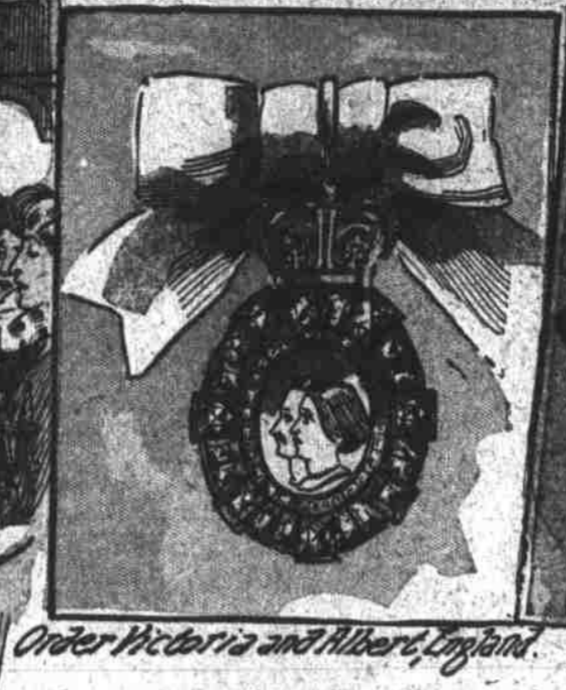


# ORDERS THAT WOMEN WEAR

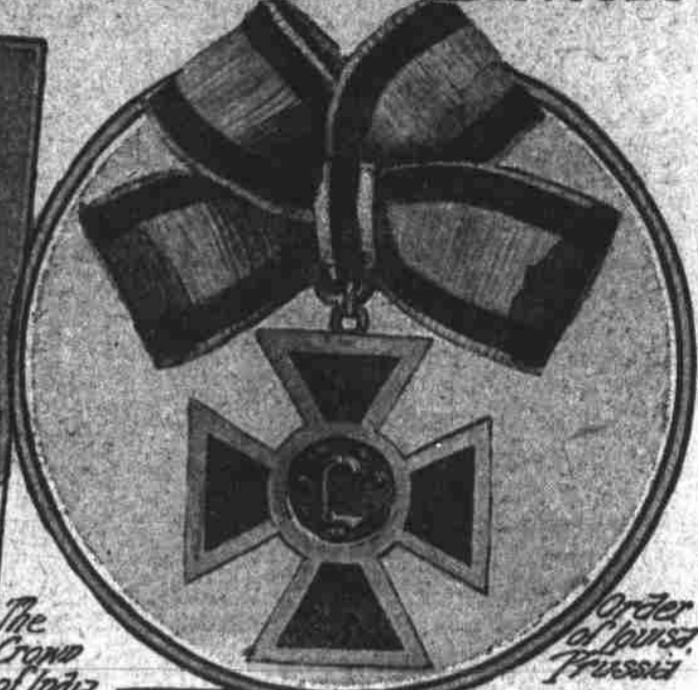
SPLENDID DECORATIONS THAT THEY WIN BY MERIT OR DISTINGUISHED SERVICES



*The Order of Victoria and Albert, England.*



*The Crown of India, England.*



*Order of the Russian Empire.*

war, heroic attention rendered the sick and dying, a signal accomplishment for the benefit of humanity, the writing of a powerful book or a determining discovery in science. Orders for women, as a rule, signify actual service for humanity or a close alliance with active benevolence.

Such orders have been worn by some of the noblest, most unselfish women in the world.

In countries where foreign titles are regarded lightly, where royal favor is highly held—even here one mark of distinction is regarded with its true value. And the fair lady who can wear the tiny jeweled insignia boasts of a distinction less open to question than the dubious appendage of a titled husband in the shape of an impecunious earl. Fortunes cannot buy the prized decorations; only valiant service of some sort.

Centuries ago, when the Moors were engaged in a terrific broil in Spain, and blood ran like water in the flower-grown loggias of the palaces, women distinguished themselves by bravery and admirable heroism. And none more than the women of Tortosa when besieged by the olive-skinned Moors.

So valiantly did the women fight the invaders that, in the twelfth century, the last duke of Barcelona, Ramon Berenguer, established "The Order of the Axe" for women to recall the heroic deeds of the women who had given up their lives.

The recipients of the order wore a red axe in their kerchiefs. This was the first order established for women.

