

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## THE WHITE RIBBON.

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## Healthful Legislation.

WE regret to notice that the Editor of the *Lyttelton Times*, in the issue of February 4th, saw fit to throw his influence into the scale with those who would—in a most illiberal spirit—force an enactment on one half of the community, without the consent of that half, and in face of its re-iterated protest. It is useless to tell us, at this time of day, that the object is a hygienic one. We have abundance of proof, on the very highest medical authorities, to the contrary—proof that was so conclusive to the English Parliament that it resulted in the Acts being swept from the Statute Books of the Country in 1886. Are all England's leaders fools? How is it that no attempt has been made to re-instate those Acts?

We are aware that there are still medical men, and their blind followers, who assert that the enforcement of the Acts is a deterrent to disease. If they honestly believe this, why in the name of common sense do they not propose to subject men, who are in a similarly diseased condition, to the same treatment? Had they recommended this course, we should have more faith in their sincerity. It does not require a college education, or a medical degree to see the fallacy, the stupidity, of the proposition to shut up half—perhaps the smaller half—of the infected community for treatment, while allowing the other—perhaps the larger half—to go free; free to spread the dire disease among other of their unfortunate fellow-creatures.

If this enactment were a hygienic one, it would also be a moral one, for hygiene and morality could not possibly disagree; but we deny that it is either, and we are prepared to bring the highest and strongest medical evidence to show that from a hygienic point of view the Acts are utterly useless.

Nor is there any good ground for supposing that they could be made useful even were men subjected to the same indignities as women.

The experience of authorities in the army, where men are, to a large extent, under supervision, shows this attempt to enforce the Acts have only resulted in greater secrecy, and the disease, thus concealed, becomes more terrible and widespread in its results.

We must not forget that what is morally wrong cannot be physically right; that God's laws are made for man's benefit, and that any attempt to evade them or their consequences, must result in failure. We trust that every good woman and every good man in this fair country will not rest until the C. D. Acts—those hideous blots on our Statute Books—are erased.

### Some Notable Women.

By K.W.S.

It was my privilege and pleasure when in England to meet with many of the world's best workers in the cause of Humanity, and it may interest the readers of the WHITE RIBBON to learn a little about them from a visitor's point of view.

I had not been many days in London when, on forwarding my letters of introduction to

#### LADY HENRY SOMERSET,

I received an invitation from her to visit Reigate Priory on the following day. As this was not the only opportunity I had of seeing her in her beautiful home, I can speak of her as a hostess; and a very charming hostess she was, being quietly thoughtful for her guest's comfort, and judiciously neglectful when occasion warranted. Her personal appearance is so well known through her many portraits that it is unnecessary to describe her in detail. Although in repose her face is somewhat sad, yet when speaking it lights up in a remarkable way, and she possesses the happy faculty of seeing the comic side of things quickly. On the platform she is easy and dignified; her words flow readily, and are well chosen. Her voice, even when she speaks in a low tone, "carries" well, and is rich in quality. She is clear as to her points, and logical in argument; and, as she speaks on the wrongs of suffering humanity, the listener is bound to acknowledge that, while her utterances evidently come straight from a full, loving heart, her brain is of no mean order, and head as well as heart does duty in her varied work.

#### MISS FRANCIS WILLARD,

our World's W.C.T.U. President, is also well known to us by her portraits, as well as by her remarkable organising work in connection with the Union for many years past. She is a born organiser and a born leader. While her physique is somewhat frail, her brain is strong and her vision clear. Her American accent is, to my mind, quaint, and has a strong fascination about it. In private she is bright and merry, and seems glad to "let go" from the strain of public work. As Chairwoman of Committee she is a model. As precise in technique as the veriest devotee of red-tape, she does not allow this precision to hamper free utterance, while, on the other hand, she does not allow time to be wasted. On the platform she is quite at home. If she is in the chair, her apt, quaint, witty remarks keep everything rolling smoothly, and when delivering an address one cannot but be struck by the breadth of her outlook, her faith in humanity, and her love for the race. Her style is epigrammatic and uncommon, and she is a curious mixture

of hard-headedness and emotional fervour. She is invariably listened to by the largest audiences with an eager, earnest attention, alternated by occasional outbursts of enthusiasm. I believe that one of the secrets of her successes is that she never sees obstacles. Once convinced that a thing is right, she goes straight on. And yet she is a born diplomat. And, now that I think of it, she is very difficult to describe, and I had better give her up, and turn to some one less complex.

