

## WOMEN'S MEMORIAL.

### Service at the Town Hall.

#### LORD FORSTER'S ADDRESS.

The only service held in Sydney to commemorate the women who gave their lives in the war, took place in the vestibule of the Town Hall yesterday.

It was reminiscent of war days. Draped flags on the tables, men and women in uniform, with the strains of the Funeral March and the Last Post reverberating through the hall.

The veterans from La Perouse occupied the front seats on one side. On the other side were relatives of those whose names were among the dead.

Army nurses, voluntary aids, ex-service women, war workers of every kind, representatives of the limbless, the T.B., and other soldiers' organisations were included in the large gathering.

The service was arranged by the National Council of Women. It was one of many held throughout the British Empire to coincide with the service being held on the same date in England at York Cathedral, where a memorial window and honour screen have been unveiled. The screen contains the names of 137 women, including many Australians.

The form of the service was simple and impressive. Only one hymn—"O God, Our Help in Ages Past"—was sung. The Governor-General's address was followed by the reading of the Australian honour roll by her Excellency Lady Forster. Miss Lillian Frost played the Funeral March on the grand organ, and the Last Post was sounded by Trumpeter Purcell, R.A.F.A.

"To-day, in every part of the Empire," said his Excellency, "there are services such as this, where men and women meet to affirm their remembrance, and pay honour to the women who lost their lives in the cause of King and country.

"I cannot tell you how greatly I value the opportunity of being here as a representative of the King. I have taken part in many ceremonials to honour the memory of men, but this is the first occasion I have had to participate in a ceremony devoted wholly to honouring women. I value it, not only as a representative of the King, but I am proud indeed to be here as a man. It was my good fortune to see the work women did in the course of the war. In the great department over which I presided during the war there were included tens of thousands of women, who came to set men free to serve. In France, too, I saw women serving in the important theatres of the war."

The work of the nursing service, his Excellency continued, could only be fully appreciated by those who saw it. In the midst of the greatest danger the nurses carried

of the greatest danger the nurses carried on, with unflinching courage and endurance, and gave of their love and strength to the battered remains of humanity that were in their care. The Voluntary Aids, he said, did not share in the glory of the nursing service, but they performed the tasks that were set them with the same faithfulness and zeal. His Excellency went on to speak of other branches of women's war work, and illustrated incidents showing the great courage and bravery that was displayed.

"I hope that this memorial which is being unveiled to-day in York Minster," he concluded, "will bring to mind not only the names of those who fell, but the spirit in which the great body of women came to the service of the country."

On the platform with his Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Forster were Mrs. MacCallum (president of the National Council of Women), the Archbishop of Sydney, the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church (Rev. C. W. Willis), Rev. H. Wheen (Methodist Church), Mr. Morton (Baptist Union), Commissioner Whatmore (Salvation Army), Rabbi Cohen, Matron Kellett (Army Nurses), Miss Norris (Ex-Service Women), Miss Gray, R.R.C. (Nurse Cavell Home), Miss Kelsa King (Girl Guides), Judge Rollin (acting chairman of the N.S.W. branch of the Red Cross), Miss Gladys Owen, General Brand, Dr. Millard (president of the A.T.N.A.), Miss Evans (A.T.N.A.).

Others in the gathering were:—Mrs. R. H. MacKinnon (Junior Red Cross), Miss Friend (V.A.D.), Mrs. Mackenzie (Rawson Institute), Dr. Mary Booth (Anzac Fellowship of Women), Miss Booth (Centre for Soldiers' Wives and Mothers), Mr. Smith (the Fathers' Association), the matrons and members of the staffs of the various metropolitan hospitals, Rev. P. T. B. Clayton (Tox H), and Professor MacCallum (University).

The names of the Australian women included in the honour roll were:—Dr. Laura Forster (A.M.C.), Matron Jean Miles Walker, R.R.C. Sisters and staff nurses; Charlotte Berrie, Louisa M. Bicknell, Edith Blake, Emily Clare, Ruby Dickinson, May Dickson, Pearl Goodman, May Hennessy, Narelle Hobbes, Hilda Mary Knox, Edith Ann Moorhouse, Letitia Morton, Norma Mowbray, Gertrude Munro, Lillie Nugent, Amy O'Grady, Rosa O'Kane, Kathleen Lawrence Porter, R.R.C., Kathleen Power, Doris Ridgway, Ursula Roper, Elizabeth Rothery, Mary Stafford, Winifred Starling, Ada Thompson, Fanny Tyson, Beatrice Watson, Blodwyn Williams, Myrtle Wilson. Red Cross members: Adele Brennan, Lydia Grant, L. B. Riggall. Voluntary Aid detachment; Amy Denton Hirst, Anita Neale.