

Convalescent Home for Nurses

A Great Need

At a recent meeting of the Wellington Red Cross Executive Committee, Miss Hester Maclean, matron-in-chief of the New Zealand Nursing Service, was present to ask the committee's assistance in providing a convalescent home for sick or overdone nursing sisters. In explaining the great need which existed for such a place, Miss Maclean said that the Defence Department had considered the matter of setting aside a home at Devonport (Auckland), but it was found impracticable partly because there were so many men who had to be provided for and partly because it would be necessary to have a more central place for such a purpose. In Australia there were convalescent homes provided by the Red Cross in both Melbourne and Sydney. Some of the New Zealand army nurses had stayed there, and had been made extremely comfortable.

A rest home for the nurses was really badly needed, because some of them were coming back sadly the worse for their work abroad, and there was nowhere for them to go; others had no homes; and others again had homes in which they might not be able to get the necessary care and attention. Sometimes the V.A.D.'s became ill, and such a place would do much to restore them to health again. Her idea was that the Red Cross Committee might possibly see its way

to take a house, furnishing it, and meeting its upkeep, while the Defence Department might see its way to staffing it. She thought that accommodation for ten or twelve nurses would be sufficient.

In reply to a question from Mr. Young, Miss Maclean said that it would be for nurses from every part of New Zealand who were the worse for their work, not from the Wellington district only.

After expressing the opinion that it was as much the work of the Red Cross to look after sick or worn-out nurses as it was its work to look after sick and wounded soldiers, Mr. Young proposed "that this committee approves of Miss Maclean's proposal that a convalescent home be established for nurses who have returned from active service and for those who are working in military hospitals in New Zealand."

The proposal was carried unanimously, and it was decided that a recommendation to this effect be forwarded from the Wellington committee to the New Zealand Executive as a matter which should come under its jurisdiction.

Miss Maclean told the meeting that there were already seven or eight nursing sisters who needed such a place to go to after their strenuous war service.

—From the "Dominion."

At Home

A very pleasant welcome was given to returned nurses on April 11th by the president of the A.T.N.A. There was a large attendance which included about 20 returned sisters. The At Home was given in the Y.W.C.A. rooms, which were prettily decorated, and was a most interesting and successful function. Mrs. Todd Smith in a pleasant little speech welcomed the nurses,

and other speakers were Miss Bagley, Mrs. Gunson, and Mrs. Rhodes, an American visitor. All the speakers eulogised the good work the nurses had done during the war time, and expressed pleasure at seeing them back again. Music, delicious afternoon tea and social converse helped to make a delightful afternoon meeting.

Under the new classification of the public service just published, it has been decided to alter the title of the Assistant Inspector of hospitals to that of Matron-in-Chief, Public Health Department. Miss Maclean's duties still include the repatriation of nurses and

the inspection of hospitals and charitable institutions. Miss Bicknell is now gazetted as Deputy Matron-in-Chief. These titles are the same now for both services, Public Health and Defence.