

regard to the adults—always a stiff-necked generation—we have got nothing practical started, and with regard to the juniors, we have simply had recourse to the old time-honoured method of a games club. Any of the boys and girls in the street can join this club, the total possible being about twenty-five. Our best attendance hitherto has been eighteen, though two or three of these came from a neighbouring street. Our ground is no expense to us, as we use a spot in Hagley Park, distance a few minutes' walk. Our good fortune in this particular is very noticeable, and it makes one wish everybody were within a few minutes' walk of a Hagley Park. Our expenses for material have not yet been large. We have bought a tennis ball and borrowed a racquet, and thereby are well equipped for rounders. We bought a broomstick, divided it off in inches, and with the addition of a piece of rope find ourselves well provided with respect to jumping. A well-known firm of builders gave us a couple of pieces of timber for vaulting poles, and a young professional carpenter in our street planed them down for us, providing us so well in this respect that several of our girls have already well-defined ambitions in pole-vaulting. The poles also serve for tug-of-war. Our racing consists of two parts, the first part—a short sprint of sixty yards—forming the opening item of our programme; while the second part comes later on, and comprises running for distance, the space hitherto covered ranging from 300 to 500 yards. We divide our attendants into classes, according to age, for almost every item, and try to arrange handicaps, so that the competitors will end up in a bunch. The firsts and seconds are recorded.

With regard to our time of meeting, we finally decided upon 6 a.m. every Saturday morning. We shall, of course, have to alter this hour when the football season comes on; but during the present summer months it is very suitable indeed. The grass is, of course, more or less dewy in the early morning, but we surmount this difficulty by playing in bare feet.

We have had, of course, to suffer the inevitable obstacles that proceed from illwill, and from class distinction. Some, very scrupulous in all points of church observance, deem themselves too superior to mix with the commonality of the street; others, again, members of families, between whom a feud has arisen, refuse to associate; and yet again, some are of opinion that boys and girls should be kept separate—that girls do not require out-of-door sports, and that running and jumping are immodest for girls of fifteen.

Of course it was observed at the outset that the main obstacle to the success to the older girls was their style of dress, and this has become so very apparent that suitable clothing is now simply a

matter of money to buy material, and leisure to make it up.

So far, the general effect of the club has been to enlarge, perhaps, the thoughts and sympathies of the residents in the street, and to help the boys and girls—especially the girls—towards better health.

J. R. WILKINSON.

Christchurch.

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#### WORK.

Strong gales keep the clouds from raining,  
Work lulls the sad heart's complaining;  
Through the fret and the toil runs the weary ache;  
Yet Duty grows dear for her own grave sake,  
And muscles are stronger for straining.

Each life has some prize for gaining,  
Each wound has a balm for its paining;  
So we seek for it long in faith and in prayer,  
For the finger of God is everywhere,  
While the days are dawning and waning.

Though the mildew its leaves are staining,  
The rose has some scent remaining:  
Through the darkest hour still trust in the light:  
What the hand has to do, let it do it with might:  
Strong gales keep the clouds from raining.

—SUSAN K. PHILLIPS.

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### Notes and Comments.

#### NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. S. B.—Thanks for contribution. Obligated to hold over till next issue.

MRS SHEPPARD.—As our readers are doubtless aware, the Editor-in-chief is once more in our midst, after a pleasant passage in the Gothic. Unfortunately her state of health is far from satisfactory, and almost absolute rest and quiet have been enjoined.

DUNEDIN CONVENTION.—We are requested to state that the date of meeting has not yet been definitely fixed. It is proposed to hold it simultaneously with the Prohibition League Convention, so that through the joint efforts the public meetings may be made notable affairs.

THE Canterbury Women's Institute, we understand, are endeavouring to arrange for a convention of workers representing the various women's organisations of New Zealand. Christchurch is, of course, to be the rendezvous, and it is thought that about the end of March may prove a convenient time.

THE need for such a convention is only too apparent. Union is strength, but before we can unitedly ask for legislative reform, we must know