

The subjects dealt with have been the various phases of the Prohibition movement, and the laws of Heredity and Physiology, and the necessity for Social Purity.

MARY KIRKLAND,  
Superintendent.

#### UNFERMENTED WINE.

A great deal of correspondence was carried on during the year on this very important subject. The Superintendent made vigorous efforts to get some firm to take the matter up as a business question, but all replied that in the meantime the demand would not justify much outlay. If medical men could be urged to take the subject up, it would soon be settled. A Napier friend testified to the beneficial results of this wine on a person who had "run down," and who was completely restored to health through its agency. In August 1,000 leaflets were printed and distributed among the Unions, asking the Presidents of each to send copies to all ministers of the Anglican Churches, and their Churchwardens; also to Presbyterian ministers and their Elders and Deacons.

In September the Dunedin W.C.T.U. presented a petition through Canon Webb, urging the use of Unfermented Wine at the Lord's Table. Four ministers said they would use it forthwith.

AGNES W. BEGG,  
Superintendent.

#### JUVENILE WORK.

The Napier Union reports persistent work in the direction of persuading school committees to make more use of Dr. Richardson's Text Book supplied by the Union to the school.

Miss Hewson, Christchurch Superintendent, reports that thirty-one meetings of the Sewing Class have been held during the year. There are fifty-eight names on the roll, and the largest attendance has been thirty-eight. Some of the girls have attended with great regularity, one having never missed a meeting. Recently the class spent a very pleasant afternoon at Sumner, by the kind invitation of Mrs. Buttle, of the Deaf Mute Institution. Several ladies kindly contributed provisions, and the excursion proved a great treat. Miss Hewson desires to thank several ladies who have kindly helped in the cutting-out of the clothes, which afterwards (on payment of a small sum) became the property of the children; also different ladies and gentlemen who have visited the class, encouraging the children by short addresses, and by hearing their songs and recitations.

Miss Sears, Dunedin, reports that a very large amount of work is being done in the city by Bands of Hope, Juvenile Lodges, and Junior Christian Endeavour Societies. Miss Sears and her co-workers visit monthly two or three of these Bands, giving regular instruction to the children.

Hokitika reports a Sewing Class for girls under 15 years of age, which was attended by sixteen girls. Much interest was taken, and as a reward for diligence a few cookery lessons were given them. The Superintendent reports having distributed literature, which was appreciated.

MRS. G. A. BROWN,  
Superintendent.

#### PARLIAMENTARY REPORT.

Three petitions have been forwarded to the House as directed by Wellington Convention—that for Inebriate Homes in the four centres through Mr. G. J. Smith, M.H.R. for Christchurch, and those for the repeal of the C. D. Acts and raising the age of consent through Mr. Button, M.H.R. for Auckland. Formal replies that they had been referred to the Petitions Committee for favourable consideration were received, but nothing further has been heard of them. Several Women's Societies of different names have been forwarded

through your superintendent to Dr. Newman, approving of his Removal of Political Disabilities of Women Bill; but in spite of this encouragement the Doctor was unable to save the Bill.

L. M. KIRK,  
FOR MRS. SHEPPARD.

#### WORK AMONG THE MAORIS.

##### THE NEW ZEALAND SUPERINTENDENT'S SECOND ANNUAL REPORT.

We have held many interesting and important meetings among the Maoris with good results. The number of pledges taken were 21. Twenty-four of these were taken by Victoria (Mrs Davis), of Patiki, Wanganui, and twenty-seven by Mrs Webb, of Lyttelton. We have distributed badges to all those who have kept their pledge one year—having again visited those who signed last year—and we were richly rewarded in having fulfilled our promise to do so by the approval and pleasure expressed by the Maoris at seeing us again. The most unsatisfactory cases were those at Levin, which is all the more to be regretted as there is a branch of the W.C.T.U. there, and also a flourishing Good Templars' Lodge, which should be a help to them. The social held in Wellington for Maoris and Europeans was so successful that people have suggested it should be an annual gathering during the session. Besides being a return and recognition of the hospitality shown by the Maoris to us when visiting in their districts, it also gives an opportunity for the display of Maori talent in singing and speech-making.

In October we again visited Petone, where we obtained twenty signatures to the pledge, and had very interesting meetings in the house of the chief Te Pahi, two of the sons taking part in them, and one of them deciding to be a clergyman. He said, It is my desire to preach Jesus Christ to my people, but I shall not fail to warn them against "waipiro." Why did not the early missionaries warn us against "waipiro," as you are doing now?

In November I held meetings at Manakau, one being a tea-meeting, which gave great satisfaction. One fine young chief said it was the first time he had ever been invited to meet the Maori and Pakeha together, or seen them so friendly together. He said Mrs Hewett came to see us a year ago and warned us against taking the "waipiro." We listened to her words, and we have become a sober people. Another chief, an old Maori who had a very dry humour, said, "When the Pakeha first came to New Zealand they offered the Maori Christianity and the 'waipiro,' and they have accepted both. Now Mrs Hewett comes to us and tells us the 'waipiro' is bad. So now we accept the Christianity without the 'waipiro.'" I then presented these two chiefs with silver pledges, on which was inscribed the words—"Kia pono: Be faithful"—amidst the hearty applause of both Europeans and Maoris. Two of the ringleaders in drunkenness signed the pledge, a man and woman. The man has the reputation of being a prophet, and being able to cure sick people. He has always been a strong opponent of the Temperance cause, but is now on our side. He made an earnest, touching speech as he thanked me for taking so much interest in them. He said: "I wish this good lady had come many years ago. She might have saved many lives, men, women and even children, who have all died from the 'waipiro.' See," said he, waving his hand sadly, "how few of us there are left, and once we were a powerful, numerous tribe. This is the work of the 'waipiro.'" In December and January I had more meetings in Mauakou, and much, if not all, my success there is due to the valuable help I received from Mr Beavan, who is a total abstainer, and deeply interested in the welfare of the Maoris. I also received much help from Mr and Mrs Fred. Brown, of Manawhao, especially