

Since the introduction of this medal an improvement has been made in the issue ; by the shortening of the qualifying period, where it was twenty-one to eighteen years, and where twenty-four to twenty-one years. The medal is now delivered to the soldier, in most instances, before discharge, and on parade by his commanding officer, thus enabling him to wear it during the remaining period of his service in the regiment. The names and services of the recipients are notified, as far as practicable, to the parishes to which they belong. East or West India service does not reckon as additional towards the Good Conduct Medal, and service under age is not allowed to be counted.

By a Royal Warrant, dated 16th January, 1860, the grant of the medal for "Long Service and Good conduct," *without gratuities*, was in future to be extended to such soldiers as might fulfil the conditions previously required, but who were precluded from becoming recipients of the medal with a gratuity, in consequence of the aggregate amount to be annually awarded having been already appropriated. In addition to those already authorized with gratuities, it was directed that the medal alone should be granted to such soldiers, whether sergeants, corporals, or privates, as might be selected for them, the same rule being observed as regards their qualifications, in the following proportion in each year namely, —To each cavalry regiment and battalion of the military train, two ; to each brigade of the royal artillery, three ; to every nine hundred men of the royal engineers, three ; to each infantry regiment or battalion, three.

Non-commissioned officers and men who might be qualified before discharge, were to be eligible to receive the medal without gratuity, if recommended by their former commanding officers within three years after their discharge.

Non-commissioned officers on the permanent staff of the militia who were eligible previous to their discharge from the army for the medal with gratuity, are also eligible to re-