#### MISS ANNA GORDON,

the World's W. C. T. U. Recording Secretary, travels everywhere with Miss Willard, and is her devoted friend and co-worker. She has a sweet, earnest face, and a gentle, yet purpose-like manner. Besides her secretaryship, which is no light work, she has been superintendent of the Loyal Temperance Legion for many years, and has been very successful in spreading the idea of the Legion in other countries, and giving them hints for carrying on the work. Like Miss Willard, she is not very strong physically, but she has a good brain, and gives heart and soul to Temperance work. Naturally of a retiring disposition, she does very little in the way of public speaking, excepting what is necessary as an officer of the Union.

#### MISS SLACK,

the World's Corresponding Secretary of the W. C. T. U. is strong physically and mentally, bright and vivacious in manner, and enthusiastic and ardent in temperament. She is most energetic in Temperance work. Her letters are short and to the point. When on the platform she works up to a point of enthusiasm, and carries her audience with her perforce. Her style of speaking is quite parliamentary.

#### MRS WARD POOLE,

for many years secretary to the B.W.T.A., has lately become Lady Henry's Private Secretary. She is a pretty, graceful woman, with a clever brain, and a great deal of natural tact and good feeling. She speaks well in public, and without any pretence to oratory, is able to express herself with clearness and force. She is a general favourite.

#### MISS HELEN HOOD,

the Organising Secretary to the B.W.T.A., is an American by birth and education, and has a little of the quaint accent of that country. She is one of the busiest of the busy workers in the Temperance hive. She is often obliged, at very little notice, to travel to different parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, for the purpose of organising fresh branches of the B.W.T.A., and enthusiastically flagging branches. A large part of her work is necessarily done by correspondence. She is warm-hearted to the core, and loyal to those

with whom she works. During the Convention meetings in June last, her zeal was unflagging. I was very much struck at the manner in which she and Mrs Ward Poole answered to all the demands that were made on them; nothing came amiss to them, and their courtesy was unfailing. Miss Hood is esteemed and loved by all her fellow-workers.

*(To be continued).*

### **White Ribbon Work in the Taranaki District.**

A VERY promising branch of the W.C.T.U. was formed in New Plymouth some three months ago by Mr T. E. Taylor, who had the pleasure of finding a band of men and women asking to be formed into a society, and eager to set to work. Acting on his recommendation, the new Union decided to invite our Recording Secretary to come to Taranaki, and address meetings in the interests of White Ribbon work.

Our campaign accordingly opened with an afternoon meeting at Waitara on Saturday, January 4th, twelve miles from New Plymouth; and, in spite of a terrible downpour of rain, about thirty ladies and a few gentlemen assembled in the Town Hall to listen to a hopeful address by Miss L. M. Kirk on the origin and aims of the Union. Mrs Allen Douglas, V.P. New Plymouth Union, presided, and the meeting was very bright and pleasant.

On Sunday night, in spite of the pouring rain, between 700 and 800 people gathered in the Alexandra Hall, New Plymouth, after church service, when an interesting address on the Union motto was given. The Rev W. Potter presided, and gave an earnest, helpful address.

We had arranged for a meeting at Inglewood on Monday, and in spite of a severe thunderstorm, about eighty people turned out; and the chair was admirably taken by Mrs E. Howell. The address on pledge-signing and prohibition was earnestly argumentative, and about a dozen pledges were taken at the end, several of the signers being fine young men.

On Tuesday evening we held another meeting in the Alexandra Hall, which was charmingly decorated with blue and white chains, baskets of white flowers, and wreaths.

Mrs Drew, the President (of whom her co-workers are justly proud), took the chair, and the proceedings began with very good singing from a specially-formed choir of young ladies. The President then introduced Miss Kirk, who spoke at some length on the inception and growth of the W.C.T.U. Then came an interval, pleasantly filled with music from the choir, one or two action songs, with waving bouquets and bands of ribbon

white, being especially charming. Then followed a second speech from Miss Kirk, entitled "Prohibition: Does it Pay?" This proved most interesting, and was "freely irradiated by flashes of humour," as the newspaper man says.

On Wednesday evening, St. Mary's Hall was full to hear a homely talk on possibilities of work for our own Union. That meeting will, we hope, give us many new members.

