

arranged, when the delegates arrived, at once to resolve the Convention into a National Council. They had met in the fine chamber in which the Provincial Council used to sit before the abolition of the provinces. Its Gothic architecture reminded one of older countries, and its stained glass windows shed a "dim religious light" over the interesting scene. The *Otago Daily Times* says:—"If it was to this gathering that the Bishop of Dunedin referred in his sermon last Sunday when he spoke of "frantic and hysterical women," we cannot congratulate Dr. Nevill on either the accuracy or the felicitousness of his words. The same paper, however, accused us of one-sidedness, but the *Lyttelton Times*, in allusion to this, very justly remarks: "As to the allegations of one-sidedness levelled against the Woman's Council, it need only be asked, have male conventions never been one-sided? And since one-sided laws, unjust to women, exist, how can they be amended, save by a 'one-sided' exertion in the opposite direction." Mrs Sievwright then gave an interesting account of the Council's proceedings. Mrs Sigley, in supporting the hearty vote of thanks to Mrs Sievwright, proposed by Mrs Scott, made special reference to the motion in respect to a wife being able to attach a portion of her husband's income. Though to a great many people who lived happily together such a law would be unnecessary, there was no doubt this money question was a cause of much misery in many homes. The subject was one well worthy of discussion, and their thanks were due to Mrs Sievwright for bringing the matter forward. The vote of thanks was carried with applause.

CHRISTCHURCH TAILORESSES' AND PRESSERS' UNION. — An adjourned meeting of the Committee was held on June 11. Delegates from a number of societies, including the Women's Institute and the Women's Political Association, were also present. The Secretary reported correspondence with the Minister of Labour. The deputation appointed to interview employers with reference to a conference, reported having interviewed all the employers, who had, with two exceptions, agreed to attend. It was decided the conference should be held on June 16.

The WHITE RIBBON is the official organ of the N.Z.W.C.T. Unions. It also advocates all that makes for the true advancement of women.

Temperance Work among the Maoris.

On Tuesday evening, June 3rd, Mrs James Duff Hewett, Superintendent of work among the Maoris in connection with the Women's Christian Temperance Union, gave a social in the Puke-roa Hall, which was largely attended by natives. The Bishop of Waiapu presided, and the Countess of Glasgow, and Ladies Helen, Augusta, and Alice Boyle, attended by Captain Preston, were present. The benefits to be derived by the Native race in adopting temperance principles were impressed on those present by the Bishop and Mrs Hewett, and Lady Glasgow, addressing the Natives, said:—"I have come here to-night at the invitation of my friend, Mrs Hewett, not to make a speech, but merely to say how glad I am to meet you to show my appreciation of the efforts Mrs Hewett is making in the cause of Temperance. No one denies that the Maoris have gained much good by the advent of the white men, but, alas! in some way they have brought you much harm; the habit of drinking too much being the worst lesson you have learned from them. It is the hope of all of us who are your real friends that, now you know the terrible evil it brings upon you, weakening both souls and bodies, you will join yourselves together and by God's grace get rid of this evil out of your families and tribes, becoming again in the future what you have been in the past, both physically and mentally, one of the greatest races that flourish in the Empire of Queen Victoria." The Bishop acted as interpreter, and at the conclusion of Lady Glasgow's remarks several Natives expressed their appreciation of the work in which Mrs Hewett was engaged, and thanked the Countess for her presence and for the interest she had shown in the Maori race.

WHAT THE DOCTORS SAY.

Water applied externally and employed freely internally aids liver and kidney activity, thus enabling the former to destroy the toxic substances generated in the system, and the latter to eliminate them. — From Dr J. H. Kellog's address before the 46th annual meeting of the American Medical Association.

Drinkers are much more prone to take bronchitis in cold weather than abstainers from alcohol.—Dr C. R. Drysdale.



* POETRY. *

Shee was a mayde, a gentil mayde,
Her hearte was soft and kynde,
And yet shee lyked her horse's tayle,
Cut off behynde, behynde,
Cut off full shorte behynde.

With blynders checks, and martyngales,
That hapless beast was tyde,
Or else her sadylle galled his back
Whenever shee did ryde.
O why not sit astryde?

Shee had a dogge, a lyttel dogge,
Shee wore him on a chayne;
Shee made him fatte, shee made him sickke
And so he dyed in payne—
Alas! he dyed in payne!

Shee had a flower, a lovely flower,
Which languished in a potte,
Shee tho't it was its nature to—
But then you know it's notte!
Of course we know it's notte!

Shee had a byrde, a yellow byrde,
Life-prisoned in a cayge;
"Tis naught," sayth shee, "because you see
He was born in that same cayge—
Or caught at a tender ayge."

As if, forsooth, when men were slaves,
It added to their glee
To have their sires, and eke themselves
Born fast in slaveree!
Born into slaveree!

But, O this mayde! This gentil mayde
She wore upon her hedde
A hatte, the ornaments of which
Were bodys of the dedde!
Just fragments of the dedde!

The feathers of dedde byrdes shee wore,
Tayles of the slaughtered beaste;
Their lyttel heads her buttons were—
She wore a score at leaste—
A score of deaths at leaste.

O gentil mayde! O lovely mayde!
With mylde and tender eye!
Why is it for your pleasuring
The lyttel ones must dye?
These helpless ones must die!

C. P. STETSON.

Girls of to-day: Give ear;
Never since Time began
Has come to the race of man
A year, a day, an hour,
So full of promise and power
As the time that now is here.

Never in all the lands
Was there a power so great
To move the wheels of State—
To lift up body and mind—
To waken the deaf and blind—
As the power that is in your hands.

Here at the gates of gold
You stand in the pride of youth,
Strong in courage and truth,
Stirred by a force kept back
Through centuries long and black—
Armed with a power threefold.

Truly a girl to-day
Is the strongest thing in life.
C. P. STETSON.