

IMPERIAL MILITARY NURSES' MEMORIAL.

On Wednesday, July 12th, with all dignity and circumstance, Her Majesty Queen Alexandra unveiled in the beautiful chapel at Queen Alexandra's Military Hospital, Millbank, a Memorial to those women of the Imperial Military Nursing Services who gave their lives to save their country in the Great War.

The chapel forms a shrine of harmonious beauty, and was the noble gift (in 1909) of Major Gregson, who died on active service in France in 1917, and is dedicated "to the Glory of Almighty God, as a Memorial of all who have passed to their rest in the Military Hospitals of London." Here are placed memorials of those who have passed away, including one to Major Gregson himself.

The chapel has a concave roof supported by the wall on either side. It is panelled with oak and coloured above a warm cream colour, which tones in admirably with the general scheme; the sanctuary is lined with marble.

Amongst the stained glass windows which add to the beauty of the chapel is one to the late King Edward VII, and under this on July 12th, near the chair occupied by Queen Alexandra, a beautiful cluster of deep crimson roses had been placed. Resting against the chancel arch, and of conspicuous beauty and dignity, was one of the latest treasures and ornaments of the chapel, a banner representing the badge of Q.A.I.M.N.S., and bearing its motto embroidered in gold. Said one of the Sisters: "Sister Todd cannot possibly understand how much we appreciate it, and how proud we are of it."

On her arrival, Queen Alexandra was received at the entrance of the Hospital by the Dowager Countess of Airlie (the President) and other members of the Nursing Board of Q.A.I.M.N.S., the Matron-in-Chief (Miss Beadsmore Smith), the Matron-in-Chief of the Territorial Army Nursing Service (Dame Maud McCarthy) and the Matron of the Hospital (Miss Osborn). It was a picturesque scene, as the entrance hall was beautifully decorated with fuchsias and other flowers, and in the quadrangle outside were a number of the patients in their blue suits. After accepting a bouquet of beautiful malmaisons, Queen Alexandra proceeded to the chapel, where the north side was filled with Matrons and Sisters of the Military Nursing Service in their picturesque grey uniform with scarlet capes and snowy caps and many medals, and, on the south side, a distinguished company, including the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, and other Members of the Army Medical Service, Matrons of Territorial Hospitals, and of large civil hospitals. The little chapel was filled to its utmost capacity when the chaplain recited the opening sentences of the Burial Service, to which were added the words "Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends."

The 23rd Psalm, beautifully chanted, followed, and the Lesson from Wisdom iii, beginning "The Souls of the Righteous are in the hands of God."

Then the Congregation stood while the Chaplain said:—

"Let us remember with reverent and grateful thanksgiving and with all honour before God and Man, those Women of the Imperial Military Nursing Services who gave their lives to save their Country in the Great War."

After an impressive silence the Chaplain slowly read the names of the Matrons, Sisters, and Nurses, commemorated, including twenty-two who in bombed hospitals, or mined, and torpedoed hospital ships, lost their lives as the direct result of enemy action.

E. Andrews, E. F. Astell, F. M. Bates, K. Beaufoy, C. Berrie, R. R. Beresford, A. M. Blacklock, E. Blake, M. E. Blencowe, N. Brett, G. Brinton, S. L. Brown, A. E. Buchler, E. Butler, E. M. Cammock, E. F. McCallier, E. A. Challinor, D. M. Chandler, M. Clough, D. H. Cole, E. H. Cole, E. K. Cooke, F. D. Compton, V. C. Consterdine, M. Croysdale, I. Cruickshank, J. G. Dalton, E. Dawes, E. M. Dawson, B. Donovan, M. E. Duckers, I. L. M. Duncan, E. Elliott, J. Evans, F. M. Faithfull, E. Fearnley, A. Flintoff, E. L. Foyster, L. Gaskell, A. E. C. Garner, E. M. Gladstone, A. Gledhill, A. V. Goldsmith, J. Greateux, L. Griffin, J. L. Griffiths, A. J. Grover, E. G. Gurney, F. M. Hall, M. Hamilton, I. D. Hannaford, F. Hawley, N. Hawley, C. E. Henry, S. Hilling, M. E. Hills, N. Hobbes, E. M. Hodgson, F. M. Hook, F. S. Howard, G. C. Hughes, W. H. Irwin, B. I. Jones, G. E. Jones, H. L. Jones, F. M. Kemp, R. E. Kendal, A. G. Kynock, A. H. Lancaster, H. Lea, M. Macgill, E. McAllister, G. M. Marley, M. Marmion, F. Mason, F. Miller, A. Moreton, M. Murry, C. Nicol, E. K. W. Parker, P. A. Pearce, E. W. Pepper, J. Phillips, D. Pilling, E. B. Radcliffe, A. L. Roberts, C. Robinette, E. Robinson, M. Rodwell, A. M. Russell, E. Saxon, C. M. Seymour, E. Simpson, F. E. Smith, F. L. Smithie, N. Spindler, D. L. Stacey, A. Stanley, G. A. Stephenson, L. M. Stevens, K. M. Sturt, L. M. Swain, E. Teggins, L. Thomas, F. Tindall, M. Townsend, R. Trevithan, T. Tullock, A. M. Turton, B. Vinter, J. Wakefield, D. M. Watson, A. Wellford, A. Wheatley, M. E. Wills, C. M. Wilson, N. Willson, A. Woodley, H. E. Wright.

Then after further collects, Queen Alexandra and her suite passed down the Chapel to the north-west corner where the Memorial, covered by the Union Jack, awaited unveiling. Pressing an electric button, and thus revealing the beautiful marble tablet, on which are cut deep the names of those members of the Military Nursing Services who made the great sacrifice, the Badges of the three Services being reproduced, raised and richly coloured and gilded, Her Majesty said:

"In the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost I unveil this Memorial to the Members of the Imperial Military Nursing Services, who gave their lives in the Great War."

Immediately under the Memorial was a wreath of laurel tied with the colours of the Military Service, and Queen Alexandra placed below it her own wreath, exquisitely carried out in mauve flowers with foliage brown and golden. It seemed to typify the pure gold which illuminates a sacrifice willingly offered.

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