

Mrs. McMahon's life had been a full and happy one. She had many and varied experiences, was a singularly happy wife and mother, had an exceptional gift for friendship and companionship, and took a lively interest in social and economic questions, bringing a broad and tolerant mind to discussion of them. She was simple in her nature, free from affectation or pose, and had a delightful sense of humour. Her merry and infectious laugh and her pretty light soprano voice singing Gilbert and Sullivan will long be remembered by her friends.

In Melbourne she had many interests outside her home, principally Nursery Schools and Janet Clarke Hall, the Women's part of Trinity College in the University of Melbourne, of whose committee she was chairman. She also had a place on the Council of Trinity College.

Those who knew Mrs. McMahon felt that there were few who could so ill be spared, whether as wife, mother, friend, or in public work, but that at the same time she had lived and experienced more richly than many whose lives have been extended for twenty or thirty more years.

S.J.W.

Helen Daphne Armstrong. Obit, September 4th, 1939.

Helen Daphne Armstrong was born in Melbourne in 1881. She was educated at a private school (Adnaree), and later with her sisters and some friends, by a Swiss governess, Mlle Boegli, who conducted all their lessons in French and German alternately. At this time Daphne also studied music and used to play the violin.

She went to the Women's College when she was seventeen, with the Grace Frazer Scholarship, and three years later took her Arts degree with first-class honours in French, German and English, together with Professor MacCallum's Prize for English. For a few years she taught, and then went to the Mitchell Library, where, after an interval at the Public Library, she became a Senior Cataloguer. One of her fellow librarians writes: "Daphne's work has stood the test of time; it is thorough and correct. Whenever we have to deal with books catalogued by her, we know that the entries for them will be adequate and correct, and that we can go ahead with our work using hers as a foundation."

During the war Daphne worked with a Voluntary Aid Detachment and at the Anzac Buffet. She was also President of the Clerical Women War Workers' Association throughout the five years of its existence, a society which, with a membership subscription of threepence per week, raised for war

purposes by various activities the astonishing sum of over £2,300.

In 1921 she resigned from the Mitchell Library to join her sister in the country where they ran their two farms in partnership, and where Daphne added to her accomplishments by becoming a superlative cook.

She was very strong, never known to flag or to admit being tired, and she had an exquisite gaiety of spirit and charm of manner, united to high courage, complete loyalty and the most unflinching generosity. In later years she wrote a good deal, chiefly for her own amusement—for the most part, comedies and farces. One of her plays came third in a radio competition among more than a thousand entries, and after her death we received news of a first prize in another competition. A three-act comedy, her longest piece of work, was incomplete at the time of her death. But the best of her writing was in her letters. She had a style all her own that gave a gay twist to the most humdrum piece of news and made the reading a delight. As one nephew remarked, it "always seemed a shame to destroy a letter of Daff's"; and another nephew after her death wrote that he kept thinking how he should miss "her mad letters". Among the scores and scores of lovely tributes paid her at that time there stands out as complete a phrase of Miss Ida Leeson, her senior officer at the Mitchell Library, who wrote: "She was pure gold."

M.H.A.

From a friend: "A sweet graciousness that shone through every action of her life, that illumined every word and thought, was an outstanding characteristic of Daphne Armstrong. It was this particular gift, one among so many, that held and welded together as one harmonious whole the committee of the Clerical Women War Workers' Association of which she was the president from the time of its inception, during the last war, to its disbandment as an official body in 1919.

"Every member of that committee still retains the most vivid and glowing remembrance of the privilege they then enjoyed of coming within the sphere of her gently-penetrating influence, of associating with one whose spirit so unconsciously lifted all around her to a higher plane of endeavour; while her broad outlook and never-failing sense of humour saved many a situation."

Another wrote: "During 1917-18 the Principal Librarian in conjunction with the Public Service Board instituted a course of study covering two years in Library Administration, Bibliography and Economy, for qualification into the Professional Division of the Public Service. The course involved two difficult examinations which the candidates took at the

end of the first and second years. As the war was still in progress in 1917, and all Daphne's time other than that involved in her daily work was devoted to war service, she did not begin her study for these examinations until the war was ended in 1918, when she sat for and passed both examinations after only a few months of study, coming top of all the candidates. This will give some idea of the thoroughness of Daphne's daily routine work, and of her tremendous capacity for concentration in study and assimilation of knowledge of detailed facts covering a wide range of Library subjects, and of her absolute mastery of the difficulties and intricacies involved in Library cataloguing and administration.

"In regard to my own work in the Library under Daphne's direction and supervision, I have never been so happy in my work, nor have I learned so much. Nothing was a trouble to her; no problem was too insignificant to receive her careful attention, and her explanations were always so lucid and to the point, and her understanding so sympathetic."

Dorothea Murray-Prior. Obit, January 2nd, 1940.

Miss Dorothea Murray-Prior entered College in 1900, after being an out-student in the previous year, preparing for matriculation. She gained first-class honours in French and was awarded the Grace Frazer Scholarship. She took her degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1903, and spent some time after that on the staff of the Girls' School, Ipswich, Queensland. In 1910, she, with her mother and sister, went to England where they settled. In England she interested herself in public work, and was for some time the honorary secretary of the Education Committee of the National Council of Women. After ten years in England where she devoted herself to the care of her mother, she and her sister returned to New South Wales, where she spent an almost equal number of years at Hunter's Hill until her death on January 2nd last. In her death the College has suffered the loss of a faithful friend and an interesting personality. Her friends missed her at the last reunion of Old Students, and were very sorry to hear that illness prevented her from being present.

Miss Louisa Macdonald, our first Principal, left London for Scotland after the outbreak of war. She stayed at her Scottish home at Arbroath in Perthshire till near the end of January. On January 14th, she wrote: "We are going back to London next Tuesday and are not looking forward to the exchange of our peaceful glen with London streets and 'black-out'. Of course we are blacked-out here, but then once the sun is set we do not want to go out. It is very cold here—21, 15, 25 degrees of frost and so on, and snow on the ground; but we have very good fires, and the house is sheltered, with a sunny aspect. As far as air-raids are concerned, I think London is safer than most places. Certainly so far the German planes have been more often over the East coast of Scotland than elsewhere. My niece, Flora Stewart, has been at 42 Ordnance Road (Miss Macdonald's London home) since we left. As soon as we go back she is going to Penzance to try to get a little sun and to get away from the black-out."

Miss Janet Mitchell, who was Acting Principal for six months during Miss Williams's absence in 1934, and is now Principal of Ashburne Hall of Residence for Women Students of the University of Manchester, in a letter dated January 22nd wrote: "Most of last session—especially the latter part of it—was over-busy with A.R.P.—at any time a strenuous job, but made more so by one's intuition that it would unfortunately be necessary. I shall never forget last September—the strain of completing all our preparations before the students returned at the beginning of October. But now, having done everything we humanly can do for their safety, one is able to settle down into what is almost a normal life. We have been extraordinarily fortunate in having been able to carry on with so little dislocation of our normal life. One of the smaller Women's Halls, which is in a particularly dangerous area of Manchester, just near the Ship Canal, had to close down, and so we took in all their students. We are therefore more than full. Rationing and other restrictions make life extremely difficult on the domestic side."

A HAPPY HUNTING GROUND.

Because of its immense area covering a wide range of topographical and ecological conditions, Australia offers many attractions to the naturalist. Several natural regions, corresponding roughly with State boundaries, lie in tropical, semi-tropical and temperate zones wherein are to be found jungle, desert and bush country, each with its own particular flora and fauna. To those who have not visited Australia the term 'bush' is not a happy one, since it appears to cover