

THE EIGHT-POINTED CROSS.

By MISS BARTLEET.

THIS distinctive badge of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem is just now so much before the public, that a short history of its origin and signification may not be out of place.

In the Middle Ages, any devout people, men or women, thought time well spent in a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to visit the scenes wherein Christ's life was lived. Especially were they anxious to see the Holy Sepulchre, the cave hollowed in a rock when the body of Our Lord was laid to rest. One devout woman built a series of what we should call Dāk Bungalows, but which were called in those days "hospitals,"—places where hospitality was to be had,—on the road to Palestine so that no pilgrim need lack shelter. Later on there was war in that land and pilgrimages were not made without great danger, as the Mahomedans owned the country. So great were the difficulties and dangers which pilgrims met with on their self imposed penance, to visit the Holy Land, that two wealthy men of Amalfi established in Jerusalem two hospitals for the reception and relief of male and female pilgrims respectively. One was dedicated to St. John the Almsgiver, and the other to Mary Magdalene. The first mentioned was the original home of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, Rhodes and Malta, whose names and exploits have come unsullied down the River of Time to our own day. In 1099, Godfrey de Bouillon endowed the hospital richly with lands in various parts of the world out of gratitude for the kindness he and his Crusaders had met with from the Knights Hospitallers; and several Crusaders of noble birth even joined the Order. From other endowments obtained in the same manner the Hospital became quite rich at one time. The male and female members of the Order used to meet at meals and beside the beds of sufferers. They wore a red robe with a black mantle—afterwards this was changed to all black.—When Jerusalem was again captured by unbelievers the Order was dispersed and when next we hear of the Sisters they were in Spain and had valuable properties there. Also they were working in France at some period in the 13th century. When Jerusalem again became the property of the faithful and it was possible to live there, the two branches of the Order of St. John formed themselves into a religious body and dedicated themselves to Christ and the poor. Their dress then was black with a white cross of eight points embroidered on it on the left side. We call this cross the Maltese cross but not many people know that in its old signification each point of the cross stood for a special virtue or beatitude: 1. Spiritual happiness. 2. Avoid malice. 3. Sorrow for Sin. 4. Humility towards persecutors. 5. To practise Justice. 6. To practise mercy. 7. Sincerity and pureness of heart. 8. Willingness to suffer persecution. Later on the Order became military and combined the duties of caring for the sick with that of fighting for a good cause. It was divided afterwards into 1. The Knights, Members of noble

families, 2. the Priests, 3. the Serving Brothers. The fame of the Order became so wide spread through their valor and good works that members of the nobility flocked to serve under the White Cross Banner—The Banner of St. John.

The Red Cross Knights were also at one time, 1119 A. D., well known. They were called Knights Templars also because they lived near the Temple in Jerusalem. Their duty was to guide and guard pilgrims through the difficult mountain passes on their way. The significance of the Red Cross is that they must be ready to shed their blood in defence of the faith.

The nurses going now to serve in the war are succeeding to this noble inheritance of association with good deeds. Their trained skill is doubtless greater, but their zeal and devotion cannot be greater than that of those who wore the eight-pointed cross of old.

NEW MEMBERS.

TRAINED NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF INDIA.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Training.</i>	<i>Present Appointment.</i>
Alice Saunders	Memorial Hospital, North India School of Medicine, Ludhiana, Punjab.	Christian Mission Hospital, Mahoba, U.P.
Alice Ann Reeder	York County Hospital, England.	Private Nursing Staff, J. J. Hospital, Bombay.
* Katherine Beatrice Webb	Guy's Hospital, London, Massage certificate and C. M. B.	Mayo and Albert Victor Hospital, Lahore.
* Henrietta Louisa Overton	Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.	Redfern Memorial Hospital, Hassan, Mysore.

* Miss Webb and Miss Overton are also members of the Association of Nursing Superintendents.