

1121.—Gunnery Non-substantive Ratings—Revised Arrangements.

(N. 989/27.—20.4.1927.)

New gunnery non-substantive rates, termed Captain of Gun, 1st Class (C.G. 1 Cl.), and Captain of Gun, 2nd Class (C.G. 2 Cl.), have been instituted to provide men qualified to take charge of guns' crews and to deal with breakdowns. They will replace Gunlayers, 1st Class, and Gunlayers, 2nd Class, at the turret guns in new battleships and cruisers. These new ratings will not be trained as gunlayers, as no individual sights are fitted at the turret guns in ships of new construction. The laying of the guns by director will be carried out by a Seaman Gunner.

2. The former ratings of Turret Director Layer and Light Director Layer have been renamed Director Layer, 1st Class (D.L. 1 Cl.) and Director Layer, 2nd Class (D.L. 2 Cl.) respectively. In addition to the duties for which director layers are already allowed in complements, Director Layers, 2nd Class, will in future replace Gunlayers, 1st Class, as trainers of turret directors and as layers for the turret director sights in 8 in. and larger turrets, but these changes will only be effected gradually in existing ships, as the number of Gunlayers, 1st Class, borne is reduced.

3. Attention is drawn to the amendments to King's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, Appendix XVII, Part 3, Gunnery, contained in K.R. 10/27.

4. Seamen who are candidates for Gunlayer, 2nd Class, must hold the non-substantive rating of Seaman Gunner. Candidates for Gunner's Mate should hold a gunnery rating higher than Seaman Gunner, but in the event of a lack of suitable candidates holding a higher gunnery rating, specially suitable Seaman Gunners may be selected.

(A.F.O. 1122/27.)

(A.F.O. 643/27 is cancelled.)