

**MISS MARGARET McLENNAN.****A Pioneer District Nurse.**

We are able to reproduce this month a portrait of Miss Margaret McLennan who, although she retired some years ago, still takes an enthusiastic interest in all that concerns her profession. Miss McLennan was trained in the Dumfries and Galloway Infirmary and the Maternity Hospital, Glasgow. She was a pioneer nurse in St. Kilda and has many interesting things to tell of her experiences there, of the hardships of winter time, of the difficulties sometimes in securing food supplies, of the courage and hardihood of the islanders, and of the makeshifts resorted to in various crises in which, as a nurse, she would find herself at times, in the performance of her duties. Once an outbreak of influenza claimed 80 victims and, with one exception, all recovered. Such a triumph was, by the St. Kildians, attributed entirely to the devotion of their nurse, and probably rightly so, for it was at a time when she could not get into communication with, or receive any help from, the mainland. Eighty patients in a hospital ward with one nurse for night and day would appear something of an undertaking for the latter, but Miss McLennan just smiles over the memories of that time when she went about with her little black bag among the rocks on the unsheltered, sea-lashed island in the bitter storms of winter. Writers, notably Ian Maclaren, have portrayed and idealised the life of the Highland doctor and his long journeys on horseback through the snowdrifts on the moors and among the hills. If Miss McLennan could be persuaded to write her memoirs the result would be a story just as entrancing and no less heroic. She is essentially "of the Hebrides," however, and is reticent when it comes to speaking of herself, but you can still see the sea-sparkle in her eyes when she welcomes a friend and it replaces the wistful look, as if on to far horizons, that you find so often among those who have lived long in the islands of the west. Little wonder it is that she found a welcome among the fishermen and their wives when she went to St. Kilda to work in conditions which are now judged to be too severe even for the hardy fishermen, except for a month or two in summer. The hardships Miss McLennan refers to as though there had been joy in the adventure and a great and sufficient reward to her has been the gratitude of the simple fisher folk. Miss McLennan also worked for a number of years in Stornoway, Isle of Lewis and, despite the winter storms, that must have been an entrancing experience in many respects, for the island is very beautiful and the people friendly and kind.

Recently, when Queen Mary visited the Glasgow Ex-

hibition, she caught sight of the long service medal of a Queen's Nurse and, at Her Majesty's request, Miss McLennan had the honour of being presented to the Queen who asked her several questions about her life on St. Kilda.

**CHRISTMAS CALENDARS.**

The Calendars are now ready for our Christmas Fund and we shall be glad if Members will do what they can to help to sell these. As in former years the proceeds go to provide comfort and cheer for certain of our aged and sick colleagues at Christmas time. We sent cheques to about 200 last year, and just as we go to press we have a letter from one of them full of glad anticipation of her "one extravagant day," and asking whether she may invite a friend in to share our good cheer. Indeed several seem to have the pleasure of inviting their own guests to participate in our very scattered Christmas hospitality. If any money remains after the cheques are sent out this is used to relieve some sudden distress during the year, or to give a little change and holiday to some who would not otherwise be able to enjoy this.

**GIFTS TO THE CLUB.**

H.R.H. Princess Arthur of Connaught, R.R.C., S.R.N., Haunch of Venison; Anonymous, Oak Table; Miss Barclay, Mrs. Brownsey, Miss Swaby Smith, Sweets; Miss Griffin, Cake; Mr. John Hull, Oil Paintings; Mrs. Steele Smith, Butter; Miss Barclay, Mrs. Crassweller, Miss Gardiner, Miss King, Miss McLoughlin, Miss Price, Miss Treasure, Flowers.

**SISTER-IN-CHARGE AT THE SETTLEMENT HOME.**

Miss Eleanor Sims has relinquished her post as Sister-in-Charge at our Settlement Home for Members who have retired from work, and the Executive Committee have appointed Miss Emma Phoebe Munson, S.R.N., to the post.

Miss Munson was trained at the Holborn Infirmary and she took her Maternity Training at Queen Charlotte's Hospital. For a few years she worked on the Co-operation of the Association, and subsequently was, for a number of years, Sister-in-Charge of the Maternity Department of the General Hospital, Jersey. Miss Munson is likely to prove a very popular Sister-in-Charge, if one can judge from her popularity when she was engaged in private nursing. Her friendly manner and gentle ways made her very acceptable to private patients and her work in the hospital wards was characterised by good sense and efficiency. We offer her our good wishes for her new work and a welcome to the Home which was established entirely by the generosity of our Members.

194, Queen's Gate,  
London, S,W.7.

ISABEL MACDONALD,  
Secretary to the Corporation.



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