

eventually erected in Symonds Street at a cost of over £2000, and handed over to the City of Auckland by the Victoria League free of debt.

Whilst the European War lasted, the work of the Auckland Branch naturally consisted of helping our country's cause in those spheres where the energy of its members would be most usefully employed—in Red Cross work.

It was the first organised body in New Zealand to engage in this work, and it carried on this activity for a very considerable time before other bodies were organised for the purpose.

The Red Cross Committee of the League, a large and devoted body of workers under the presidency of Mrs. Hope Lewis, and later under that of Mrs. J. L. R. Bloomfield, worked incessantly during the struggle, making and despatching some 105,000 garments and 11,000 bandages, besides collecting the sum of £6500 for the relief of war suffering.

This large sum was distributed amongst various organisations. Thus to the British Red Cross was sent £2414, sheepskin coats for the soldiers were provided at a cost of £400, and St. Dunstan's Hospital for Blind Soldiers received £500. Other hospitals received various amounts, and, besides providing a motor ambulance for France at a cost of £450, invalid tricycles, wheeled chairs and many other comforts for soldiers were purchased.

The first work of the Hospitality Committee was to provide 200 homes for a month

for the members of the Sheffield Choir when that body visited New Zealand, and this Committee from time to time has had the pleasure and privilege of entertaining many visitors from overseas.

For about ten years the Victoria League Book Committee has sent books to settlers in the back-blocks of New Zealand and to the Cook, Pitcairn and Niue Islands, and under the direction of Mrs. J. Finn still carries on this work in co-operation with the Mayoress's War Memorial Library Committee. Last year Mrs. Finn and her assistants despatched 500 books and 700 magazines, and the fact that this work is highly appreciated is evidenced by the numerous letters of thanks and appreciation which have been received from the recipients.

Miss Holland, as hon. secretary to the Children's Correspondence Committee, has linked up some 1000 New Zealand children in correspondence with others throughout the Empire, and many warm friendships have been formed thereby.

Each Anzac Day and Armistice Day wreaths are placed upon soldiers' and sailors' graves in Waikumete and O'Neill Point cemeteries by the Graves Committee.

Under the direction of Mr. F. Carr Rollett, the Advice to Settlers' Committee renders valuable assistance by giving practical information to new arrivals, and, although the chief purpose of this committee's work is to assist those who wish to go on the land or to learn farming, it has been

instrumental in finding positions for many of those who were seeking other vocations.

Judging by the number of letters received from India, Canada, South Africa and other countries where the Victoria League has branches, it is evident that New Zealand has an enviable reputation in these countries, and that very little inducement would be needed to bring many desirable immigrants to its shores.

At the request of this Committee, the Government Immigration Department has been kind enough to forward a considerable amount of literature overseas, and the Labour Bureau has also rendered valuable assistance.

It is gratifying to find that in most cases people arriving in New Zealand with letters of introduction from the Victoria League are cheerful and full of confidence for the future. Undoubtedly, New Zealand has been enriched by these additions to its population.

After the termination of the war, the Red Cross Committee handed to the Auckland Provincial Patriotic and War Relief Association the balance of its fund, approximating £3500, and has resolved itself into an Ever-ready Committee, assisting in all charitable works in the city.

Upon the death of the late Dr. Hope Lewis, Dr. R. Bedford became president, and was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Napier, who acted as delegate of the Auckland Branch at the Annual Meeting in London in 1921. The presidential chair is now occupied by Mr. W. Lind Mitchell.

QUEEN'S DOLLS' HOUSE & Crowns Smaller than Thimbles

LAST year English papers announced that the fine work of one of the very few women gold and jewel-smiths had brought her an Associateship of the Royal Society of Miniature Painters at 18 years of age.

Since that time Miss Winifred Whiteside, the young craftswoman, has been honoured with the most interesting commission ever likely to fall to her lot.

She has been chosen to fashion the replicas in miniature of the crowns of the King and Queen, which are to be used in a certain connection inside the Queen's dolls' house. This house has been planned by Sir Edwin Lutyens, and is now being delightfully furnished by the foremost artists and craftsmen of the day.

The crowns are to be exactly one-twelfth of the size of the originals. Only real stones are to be used, and diamonds no bigger than the size of a pin's head will glitter in these marvels of the jewel-smith's art.

In order that the Royal jewels might be faithfully copied, Miss Whiteside, who is not yet 22 years of age, was allowed to examine them. She was invited to make a special visit to Buckingham Palace, where she also saw a Queen Anne coffee set, part of the Royal plate.

This coffee set is also being copied in miniature.

Some idea of the dainty tininess of these embellishments for the dolls' house, which is to portray the last luxuries of the domestic interiors of this era, may be gathered from the fact that each of the crowns and the miniature coffee pot can be covered by an ordinary thimble.

Describing this wonderful Lilliputian dwelling, a correspondent says:—

Imagine a square, white-fronted Georgian house of correct architecture and planned in every detail, with the Corinthian columns and wide windows of the period, every window being perfectly fitted

to open and shut on a sliding sash. Imagine this miracle among dolls' houses fitted with electric light in every room, even the tiny candlesticks on its dinner table lit with electric bulbs about a quarter the size of your little finger nail.



Front of the dolls' house, covering sixty feet square. The builder is Major Sir Neville Wilkinson, Ulster King at Arms.

Electric Lifts

PICTURE lifts, a passenger lift and a luggage lift, working automatically. Endow the kitchen with a gas cooker and an Eagle range in miniature, both perfect working models.

Picture the reception-rooms, drawing-room, and dining-room panelled, and with exquisite diminutive carving over mantelpieces and doors. See the mantelpieces, exact copies of the Georgian period, made of marble. In the library, on the ground floor, imagine bookshelves, perfectly carved and fitted to shift up and down in the regulation manner, lined with volumes about an inch square, all properly bound and printed. On the other side of the panelled library door is the grand staircase of marble and

lapis-lazuli. There is another staircase, more modest, yet equally correct to scale.

A famous artist, Mr. William Nicholson, is to paint the ceiling above the grand staircase. Other great painters have made minute copies of their pictures to hang on the walls of the salon and dining-room.

Hot and Cold Water

EVERYTHING which would be wanted in a house—glass, china, silver, and kitchen utensils—is fashioned to scale and quite perfect of its kind. In this doll's house there are none of those heart-breaking tables with drawers which won't open, and teapots which do not pour out, which have disillusioned so many little girls.

Even central heating is installed everywhere. The hot and cold water system works far more accurately than in many "grown-up" houses.

On the floors Persian carpets, exact replicas of the real rugs in design and texture, will be laid down.

In the garage adjoining the dolls' house there will be three model motor cars, one of them a Rolls-Royce with a self-starter, for the use of the fortunate Lilliputians who are to be privileged to live in it.

These dolls, for whom the house has been designed, are but six inches tall, but so made that they can move, and posture in perfectly natural attitudes. They will represent a King and Queen, the members of their Court and suite, and beyond that there will be a doll representing every profession: soldier, sailor, lawyer, politician, artist, and the rest.

The work expended in the construction of this Arabian Nights wonder of a dolls' house is immense.

It is being presented to the King by Sir Edwin Lutyens and the eminent artists and architects of Great Britain, and will not be completed for at least a year.