

vide an interest for the young women, while giving them a good preparation for home life after marriage. It would no doubt benefit the girls concerned, but how about the patients who would be subjected to their ministrations whether they had any vocation for nursing or not?

We are glad to learn that the systematic training of the nurses at the Somerset Hospital, Cape Town, has been reorganised, and that regular lectures are now being given by the medical staff, and the Matron, Miss J. C. Child. Following the recommendations of the Medical Board, arrangements have been made to present a silver medal in connection with the Hospital Examination for the third year's training, and a prize of books in connection with that of the second year. Bronze medals will be given to all who pass the examination at the end of the first year. It is the aim of the medical staff and of Dr. Moffatt, the resident surgeon, ably seconded by the Matron, to raise the standard of professional qualification, and to send out from this important training-school a constant supply of well-qualified nurses. In his report to the Board of Managers Dr. Moffatt says: "There have been considerable changes in the nursing staff. Under the present Matron, Miss Child, I am confident that the nursing staff will regain the high and honourable reputation it enjoyed several years ago, and that, as a training-school for nurses, the Somerset Hospital will rank again among the best in South Africa. . . . Six nurses trained here have presented themselves for the Colonial Medical Council's examination, and all passed, one of them, Miss Versfield, being specially commended by the examiners."

A piece of recent legislation in New Zealand which will affect nurses is a provision made in the Public Health Act, 1903, for the inspection, licensing, and registration of private hospitals under the Department of Public Health.

Those who met Miss Janet Speed, a New Zealand nurse, when in this country will be interested to know that she has been speaking on the subject of a Nursing Reserve for New Zealand at the Public Hall, Marlborough. This is a matter in which she has taken great interest. After working in the military hospitals in the South African War, Miss Speed, who has since been made an Hon. Serving Sister of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, came to England and studied Army Nursing methods at Netley. Her desire is to establish an Army Nursing Reserve in New Zealand, affiliated with the Reserve at home, her contention being that, as the Military Nursing Service incorporates in its title the word "Imperial," its members should be drawn from all parts of the Empire. Since her return home, Miss Speed said she had

endeavoured to impress on the authorities the importance of forming a New Zealand Nursing Reserve, so that if at any future time New Zealand "boys" had again to take the field a proper staff of nurses could be sent with each contingent.

She herself, when in South Africa, was on the Imperial staff, engaged and paid by the Imperial authorities for work with the Regular troops. Anything she was able to do for her sick or wounded New Zealand brothers was done in her own leisure time—when off duty, so to speak—and she could not shut her eyes to the fact that, had she been empowered by her own country, she could have done much more for them in promoting their comfort when they left the hospital. She had brought the desirability of organising a Nursing Reserve under the notice of the Minister of Defence, but, she regretted to say, without apparent result so far. The tendency, of course, was to postpone action till the contingency actually arose. That was wrong policy. Such preparation could not be made off-hand. It should be made beforehand—in time of peace—so that when required everything would be ready for campaign work.

The last mail from New Zealand brings the news that Miss Speed was shortly to be married to a Mr. Gillies, and her friends in this country will wish her every happiness in her new life. She hopes still to work in furtherance of the object which she has at heart.

### The Asylum Workers' Association.

The Executive Committee of the Asylum Workers' Association have awarded the medals bestowed for long and meritorious service as follows for 1904:—

#### GOLD MEDAL.

Mr. W. Headon, Devon County Asylum.

#### SILVER MEDALS.

Mr. T. Alexander, Notts City Asylum.

Miss E. Atkins, Caterham Asylum.

Miss E. Gribble, Holloway Sanatorium.

It is announced that the Annual Meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday, May 17th, as usual at 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, W., which occasion will be "positively the last" when Sir James Crichton Browne will preside.

In connection with questions now before Parliament, *Asylum News* says:—"The day is probably not far distant when the voice of the Association must make itself heard at the General Parliamentary Election. Questions of professional training of nurses and attendants will also be sure to arise in connection with the projects for State Registration now before Parliament, and the Executive need to be better informed of the feeling upon this point of those engaged in mental nursing in order to enable them to act on a definite policy."

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