

Miss W. I. G. Maitland has been appointed kindergarten mistress by the Wellington Education Board in succession to Miss Fitch, who has resigned. Miss Maitland was educated at the Fielder Demonstration School and specialises in infant work.

It is reported that two of Sir Joseph Ward's sons are going to the war. Three of Sir John Findlay's sons are already with the Expeditionary Forces.

Dr. C. C. Choyce, of Auckland, who has had for some years the post of surgeon to the Seamen's Hospital at Greenwich, is at present surgeon on the staff of the Australian Voluntary Hospital at Boulogne.

Mrs. Baume, senr., of Auckland, returned to New Zealand last week from a lengthy trip to England.

A tablet to the memory of the late Lieut.-Colonel William Reed Blomfield will be unveiled at St. Mary's Cathedral, Parnell, on Sunday, March 14th.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Bates, of Rarotonga, are on a visit to Auckland.

Ten refugees from Belgium were among the crew of the Shaw, Savill, and Albion Company's steamer Mata-tua, which arrived in Auckland last week. It is believed they are the first from that afflicted country to reach New Zealand.

Mr. Chas. J. Nathan, Wellington, left for London last week to offer his services to the military authorities.

Miss Statham, Auckland, inspector for the New Zealand Soldiers' Graves Guild, has been to Hawera on an official visit.

News was received in Dunedin last week of the tragically sudden death of Mrs. Woolcombe as the result of an accident at Singapore. Mrs. Woolcombe was the daughter of Mr. A. Michie, formerly general manager of the Bank of New Zealand. Her marriage with Mr. Woolcombe, formerly of Timaru, took place in London a few months ago.

The opening of the Medical Conference in Christchurch was marked by a most enjoyable social gathering in the Provincial Chambers. Among the guests were Mrs. Irving (wife of the president), Mrs. Truby King (Dunedin), Mrs. W. H. Parkes (Auckland), Mrs. Julius, Mrs. Holland, Dr. Eleanor Baker, Mrs. A. E. G. Rhodes, Dr. Alice Morland, Mrs. Hardie Neil (Auckland), Mrs. Brewis (Hamilton), Dr. Jessie Maddison, Mrs. Bruton Sweet (Auckland), Mrs. Gilray (Napier), Mrs. Denniston, Mrs. Sawtell, Mrs. Allen (Dunedin), Mrs. Loughnan (Timaru), Mrs. Purdy (Wellington).

A garden fete was held in Mrs. McKail Geddes' grounds in aid of the Auckland branch of the Y.W.C.A., and proved highly successful. Mrs. C. J. Parr opened the affair. Those assisting included Mrs. J. J. Craig, Mrs. Buttle, Mrs. F. W. Wilson, Mrs. Wiseman, Mrs. Hood, Mrs. Garrard, Miss Kempthorne, and Miss May Colegrove.

Miss Landon, who has been on a lengthy visit to her uncle, Archdeacon Willis, at Cambridge, returned to England last week.

The engagement is announced in the "Times" of Mr. G. W. Arlidge, acting town clerk at Tauranga, to Miss M. Kyle, of Marton.

On New Year's Day a wedding of New Zealand interest took place at St. John's Church, Malone, Belfast, writes a London correspondent. The bridegroom was Richard Walter Wilkinson, second lieutenant 14th Service Battalion Manchester Regiment, son of Mr. John Wilkinson, Linden, Malone Park, Belfast. The bride was Miss Ivy Muriei Burrowes Bassett, youngest daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Bassett, Hornby, Christchurch.

The men of the Second Australian Contingent have proved to be extraordinarily prolific letter writers. The correspondent of the "Argus" mentions the formidable task confronting the censor when the force arrived at Aden. One mail consisted of 100,000 letters, of which 99 per cent. were addressed to women.

Clio, in Melbourne "Punch," relates a charming little romance that has come to her ears. An Englishwoman decided to adopt two little homeless Belgian refugees. While she was fondling the little girl, she noticed how she clung to a locket which she would not permit for a moment to be removed, so asked the child why she loved it so. "Cause mother's in it," the child explained. Full of compassion, and all her mother instincts aroused, she begged to see the picture in the locket. She opened it, and, to her astonishment, grief and delight, found it to be a photograph of her own sister! The sister had married a Belgian, and the children had never seen their English aunt. Ever since the war broke out no news had come from Belgium, of course; but later the death of the children's mother was confirmed. By wonderful chance those orphaned mites had been discovered by their mother's own sister!

Amongst well-known Australian girls prominent in Williamson productions in Sydney at present are Miss Dorothy Brunton, Miss Marie Eaton, Miss Lizette Parkes, Miss Gwen Burroughs, Miss Dorothy Cumming, and Miss Alma Phillips.

Both the sons of the late Oscar Wilde are serving their country in the Army. Cyril, the elder, who was in garrison in India, accompanied the Indian Expeditionary Force to France. Vyvyan has been appointed interpreter to the Army, a billet which carries with it a commission as second lieutenant.

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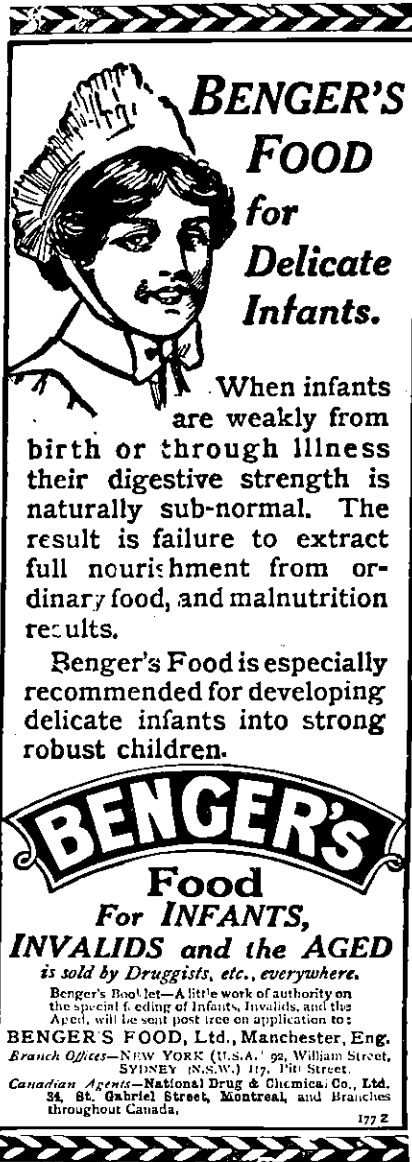
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