

The Speakers on Nursing.

MRS. GRACE NEILL.

MRS. GRACE NEILL, Assistant Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums throughout New Zealand, received her medical and surgical training in the wards of King's College and Charing Cross Hospitals, London, and some years later studied and practised midwifery at St. John's Maternity Home, Battersea. Upon leaving Charing Cross Hospital she was appointed Lady Superintendent of the Hospital for Sick Children, Pendlebury, a position which she held until her marriage.

In 1886 Mrs. Neill went out to Queensland, and, a few years later, entered the ranks of women journalists, being a regular contributor to the *Brisbane Courier*, the *Queensland Times*, the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, and other papers. She was also on the staff of the *Boomerang*, and afterwards on the *Brisbane Daily Telegraph*.

In 1891 Sir Samuel Griffith's Government selected Mrs. Neill as a member of a Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the conditions of labour in the workshops, shops and factories, and in this position she was able to render valuable service. She was also employed by the Queensland Government to investigate cases applying for relief at the Government Labour Bureau, during a period of distress, shortly after

the Shearers' Strike. Six years ago, Mrs. Neill left Queensland for New Zealand, and for this period she has been in the New Zealand Civil Service.

She worked first in the Government Department of Labour, then she was made Woman Inspector of Factories, and was the first woman to hold such a post in Australasia. Since 1895, Mrs. Neill has been Assistant Inspector in the

Hospitals and Asylums Department, New Zealand, the Inspector General being Dr. Duncan Macgregor. In her capacity of Government Inspector, Mrs. Neill has had exceptional opportunities for observing and forming opinions with regard to the system of training in the various hospitals, the needs of nurses, and the relation of the interests of nurses to the interests of the public. It is, therefore, satisfactory to know, that in common with many of her colleagues in this country who have given their earnest attention to the subject, Mrs. Neill is an ardent believer



MRS. NEILL.
AN ENFRANCHISED NURSE.
Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland.

in the professional and public benefits which would follow the legal registration of trained nurses. She further entirely appreciates her position as an enfranchised woman. "It is no use to say that the franchise makes no difference to women," she says, "it *does*." Of course it does. We, in this country, know it. It makes the difference between self-respecting independence and political impotence.

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