

# BRAVE POLICEMEN ON VIEW

## ALL IS NOT GRAFT THAT GLITTERS ON BLUE UNIFORMS.

### Heroes of the Department Get Their Medals from the Mayor at City Hall —Stories of the Various Deeds of Risking Lives by Which the Dis- tinctions Were Won.

Mayor Gaynor has often said that New York's police force, take it all in all, is a pretty good body of men, in spite of recent revelations. The Mayor himself had a chance to demonstrate one argument in favor of his statement at City Hall this morning, when he presented medals for valor to chosen members of the force. There were six department medals awarded and five civilians' medals.

Walter Thornton, patrolman, was the first name on the honor list. He rescued a man from drowning in the North River during a hailstorm on a black night, when the temperature was 33 degrees, and ice was running in the river. At 1:20 A. M., March 25, 1912, while on fixed post at Canal and West Streets, Thornton was informed by a watchman on pier 34, North River, that a man was shouting for help at the end of pier 33. Thornton called another patrolman, who was on patrol near by. Both hurried to the outer end of pier 33, which is 1,000 feet long, and heard a man moaning in the water about twenty feet west of the end of the pier.

Thornton took off his boots, coat, and cap and jumped into the river, caught the drowning man, and brought him alongside a barge. Both were pulled up to the pier. Thornton was in the water from twenty to thirty minutes. The drowning man was alive when taken from the water, but died before an ambulance arrived. Thornton was taken to the hospital, where he remained for some days, suffering from nervous shock.

#### ARREST OF A GUNMAN

The second name on the list was that of Patrolman William J. McMillen, who was rewarded for arresting a man who had shot a civilian and two policemen on July 8, 1912. At Hamilton Avenue and President Street, Alexander Sabannano, a striking fireman, shot Anacleto Gonzales in the left leg. Sabannano had been endeavoring to persuade Gonzales to go on strike, and became angered at the latter's refusal.

Sabannano, pistol in hand, ran through Hamilton Avenue and turned into Imlay Street. Patrolman John Williams and Patrolman Patrick Hanley heard the shot and pursued Sabannano, who, when the officers neared him, turned about and shot Patrolman Williams in the left leg. Williams fell. Hanley reached for the fugitive, but tripped over some loose concrete and tumbled forward. Before he could recover himself, Sabannano took deliberate aim, shot Hanley in the back, and then continued on a run through Imlay Street.

Patrolmen William J. McMillen and William J. Kenna heard the firing. McMillen saw Sabannano in Bowne Street and made a rush for him. The latter hid behind a fence. When McMillen came within about thirty feet Sabannano fired one shot. The officer returned two, and commanded Sabannano to throw down his revolver. The man obeyed. Patrolman Kenna came up at this time and both patrolmen took Sabannano in charge.

Thomas J. Lawlor and John T. Sheehan, patrolmen, got medals for a rescue at a fire. A five-story tenement house at No. 167 East Fourth Street caught fire early on the morning of October 3, 1912. Patrolman Lawlor turned in an alarm. Patrolman Sheehan came to his assistance. Aided by a sergeant, they burst in the front door, but the flames and smoke prevented entrance.