At Hawera, on Thursday afternoon, a meeting of ladies was held to discuss the possibility of forming a Union; about fifty were present. It was felt that here as in New Plymouth, it is strongly incumbent on the temperance people to have a temperance booth at the A. and P. Show, that it may be made possible for visitors to avoid a possible temptation: the matter will probably be attended to in both towns this year. The evening meeting in the Wesleyan Church was a large and enthusiastic one; several ladies and gentlemen were good enough to fill the interval with songs, which helped the success of the meeting greatly. Mr Robbins, the energetic president of the Prohibition League, took the chair; and resolutions dealing with a proposed club charter were passed. Several clergymen were present, and three or four took part. The sympathy and kindness of nearly all the ministers in the district was most helpful and encouraging.

With such a band of workers, and such helpers as we have in Taranaki district, there can be no doubt as to the ultimate triumph of the W.C.T.U. in its warfare for the cause of God and Home and Humanity.

RURU.

### **A GAMES CLUB.**

WHEN people come actually to live in a poor street they soon perceive ways, and get incentives, that hitherto escaped them, for doing helpful work. This fact has been, I believe, more than once affirmed by Mr W. T. Stead, and has probably led many to make homes for themselves in the poorer quarters of a city. In our case, however, we were led by other considerations than philanthropy, and had it not been for a happy epicureanism—adapting ourselves to our circumstances—that infects us, we might easily have dropped into the common habit of looking for comfort in useless lamentations at our unenviable surroundings.

One thing has of late impressed itself upon us, and that is the need of making mere neighbourship a ground for sociability and friendliness. It seems to us that the residents of a street should be united, both socially and for effecting improvements in the street; and, with this end in view, we are considering how to form a neighbours' Guild in our street, and how to get a healthy spirit among the boys and girls and young people. With

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

the ground whereon we stand. Such dissension in the camp as was evidenced by the resolution of the Auckland Women's Liberal Association against the C. D. Acts will always prove a bar to progress. We, as women, need educating and enlightening as to the work to be done, and the best methods of performing that work.

**THE C.D. ACT.**—The decision of the Medical Congress to refer the question of the desirability of introducing or enforcing the C.D. Acts in these colonies to the next Congress for discussion cannot but be regarded as satisfactory from an abolitionist point of view. The evidence in favour of the Acts was evidently far from convincing. It is also exceedingly gratifying to note that the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Wesleyan Church Courts in N.Z. have each pronounced against the degrading laws. This being so, we have little fear that any attempt to enforce them would for one moment be tolerated.

**THE MEDICAL CONGRESS ON THE USE OF ALCOHOL.**—Space limit forbids more than a mere reference to the conclusion drawn from the above discussion by the *Lyttelton Times* in its issue of Feb. 12. That paper says that only one out of the 98 physicians took a view at all favourable to prohibition. We note that only 8 of the 98 are reported as taking part in the discussion; of these, Dr. Chapple is, of course, the staunch opponent of alcohol. Dr. Stenhouse said, "The subject of alcoholism was not one that he had given very much attention to" (His opinion is therefore valuable!) Dr. Mason's last word is: "Speaking from the physiological point of view, he thought there was no question that the teetotallers had the best end of the stick." Dr. Mickle thought healthy people did not require alcohol. (We are not aware that even prohibitionists propose to forbid alcohol a place on the druggists' shelves.) Dr. Symes thought that the use of such beer as was used in olden days (not "that supplied in the public-house of to-day,") would be better for the public health than the immoderate use of tea. Dr. Ogston would have strict moderation, and pointed out that in France, through the phylloxera ravages, wine was dear; Frenchmen had therefore taken to alcohol in some form or other; and, of course, drunkenness is on the increase. Dr. Springthorpe thought that when people were unhappy, by the use of one of these "stimulo-sedatives the individual got into paradise; it was a fool's paradise, of course." "He judged it better not to drink till after thirty." Does not the *Lyttelton Times* article need revision?

Just before we go to press, news comes of the defeat of Mr T. E. Taylor, the prohibitionist can-

didate in the Christchurch bye-election. Though disappointed, we are not disheartened, for "Right the day must win."

## Gleanings.

**DR. ANNIE McCALL** (Director Clapham Maternity Hospital, London,) recommends "The Voice of Science on Temperance" as a useful handbook. Price 1s 6d; published by the National Temperance Publication Depot, 33, Paternoster Row, London.

THE fifteenth report of the Inspector of Inebriate Retreats (Eng.) contains the following:—"In the case of the worst habitual drinkers no harm, but the reverse, is done to the health by the sudden and complete disuse of all alcoholic drinks."

