

NURSES OF NOTE WHO HAVE PROMOTED REGISTRATION.

MISS ISABEL MACDONALD,

Secretary, Royal British Nurses' Association.

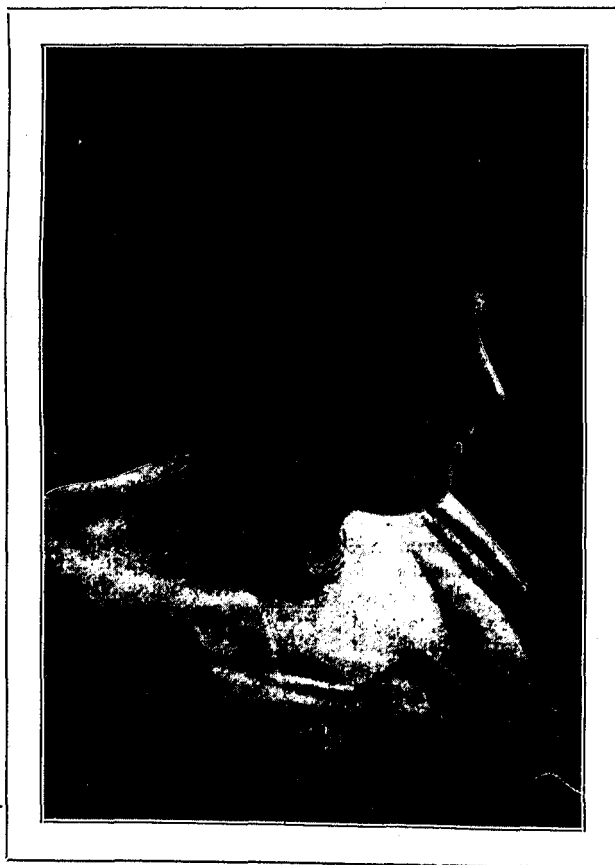
It is characteristic of Miss Isabel Macdonald, Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association that if you invite her to tell you something of her history, like the true Scotswoman that she is, she begins to tell you that of her clan. And it is an ancestry of which she may well be proud, for the Clan Donald is the oldest and most famous of Scottish clans, claiming descent from Donald, grandson of Somerled of the Isles, in the twelfth century. For three hundred years previously the history of the Scottish Isles is bound up with the Norwegian invasion, and Norwegian kingdoms were set up in Ireland (from which the Macdonalds came originally) and in the Western Isles. The native Celt predominated all along, but historians tell us it is undoubted that the blood of the brave old Vikings courses through the veins of some of the best types of the Scottish Highlander. Whether or not the Macdonalds share in this infusion of Viking blood is a matter for argument within the clan itself. Certain it is, however, that this strain "with its characteristic tenacity of purpose and sustained power of effort, combined with Celtic brilliancy and emotional fervour, differentiates the Highlanders of the West from more purely Celtic nations." The intimates of Miss Isabel Macdonald know that she possesses these rare qualities in an unusual degree, and her interest in Norwegian mythology—an unusual hobby for a nurse—is an interesting sidelight on her extraction.

Miss Macdonald is the daughter of a Scottish Laird and a native of Kinross-shire. She grew up amidst the mountains and lakes of bonnie Scotland, living a thoroughly wholesome outdoor life,

learning to love beauty of form and colour, and endeavouring in her sketches in water-colour to capture and record the glowing, tender, and elusive colourings of the Western Highlands. Once again, we recognise how nature was preparing the instrument for its purpose; for individuality, breadth of view, fearlessness, and courage are developed in those who love and commune with nature. In 1900, Miss Macdonald entered the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, for training, gaining her certificate in 1903. After which she was appointed lecturer to the County Committees of Fife and Haddington, the County Councils of Stirling and Kinross, the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust, and to the Scottish National Exhibition, 1908.

The last week of May, 1900, was a memorable one, for, in the course of it she was appointed Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association; her book on "Home Nursing: With Notes on the Preservation of Health," was published, and she gained the Health Visitors' Certificate, and the certificate in hygiene, bearing on school-life, of the Royal Sanitary Institute. She is also a Diplomée of the R.B.N.A., a Fellow of the Institute of Hygiene, and a Medallist of the Royal Sanitary Institute. She has been a frequent contributor to "Chambers' Journal."

It was an auspicious day in the annals of the Royal British Nurses' Association when Miss Macdonald was appointed its Secretary, for she brought to a difficult position, not only professional knowledge, and gifts of writing and speaking, but breadth of vision enabling her to understand members of a diversity of temperaments, and a courtesy and charm of manner, and beauty, which, combined with her efficiency, have made her a most popular Secretary. Beyond the service which she has contracted to give the Association, she has placed at its disposal gifts which are not to be bought; for heart and soul, and strength to its last ounce, have been lavished



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