

and most generously presented by him to the College in memory of Your Majesty's presence here to-day.

The College has had the honour of continuous Royal Patronage since 1830, and received its first Royal Charter in 1875; this was regranted in a revised form in 1936. H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught was its President from 1904 to 1932, when H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester honoured us by succeeding him. Some fourteen years ago, the old buildings had become so out of date, so inadequate, and so dilapidated, that it was resolved to demolish them completely and to rebuild on the same site, with additional adjoining land—the whole purchased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. The wisdom of the Governors' decision was confirmed by a Departmental Committee.

The Governors have had a very hard task in trying to collect the necessary funds, but with the assistance of a grant of £150,000 from the Government and with the help of many generous subscribers a sum of £285,000 has become available. A further sum of £40,000 is still needed to build the large animal Hospital and operating theatre, so completing the building scheme, and to provide the full scientific equipment of the College.

We are confident that the opening of these new buildings will open wide also the doors of a new era in the history of the Veterinary Profession in this country.

To which Address His Majesty was pleased to return the following gracious Answer:—

I thank you sincerely for your Address. The Queen and I are very glad to be here to-day as we are deeply interested in the prosperity of the livestock industry in this country. Indeed the well-being of the whole community depends largely on the health of our domestic animals being cared for by a highly-trained veterinary profession. The value of the annual output of food from animal sources amounts to over 170 million pounds, but there is a very considerable wastage through disease.

This serious economic loss to the country can be greatly reduced, thanks to the rapid advance of science in recent years; even so, further research is continually needed to extend the methods of cure and—what is still more important—the prevention of disease.

My Government is taking steps to form a national veterinary service, through which to conduct a vigorous attack on animal diseases on a national scale; but successful research, wise administration and efficient practice all depend on the sound education of the individual.

It is, therefore, very gratifying that, with financial assistance from both public and private sources, the former Board of Governors of the Royal Veterinary College should have been able to reconstruct it on modern lines. I trust that the funds necessary for the completion of the Hospital will be forthcoming shortly.

In declaring the new buildings of the College open, I should like to congratulate Major Maule, the architect, on the splendid result he has achieved, and to express the hope that the important work which lies before the new Court, Council, and Staff may be successfully accomplished.

9th November, 1937.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

12th November, 1937.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the Award of the Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, to the undermentioned for gallant and distinguished services rendered when H.M.S. "Hunter" was mined off Almeria on the coast of Spain on the 13th May, 1937:—

For Gallantry.

Lieutenant Patrick Noel Humphreys, R.N.
James Smail, Petty Officer, O.N. D/J 85547.

For Meritorious Service.

James Frank Collings, Able Seaman, O.N. D/JX. 136346.
Ernest Thomas, Able Seaman, O.N. D/SSX. 15572.
Herbert Abrahams, Able Seaman, O.N. D/JX. 135969.

An explosion caused by the mining occurred underneath the Stoker Petty Officers' and Torpedomen's Mess Decks. To reach the ratings on these mess decks, this party had to jump down 8 feet, the ladder being blown away, into 3 feet of oil fuel and on to a deck which might not have been intact. During this period they remained in imminent risk of falling through the shattered deck into the water and oil fuel. Moreover, they were under the impression that the ship was about to founder. Their exertions to save life consisted in dragging living and dead men from under wreckage and out of the oil fuel and passing them up on deck. This operation lasted from 5 to 10 minutes. The rescued were in very severe danger from having swallowed oil fuel and had they been left would undoubtedly have died. Others were severely burnt and immersion of their wounds in oil fuel, if prolonged, would undoubtedly have caused death.

For Meritorious Service.

Peter Thomas Coyte Perring, Stoker Petty Officer, O.N. D/K. 65530.

This man closed the fore magazine and shell room hatches, breaking in with a hacksaw the wire covers which were locked on as the keys could not be found at once. The display of initiative which he showed in assisting the wounded and doing various duties without orders was most noticeable.

Sidney Bevington, Acting Leading Seaman, O.N. D/J. 103378.

When the explosion occurred there was a general exodus from the Seamen's Mess deck up the ammunition hatch and into the galley flat. Keeping two ratings with him, Bevington closed all the scuttles and deadlights before leaving the mess deck. His conduct afterwards was also most worthy of notice.

Whitehall, 20th October, 1937.

The KING has been pleased to grant unto Harold Augustus Freeman, Esquire, Officer of The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, upon whom has been conferred the