

SQUIRES OF MONS. INAUGURAL MEETING. IMPRESSIVE INITIATION CEREMONY.

About 20 boys and men, whose ages range from 11 years to 27 years, sons of the men of Mons, participated in an impressive ceremony at the Overseas Club room last night. They were initiated as squires of the parent association, the Mons Veterans' Association. It was explained to them by Miss Edith Rousell, one of the founders of the organisation, that the name "squires" had been chosen in accordance with ancient tradition. In olden days embryo knights, before they could be fitted for the honour of knighthood, had to serve an apprenticeship to some fully fledged knight, to whom they acted as squires.

"So we look to you as squires of Mons," she continued, "to maintain the honourable traditions of your fathers. We trust that while you may never be called upon to take part in the grim horrors of war you will, in remembrance of that tradition, serve your country so well that you will be worthy of the name squires of an association of men who gained for the name Mons an everlasting place on Britain's roll of honour."

The lads adopted a constitution, some of the principal points of which were that all members must be descendants, in the direct male line, from the age of 11 years, of British soldiers who took part in the battle of and the triumphant retirement from Mons, on August 23, 1914; pledge themselves to unswerving loyalty to the King and to the Empire; offer service to soldiers and their dependants, especially those who are suffering as a result of the war; and to commemorate on August 23 each year the anniversary of Mons.

The motto of the squires will be: "Remembrance, Loyalty, Service."

The squires were then initiated by the vice-president of the Mons Veterans' Association (Mr. B. Hawkins, D.C.M.), all standing, and uttered responses and affirmations to his questions.

"What is your duty towards this Mons medal?" he asked.

"To carry on the traditions for which it stands, serve my King and Empire loyally, as my father did; to give my country the best service I can, either in peace or war, as her need arises."

"Will you promise as a squire of Mons to carry out this duty to the best of your ability?" he asked, and each candidate responded: "I will."

Each member then received a badge of the association, the chairman uttering the exhortation: "Receive this membership badge of the Association of Squires of Mons. Remember all it stands for, and never bring dishonour upon it."

Each of the boys and young men had brought his father's Mons medal and military papers with him to prove his bona fides. They were displayed on a table. The young squires seemed to realise their significance.