

MRS. HUGH ROBSON, R.R.C., F.B.C.N.

A Member who has never ceased to take a very active interest in the progress of her profession and her Association is Mrs. Hugh Robson, R.R.C. As Miss Mary Elizabeth Sophia Satchwell (daughter of General Satchwell), Mrs. Robson was trained at the London Hospital and afterwards held various appointments and acquired knowledge both in the nursing of infectious diseases and in the nursing of mental cases. Ultimately she became matron of one of the most important hospitals for mental diseases in Scotland—Larbert in the County of Stirling, which was then under the administration of Dr. Robertson, later Professor Robertson, Superintendent of Morningside Hospital, Edinburgh. Mrs. Robson speaks with enthusiasm of the efforts instituted in all directions, while she was at Larbert, to mitigate restraint imposed upon the patients and to improve their conditions. Under Dr. Robertson's direction the padded room was done away with, he forbade that the patients be shut up or manacled and there were no high walls or closed gates although attendants were always with the patients. Even locked fire guards were done away with and, although such liberty of action for the patients sometimes gave rise to alarms, it yet proved conducive to their recovery and happiness. Dr. Robertson it was too who introduced at Larbert the system of having, at the head of each of both the male and female wards, a general trained nurse who held the title of Assistant Matron; in the male wards the actual nursing was mostly done by men but the woman nurse was always in authority. Later Mrs. Robson decided to return to London and was appointed matron of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. It was during her matronship there that a rule was established that all nurses in the Infirmary of the Hospital should be fully trained.

Mrs. Robson again crossed the Border after her marriage and has lived in Stirlingshire ever since. On the outbreak of war she placed her nursing qualifications at the service of the British Red Cross Society in its effort to provide for the nursing of soldiers from the large camp established at Stirling. For four and a half years she was Commandant and Matron of Southwood Auxiliary Hospital which was at first a clearing station for the Field Ambulance at Stirling. Later the hospital was organised on the ordinary lines and soldiers were brought to it from the base hospitals in Glasgow till later it went through a third vicissitude as a Hospital for Officers. In 1917, Mrs. Robson was awarded the Royal Red Cross in recognition of

her valuable services. Apart from work more or less connected with nursing, Mrs. Robson has been a Town Councillor of Stirling and for over seven years was a Parish Councillor. She is a Member of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association and a Fellow of the British College of Nurses. She is one of the married nurses in the Association whom we regard with gratitude and respect for, having entered a great profession, they see no reason, because they have married, to turn their backs upon it or their responsibilities to it; at heart they are as keen and enthusiastic members of the Association as any who are enjoying greater personal privileges and economic advantages from it.



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THE SETTLEMENT HOME.

We have just completed considerable outside decoration at our Settlement Home at Clapton Square, N.E., which, the Sister-in-Charge reports, is now looking very attractive under its fresh paint; a certain amount of interior decoration has also been done. Expense of this kind is always one of the unavoidable financial responsibilities connected with property which are apt to make an inroad upon a capital account.

HELENA BENEVOLENT FUND.

The Helena Benevolent Fund is constantly making grants to nurses in sickness and convalescence, as well as to many aged nurses. Numbers of our Members send us generous donations and subscriptions to this fund every year. If each member would send to this particular benevolent fund the small sum of one shilling annually this collective support would prove of enormous value.

ENGAGEMENT.

We have pleasure in announcing the engagement of Miss Vera Thomas to Mr. Thomas Hender, of Broomhill, Launceston, Cornwall. Miss Thomas was a Member of the Co-operation of Private Nurses of the Association, and we congratulate Mr. Hender upon his engagement to a lady who is as charming as she is attractive.

OBITUARY.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of Miss Ada Mees, who became a Member of the Association within recent years. She was trained at St. Charles Hospital, Notting Hill, and held an appointment as school nurse. Miss Mees has had a very long and painful illness which she has borne with characteristic cheerfulness and courage.

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ISABEL MACDONALD,
Secretary to the Corporation.

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