

HONOURS FOR NURSES.

Mlle. CHAPTAL,

"Officier" of the Legion of Honour.

Members of the recent International Congress of Nurses, and the many friends of Mlle. Chaptal throughout the nursing world, will learn with pleasure of the distinction conferred upon her by the French Government of the rank of "Officier" of the Legion of Honour, to which she has been promoted from that of "Chevalier." It is, we learn, only very rarely that this distinction is conferred upon a woman, and we heartily congratulate the late President of the International Council of Nurses on this high recognition of her national work, by which not only she herself is honoured but also the International Council of Nurses, of which she is an illustrious member. We learn from various sources that the Governments both in France and Belgium are deeply impressed with the value of international co-operation between the nurses of the world, they recognise the power for good of this harmonious contact.

MISS CLARA D. NOYES, R.N.,

La Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française.

It is with pleasure we announce that the French Government has awarded the "Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française" (in Silver) to Miss Clara D. Noyes, Director of the Nursing Service of the American Red Cross, Chairman of the American Nurses' Memorial Committee, and First Vice-President of the International Council of Nurses. The presentation was made by M. Eduard Faure, President of the Administrative Board of the Florence Nightingale Hospital and School in Bordeaux, on the occasion of an official memorial visit to the school by Miss Noyes, and other distinguished American Nurses who made a pilgrimage there after the meeting of the International Congress of Nurses in Paris and Brussels. It was a graceful recognition of what the nurses of the United States had done for nursing in France, and especially in presenting the beautiful School and Nurses' Residence at Bagatelle to the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bordeaux, as their Memorial to their colleagues "who died in the line of duty" in the World War.

A full description of this visit, charmingly written, has been contributed to *The American Journal of Nursing* for September by Miss Evelyn T. Walker, the Hon. Secretary of the Memorial Committee, who is well known to many British Nurses for her fine work in the devastated regions of France after the War.

It was a splendid gesture on the part of American Nurses, and a proof of their desire to promote the development of Nursing in France, that after Dr. Anna Hamilton, the Superintendent of the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bordeaux, visited the United States of America in 1918, to enlist the help of American nurses in her struggle to maintain and develop good nursing standards, that when Miss Noyes, then President of the American Nurses' Association, presented Dr. Hamilton's appeal to the three National Nurses' Organisations in America they responded to this appeal by deciding to build a much needed Nurses' Home connected with the hospital directed by Dr. Hamilton as a Memorial to the American Nurses who died in the War, and in 1921 the

American Nurses' Memorial Committee was organised, with Miss Noyes as Chairman.

Miss Evelyn Walker relates in the *Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine* that "from that day to this Miss Noyes has never for one moment lost her interest in the Florence Nightingale School in Bordeaux, and the members of her Committee have come from the four quarters of America to attend meetings, and to show their interest in the development of nursing in France, and to pay respect to the memory of their fellow nurses in whose memory this beautiful Nurses' Home was erected."

Miss Walker writes further, and we cordially endorse her view:—"We sometimes wonder in these hard times how American Nurses ever raised 85,000 dollars to build and complete their Memorial in France, and we realise what a large part Miss Noyes played in this project, never losing an opportunity to tell of the School, and to stimulate interest in its completion."

It must have been a wonderful moment for Miss Noyes to realise the fruition of her years of hard work, when upon arrival at the Hospital the American nurses were met by Dr. Hamilton, who led them to the Reception Hall where members of the Board of Directors and a group of the French nurses were waiting to receive them. M. Eduard Faure then "made a very stirring speech in English, welcoming the American Nurses, and asking them to be at home at Bagatelle (where the Memorial Home is situated). He expressed his gratitude and that of the members of his Board for all the help and encouragement which they had received from American Nurses. Then, on behalf of the French Government, he decorated Miss Noyes with 'La Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française,' which is a national decoration France confers upon those to whom France is grateful."

Miss Noyes, in gracefully accepting the Decoration, referred to the credit which was due to the American Nurses as individuals, and accepted this mark of honour on their behalf.

We warmly congratulate both Mlle. Chaptal and Miss Noyes on the honours, which, conferred upon them by the French Government, will be warmly acclaimed by their colleagues throughout the Nursing World.

So far as we know the only other foreign member of the International Council of Nurses who has been awarded the greatly valued "Médaille de la Reconnaissance Française," is Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, who in the Great War helped to organise, and acted as Hon. Superintendent of, the French Flag Nursing Corps of 250 thoroughly trained British Nurses working under the authority of the French War Office.

THE RÉCONNAISSANCE FRANÇAISE.

The Reconnaissance Française Medal is a delicate work of art in dull silver. On the obverse side a helmeted figure of France is raising a wounded man, sword in hand. On the reverse side is simply inscribed "Reconnaissance Française" in a semi-circular palm. The Ribbon is of white watered silk edged with narrow lines of red and blue, with a blue Star in enamel in the centre.

It is a thing of beauty, to be treasured in a world where gratitude is a virtue born of noble minds.

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