**MILK v. ALCOHOL.**—The following are the official returns showing the reduced consumption of alcoholic liquors in St. Thomas's Hospital (London):—Ale and Porter: 1876, £422 10s 7d; 1894, £235 1s 3d. Wine: 1876, £563 5s 6d; 1894, £70 15s 10d. Spirits, including methylated: 1876, £456 0s 3d; 1894, £266 10s 0d. Milk: 1876, £1195 18s 1d; 1894, £2066 14s 1d.

THE women of the United Kingdom, on the 15th October, showed their appreciation of Sir James Stansfield's efforts in the cause of Women and Moral Reform, by presenting him with a testimonial. The personal part of the testimonial consisted of a beautiful bowl mounted on an ebony pedestal.

THE remainder of the money subscribed is to be turned into a trust, the object of which shall be the appointment of an official to watch future legislation in regard to women's social and political position.

**SIR J. STANSFIELD** made his first great speech twenty-one years ago, in the Colston Hall, Bristol, on behalf of the repeal of the C.D. Acts.

RECOGNISED houses of vice have been abolished in Christiania.

COMPULSORY medical examination of women for purposes of vice was abolished in the Hague in June last.

A **MISS HAMMOND** carries on the business of an auctioneer in Birmingham. When but sixteen she persuaded her mother to take out an auctioneer's license for her, and now wields the hammer and enjoys the whole business.

HITHERTO in France a married woman has had no legal right to claim her own earnings. They are the property of her husband. A Bill similar to the English Married Women's Property Act is now before the French Chamber, and it is hoped will be carried.

THE Armenian women of Constantinople have addressed a letter of appeal to Lady Henry Somerset, calling on the women of England to aid them in their distress.

A STRIKE of doctors recently took place in a Parisian suburb, the cause being that a lady doctor was appointed by the Mayor to take charge of a dispensary with five male physicians.

WOMEN AND PHONOGRAPHY. — A lady nearly seventy years of age recently won Sir Isaac Pitman's Theory certificate. In Denmark four ladies are in the service of the Parliament as reporters. In Finland there are two lady Parliamentary reporters, and one in Norway. In Russia every newspaper is said to have its female staff of reporters.

TOLERANCE comes with age. I see no fault committed that I myself could not have committed at some time or other.—*Goethe*.

MR RAREY, the great horse-tamer, has told us that he has known an angry word raise the pulse of a horse ten beats in a minute. Think, then, how it must affect a child.—*Lubbock*.

WHEN it becomes a recognised thing to fit every girl as every boy to become a worker in the world . . . then will there dawn the birth of a new day, which will bring a new happiness, a new purity, and a new earnestness to men and women.—*Shafts*.

"TRU currage is the knowledge ov right, and the determination tew dew it. False currage is a willingness tew dew rong bekause others sa it is right."

"CHILDREN," says Ruskin, "should have their times of being off duty, like soldiers."

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## Union and Temperance News

INVERCARGILL.—The annual meeting was held on February 4th, when the annual reports were read, and the retiring officers re-elected as follows:—President, Mrs Jones; Secretary, Miss Twemlow; Treasurer, Mrs Service. Vice-Presidents and Superintendents were also elected, and a new member was enrolled.

BLLENHEIM.—At the annual meeting the report and balance-sheet were submitted. From the former we learn that during the year a piano has been purchased for use in the rooms. Three lectures in aid of the funds have been kindly given by Mr Buick, M.H.R. During the winter months Saturday evening socials were held, and were well attended. The Union called a public meeting to discuss the Licensing Amendment Bill, and from this meeting a debating society sprang into existence. Three Drawing-room meetings and a Temperance picnic have been held, and

were well patronised. Temperance literature has been distributed by Mrs Brewer and others.

Miss Jackson, who helped us so much, having resigned, Mrs Penny was appointed in her place as custodian of the rooms, and to her careful management we are deeply indebted for the advances made lately. At present her place is held by Mrs Wheeler.

The following ladies have been elected to office for the ensuing year:—President, Mrs A. Litchfield; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Grace, Fee, McKenzie, Logan, and Penny; Treasurer, Mrs Griffen; Secretaries, Mesdames Rose and Douglas; Superintendent of Literature, Mrs Brewer; Reporter, Mrs Kerr.

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## Wellington Convention Reports.

