

## NURSES OF NOTE.

## MAKERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES.

An outstanding personality among the makers of the International Council of Nurses is Mrs. Grace Neill (née Campbell), for to her belongs the honour of having been mainly instrumental in securing the passing of the first Nurses' Registration Act in the world (the Nurses' Registration Act, New Zealand passed in 1901), as the nurses in South Africa were not registered under a separate Act, but under the Medical and Pharmacy Act (1891).

Mrs. Grace Neill, who is an Hon. Member of the Matrons' Council of Great Britain and Ireland, who was in London when the International Council of Nurses was founded in 1899, was one of those nurses who received her training in England, and then went out to the Dominions to carry her knowledge and her work far afield.

Mrs. Neill was trained under St. John's House, at King's College and Charing Cross Hospitals, London, and some years later studied and practised midwifery at St. John's House Maternity Home, Battersea. On 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 many important papers in that colony.

In 1891, Sir Samuel Griffiths' 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.

In 1893, Mrs. Neill left Queensland for New Zealand, and from that time onwards until her retirement from active work was an official of the New Zealand Civil Service, at first in the Government Departments of Labour, and afterwards as Woman Inspector of Factories, being the first woman to hold such a position in Australasia.

In 1895 she was appointed Assistant Inspector in the Hospital and Asylums' Department in New Zealand, and

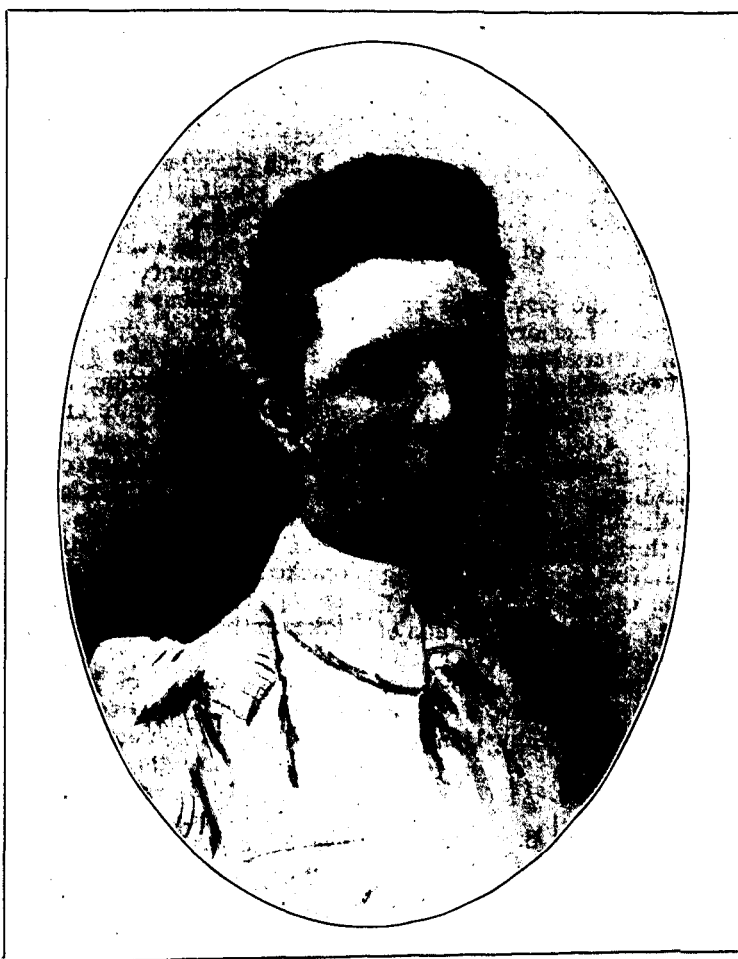
in this capacity had exceptional opportunities for observing and forming opinions with regard to the system of training in the various hospitals, the needs of the nurses, and the relation of the interests of nurses and was an ardent believer in the professional and public benefits which would follow the legal registration of trained nurses. Translated into action Mrs. Neill's faith and work resulted in the standardisation of Nursing Education and Registration of Trained Nurses in New Zealand, and to her being appointed, in addition to the post of Assistant Inspector of Hospitals, as Deputy Registrar.

We are apt to think that the modern nurse has fallen from the high standard of devotion to duty, characteristic of her predecessor a quarter of a century ago. Yet, in a paper, read in the Nursing Session at the Congress of the

International Council of Women held in London in 1899, Mrs. Neill said :

"It is well, occasionally, to impress upon all connected with hospital life and work that hospitals exist solely for the benefit of the sick and suffering. A certain type of modern nurse tends to the belief that hospitals exist for her training, and that her time is divided between "On Duty" and "Off Duty," the off duty period being her real life. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon a probationer that the main function of a nurse is to serve—to serve others; that upon her patience, skill and gentle tendance, rests the comfort and well-being of sick and suffering humanity, and that courtesy and tact in her dealings with doctors and fellow-nurses make the wheels of life run smoothly."

These words ring true to-day. Many nurses we know are keenly conscious of them and strive to live up to them. It behoves every one to study the lives of our pioneers and to obtain inspiration from their example.



MRS. GRACE NEILL,

Formerly Assistant-Inspector of Hospitals and Asylums, and Deputy Registrar in New Zealand.

## PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

The Minister of Health is about to make Regulations for the purpose of preventing infection from the employment in and about farms, dairies, &c., of persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Copies of the draft Regulations which have been prepared for this purpose can be purchased under the description "Draft dated 17th October, 1924, of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924," from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C. 2. Any representations on the subject should be addressed to the Secretary to the Ministry at an early date.

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