

fulfilled her promise. The gifts were much appreciated, and Mr. Allen expressed his profound admiration for Mrs. Luke's indefatigable energy and unflinching thoughtfulness.

PRIME MINISTER'S GOOD WISHES.

The Prime Minister said he wished to thank the nurses on his own behalf and on behalf of the people of New Zealand for the patriotism and public spirit they had displayed in coming forward to offer their services to the Empire. Of course such patriotism was to be expected of New Zealand girls, girls of the same stock as the men of New Zealand who had made such a gallant fight on the Gallipoli Peninsula. He was sure the nurses would have plenty of opportunities of useful service where they were going, and he was equally sure that they would acquit themselves well. "I hope," he concluded, "that you will all come back in good health to the country you are leaving to-day. Goodbye, and the very best of luck." (Applause).

GENEROUS DONATIONS.

The Hon. J. Allen, before he addressed the nurses, conveyed to them Lady Liverpool's message of farewell (referred to elsewhere), and also read a letter he had received from the Hon. C. J. Johnston. This letter, he said, contained two cheques, each for £500. One was from Miss Johnston, of Fitzherbert Terrace, and one was from Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Johnston. They stipulated that the money should be applied as follows: £100 in response to the Defence Minister's appeal for £1,000 already cabled to Egypt for comforts for the wounded.

£450 for comforts for the wounded.

£200 for the wounded in Egypt.

£250 for the wounded in England.

This announcement was received with the heartiest applause.

Mr. Massey here stated that he had been asked within the last quarter of an hour to visit a function that afternoon, at which he was to receive a cheque for £250 from the Commercial Travellers' Club for the hospital ship.

Mr. Allen, not to be outdone, made this announcement: "Just before I came down from my office I had a telephone message from the Salvation Army that they wished to present us with two motor ambulances.

I have informed them that we have more motor ambulances, almost, than we know what to do with, and that they should apply the money to other purposes. I recommended comforts for the sick and wounded."

A WORD TO THE NURSES.

Mr. Allen informed the nurses that he believed they were to go to Egypt or Malta. For the transport of the sick and wounded to the base hospitals, New Zealand was fitting out a hospital ship. It was the desire of His Excellency the Governor that the New Zealand ship should go away better fitted up than any other hospital ship in the world, and the Transport Board, who were working with Dr. Collins, had all the information at hand to enable them to carry out His Excellency's wish. On the ship would be ten nurses. Whether those would be taken from the 100 already announced as going he did not know. That would depend on what the Minister in Charge of Hospitals reported as to whether any more nurses could be spared from New Zealand or not. For, of course, our New Zealand hospitals would have to be carried on. Perhaps some of our women who had had nursing experience would return to the work, and a greater number of our young girls would volunteer for service in the hospitals. He would suggest to those not able to go to the front that this was a sacrifice they might make. Of the nurses in the contingent he said he was sure that they would uphold the honour of New Zealand. They were going to do the noble work of caring for the wounded. They would give to the sick and wounded all the tender care of which they were capable, and if it should happen that they were called upon to nurse other wounded, the New Zealand girls would care for them with the same tenderness as for our own New Zealanders.

THE BRAVE MOTHERS.

"If you could read the letters that I have had and the Prime Minister has had from the mothers of these wounded soldiers, from the mothers of some of the soldiers who have been killed," he said, "you would be proud of New Zealand, and proud to know that we have such brave-hearted women in it. It makes me proud, it would make you proud, to think that we