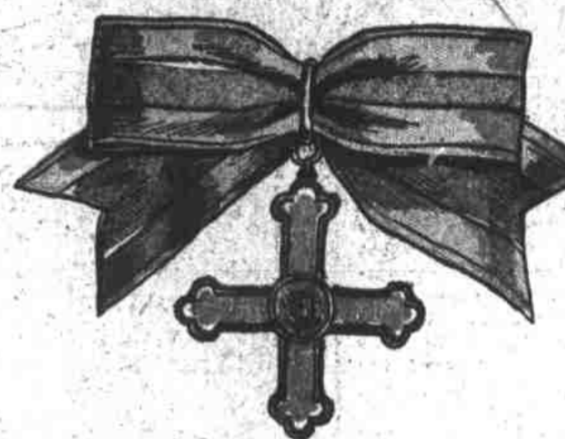
Established to honor women for service, only one order distinctly marked heroism in the masculine sense of the word. In the battle of Pruth, when Peter the Great of Russia led his forces against the Turks, defeat stared him grimly and determinedly in the face. The battle was fierce and terrible. But in the fight with the emperor was his wife, the valiant Catherine, but for whom, he afterward declared, the entire army would have been lost.

After the war Peter instituted the Order of Liberty and bestowed it upon his wife. During his lifetime no other received the honor. But in 1797 the Emperor Paul I. changed the character of the order so that it might be conferred upon the higher nobility connected with the imperial institution. Each member was especially charged with the care, manners and morals of a pupil in the royal household. It is now known as the "Order of Catherine."

Most prized of the orders for women in Germany is that of Louise, established on August 2, 1815, by Frederick William III. This was after the war for freedom—when Napoleon, in a triumph preceding death, had marched conqueringly over the continent.

Imbued with an overwhelming spirit of patriotism, the women of Prussia sold their jewels and gold rings to raise money for the soldiers. Instead of gold and silver, they wore iron rings and ornaments. Into the field of battle many went, nursing the sick and caring for the dying.

In memory of the deeds of these women and the queen, Louise, the emperor established the order, limiting the number of members to 100. It was enlarged somewhat by Frederick William IV in 1850 and King William in 1856.



*The Order of Olga, Wurtemberg.*



*The Order of the Star of the Danube.*



*The Order of the Crown of India.*

daughters of military officers are eligible.

To receive the Order of Theresa a woman must be unmarried. When it was endowed in 1827 by Queen Theresa, the membership was limited to twelve ladies of Bavarian descent.

The order was later extended, and a branch called the Ladies of Honor included. Unlike the original members, the Ladies of Honor were granted no pension privileges.

Besides the princesses of the royal and dual houses of Bavaria, the Order of Theresa includes the queen of Wurtemberg, the German empress and their family connections. Similar to these orders are the Order of Elizabeth and the Order of St. Anne of Wurzburg.

Of exceptional historical interest is the Order of the Starry Cross, founded by the Empress Elizabeth of Austria in 1888. After a great fire had destroyed the Hofburg, or imperial palace, there was found in the ruins a little crucifix, said to contain a relic of the true cross.

According to the traditions of the family, it had been worn by and protected the Emperor Maximilian in the perilous campaign against Maximilian. It was treasured in a casket of crystal and enamel, and after the great fire was entirely unharmed.

Grateful for this miraculous preservation, the empress decided to commemorate the event by establishing an order for ladies. Pope Clement IX confirmed the order and entrusted the spiritual management to the prince bishop of Vienna.

The order is conferred only on ladies of royal blood who have done notable work for the relief of the poor and attention to sick in hospitals.

To encourage service among the sick and wounded in times of war, the Cross of Mary was founded. The declaration is that of the Teutonic Knights, and was formerly limited to those of the Catholic faith. It is conferred now, however, upon any woman of whatever communion who distinguishes herself by service.

When Queen Victoria assumed the imperial title on January 1, 1876, she founded the Imperial Order of the Crown of India, to be enjoyed by the prin-

**M**ORE precious than money or jewels; more to be desired than the rarest diamonds, rubies and pearls; far exceeding in attractiveness fine laces, flounces and furs, which delight the soul of the average woman, is the honor of the decoration of an order—a distinction unknown to the women of this country and sufficiently rare to arouse the pride of recipients in Europe.

Among women and men of culture and intellect the conferment of an order is regarded as a prouder distinction than all that wealth can buy or social position enable them to achieve; an order means the acknowledgment of a great accomplishment for the benefit of mankind. The woman who wears on her breast the be-ribboned medal must at some time in her life have done something admirable, heroic, exceptional.

