

Anglican deaconess and then managed a girl's hostel in India for some time. She also worked briefly in a mission to Maoris but there is virtually no evidence about this in the correspondence. In 1912, she asked Agnes if she could keep house for her in Wellington and Agnes very painfully had to refuse her. Al gave up work in her fifties and spent her later years in England. It is hard to think that her English education, even though she was reasonably successful at school, helped her career in any way.¹⁵

Fan at the age of twenty-six began training as a nurse in Sydney. She became a sister, nursed in France in World War One and like Al retired in her fifties (all the family had small but useful incomes from the trust by this time.) She too ended her days in England. Al and Fan wanted to live with Wal in Sydney but since Wal had for a long time been sharing a house with Jane and her daughter, this was impossible. They recognised, moreover, that England had much to offer them, in particular a subculture of single women and widows, into which they fitted. They lived in boarding houses and private hotels, always in touch, seldom together; I suspect each preferred more cheerful company. It seems unlikely that Fan's career gained significantly from her English schooling.¹⁶

Frank studied medicine at King's College, London, and wrestled with letters of advice from his father. In one letter Mr Bennett complained that Frank gave too little detail when he wrote, a little later he complained of too much. He criticised Frank for showing off, and emphasised how much money he spent on him and what a poor return he seemed to be getting for it. Above all he urged Frank to work hard and 'to cultivate all the Australians you can', two things which were not very compatible, as Frank pointed out. Frank failed several examinations and did not complete his degree until after his father's death. Although Mr Bennett hoped he would return to Australia to practise, Frank, whose professional contacts and friends were all in England, never did this.

When about thirty, Frank was appointed as doctor to the Army and Navy Stores in London and stayed there till just before his death in 1927. He also had a private practice in ophthalmology which he gave up as it dwindled to nothing. He served in Paris with the Red Cross in World War One. His salary at the Stores after the war was £1500, a good one for the time, but his work does not sound like the sort of thing that anyone seriously interested in medicine would pursue for thirty years.

At the age of forty-five, he married a woman not much younger, whose family had known the Bennetts in Sydney, a woman Frank had known for twenty odd years. The relationship between her and Al and Fan was poor. Not getting on with in-laws was a Bennett tradition, firmly exemplified by Frank's parents. Frank carried this a stage further