



**Medical attention from a New Zealand doctor.**

thing more intangible — racial self-confidence. Perhaps discretion and wisdom are more required of us than generosity.

If we can, we must help the native to build up a new life which will be as well-knit as his old pagan one. This will require a professional service of enlightened administrators, freed, if possible, from a policy which places the interests of the native in a subordinate position. The process of reconstruction should be fostered from within the native races, rather than imposed from above.

Medical care and education are major needs. The aim, however, should be to make an educated native, not a European. The mild controversy as to whether

natives should be admitted to New Zealand colleges probably misses the point. A native educated for years in New Zealand might be unfit to resume the simple life of a Solomons village. It is unlikely that white people in any number will ever wish to live in such a climate, so no problem of colour discrimination need ever hamper progressive plans. There should be a gradual and tactful introduction of scientific improvements into native agriculture, and old handicrafts which could still have a useful function should be revived. New crafts which would assist the rise of living standards could also be introduced. It seems unfair, and is probably unwise, to leave education to the privately financed missions.

At Vella we knew an intelligent youth from Choiseul who had been educated in mission schools, and now wished to be trained at Suva Medical College as soon as conditions would permit. Every ambition was subordinated to this desire. When we who knew him wished to give him little things, he gently refused, and said in his charming English: "I need nothing but education." These islands where we have been stationed are populated with childlike people, of whom many are talented, like this boy. As a reward for their loyalty, if for no nobler reason, they deserve our utmost consideration.



**Going aboard a barge.**