

**THE PRESENTATION OF THE FENWICK GOLD MEDAL OF MERIT TO MISS ISABEL MACDONALD.**

The next business on the Agenda was the presentation of the Fenwick Gold Medal of Merit to Miss Isabel Macdonald.

The President (Mrs. Bedford Fenwick), before presenting Miss Isabel Macdonald with the Gold Medal, said :—

Isabel Macdonald—I have the very sincerest pleasure in presenting to you the Fenwick Gold Medal of Merit—an honour which you share alone with Margaret Breay.

This Medal signifies that its recipient has not only qualified to nurse the sick, but has given years of devoted service to the organisation of the nursing profession, in order that in preventive and curative nursing its skill may be adequate and its honour and ethical standards of the highest order.

Those of us who have taken part in the past in this exacting work realise its difficulty and disappointment and the need of courageous devotion in pursuing ideals. Those who have watched your labours for a quarter of a century realise not only your wonderful strength of purpose and purity of aim, but rejoice at the success which has crowned your sincere and tireless efforts along a somewhat stony path. We all realise how much easier it is to stand in the sunshine with successful companions than to struggle forward in the shadow alone. On this happy occasion we need not dwell on past anxieties. They were heartrending at the time, but from the date you assumed the responsible position of Secretary to the Royal British Nurses' Association, you became the reincarnation of its original purpose—than which nothing could have been more altruistic. Its present success is mainly the result of your unceasing labour. The sympathetic help you have given to our less successful colleagues through the benevolent funds of the Royal British Nurses' Association, the "Helena" Fund, the Settlement Home, the Princess Christian Club, known as the "House Beautiful," where you make visitors from home and abroad so happily welcome; and the Trained Nurses' Annuity Fund, the annuitants of which have risen from twenty-five to upwards of seventy during the thirteen years you have helped to guide its finances, brings you great happiness we have no doubt. The courageous part you played throughout the Registration campaign, and on the General Nursing Council, and your

help in building up the British College of Nurses, deserve the gratitude of the Profession at large.

In bestowing this recognition upon you, hundreds of your colleagues will rejoice to know you honoured by those who appreciate the inestimable value of your personal and professional worth.

It is with the greatest satisfaction that I am honoured to pin this Gold Medal on your breast. I thank you for your honourable record and your devotion to the work we love.

Mrs. Fenwick then pinned the Fenwick Gold Medal of Merit on the right breast of Miss Isabel Macdonald, clasping her hand amidst the applause of all those present.



**MISS ISABEL MACDONALD, F.B.C.N.**  
Secretary of the Royal British Nurses' Association  
Awarded Fenwick Gold Medal of Merit.

**THANKS OF**

**MISS ISABEL MACDONALD.**

Miss Isabel Macdonald, who on rising was received with enthusiastic applause, said :—

Madam President, Dr. Bedford Fenwick, Fellows and Members of the British College of Nurses, I need hardly say that it has given to me very great pleasure this afternoon to receive this beautiful medal and I would assure the President that it will always be my endeavour to wear it worthily. Much of what Mrs. Bedford Fenwick has said seemed to me so curiously impersonal Things always do become more impersonal and detached when they are viewed in retrospect, but there are two things which have not appeared so to-day. These are the kindness which has characterised your President's remarks this afternoon and the warmth and friendliness with which you have received her words and her action. These things have given to me the very deepest pleasure, and I thank you all from my heart. This friendliness shown to me has impressed me more than ever with a feeling I have that, although I may be the fortunate person to wear this beautiful medal, there are so many in this room, so many who cannot be here to-day, and many, too, who have passed into the great Beyond, who really have a share in it, and whatever may be said about my work it is quite certain that I should not have been in the position to receive this medal without the help which has been given by a great many of you.

Mrs. Fenwick has referred to some of the history of the R.B.N.A., and I have before me this afternoon, very vividly, the events which led up to my coming to the Association as its Secretary. I had joined it a few months before I chanced, one fine day, to be writing to the Secretary, and when I had finished my letter I added a postscript—you

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