

Report of Conference on the Supply of Nursing Aid for the Sick and Wounded

Owing to the evident confusion in the public mind concerning the supply and demand for efficient nursing facilities for our sick and wounded soldiers, the Hon. the Minister of Public Health decided to call a Conference in Wellington. Her Excellency Lady Liverpool was asked to preside, and delegates were invited from the heads of the nursing profession in New Zealand, viz.: The Acting-Matron-in-Chief of the N.Z.A.N.S.; the four principal lady Superintendents of our large hospitals, who are also the four Honorary District Military Matrons; from the four branches of the N.Z. Trained Nurses' Association; Mrs. Luke, the wife of the Mayor of Wellington, and other ladies of proved interest; also representatives of St. John's Ambulance Association, and the "Volunteer Sisterhood." The object of the Conference was to initiate in Wellington a national movement, the scope of which would include:—

1. The supply of an adequate number of trained nurses for our sick and wounded soldiers at the front.
2. The care of returned invalided and incapacitated soldiers after their discharge from military hospitals and convalescent homes in New Zealand.
3. The maintenance and acceleration of the usual efficient training of nurses in our hospitals.
 - (a) To keep the demands for the N.Z.A.N.S. supplied.
 - (b) To adequately staff our civil and military hospitals in N.Z.
4. To establish and sustain among N.Z. women a personal and helpful interest in the families of soldiers on active service and particularly of those where the breadwinners have been killed or incapacitated.

The Conference was largely attended and took place in one of the large "Petitions" rooms in the Parliamentary Building, on August 25th, at 3.30 p.m.

The Hon. the Minister for Public Health Mr. G. W. Russell, explained the scope of the Conference, and introduced Her Excellency Lady Liverpool, whom he requested to open the Conference. Her Excellency, in a gracious and earnest speech, expressed

her sympathy with the objects of the Conference and her desire to assist in every way. There were present Colonel Valintine, Inspector-General of Hospitals, and Director of Military Hospitals, who had at the request of the Hon. the Minister, initiated the Conference: the Acting Matron-in-Chief Miss Bicknell, Miss Payne, Miss Orr, Miss Myles, Lady Superintendents of the Wellington, Auckland, and Dunedin Hospitals and Hon. Military Matrons; (regret was expressed that Miss Thurston, of Christchurch Hospital was absent in Australia); Miss Bagley, of the Health and Hospitals Department; Miss Melita Jones, representing the Central Council of the N.Z.T.N.A. (Miss Jones and Miss Orr also attended as delegates from the Auckland Branch); Mrs. Porter and Miss Inglis represented Wellington; Miss Maude and Miss Hood, Christchurch, and Mrs. Fraser and Miss Morison, Dunedin; Mrs. Massey, Mrs. Luke, Lady Ward, Dr. Platts-Mills, Mrs. Grace Neill (late Assistant Inspector of Hospitals), and Mesdames Kendall, Wilford, Valintine, Pomare, Thompson, Young, Myers, Algar Williams, Lady Stout, Miss Walshe, and others.

The representatives of St. John Ambulance Association were Mesdames Smith (Auckland); Walters (Wellington); Moore (Wanganui); Preston (Wellington South); Messrs. Tunks (Auckland); Seed, (Wellington); and McKinney (Christchurch); Miss Rout represented the "Volunteer Sisterhood." Many leading Wellington citizens were also present—mostly ladies; the Conference was—as was abundantly evident—in the very free discussion which took place at the second meeting—essentially a women's affair, and although on one occasion, we will admit that it became necessary for the Minister to call the meeting to order, a most earnest effort on the part of all the delegates was displayed to work unitedly for the objects of the Conference.

Various motions were brought forward and carried, and a second meeting was held to deal with nursing matters only.

Her Excellency then took her leave. Mr. Russell, Minister for Public Health, made a very forcible speech in the course of which he said that it had been decided that trained nurses only were to go to the front, and he had been assured that an ample supply