

HONOURS FOR NURSES.

The King held an Investiture in the Ball Room of Buckingham Palace, on February 13th, when His Majesty conferred the following decorations:—

MILITARY MEDAL.

Australian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Dorothy Cavood.

First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.—Miss Elizabeth Calender, and Miss Elsie Courtis.

ROYAL RED CROSS.

FIRST CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (India).—Matron Irene McNally.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Sister Mildred Wells.

Canadian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Lillian Pidgeon.

Australian Army Nursing Service.—Matron Edith Cornwell, Sister Alma Bennett, Sister Josephine Dunne, and Sister Julia Hart.

SECOND CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.—Sister Isabella Jobson.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Sister Leah Rosenthal.

Territorial Force Nursing Service.—Matron Annie Walker.

Voluntary Aid Detachment.—The Lady Elizabeth Keppel, Miss Cecilia Lawley, the Hon. Ursula Lawley, and Miss Lorna Leatham.

Canadian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Edna Auger, Sister Harriet Jukes, and Sister Gertrude Reid.

Australian Army Nursing Service.—Sister Helen Homan, Sister Elizabeth Horne, Sister Lily Mackenzie, and Sister Constance Stone.

New Zealand Army Nursing Service.—Sister Maud Atkinson and Sister Blanche Huddleston.

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

At the Investiture held by the King in the Ball Room of Buckingham Palace on February 15th, His Majesty decorated the following ladies with the Royal Red Cross:—

FIRST CLASS.

Canadian Army Nursing Service.—Matron Janet Macdonald.

SECOND CLASS.

Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve.—Staff Nurse Evelyn Walton.

They were subsequently received by Queen Alexandra at Marlborough House.

SERVICE BARS.

On Wednesday H.R.H. Princess Christian presented service bars to members of the Belgravia War Hospital Supply Depot, who have qualified during the past three years of work.

Women's share has indeed been splendid in the work of equipping hospitals with necessary bandages, garments, stores, and comforts of all descriptions during the past years of war.

NURSING AND THE WAR.

A demobilisation payment scheme has been drawn up by the Joint War Committee under which payments to persons whose contracts are determined by the Joint War Committee, based on length of service prior to March 31st, 1919, are as follows: Under six months' service, a gratuity of 4 weeks' pay; over 6 months but under 12, 6 weeks' pay; over 12 months but under 18, 8 weeks' pay; over 18 months but under 24, 10 weeks' pay; over 24 months but under 30, 12 weeks' pay; over 30 months but under 36, 14 weeks' pay; over 36 months but under 42, 16 weeks' pay; over 42 months but under 48, 18 weeks' pay; over 48 months but under 54, 20 weeks' pay. Payments under this scheme do not interfere in any way with the payment of bonus of £7 10s. (or Christmas gift of one week's salary for non-contract nurses), in the ordinary course. The scheme does not apply to persons whose contracts have been terminated before November 29th, 1918, and persons themselves determining their contracts will receive no special payment.

It will be remembered that in 1914 Red Cross nurses under the then Committee were paid £2 2s. a week, but this arrangement was cancelled later "upon the advice of the Matrons," so it was alleged, and caused great indignation, as the nurses were compelled to agree to take £1 1s. a week, or leave. We are glad, therefore, that those who have continued on the staff of the Joint War Committee are to have compensation, although those who resigned before the scheme was agreed upon—do not benefit.

One of the happiest memories of the war, when nurses who have served with the Overseas Forces come to reckon their store, is the haven to which they turned on their brief leave, at Queen Mary's Hostel for War Nurses, 39 and 40, Bedford Square, W.C.

At the heart of the Hostel is Mrs. Kerr Lawson, who takes care that the comfort of each honoured guest is assured; there is rest for the tired body, relaxation for the overstrained mind, and, most precious of all, unflinching understanding and helpfulness in trouble, confided easily and naturally to one possessed of such a store of sympathetic magnetism. What it has meant to these pilgrims up the Hill of Difficulty to rest for a while in the Chamber of Peace, they alone know.

Nurses who have enjoyed the hospitality of the Hostel will hear with sincere regret of the impending retirement of Mrs. Kerr Lawson, who has decided that the time has come to take up the threads of her own life once more. Many good wishes and loving thoughts will follow this "succourer of many."

Sir R. Munro Ferguson, Governor-General of Australia, and Lady Helen, have shown many

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