

annual leave where sick-leave during the preceding year has exceeded fourteen days.

Where an employee on his discharge from the Forces is still unable to resume duty owing to illness or wounds he is, wherever necessary, specially treated in regard to sick-leave in excess of the ordinary period allowed by the Public Service Regulations.

#### Preference to Soldiers.

Government Departments, including the Railways, Public Works, and Post and Telegraph Departments, have followed the policy that when engaging men for employment, wherever practicable, preference is to be given to returned soldiers, and that wherever possible, subject to the approval of the Minister, general conditions are to be modified so as to admit of preferential treatment being accorded to returned soldiers.

#### War Medal and Certificate.

The Imperial authorities have not yet authorized the issue of a general war medal, but in the ordinary course of events it may be anticipated that this will be done immediately after the declaration of peace. Meanwhile the New Zealand Defence Department is preparing rolls of recipients, and making all arrangements for the distribution of the medal. In New Zealand also it is proposed to issue to all members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force an illuminated certificate which will show a record of each man's service. There will be two classes of certificate, which will be issued to—

- (a.) Soldiers who have had oversea service; and to
- (b.) Soldiers with not less than twelve months' home service.

The Defence Department is now calling for competitive designs from New Zealand artists, and is offering prizes to the extent of £100 for the three best

oversea designs and of £50 for the three best home service designs.

#### King's Certificate on Discharge.

In addition to the New Zealand certificate referred to above there will be issued to members of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force the King's Certificate on Discharge, a handsome document suitable for framing. The British War Office has sent to New Zealand supplies of this certificate for issue to those who were discharged on account of disablement rendering them unfit for further service. A certain number of certificates have been distributed to men discharged on account of disablement, but in order to ensure the correct delivery of the remainder those who are entitled to the certificate but have not received it should make written application to Base Records, Wellington.

A further announcement will be made regarding the issue of the King's Certificate on Discharge to those who were discharged not through disablement.

#### The "1914-1915 Star."

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve the issue of a decoration, designated as above, to all officers, warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the British, Dominion, Colonial, and Indian Forces, including civilian medical practitioners, nursing sisters, nurses, and others employed with military hospitals, who actually served on the establishment of a unit in a theatre of war as defined hereunder, between the 5th August, 1914, and the 31st December, 1915, both dates inclusive.

The decoration will be a Star in bronze.

No clasp will be issued with the Star.  
The riband will be red, white, and blue, shaded and watered.