

RETURNED ARMY SISTERS.**REST HOME AT LINDISFARNE.****OFFICIAL OPENING ON SATURDAY.**

Overlooking an extensive stretch of the River Derwent, north and south, and the city, with Mt. Wellington in the background, the Memorial Rest Home for Returned Nursing Sisters was officially opened at Lindisfarne on Saturday afternoon. The home is situated on the north-western slope of Natone Hill, approximately a mile from the ferry wharf, within an area of three acres of bush land, generously donated by Mr. M. W. Simmons. The building has been designed on the latest bungalow plan, with balconies and quarters for sleeping out, and constructed of Tasmanian timber, with oak lined walls, and is expected to prove ideal for the purpose to which it is being devoted. There are three large main rooms—the kitchen, "memorial room," and glassed-in balcony, off which lead smaller bed, bath, and dressing quarters, while a spacious verandah overlooks the west. Tastefully furnished, well lighted, and possessing all the conveniences of a modern residence, it is anticipated that many nurses will take advantage of the opportunity so afforded for spending leisure time in the comfort that it will provide.

In the memorial room, the principal room of the cottage, is hung a circular shaped oak tablet, upon which are carved the names of three sisters who lost their lives as a result of the great war. These are Matron Miles Walker, Sister Janet Radcliff, and Sister Isabel Edwards. Surrounding their names are the words, "Australian Army Nursing Service, 1914-1918. From their nursing comrades."

The ceremony of opening the home was performed by Mr. M. W. Simmons, and that of unveiling the memorial tablet by Major-General Sir John Gellibrand. There were a large number of people present from Hobart, Bellerive, Lindisfarne, and other suburbs, including the Mayor (Alderman J. Soundy), Sir Henry Jones, Archdeacon Whittington, the Director of Education (Mr. G. V. Brooks), Mr. H. H. Cummins, Mr. W. H. Cummins, Mr. A. C. Courtney Pratt, Col. C. H. Elliott, and Mr. Clive Lord. Afternoon tea was provided by the ladies of Lindisfarne.

Mr. Simmons said he felt that the returned army sisters had paid him a great honour in asking him to open their home, for it gave him very much pleasure to do so. The original idea of the sisters was to construct a small shack away somewhere where those of them who required recreation and relief from their arduous occupations could go; but a little later the question of providing a memorial to their comrades who had passed away as the result of the war was considered, and it was finally decided to erect such a place as the one he was opening, and call it the Memorial Rest Home. The land upon which it stood cost nothing, and, perhaps, as they saw it that day they might regard it as dear at the price. (Laughter.) The building ran into £587. Of that sum

as dear at the price. (Laughter.) The building ran into £587. Of that sum £200 was provided by a grant from the Red Cross Society of Tasmania—(applause)—and no less than £213 was given by the returned sisters themselves and other nurses. The Remembrance Club donated £96 11s. 5d., the Returned Soldiers' League provided something like £15 or £16, while other donations brought the total up to within about £60 of the required sum. (Applause.) The sum of £17 10s. had been provided by the sisters for the furnishings, and there had been many handsome donations in this direction. A small endowment fund had been established, the interest from which would serve to meet such expenditure as rates and taxes and other items that cropped up from time to time. He did not think any class of the community more deserving of consideration than the sympathetic and skilful nurses, and, therefore, he hoped that to that class the rest home would always be a great boon. (Applause.)

Major-General Sir John Gellibrand, in unveiling the tablet, said he did not know of any memorial of the past, present, or future that appealed more to them as citizens or as soldiers than the one which brought them there that day. It recorded the names of three Tasmanians whose whole-hearted devotion to their duties in peace and war had set all people an example of doing things nobly in the pursuit of high ideals and in the true spirit of self-sacrifice. Arduous as nursing duties were in peace they were infinitely harder on active service. There were few returned soldiers who could not speak from experience of work and conditions in war hospitals, and their testimony was unanimous and true. They had witnessed the work on transports, in the hospitals of Lemnos and Egypt, France and England, and it was no idle statement to say that the A.I.F. realised to the full the debt of gratitude they owed to the nursing service. (Hear, hear.) To go to an A.I.F. hospital was almost like going home. Nor was that indebtedness confined to soldiers. What did it not mean to their kith and kin to know that when their men suffered inevitable wounds or sickness they would be cared for as tenderly and well as if they had been at home? There were more things than fighting required to win a war, and not the least was the morale which arose within the field and at home from confidence in hospital work. There was another aspect of the memorial — its significance as a perpetual reminder of mutual obligation. Those for whose use the rest home was intended would have daily under their eyes a silent exhortation to follow the unselfish example of duty nobly done, and to the others it stood as a reminder that they shared the heavy responsibility of the community to do their utmost in the years to come by co-operating, in deed as well as word, so as to maintain the spirit and the traditions of loyal service that those names on the tablet stood for. (Applause.)

Major W. W. Giblin said the service rendered by the Australian Army nurses during the war was much more efficient than that of other countries, and the high standard of the training which the Tasmanian nurses had was due to Matron Turnbull, who had brought those women who passed through her hands to the zenith of efficiency. (Applause.)

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Sir Henry Jones, speaking as president of the Hobart Rotary Club, said the members of the club were all glad to have had the opportunity of doing something towards the home and had contributed a number of kitchen utensils for its use. (Hear, hear.)

Councillor Allwright, the Warden of Clarence, also spoke and said they should all be grateful to Mr. Simmons for his generous donation of the land upon which the rest home was built. (Applause.)

Miss Bodineaux, secretary of the Returned Sisters' Association, expressed the thanks of the sisters to all who were connected with the erection and equipment of the building. Especially did she thank Mrs. Hinsby, of Tarooma, who had offered a piece of land for the erection of the small shack that was originally suggested, and Mr. Nettlefold, who also offered a block at Brown's River for the same purpose. They were all very grateful for the gift of Mr. Simmons, which had been accepted when the decision to erect a "memorial" home was reached. The Denholm brothers at Lindisfarne had generously erected the place at cost price, and Mr. Bernard Walker designed it. So far as the members of the Rotary Club giving a few utensils as Sir Henry Jones had said, they had provided a huge tub full of useful things, as well as a carpet square and three easy chairs, which were a great acquisition to the furnishings. (Applause.)

SERVICES OF NURSES.

A large amount of war service stood to the credit of the three women whose memory was honoured on Saturday.

Matron Miles Walker in 1914 did duty in one of the first New South Wales transports. Later she was on the staff of the Mens House and Gerlach Hospitals in Egypt, and was matron of Ismalia Hospital at the time of the battle of Romani. After doing duty as matron of Dartford Hospital in England, she was employed at a stationary hospital in France and later on at Sutton Veny. She died of pneumonic influenza in 1918.

Sister Janet Radcliff left Tasmania on the transport Geelong with Sister King in 1914, and did duty on transports from the landing till the evacuation of Anzac. After a period of hospital work in Egypt and England she was employed for a long time in casualty clearing work in France during the most strenuous part of the war. After the armistice she was on the staff of Harefield Hospital during the influenza epidemic. She died in her

sleep of heart failure after her return.

Sister Isabel Edwards, late Mrs. Barwick, served at Salonika during one of the most severe winters, and suffered severely from frost bite, but remained on duty. Subsequently, she saw service in England, though almost incapacitated by the effects of frost bite. After her marriage on returning to Australia, she died suddenly of heart failure.