

RANK FOR ARMY NURSES ACHIEVED IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING offers its warm congratulations to the American Army Nurse Corps, upon whom Rank has been conferred by the passing of the Jones-Raker Bill at Washington.

Mrs. Helen Hoy Greeley, the eminent Counsel, whose devotion to their cause has helped so materially to win this victory for Army Nurses in the States, reports in the *American Journal of Nursing*:—

"The Jones-Raker Bill for Rank for Nurses is now law. On May 27th the Conference Committee reached a final agreement on all issues of Army re-organisation, and made their report, which contained the following sentence: 'The provision for the relative rank of nurses was agreed to, it being contained in both Bills.' The report was agreed to by the House on May 28th, and by the Senate on May 29th. On June 4th the President signed the Bill, which went into effect immediately.

"The Conference Committee used the phraseology of the original Jones-Raker Bill with the exception of the last clause. For this it substituted the sentence: 'The Secretary of War shall make the necessary regulations prescribing the rights and privileges conferred by such relative rank.' Such language occurs frequently in Army and Navy legislation, and I am advised that it is hardly likely to be construed unfavourably to our interests.

"To the hundreds of persons, nurses, doctors and lay persons, who by their unselfish and spirited co-operation have made this law, the National Committee to secure Rank for Nurses proudly acknowledges its indebtedness and gives unmeasured thanks."

Once again we have a splendid object lesson resulting from the unity of the Nursing profession in America. In their great professional sisterhood there is no room for "pundits" and "superior persons." Superintendents are chief nurses—and associate themselves with whole-hearted zeal with their fellow nurses for the common good, and with unflinching instinct the rank and file pick out their leaders and honour them accordingly.

This roll of honour now includes the names of a long list of women who have devoted their great talents to the common good, without thought of reward or distinction, and whose selfless work is known and appreciated throughout the world: Linda Richards, Isabel Hampton-Robb, Anna Maxwell, Lavinia L. Dock, Isabel McIsaac, Sophia Palmer

Georgia M. Nevins, M. Adelaide Nutting, Annie W. Goodrich, Lucy L. Drown, Mary M. Riddell, Jane Delano, Clara P. Noyes, Helen Scott Hay, Sarah E. Parsons, M. Helena McMillan, Sarah E. Sly, Anna Jammé, Louise Twiss, Isabel M. Stewart—and coming along; a band of equally fine women of a younger generation, in whose hands the honour and progress of their profession is secure.

It is a liberal education to have met many of these "stars" and to be associated with them, through honorary membership, in their National organisations.

HIGHER PENSIONS FOR NURSES DISABLED IN THE WAR.

ROYAL WARRANT.

A new Royal warrant, dated July 2nd, has been issued for the retired pay of officers (Army) disabled and for the pensions of the relatives of officers deceased, and for the pensions of nurses disabled and of the relatives of nurses deceased, in consequence of the Great War. The warrant is published as a command paper (Command 811) and as a special Army Order, and is obtainable from His Majesty's Stationery Office, price 2d. net. It takes effect as from April 1st, 1920.

In the case of such persons whose claims to retired pay, pensions or gratuities have been dealt with or arose under previous Warrants the terms of the new Warrant may, if more beneficial to them, and subject to the provisions of the Fifth Schedule, be applied with retrospective effect from the above date.

NURSES DISABLED OR DECEASED.

A member of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, of the Army Nursing Service Reserve, and of the Territorial Force Nursing Service, who retires on account of medical unfitness certified as either attributable to or aggravated by military service during the war and not being due to her serious negligence or misconduct, may be granted the pension shown in the Third Schedule to the Warrant which corresponds to the degree of her disablement as certified.

A Principal Matron, or Matron-in-Chief, totally disabled will receive a pension of £210, a Matron £180, a Staff Nurse or Sister £150, if not entitled to Service Retired pay. The addition to Service Retired pay if entitled to such is £90.

When a permanent pension has been granted it will not be altered on account of any change in the nurse's earning capacity, whether resulting from training or other cause, with certain exceptions.

Pensions or gratuities may be awarded to the relatives of deceased nurses in accordance with the terms of Articles 18 to 22 of this Warrant so far as they may be applicable, and under such conditions as the Minister may determine.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)