Orders which have been instituted for women are comparatively few compared with the number for men. Therefore, a woman who receives a decoration feels especially honored.

Such decorations are desired as ar-



*The Order of Maria Luisa, Spain.*



*The Order of St. Elizabeth, Bavaria.*



*The Order of the Starry Cross, Austria.*



*The Order of Sidonia, Saxony.*



*The Order of St. Anne, Wurzburg.*



*The Order of the Legion of Honor, France.*



*The Order of St. Theresa, Bavaria.*



*The Order of St. Anne, Bavaria.*



*The Star of Catherine, Russia.*

dently by princes and princesses, by lords and ladies of high degree, as they seem out of reach of those of humbler birth.

Imagine, therefore, the astonishment that swept over Europe recently when Madame Marcelle Tynaire, a noted authoress, declined to receive the decoration of the Legion of Honor of France. This honor has been conferred rarely upon women; men regard it as a signal mark of distinction.

Many European countries have established orders for women—a princess will wear them as proudly as a peasant.

**L**ITTLE glittering crosses, bright medals, bearing colored enameled figures and quaint inscriptions, dangling from delicate ribbons on ceremonial dresses, shine forth a royal recognition of "motherhood."

Not the motherhood of the domestic home, but the motherhood of man—a brave sacrifice made in

After the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and 1871 "The Service Cross for Women and Girls" was established in recognition of their help during the war. The decoration consists of an iron cross encased in silver.

So rarely has France bestowed the Cross of the Legion of Honor on women that a woman so honored at once becomes unique among her sisters. The order was first conferred upon a woman when it was given to Marie Jeanne Schellink because of her valor.

In 1793 the daring young woman enlisted in the Second Belgian Battalion as a volunteer, and, despite serious wounds received in the battle of Jemappes, shared in the subsequent campaigns.

After the battle of Austerlitz she was made a lieutenant colonel and received the order of the Legion of Honor from the hands of Napoleon himself. Having served through twelve campaigns, Marie Schellink was compelled to give up her career because of her injuries.

The Legion of Honor which is now the only French order, was established as the Order of the Eagle in 1802 by Napoleon, when first consul. The Legion has undergone several alterations.

Good work for the cause of humanity entitles a woman to the Order of Sidonia, established in 1870 by King John of Saxony. The order was founded in memory of the Duchess Sidonia, great mother of the Albertine line. Of the various countries, Bavaria, perhaps, has the most orders for women.

The Ladies' Order of St. Anne, at Munich, was founded privately by Maria Anna Sophia, widow of the Elector Maximilian III, in 1788, and was originally composed of ten ladies who could prove sixteen generations of nobility. In 1802 the number of members was raised to eighteen by King Maximilian Joseph IV, and in 1825 extended to three classes, with twenty-five members of the first class, forty-two of the second, and a third class to which

cesses of the royal house and the wives or other female relatives of Indian princes. There is only one class, and, besides the royal princesses, only the relatives of persons who hold or have held the offices of viceroy and governor-general of India, governors of Madras or Bombay, or of principal secretaries of state for India, are eligible.

To gain the decoration, a woman must play a conspicuous part in ceremonial life or distinguish herself by bravery in a crisis. The Royal Family Order of Victoria and Albert, instituted in 1826 by Queen Victoria, comprises three classes, and the membership is quite large.

One of the most exclusive orders is that of Maria Louisa, of Spain, the membership of which is confined to the ladies of the royal house and thirty ladies of ultra noble lineage.

Members of the Order of Isabella of Portugal are particularly charged with the care of foundlings. On the decoration are the words, "Pauperum solatio," or "Consolation of the poor."

Although the Orient is not without honors for women, its most important decoration, that of the Order of Nishani Shefakat, was founded to commemorate the work of distinguished English women. Touched by the work accomplished by means of the Turkish Compassionate Fund, instituted by the Baroness Burdett-Coutts to give succor to the non-combatants during the Russo-Turkish War, Sultan Abdul Hamid II founded the order in 1878.

With the permission of the queen, he decorated Lady Layard in Turkey and forwarded the decoration to the Baroness Burdett-Coutts and other ladies active in raising the fund. The meaning of the order is "Pity, mercy, kindness."

After a return from a European tour, the shah of Persia founded a similar order to be bestowed upon the wives and daughters of those who had shown him marked hospitality during his visit. Unfortunately, it went into practical extinction.