

than neck-to-knee swimming costumes of the early twenty-first century. Gone too is the racial exclusivity that forbade the usage of the baths by non-white New Zealanders during the 1920s. However, what remains is the blurred relationship between leisure and pleasure. My laps, and those of other swimmers, were dutifully performed with regard to health and physical well-being in a culture that continues to equate fitness with virtue in a way Eugen Sandow would have appreciated. Also very much in evidence was the pleasure physical activity can provide both of itself, and in the social interaction it provides. Similarly, the pleasures of looking at other bodies are also evident in 2003, and overlap with the leisure pursuits of maintaining the fit body. The bodies described in Daley's book as sites of control and resistance, leisure and pleasure, have changed in shape and form throughout the twentieth century. What remains are the contemporary cults of physicality and surveillance that are simultaneously upheld, and resisted by, individuals enjoying their own, and other people's, corporeality.

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1 See Richard Dyer, *White*, London & New York, 1997.

2 For a description of the 'docile body' see Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, Harmondsworth, 1991 [first published 1975]. For reflections on the failure of Foucault to take into account the politics of resistance, see I. Diamond & L. Quinby (eds), *Feminism & Foucault: Reflections on Resistance*, Boston, 1988.

While You're Away: New Zealand Nurses at War 1899–1948. By Anna Rogers. Auckland University Press, Auckland, 2003. 352 pp. NZ price: \$39.99. ISBN 1-86940-301-0.

'WHEN NEW ZEALAND'S SONS were serving the Empire in the field it was only right that her daughters, who were able and willing, should be allowed to do so too.' Or so argued Dr Marshall Macdonald the President of the Dunedin branch of the New Zealand Trained Nurses' Association in 1914. Anna Rogers' book ably details the struggle of New Zealand nurses to establish a military nursing service. In the Anglo-Boer war 30 New Zealand women sidestepped the New Zealand government's refusal to send nurses to accompany the troops by paying their own way, appealing to the British government for financial assistance, or funding their work by public donation. At the beginning of the Great War nurses and their supporters criticized the government for its foot-dragging over the implementation of pre-war proposals for an Army Nursing Service. The first 50 nurses eventually left New Zealand in April 1915, and although they and the nurses who followed them did much to improve the standard of care for injured soldiers their status remained ambiguous. Despite prior agreements that the nurses were to have officer rank, it was widely believed that the law allowed only men to be members of the armed services. Nurses were paid less than orderlies and, particularly on hospital ships, could often find themselves in dispute with senior officers about their relative duties and entitlements. Nor were post-war arrangements smooth. After returning home the Boer war nurses found themselves fighting for the gratuities they were entitled to; returned World War I nurses discovered they had been omitted from the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act and the Repatriation Act. By World War II, the status of nurses was clearer; the newly formed New Zealand Nursing Council assisted government and the military authorities in recruiting for the NZANS and by May 1940 more than 1200 nurses had volunteered. Six hundred would eventually serve overseas. Discrimination against women who married while in service was less pronounced and returned nurses were eligible for rehabilitation loans and study grants. The domestic imperative was still in place however,

and Rogers outlines the way in which women who had made careers out of active war service found themselves transported back to a society which still assumed women's primary concerns were with home-making, child-rearing and the care of elderly family members. The book's 'Epilogue', dealing with the post-war experiences of the World War II cohort of army nurses is the weakest section of the work, reflecting perhaps the daunting task of following the subsequent histories of 600 individuals. The Returned Army Sisters' Association was a lifeline for some; others, Rogers suggests, stoically accepted the separation between their war service and their peacetime lives, 'you couldn't talk to [other women at Plunket] about the war . . . nobody was interested' (p.320).

For all its sensitivity to issues of status and discrimination, this is primarily a narrative history aimed at a general audience more interested in 'who, where and when' than 'why and so what?' It is attentive to interpretive issues relating to the professionalization of nursing and the gendering of war service, but the primary focus is on documenting the contribution of these women to successive war efforts. Some veteran nurses published memoirs and autobiographies, and the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* has given due attention to detailing the life histories of military nurses. But, there was still a considerable gap in the literature which *While You're Away* fills with aplomb. As Rogers argues, 'it was time to tell the story of the New Zealand women who nursed overseas and to hear more of their experiences in their own words, both spoken and written' (p.2). And Rogers does just that with a wealth of period detail, sympathetically rendering both the trials and the joys of military nursing. The greatest strength of the book is its depiction of individual women's responses to war. The desperate anger of Bessie Teape, marooned in an overcrowded South African tent hospital watching man after man die of typhoid, sepsis and dysentery, who sent back home for her savings to buy medical supplies and warm clothing for her patients; Hester Maclean, the formidable Matron-in-Chief, kicking up her heels playing deck games on board ship with the first contingent of World War I nurses; Jeannie Sinclair on the upper deck of the ill-fated hospital ship, the *Marquette*, watching a green line coming through the water and wondering if it was a torpedo; Gay Trevithick assisting Alexander Fleming testing his new 'wonder drug', penicillin, on World War II shrapnel wounds; Nora Fleming, also nursing in the Second World War, cutting the plaster from a maggot-infested leg and being admonished by the surgeon in charge for not chasing the maggots fast enough; all now have their place in the historical record.

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ANZAC: A Retrospect. By Cecil Malthus. Reed Books, Wellington, 2002. 165 pp. NZ price: \$24.95. ISBN 0-79000-850-5; *Armentières and the Somme*. By Cecil Malthus. Reed Books, Wellington, 2002. 147 pp. NZ price: \$24.95. ISBN 0-79000-851-3.

WHEN *ANZAC: A RETROSPECT* was first published in 1965, 50 years after the Gallipoli Campaign which it describes, Cecil Malthus self-mockingly called it a 'museum piece'. The reality is that this book and its previously unpublished companion, *Armentières and the Somme*, describing Malthus's subsequent experience on the Western Front, are national treasures providing classic accounts of a New Zealander's experience in the World War I.

Malthus, a teacher at Nelson College, began his war service as a private in the 1st Canterbury Battalion. He went through the whole Gallipoli campaign and as a member of a patrol of scouts was often at the forefront, including a stint at Quinn's Post, the attack over the 'Daisy Patch' at Cape Helles, and the assault on Chunuk Bair in August 1915. In *Armentières and the Somme*, Malthus, now promoted sergeant, relates the experience