

gifts which earned her this. Her University marks in medicine suggest a very good 2/1 student. After taking a BSc honours degree in Sydney, she found that there was no work for a woman scientist though there was for men with a lesser qualification. Borrowing money from her family, she went to Edinburgh in 1895 and took a medical degree. She returned to Sydney, where she found it hard to establish a practice. In 1905, she had the chance to buy the practice of a woman doctor in Wellington and she worked in Upper Willis Street until she retired. For twenty-eight years she was also medical officer at St Helen's Hospital, Wellington. In World War One she was head of a hospital in Serbia; this was financed by the Scottish Women's Hospitals, an outcome of the women's suffrage movement.

She was proud of her connection with Cheltenham Ladies' College and attended the celebrations there on the centenary of Miss Beale's birth. But it is difficult to know what she may have gained from her schooling there and at Dulwich, both because she was a very bright child before she went to England and because she was barely nine when she left.<sup>20</sup>

After going to boarding school in or near Sydney, Harry trained as an engineer in England, leaving Australia at the age of twenty-three. He built up a reasonably good business in Newcastle. His success cannot be attributed to his English schooling because he had none. I feel bound to point out, however, that Harry is no advertisement for Australian schools since he was the least literate of the seven. Frank claimed that Harry's inability to write properly harmed his career. Like Frank, he married in England someone already linked by family friendship with the Bennetts. He was the only one of the seven to have children and was to prove an irritable father to his daughter and two sons, taking little pleasure in their company on the whole, an attitude very different from his own father's. Al, Fan and Frank believed that Harry's marriage was unhappy. I do not consider them to be unbiased witnesses but from what evidence I have seen it does not seem especially happy.<sup>21</sup>

The plan to take the children to England was, I believe, misconceived. The schools were good but three or four years in England could not help all of them: the seven were inevitably at different ages and stages. The ones most likely to benefit were the three oldest, thirteen to fifteen when they arrived. But no careers were planned for Al and Fan and all they did for many years after returning was help with the family and visit friends. Their mother's death was certainly the cause of their domestic load but I am not sure whether any training would have been planned for them if she had lived.

Alf, Wal and Agnes were probably too young for their English schooling to have had any serious long-term effect.

If the plan was not a success in career terms, in personal terms it was a disaster, leading as it did to Mrs Bennett's death and Mr Bennett's