

THE NEW HERALDRY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—Does not the decision of the War Office, which has just been announced, to issue chevrons for each year of service in the war, suggest that in these, together with the bars already granted for wounds, we have the germ of a new heraldry, and that these badges should not be put without design on the uniform, but should be charged in accordance with the laws of heraldry on a shield placed on a prominent part of the body? On the same shield there might also be charges designating crosses, medals, or other military or naval distinctions.

Such shields of honour should also be inscribed on the memorial plaques (for the design of which a competition has been instituted) to be given to the next-of-kin of those who have fallen in the war. It should also be engraved on the crosses or headstones in the cemeteries and on memorial tablets elsewhere. They might also be embodied in some form of art which would be given to every soldier and sailor on his discharge, and which would be cherished by his family and handed down to his descendants.

Heraldry, which in medieval times had such a real meaning in the life of the people, is now for the greater part a dead art as far as individual heraldry is concerned, though national and regimental heraldry might be made to have a more living interest than it has. But here in these bars and chevrons and crosses of honour, and in the other badges of differentiation in our Army which are growing out of much the same conditions as the forms of primitive heraldry, we seem to have all that goes to create a very simple but a very living and real heraldic art.

I am, &c.,

H. BAKER.

14, Barton-street, Westminster, S.W., Oct. 16.