

Mrs. Grace Neill, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals in New Zealand, to whose efforts New Zealand nurses chiefly owe their Registration Act, has resigned the position, after many years of splendid work, to the great regret of all who were associated with her.

The *British Medical Journal* of June 1st contained a sympathetic notice of the Annual Meeting of the Society for State Registration of Trained Nurses, and an admirable summary of its report, in the course of which it drew attention to the fact that "the nature of the opposition had entirely changed. Some years ago it was a scornful refusal to consider the matter seriously; now it was admitted that the desire of nurses for some kind of official recognition was legitimate, and the only question was the form which it should take. Secondly, there had been an actual victory, one of permanent importance; the Select Committee of the House of Commons had reported in favour of registration. Finally, the Society could now boast that its wishes were those also of the medical profession, inasmuch as the British Medical Association had formally expressed an opinion that the registration of nurses was desirable in the public interest."

### Infants on Board Ship.

A correspondent draws our attention to the lack of adequate provision for the care of infants travelling as steerage passengers on board certain Indian liners. She recently travelled home on board one of these on which was a very delicate baby. There was, she says, no accommodation for bathing infants on board, no supply of hot water for mixing their milk, and no arrangements for boiling water. To suit the convenience of the stewards all water for washing the child's feeding utensils was stopped, and the hot water to mix the milk was not brought as required, but at 10 p.m. and 3 p.m., just when the child slept best, and when it was brought it was not warm enough to dissolve the milk. Our correspondent considers it absolutely necessary that liners should provide infant requirements for steerage passengers. Small bath tubs should be provided, suitable for infants, and mothers and nurses should have facilities for obtaining boiling water in the case of hand-fed babies, and conveniences for keeping clothes and vessels sweet and clean.

We think the attention of steamship companies should be directed to this alleged lack of what are really the necessaries of life for infants.

### Navy and Army Male Nursing Association.

A well attended meeting was held by invitation of Lady Martin on Monday last, at 10, Hill Street, Mayfair, with the object of inaugurating a Navy and Army Male Nursing Association.

Sir Richard Biddulph Martin, who presided, announced that the movement had the sympathy of Lord Tweedmouth, and of the Right Hon. R. B. Haldane, Secretary of State for War.

The first speaker was Sir Frederick Treves, who said his first proposition was that there was a great need for efficient, well-trained male nurses in private life. It was extraordinary to compare the lack of civilian male nurses in this country with the extent to which they were employed in America. There were certain cases which under no circumstances should be nursed by female nurses, and, putting these aside, there was a large number which it was desirable should be nursed by men.

Before the South African war it had to be said that there was no general hospital in which male nurses could receive training, but there was no longer this excuse. Surgeon-General Keogh would tell them that the training of army orderlies at present was as good as it could possibly be. The whole system had been changed, and there was now no longer a confusion of duties. The best and most intelligent men were selected for the Nursing Service, and they did nothing but nurse. The work in military hospitals was of wide extent. In such hospitals as Millbank and Colchester there were many operations, and a great variety of cases, including those of tropical diseases, not often seen in this country. The male nurses turned out were first-class. They not only had good training, but the wholesome discipline of the Army, and he felt that the appeal of Miss McCaul for the formation of a co-operation through which they could obtain civilian employment when they left the Service was a very strong one. The objects of the Association were very simple ones. It would acquire the services of first-class orderlies, who would take their own fees less a small percentage. This would encourage efficient nursing in the Services, because the men would have an assurance of good employment in civil life. It would also supply porters for hospital work, for laboratories, post mortem work, etc. The Association would recommend no men who were not of substantial character. The speaker concluded by announcing that her Majesty the Queen entirely approved of the objects of the Association, and had consented to become Patroness.

Inspector-General Herbert Ellis, of the Navy, Surgeon-General Sir Alfred Keogh, Director-General of the Army, Sir William Church, Sir Richard Douglas Powell, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Mr. Henry Morris, President of the Collage of Surgeons, also supported the proposition.

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