Indian Forces, and the Forces of the self-governing Dominions beyond the seas; but *the First Class of the Decoration shall be conferred only upon a fully-trained nurse.*

Any foreign lady upon whom the decoration is conferred will be regarded as an honorary member,

or honorary associate respectively. The recipients under the above clause will be additional to the members of the Regular Services.

Anyone holding the First Class of the Decoration may be awarded a Bar for further approved service.

We are pleased to observe that (beyond Royal persons) the First Class Royal Red Cross is to be reserved for fully trained nurses.

Also that a limit is placed to the number of awards, as the large number given in the recent war has materially depreciated its value.

### POOR LAW INFIRMARY MATRONS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Poor Law Infirmary Matrons' Association was held on October 30th, at the Eustace Miles' Restaurant. There was a large attendance of members. A very interesting discussion took place, after the business meeting, on the future work of the Association. Several guests had been invited to tea at 4.30, amongst whom were Miss Stansfeld, late Chief Lady Inspector at the L.G.B.; Dame Maud McCarthy, R.R.C.; Miss Gibson, late Matron of Birmingham Infirmary; Miss Amy Hughes, late General Superintendent Q.V.J.I. for Nurses.

Miss Elma Smith asked Miss Stansfeld if she would voice the good wishes of the Association to Miss Barton, by presenting to her a silver tea pot, with inscription, and a suède handbag, from the members, as a small recognition of her services as President.

Miss Stansfeld, in a very charming speech, said she felt sure that the gift was given in true sincerity of appreciation of the untiring efforts of Miss Barton, not only for the Infirmary Matrons' Association, but for the work she has done in the interest of the sick poor, often through difficult times and round tight corners.

Miss Barton has been President of the Infirmary Matrons' Association for thirteen years, and has again been elected unanimously by ballot. The result was received with loud applause. Miss Barton thanked Miss Stansfeld and the Association in suitable words.

#### RESULT OF BALLOT.

President, Miss Barton; Hon. Treasurer, Miss Inglis; Hon. Secretary, Miss Alsop.

The Members elected to the Committee were:—Miss Cockrill, St. Marylebone Infirmary; Miss Copeman, Paddington Infirmary; Miss Clarke, West Ham Infirmary; Miss Dowbiggin, Edmonton Infirmary; Miss Dodds, Bethnal Green Infirmary; Miss Hannaford, Poplar and Stepney Infirmary; Miss Elma Smith, Colindale Hospital; Miss Todd, Wandsworth Infirmary; Miss Bodley, Selly Oak Infirmary, Birmingham; Miss Master, North Evington, Leicester; Miss Myles, Brighton Infirmary; Miss Yapp, Ashton-under-Lyne.

Members' subscriptions should be sent to:—Miss Inglis, Hon. Treasurer, St. Leonard's Hospital, Hoxton Street, Shoreditch.

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