

## Splendid War Services Recognised

MEMORIAL TO MRS. LAURA METCALFE.

MANY ATTEND UNVEILING CEREMONY.

PERFORMED BY MRS. C. M. WESTERN.

For the unveiling of the memorial plaque to the late Mrs. Laura Metcalfe there was a large attendance in the Council Chambers on Tuesday afternoon.

The ceremony was performed by Mrs. C. M. Western, wife of the president of the local sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers' League.

The plaque is an artistic plate of bronze, bearing in simple phraseology the tribute of the returned soldiers of Young and district to Mrs. Metcalfe for her services on their behalf during the war.

Letters appreciative of the action of the returned men in erecting the plaque were received from a daughter, Mrs. A. L. Allen, of Moesman, and a son, Mr. Rixton Metcalfe, of Coogee. Two sons, Messrs. Harry and Arthur Metcalfe were present.

The gathering was representative of many local organisations, including the Burrangong District Hospital and the Red Cross Society, and included Mrs. E. P. Simpson, of Maitland, who served in France. She wore the uniform of the W.A.A.C.

### PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE.

Mr. C. M. Western who presided, said it was particularly pleasing to him, as president of the Young Sub-Branch, to see such a wonderful gathering to witness the unveiling of the memorial tablet. It went to show that this dear soul, who departed from our midst during January last, was loved and admired by others as well as by the returned men.

The late Mrs. Metcalfe, said Mr. Western, for a great number of years, was a wonderful worker on behalf of all returned men, and an outstanding personality in Red Cross matters. She was really the founder of the Junior Red Cross, that extremely valuable branch of the movement that had done, and was still doing, such remarkable work.

Mr. Western continued, "The passing of Mrs. Metcalfe was deeply regretted by the members of the Young Sub-Branch, and it was thought that the least we could do was to in some tangible way show our appreciation of the splendid and self-sacrificing work performed by her. Several schemes for commemorating her memory were brought forward at the League meetings, and finally it was decided that a memorial plaque, or tablet, would be the most suitable, as it could be handed down from generation to generation, and be an inspiration to others to emulate the splendid deeds of this noble departed

lady.

### LOVED BY ALL.

Whilst conveying the sympathy of the League to the children of the late Mrs. Metcalfe, some of whom I am glad to say are present at this gathering to-day, yet I feel sure it must be a source of gratification to them to know that their lately departed mother was so deeply loved and admired by all."

In his remarks, the hon. secretary of the sub-branch, Mr. T. C. Perry, expressed pleasure at the presence that afternoon of Mrs. Simpson, who served in France. He called upon Mrs. Western, the wife of the president of the sub-branch, to unveil the plaque, which had been put there as a token of appreciation and respect from the returned men.

The plaque, which was covered with a Red Cross flag, was then unveiled by Mrs. Western, all in the room standing in silence.

The President then formally handed over the plaque to the safe keeping of the Municipal Council, and thanked the Mayor and council for allowing it to be erected on the wall of the council chamber.

### MAYOR'S REMARKS.

In replying, the Mayor said the council needed no thanks for a thing of that kind. It was only too pleased to co-operate in honoring Mrs. Metcalfe, and recognise her work during the war. Possibly no one male member of the community knew better how much work Mrs. Metcalfe had done than he, and none of the lady members more than did Mrs. Rabbets. He felt he could say without fear of contradiction that no woman, whether serving here or in the war areas, had given a greater individual contribution to the successful termination of the war. There was no doubt that Mrs. Metcalfe was the founder of the Junior Red Cross. Her memory would live in the minds of them all (applause).

On behalf of the family, two sons, Messrs. Harry and Arthur Metcalfe, expressed their deep appreciation of the honor rendered their mother, who had loved the soldiers. The family, they said, was also very grateful for the kind way the returned soldiers had always treated their mother, particularly during her last illness.

In conclusion the Mayor thanked Mr. Western for presiding, and, on behalf of the community, through him thanked the returned soldiers for taking in hand the erection of a memorial to Mrs. Metcalfe.