

DEATH OF NOTED WAR WORKER.

PASSING OF MRS. LAURA METCALFE.

The community in general, and the returned soldiers in particular, mourn the loss of Laura Annie Metcalfe, who died on Sunday after a long illness, at the age of 79. During 50 years' residence at Young, her work became a by-word. Her war work brought her State-wide fame, and she was loved and respected by hundreds of Diggers, who for many years never forgot to send her a special invitation to the annual reunion. She was the only lady to receive such an invitation, and when she became too ill to attend, the dinner was specially sent to her at the hospital with warm greetings.

The late Mrs. Metcalfe was the daughter of a New Zealand postal official. She was born at Oakland, and afterward moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Cheeseman, to Wellington, N.Z. Her father was then chief clerk in the P.M.G.'s Department, North Island. Married at Otago at the age of 21, to the late Charles Joseph Metcalfe, she came to New South Wales, and was for some years, with her husband, then in the Government employ at Glen Innes.

About 50 years ago she and her husband came to Young, and both soon became closely associated with the life of the community. Mrs. Metcalfe became one of the most prominent charity organisers in the district. She was closely associated with the Benevolent Society, and was at various times president and

secretary of the local organisation. She was a voluntary worker and visitor on behalf of the State Aid children, and worked in co-operation with the Department. Prior to her declining years she was a great worker for the Burrangong District Hospital. She was also member of the school board. To list all her activities over so great a length of time would be well nigh impossible, but the memory of her good work will live after her.

The war afforded Mrs. Metcalfe full scope for her genius for organisation. As secretary of the Young Red Cross from the earliest days, her duties brought her into contact with the leaders of the movement in Sydney, and she was soon recognised as one of its most valuable, energetic and loyal servants.

Not satisfied that she was yet doing her utmost she formed the girls' sewing circle, and this gave rise to the Junior Red Cross, which rapidly spread over the State and the Commonwealth. The idea was then taken up enthusiastically in America, and to-day the Junior Red Cross is a world-wide organisation.

Whether the name "Junior Red Cross" was first given to the Junior movement at Young has not been officially determined, but there is little doubt that it was initiated there. So experienced an official as the Town Clerk (Mr. Spark) informed the "Chronicle" when it was making inquiries into the matter some time ago, that there was absolutely no doubt that Mrs. Metcalfe deserved the full credit for the founding of the Junior Red Cross. Unfortunately, most of the relevant papers were destroyed when Mrs. Metcalfe was taken ill nearly two years ago.

For her war work Mrs. Metcalfe was accorded a public testimonial,

was accorded a public testimonial, and she was also recognised by the Burrangong Tennis Club, which made her a life member, for holding the club together at a time it would otherwise have lapsed.

Sons and daughters are: Mrs. Chesterman, of Hobart, Tasmania; Charles Henry, manager of the Union Bank, Grenfell; Mrs. J. R. Allan, of Mosman; Arthur, insurance agent, of Young; Roxton, of Coogee; and Mrs. D. W. Macpherson, of Grafton.

There are 18 grandchildren and no surviving brothers and sisters.

One son, Selwyn, was killed in the war.

The funeral, which took place in the cool of the evening on Monday, leaving St. John's Church at 6 p.m., was largely attended, all sections of the community being represented. A service was held prior to the funeral, when (in the absence from Young of the Rector, Canon McKeown) the Rev. M. C. Battarbee spoke in the highest terms of the deceased. Mr. F. A. Selden was at the organ. Between the church door and the gate members of the Returned Soldiers' League, with the vice-president (Mrs. C. G. Prescott) in charge lined up forming a guard of honor for the coffin to pass through. The procedure was repeated at the cemetery gates. Mr. Battarbee again officiated at the graveside.

The coffin was draped with the Red Cross.

The pall-bearers were returned soldiers, being Messrs. T. Dirks, C. M. Westerp, C. G. Prescott, A. Vincent, G. H. Watson and H. H. McGregor.

There was a very representative gathering at the graveside, including the following from Grenfell: Messrs. Baird, Luton, Menzies, Hand, H. How-

Baird, Luton, Menzies, Hand, H. Howarth, Cobcroft, Williams, Mylecharane, O'Neill, Griffiths and A. J. Carter.

Don't forget to call on "Billy" Thompson when at the baths. Cool drinks, ices, ice creams, cigarettes, tobacco, etc.