

the following order of precedence, special consideration being given to length of service at sea :

- "(1.) Orphans, both parents dead.
- "(2.) Sons of fathers killed, drowned, deceased, wounded, or seriously maimed in Her Majesty's service, or while employed by Her Majesty on board a merchant ship, or in action with an enemy, pirate, or rebel.
- "(3.) Those whose fathers, having served in the Royal Navy or Marines, are dead.
- "(4.) Those whose fathers are serving, and whose mothers are dead.
- "(5.) Sons of naval and marine pensioners. Sons of seamen and marines now serving, both parents living.
- "(6.) Sons of seamen\* or marines entitled to the benefits of Greenwich Hospital, not included in the foregoing classes.
- "(7.) Sons of other seafaring persons.
- "(N.B.) The sons of commissioned and other officers are not absolutely excluded, provided that the peculiar circumstances of their case render them eligible for this charity.

"III. Applications for admission are to be made to the Secretary of the Admiralty (Greenwich Hospital Branch), London, when the necessary forms will be sent, which, when properly filled up, must be returned as directed, with the three following certificates :

- "(A.) A certificate of the marriage of the parents ; or, if not attainable, other satisfactory proof thereof.
- "(B.) Register of the child's birth.
- "(C.) A certificate from the clergyman of the parish to which the boy belongs, or from the minister of his denomination, or from the master of the school at which the boy has been educated, as to his character and moral conduct.

"IV. The services of the fathers upon which the claim is founded will be ascertained at the Admiralty, and due notice will be given without further application, should the child be selected for admission into the school.

"V. Boys are eligible for admission between ten and thirteen years of age ; they must be physically fit for sea service, able to read an easy sentence and possess a knowledge of the first four rules in arithmetic.

"VI. Applications will not be received until the candidates are ten years of age, nor after eleven years of age, except under very special circumstances.

"VII. Boys will be discharged from the General Division on the first day of the month succeeding that in which they shall attain thirteen years of age, unless they volunteer, with the consent of their parents or guardians to enter the Royal Navy as boys, in which case if they be reported physically fit, they will be retained in the school until fifteen years of age, and then entered for continuous service in the Royal Navy.

"VIII. Vacancies, occasioned by boys unwilling or unfit to serve in the Royal Navy, will be filled up by selection from the sons of seamen and marines who are thirteen years of age, fit and willing for service in the Royal Navy, and able to pass a sufficient examination in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

"IX. Applications for admission of boys at the age of thirteen must be made six months previous, in the same manner as above directed, and the parents or guardians must sign an agreement before the boy is admitted, that he shall serve in the Royal Navy for a period of ten years' con-

tinuous and general service from the age of eighteen, in addition to whatever period may be necessary until he attains that age.

"X. The Selected Division will consist of eighty boys, who will be entered from the General Division by competitive examination. At the age of thirteen, the boys in this division of the school will be required to enter into an agreement, jointly with their parents or guardians, to enter the Royal Navy at the conclusion of their tuition, in such capacities as they may be found best qualified to fill. If they then be reported physically fit, they will be retained in the school until fifteen and a half years of age, otherwise they will be discharged.

"XI. Should there not be a sufficient number of boys qualified to fill the positions of pupil teachers, writers, and ship stewards' boys in the Royal Navy, from the selected division, boys from the general division, who may volunteer, and who are able to pass the necessary examination, will be appointed as may be required.

"XII. The education of the boys in the general division will comprise the usual elements of a sound English education, alternating with practical seamanship and other industrial occupations designed to prepare them for a seafaring life.

"XIII. In the 'selected division' elementary mathematics and mechanics, navigation, nautical astronomy, and French will be taught.

"XIV. Children of Roman Catholics, or of Protestants, not being members of the Church of England, will not be required to learn the Church Catechism, and will be allowed to attend convenient places of public worship in accordance with the religious persuasions of their fathers, provided application be made to that effect at the time of admission, by the father, if living ; and if the father be dead at the time of the child's admission, then the marriage certificate of the parents or baptismal register of such child, according to the rites and ceremonies of any established religious community of a date previous to the said father's death, will be received as evidence of the religious tenets of the father ; that is provided no authentic document written by the deceased father be produced, expressing a contrary wish or direction as regards the religious instruction of such child."

Her Majesty having taken the said Memorial into consideration, was pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve of what is therein proposed.

And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are to give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

*Arthur Helps.*

At the Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, the 4th day of February, 1875.

PRESENT,

The QUEEN'S Most Excellent Majesty in Council.

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the second of February, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, in the words following, viz. :—

"Whereas your Majesty was graciously pleased to direct, by your Majesty's Order in Council of the ninth of September, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five, that the widows of petty officers and

\* Including the Royal Naval Reserve.