

IN MEMORY

The death of Mrs. J. O'Farrell (sister Marianne Rawson, R.R.C.), which occurred this month at her home, 12 Burrindi road, Caulfield, recalls an early and heroic chapter in the annals of the Australian nursing service, for Sister Rawson was in charge of the splendid little band of 10 nursing sisters who left Melbourne in 1900 with the third Bushmen's Contingent for service in South Africa under the Imperial Government, under the terms of a special cable message from the High Commissioner of the Cape. For her devoted services Sister Rawson was subsequently awarded the Royal Red Cross, while one of her companions (Sister Isabel Ivy) was officially mentioned in despatches. Another nurse, Sister F. E. Hines, died while on active service, and the entire unit received the highest possible praise for their work.

Sister Mariann Rawson obtained her nursing training in England and at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin. On her arrival in Australia she was matron for two years at the Women's Hospital, Carlton, Melbourne, and subsequently went to Western Australia, where she opened a private Hospital. This, however, was burnt, and Sister Rawson was then asked to undertake the organisation and control of the Government Hospital, Kalgoorlie. On her return from the South African war she went back to Western Australia. Her marriage took place shortly after, and her home of recent years had been in Melbourne.
