

A DISTINGUISHED MATRON.

RETIREMENT OF MISS ELIZABETH LUSK MACAULAY, O.B.E., R.R.G., S.R.N., R.M.N., F.B.C.N.

Miss Elizabeth Lusk Macaulay has just retired from the Matronship of the Kent County Mental Hospital, and it is difficult to assess at its full value what her nineteen years of service there has meant, not only to the hospital but to all those who are mentally sick, because of what she contributed to the advancement of this branch of the nursing profession.

Miss Macaulay received her general training at the Western Infirmary of Glasgow, where she was afterwards successively Ward Sister, Assistant Home Sister and Night Superintendent. In 1909 she was appointed Assistant Matron at Larbert District Mental Hospital, and held that position until 1912; later she was appointed Matron at Craig House, Edinburgh. In 1915, Miss Macaulay volunteered for active service, and was granted leave of absence. From 1916 to 1919 she was in France in charge of a hospital for shell-shocked patients; in recognition of her services she was awarded the Royal Red Cross and was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, Military Division, and she was mentioned in dispatches. Soon after her return to Craig House, Miss Macaulay was appointed Matron of the Kent County Mental Hospital at Maidstone.

Not only has Miss Macaulay had a distinguished nursing career, but she has also taken a leading part in the organisation of her profession and particularly in connection with her own branch of this. It has been her constant struggle to bring adequate recognition and prestige to this branch, and to press forward a conception of its high importance both in the eyes of the body politic and in those of her own profession. With this object in view she set out on an effort to organise nurses engaged in mental work. She founded the Association of Matrons of Mental Hospitals, and later the Mental Hospital Nurses' League. Miss Macaulay is a Vice-President of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain, a Member of the Council of the Royal British Nurses' Association, and she has also held office as a Councillor of the British College of Nurses. As a representative of Mental Nursing, her services on these bodies have been greatly valued. Miss Macaulay also acted as an Examiner for the General Nursing Council in Mental Nursing, and an Examiner for the Diploma in Mental Nursing for the University of London. At the International Congress of Nurses in 1937 she presented a most valuable paper on Mental Nursing, and she is the author of a book on the same subject. She was awarded the Jubilee Medal in 1937.

At a farewell gathering at the Hospital, the Chairman of the Committee (Mr. Bennett) paid a high tribute to Miss Macaulay. "Nothing," he said, "will give you more satisfaction in your life than to know that you have been a help to other people and a credit to the Hospital.

The members of its Committee wish you health and happiness in your retirement." In replying, Miss Macaulay expressed her sorrow at having to say good-bye to the Hospital and all connected with it. "I have," said she, "a great affection for the patients and, thanks to the help which I have received from the Medical Superintendents, who always left me a very free hand, I know that the care of the patients has improved during my term here." There were many beautiful and grateful remarks addressed to Miss Macaulay in addition to those of the Chairman. A very handsome silver and enamel fitted dressing case of blue morocco was presented to her by Dr. Alan Hancock (Medical Superintendent); it was a gift from himself and all ranks of the staff. From three former Assistant Matrons Miss Macaulay received a lovely gold and sapphire brooch; from the Occupational Therapy Centre a morning tea set; and there were a large number of other gifts. In handing these gifts to Miss Macaulay, Dr. Hancock paid great

tribute to her work. In his opinion, she had done for mental nursing what Florence Nightingale had done for general nursing through the impulse she gave to progress and the energy which she directed towards this. It was due to her that the Hospital had come to be recognised as one of the finest training schools, in its own particular branch, in Great Britain, and an examination centre for the General Nursing Council's Examinations. He referred to the hospital badge inaugurated by Miss Macaulay and reminded those present that H.R.H. the Princess Royal had presented to Miss Macaulay the badge in gold, as a remembrance of all that she had done for the Hospital. This was upon the occasion of the opening of the fine Nurses' Home at the Hospital, in the erection of which Miss Macaulay had taken so great and active an interest. Many pleasant memories of Miss Macaulay's matronship exist, and she herself says that she will always remember with gratification the friendly relationships between her and all grades of the hospital staff. One gift we are sure she brought to each, the gift



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of enthusiasm; enthusiasm is one of her chief characteristics, and it is a quality that is very infectious. To no part of the hospitals' activities did she seem to us to give greater encouragement than to the Occupational Centre. A visit to the Occupational Centre at Maidstone one could regard as a real artistic treat, and the whole atmosphere of it must have a most beneficial effect upon the patients. Particularly did Miss Macaulay regard it as a good thing for them to work among colour.

We ask Miss Macaulay to accept our congratulations on such a splendid record of work. This must be a source of the greatest satisfaction to her and it is work done for the most sorely afflicted. "Canst thou minister to a mind diseased?" Miss Macaulay has helped to achieve so much in this direction that one might say she has been one to give answer to the question of England's great poet; she has let no opportunity go by of improving the position of those sorely afflicted ones by providing directly for their

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