

Notes from Christchurch

DOCTOR ACLAND'S SEND-OFF

(BY ONE OF THE GUESTS.)

Among the many good-bye gatherings in the New Zealand medical and nursing world this month, one of the most interesting was the "At Home" given at Christchurch Hospital on the afternoon of Thursday the 18th February by Miss Thurston, the Lady Superintendent.

Dr. Acland, the widely known Christchurch surgeon who is going to the front was the guest of honour. Amongst those present were Mrs. Acland, Mrs. J. H. Wilson, Mr. Horrell (Chairman of the Board), Dr. and Mrs. Westenra, Dr. and Mrs. Lester, Dr. and Mrs. Stevenson, Dr. and Mrs. Sandstein, Dr. and Mrs. MacGibbon, Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Foster, Dr. and Mrs. Pearson, Dr. and Mrs. Courtenay Nedwill, Dr. and Mrs. Duncan, Dr. and Mrs. Scott, Dr. Crooke, Dr. Inglis, Miss Gow, Miss Hood, Miss Petersen, Dr. Reid, Dr. Wallace, Dr. McDiarmid, Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen, and the sisters and nurses on the hospital staff.

The "At Home" was held in the nurses' sitting-room, the two being thrown into one, by opening folding doors, forming a large and spacious room, where all could move about freely to talk to their various friends. Everyone was anxious to have a few words with the "guest of the afternoon," and, thanks to the untiring energy of hostess and "guest," all, or nearly all must have had the opportunity.

A very dainty afternoon tea was served and a perfect babel of chatter accompanied the tinkle of the pretty soft eggshell blue cups and saucers. So thoroughly was everyone occupied that, after tea was over, it was quite a few seconds, before the hostess could still the hum of voices. Then, suddenly, all realised that, unconsciously by those taking part, a very impressive picture was formed. On one side of the room stood the Lady Superintendent surrounded by her sisters and charge nurses in their pretty uniforms, on the opposite side sat the group of guests in their varied attire, the distinguished surgeon standing in front, and within the folding doors crowded the nurses in training. On every face was written the thoughts which Miss Thurston so aptly expressed in a short, neat, womanly speech—

regret at parting, even for a time, with one who had been in his position as Honorary Surgeon, for so many years, a valued guide, teacher and friend. Miss Thurston then presented Dr. Acland with a case of hypodermic syringes from the nursing staff as a token of their gratitude and good wishes. Dr. Acland in thanking the staff, with the true modesty of our medical men disclaimed any honour for giving his services to his country, saying that, on the contrary, he felt privileged in having the opportunity of doing what he knew every other doctor in the country would gladly do if he could.

The Chairman of the Hospital Board (Mr. Horrell) then spoke of the distinguished services of Dr. Acland to the Hospital and the appreciation by the Board of his excellent work.

After another half-hour's chat the guests reluctantly said good-bye, all having appreciated the privilege of being present that afternoon.

PLUNKET GARDEN PARTY

The clerk of the weather must love babies, as do all the wise folk amongst ourselves, for he cleared up his clouds and gave the loveliest sunshine for the Garden Party given by Mrs. Pyne, honorary president of the Christchurch Branch of the Plunket Society, in her lovely garden. Nearly a hundred babies mostly under one year old were brought by their mothers and it was a pretty sight to see the spotlessly dressed little babies smiling and kicking in their mothers' arms, while the elder ones crept or toddled about the lawn. The three Plunket nurses were kept busy helping the mothers to show off their treasures, and tell their histories to a large crowd of admiring guests from all parts of New Zealand. Mostly the story was how by lack of knowledge baby had got ill and grown weaker and weaker until the Plunket nurse had come, or been sent by the busy doctor, to patiently explain and teach better methods, and now the mother herself was wiser, and the little one was in the straight path towards sturdy citizenship. One pair of twins was specially interesting from the midwifery point of view, as three days had elapsed between the birth of the first and second, an unusual occurrence