



## **Miss M.E. Talbot – 1931 (Edition 1)**

Nelson assembly commended Miss Myrtle E. Talbot and she went out to India in November 1931. After six months helping in the “Montauban” Missionary Rest Home at Ootacamund she accepted the position as matron at Breeks School for missionaries children. Returning to India after furlough in 1938 she went to “Montauban” Rest Home where she continued in that valuable ministry for over 20 years. The number of guests that came in the height of the season increased to over 80 and accommodation was taxed to the limit. Miss Talbot brought to the work a gracious spirit of humility and considered the sight of missionaries going back to their sphere refreshed, ample reward for all her hours of toil. She maintained excellent supervision of the gardens and property as well as being busy with visiting the womenfolk in the area and distributing literature.

During World War II by arrangement with the army they opened the home as a “leave centre” for troops when missionaries were not in residence and more than 1,000 soldiers enjoyed the facilities and company of “Montauban”, some 100 being saved as a result. In 1950 the property called “Beaulieu” at Coonoor was added to the Home to take the overflow of guests. A suitable car was obtained in 1956 to give greater mobility for visiting and to facilitate the obtaining of supplies. There was also plenty of maintenance, painting, whitewashing and building up supplies of firewood to be attended to.

Failing health restricted Miss Talbot's activities in the last few years she was in India and she returned home to retire in New Zealand in 1960. Apart from visits to Christchurch she stayed at Nelson most of the time until 1963 when she moved to Maranatha Home in Mosgiel. She died on April 18th, 1966 after being some time in Dunedin Hospital, a gracious servant of the Lord, aged 69.

[Source entry includes uncaptioned photo of Miss Talbot]