### LYTTELTON.

We have still about our usual number of members, namely 21. Our literature department is always very successful under its superintendent, Mrs Bell, who gives a great deal of time to it. Mrs Webb, our Maori Work Superintendent, has been very energetic and painstaking in her department, books having been obtained from various sources and taken to the Maoris. If other Unions only knew how much they were appreciated I am sure they would do something of the same kind.

Our "Seamen's Rest" has been our chief work all through the year. It has been a great success, only it has required several special efforts to be made to raise sufficient funds. The Harbour Board now see that the Institution is greatly needed, and have decided to take it over in connection with their Sailors' Home.

We have twelve temperance meetings during the year, and the other three meetings in the month are devoted to evangelistic work.

### FEILDING.

Owing to a combination of uncontrollable circumstances our branch of the Union has not been carried on successfully during the last year, and consequently no correct report can really be made out. The Band of Hope department, conducted by Mrs J. C. Thompson, has done good work, the membership roll showing one hundred and eighty-two members, with an average attendance at the monthly meetings of about forty. The Union took an active part in arranging for the great Easter Temperance demonstration. Good work has also been done in the regular distribution of the "Prohibitionist." The Temperance Hall has been engaged for another year, and it is hoped that the meetings will be held more regularly, so that a better record may be forthcoming next year.

## ASHBURTON.

During the year we have held twenty meetings, including several Dorcas meetings. Moneys have been raised during the year by members of the Union for two special departments of temperance work in the colony. Subscribers have also been obtained for temperance literature.

*The Home.*

## DYSENTERY.

By A.W.

As it is high summer, and cases of this form of sickness are prevalent, I have been asked to say a few words regarding its natural mode of treatment. On the first symptoms an injection of a pint or a pint and a half of cold water will be found to be of great avail. This may be repeated twice or thrice, and in all probability the danger will be averted. But if the system has been weakened by drugs or by previous ill-health, then further remedies must be resorted to. We would strongly advocate the warm soapy sitz bath, followed by the cold sitz, accompanied with the laving of the abdomen and the gentle douche which in a previous number we have already described at length. After the patient is in bed, the legs and feet should be packed in hot soapy blankets, and afterwards well rubbed. They should never be allowed to get cold. To obviate this condition a bag or bottle of hot water, covered with a damp flannel, should be placed at the feet. Moist heat, not dry heat, is wanted; it is nature's method of imparting life. A lather of barilla soap should be made in the same way as a lather for shaving is made, and placed on the abdomen. A big washing basin full will not be too much. Over the lather spread a piece of flannel. After the soap has disappeared wring out towels from cold water and vinegar, and place them down the spine and across the abdomen, and renew them continually as long as there is too much heat.

There is much less danger when the heat is external than when it is wholly internal, though the discomfort is less. In such a case we would urge the more frequent cold injections, and the cold sitz bath. Two or three, or even more, may be necessary in one day, but care must be taken that the patient be well warmed after these baths by rubbing or other means.

With regard to the diet the rule is to give the patient little, and not to urge him to eat as long as he does not ask for it. Sips of cold water should be administered at short intervals, and when the patient is desirous of food nothing more nourishing can be given than oatmeal jelly. We cannot too

strongly urge upon mothers and other guardians of the sick the adoption of these methods, which certainly must plead guilty to the charge of "quackery," if by that is meant that the drug system so long followed, and with such ill success, is ignored.

Loving hearts have been touched by the anguish of poor suffering humanity, and in their desire to help have found truths which they would fain impart to all.

A STIMULANT.—Pure cayenne pepper is a powerful but valuable remedy. It should be used judiciously; a small pinch in a tablespoonful of hot water will usually remove most violent pain.

Don't think that anything is good enough for the boys, and that they don't care for nice things. Have their rooms fitted up as nicely as possible. Let them understand that their rooms are to be kept in order, and the result will justify the pains.

*Children's Corner.*

## DUTY AND INCLINATION.

"Stay at home," said Inclination,  
"Let the errand wait."

"Go at once," said Duty, sternly,  
"Or you'll be too late."

"But it rains," said Inclination,  
"And the wind is keen."

"Never mind all that," said Duty,  
"Go and brave it, Jean."

Jean stepped out into the garden,  
Looked up at the sky;  
Clouded, shrouded, dreary, sunless,  
Rain unceasingly.

"Stay," again said Inclination.  
"Go," said Duty, "go."

Forth went Jean with no more waiting,  
Or a selfish "No."

