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EDITORIAL.

AN EXPERT REPORT.

The Report of Dr. T. H. A. Valintine, the Director-General of Health, to the Hon. the Minister of Health in New Zealand, is always of great interest, touching, as it does, on the work of all the different departments concerned with the National Health. In that for the present year interesting reports are included from the Directors of the Divisions of Public Hygiene, Child Welfare, Nursing, School Hygiene, Dental Hygiene and Maori Hygiene, and also from the Medical Superintendent of Hospitals and Sanatoria, and from Dr. Ada G. Paterson, School Medical Officer, on aspects of Child Welfare Work in Great Britain and America.

The Reports of greatest interest to the readers of this Journal are (1) that of Dr. Truby King, Director of Child Welfare, who reports "the Health Campaign throughout the Dominion, conducted last year by myself, as Director of Child Welfare, in conjunction with Miss J. B. N. Paterson, has been practically completed. The campaign, undertaken at the instance of the Hon. C. J. Parr, as Minister of Health and Education, has met with general appreciation. Not only has it been of direct service in the promotion of health in general, and of mother and child in particular, but it has given a further impetus to the work and activities of the Royal New Zealand Society for the Health of Women and Children." (2) The Report of Miss Hester Maclean, R.R.C., Director of the Division of Nursing, is, unfortunately, the last from her able pen. Concerning this Report, Dr. Valintine writes: "The Report of the Director, Division of Nursing, will be read with much interest. . . . It is to be all the more regretted, therefore, that Miss Maclean, after some seventeen years of faithful service, has to give up the work to which she has so unsparingly devoted herself. It is therefore with the greatest regret that I announce the approaching retirement of an officer who has served the country so long and so faithfully, and I only hope that she may

carry into her retirement a feeling of work well and faithfully done."

Miss Maclean, after recording her gratification at the acceptance of the New Zealand Certificate of Registration, as evidence of fitness for admission to the Register published under the direction of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, provided that the Registrar of Nurses in the Dominion agrees to admit nurses registered in England and Wales, holding a certificate of three years' training after examination, to the New Zealand Nurses' Register, added: "It is to be regretted that the condition which is being imposed on nurses training in Great Britain—that it will only be by affiliation with larger hospitals that nurses trained in smaller ones will be eligible for registration—has not been extended to other countries. A system of affiliation has been for years proposed by this Department, but only very half-heartedly carried out."

Miss Maclean concludes a very interesting Report with a reference to private hospitals, and says that "the present law which allows of one case at a time being treated in an unlicensed house militates greatly against the success of a qualified nurse in starting a Maternity Home in a country town. Five or six unqualified women in a town receiving one case at a time—which allowance is frequently overstepped—reduces the number she can depend on, and causes a very uphill struggle. Medical practitioners in the country towns should recognise more than they do the advantage of having a properly qualified nurse, and a licensed private hospital, and refuse to attend patients in these unlicensed places. . . .

"The establishment of maternity wards at or in connection with general hospitals does not meet the needs of private patients, and should not do so, as this, again, would be unfair to the registered nurse and midwife, whose training has been undergone to enable her to fulfil this need of people able to pay for private attendance."

Miss Maclean has ably described difficulties with which we also are familiar. She refers to the appointment of her successor, Miss Bicknell, A.R.R.C., who was granted eight months' leave of absence to visit this country.

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