

Miss Robinson is expected to take up her appointment as Chief Nursing Officer in the London County Council's service on September 14th. The Chief Nursing Officer is the Council's chief nursing adviser in a field comprising 700 health visitors and school nurses, 1,255 day nursery nursing staff and a number of staff at residential establishments. She has certain responsibilities in connection with the domestic help service and the co-ordination of the nursing services provided by the Council with those provided by voluntary organisations. She is required, as appropriate, to represent the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. J. A. Scott) in discussions and negotiations with Government departments and other branches of the National Health Service.

A Life of Selfless Devotion

An Appreciation of the Life and Work of Annie Knowles,
M.B.C.N.

WE ARE PROUD to publish the following reminiscences concerning the professional life of selfless devotion of Annie Knowles, for so long a valued member of the British College of Nurses, Ltd.

From her early girlhood, Annie Knowles had wished to become a nurse, but she was delicate in health, and found

to the people of the town, not only in her professional capacity, but caring also for the material needs of her patients. She gathered around her a number of friends who helped her in this matter.

Nurse Knowles suffered from rheumatism, and had always to be careful in the matter of diet, but she worked on in spite of difficulty.

During the 1914-18 war she took a prominent part in the working of the Emergency Military Hospital in Haslingden, bringing to the wounded men the same devotion she displayed in her work on the "district," and inspiring the V.A.D.s in her charge with something of her own zeal.

When King George VI and his Queen visited Lancashire, the Mayor and Corporation of Haslingden decided that she should be presented to them, but she was taken ill the day before the event, and missed this honour.

In September, 1947, she was presented with the Freedom of the Borough, the first woman freeman of Haslingden. This honour was awarded in recognition of her work for the sick and needy people of the town.

At her death she was afforded a civic funeral. All the flags in the town flew at half mast. There was a general mourning in the town, and more than this, as she lay in her coffin in her sitting-room, there was a long procession, made up of people from all classes, who crept in to take a last look at one who had sincerely served and loved her fellows, many a toil-worn hand gently stroking her still, white one. So ended a life of selfless devotion.



Annie Knowles receiving the Freedom of Haslingden

great difficulty in finding a hospital willing to admit her as a probationer. After meeting many refusals, she was accepted at the Haslingden Union Infirmary. To this Infirmary she went with high ideals, and a desire to serve God in tending His needy children.

The matron of the infirmary was a woman of high character, and had a strong sense of vocation. She inspired her probationers with her own zeal for service, counting them, and herself, as privileged women to be allowed to take part in this work of nursing the sick.

At the end of her probation, Miss Knowles obtained her midwifery training at the Louise Margaret Hospital, Aldershot, after this acting for a short time as ward sister at Fusehill Hospital, Carlisle.

It was at Stalybridge, Cheshire, that she started what proved to be her real life's work, the work of a district nurse.

She was invited by the Haslingden District Nursing Association to act as District Nurse in Haslingden, her home town. Then began 35 years of devoted work for others. During those years she gave herself gladly and unsparingly

produce sketches and these were translated into terms of embroidery by experts. The result has been highly successful, not only in producing many good new motifs, colours and designs, but also in finding manufacturers to take them up as transfers and traced goods.

These new designs are a far cry from the proverbial lady in a poke bonnet forever trying to cross a garden consisting entirely of hollyhocks in high season. The designs are on the whole simple, charming, somewhat primitive renderings of birds and flowers, and the needlework itself is fine in line and execution. An effort has been made to relate the pattern, its weight and method of working, to the basic material on which it will be embroidered. Fine organdie table mats have a delicately traced pattern, linen runners or cushion covers bear much bolder and colourfully worked designs.

The exhibition has been shown in Scotland and will now be toured under the auspices of the Victoria and Albert Museum. It shows the designers' original sketches, the embroidery interpretation, the commercial production in traced goods and transfer form,

A Change in Embroidery Design.

AS NURSES ARE proverbially expert in the art of fine needlework in their leisure hours, we feel that the following note will be of the greatest interest to them.

A small travelling exhibition of new designs for embroidery will be shown in London at Harrods, Limited, Knightsbridge, in the Art Needlework Department, from August 24th-September 5th inclusive, and will be displayed later throughout the country.

The Scottish Committee of the Council of Industrial Design was consulted by several organisations, including the Scottish Education Department, as how best to provide good new designs for embroidery. The Scottish Committee decided to commission designers to

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