You will smile if now I tell you  
That this quiet strife,  
Duty conquering Inclination,  
Strengthened all her life.

—*Children's Friend.*

"THE floral emblem of the World's W.C.T.U. is the water-lily. The roots of this blossom are in the mud, but its white radiance comes from its passion for the sunshine; and the home finds in it a true emblem, because, only as the sunshine of love and truth keeps its atmosphere wholesome and pure can little children hope to grow up according to the law of God."

IF we can't inherit a good name, at least we can do our best to leave one.—*Thackeray.*

## Prayer-Book and Ledger.

By M.S.P.

A STORY FOUNDED ON FACT.

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### CHAPTER VIII.

Day after day did "Mother Broome" persevere with her self-appointed task. She visited her patient at all hours; took her out for drives; took her to her own home; made her go into society once more; and at last, one day, when three-months-old Eric had added his unconscious influence, Gertrude agreed to sign the pledge. Then her good angel sent for Richard.

"Mr Joyce," she said, her voice trembling with suppressed eagerness, "your wife has made up her mind to sign the pledge, and abstain altogether, but we must have your help. You have alcohol in the house, I know—in the decanters and in the cellar; will you empty it all away before we go any further, and take the pledge with Mrs Joyce? We can do nothing more until you do this."

After a few minutes' thought, Richard left the room. He emptied away the wine in the cellar, and then, turning the decanters upside down into the sink, carried them into the dining-room. Humbly and prayerfully did the husband and wife append their signatures to the modest blue and white card, and then knelt and asked God's blessing upon the step they had taken. Mrs Broome rose from her knees and, softly stealing from the room, left them alone.

The ups and downs, the hopes and fears, which followed, can be realised only by those who have passed through a similar experience. But Gertrude steadily held on her way in spite of all, and Mrs Broome rarely let a day pass without visiting her charge. Sometimes she would go home very down-hearted, feeling it almost impossible that the struggle could last much longer. Every ring at the door-bell made her start with apprehension, and when, in fear and trembling, she again visited "Glenalder" her heart would be filled with thankfulness at finding she still might hope. Upon one of these visits she found the young mother seated in the rocking-chair with her baby at her breast. The probability of this had not occurred to the elder woman, and she spoke at once.

"Do you know what you are doing, Mrs Joyce? You are giving that child a taste for alcohol. You must give up nursing him at once, my dear!"

Gertrude's implicit reliance upon her good friend was touching to behold.

"Am I?" she said. "Oh, I never thought of that! I will give it up at once;" and she laid the now sleeping infant upon her knee.

Next day Mrs Broome had to go to town, and upon arriving at home again, about 9 p.m., her husband said, "There's been a young gentleman here for you in a desperate state of mind, and he'll be back again at ten."

(Mrs Broome loyally kept the sad secrets confided to her care, and although her husband was sometimes interested in hearing details of her "cases," not even he had any clue to their names.)

The next hour was passed in much trepidation. What had happened? Had the poor victim fallen once more? Ten o'clock arrived at last, and with it Richard, who explained that the baby was seriously ill, and would take nothing, and his mother almost beside herself with anxiety. The carriage was waiting, and a few minutes sufficed to bring them to the scene of trial. Arrived in the nursery, Gertrude was seen bending in agony over the cradle, where the baby was screaming lustily, while the nurse in vain endeavoured to feed him with bread and milk.

"You've killed my baby—you've killed him!" exclaimed the mother in excited tones.

Mrs Broome's experienced eye speedily grasped the situation.

"He will be all right directly," she said; and hastily descending the stairs, she jumped into the carriage and drove to the nearest chemist's shop. Having purchased a tin of infant's food and a feeding-bottle she returned, prepared the food, and presented herself once more in the nursery, where Master Eric was still improving the occasion to the best of his ability. Taking him in her arms she soon succeeded in coaxing him to take the bottle, and, quite exhausted, he dropped into a profound slumber, while Gertrude fell upon her friend's neck and overpowered her with grateful expressions of affection.

(To be continued.)

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WHEN will the public and especially working men and the lower middle classes make a thorough study of Socialist economics and come to see that, as far as the good of the whole community is concerned, private enterprise is a failure all round.—*Labour Chronicle*.

INTEREST—or rather usury, as it was formerly called—was expressly forbidden by the Bible, the great Pagan philosophers, and the Christian Church. Exacting interest was a criminal offence in England until the reign of Henry VIII., and was not generally permitted until that of James I.—*English Paper*.