

Then there are parents who, without any reason or excuse, are utterly careless of their progeny. They are supposed to be highly respectable, and would be indignant at any inference to the contrary; yet their boys, ranging from nine to sixteen years of age, stand at corners, smoking cigarettes, and making offensive remarks to the passers-by, and especially to girls.

In thinking over these varied causes of juvenile immorality, we are forced to the conclusion that, whoever or whatever is responsible for the evil,

WE CANNOT BLAME

the young people themselves, as they are simply the victims of circumstances. They are not deliberately vicious, and in their pranks and objectionable behaviour they are only trying to satisfy the natural craving for enjoyment which we all share with them. They have therefore a large claim on our sympathy and loving forbearance, and the blame should be reserved for those whose culpable indifference brings about such undesirable results in their offspring.

We have said that we do not intend dealing with the question of a remedy at present. In the meantime we shall gladly receive any suggestions towards a scheme for averting the evil, and earnestly hope that the matter will be taken up by all who are interested in young New Zealand.

In a recent issue of the *Union Signal*, Miss Ackerman pleads for the establishment of a mission to fallen men, and instances the success that has followed the efforts of an officer of high rank in Holland. "Night after night in full-dress uniform, he confronts the soldiers before they enter these pitfalls, and entreats them to turn from the haunts of shame. So well has he succeeded, that many houses of ill repute have been closed."

A college of Scientific Temperance is to be founded as soon as the necessary funds are raised, in connection with the American University at Washington. "The college will not be founded as a propaganda, but as a scientific school, whose sole object will be to find and inculcate whatever may be the truth touching the subject of investigation."

Ladies' Column and Ladies' Letters.

It is said that newspapers supply the kind of information that their readers demand. If this be true, how sadly the fine old word "lady" has degenerated. Formerly, being derived from the Saxon "Leafdian"—i.e., Bread-server—it signified a useful, purposeful woman. Now, judging from the inane rubbish given in the so-called "Ladies' Letters and Columns," it signifies a creature of the feminine gender, whose chief interest is centred on what she and her kind carry on their backs. Would any editor dream of printing under the heading of "Gentlemen's Columns": "Mr Vere Tomkins looked very becoming in a morning coat and vest of blue-black worsted, trimmed with silk braid, inexpressibles of French grey tweed, neatly turned up at the bottoms; a spotted blue tie and gold pin?" Yet this is the kind of stuff served up for the delectation of women under the heading of "Ladies' Columns."

Besides the inanity of this sort of writing, there is a vulgar personal tone about it, and we wonder that women of any sense do not resent it. One can hardly conceive of anything more impertinent than public comment on one's clothes, and how one looked in them. Yet we are told that there are certain women who like it, and probably this is true. But they should not be addressed as "ladies." Call a spade a spade, and let their descriptions of dresses and looks be headed "The Peacock Column." Then those that like it may read it, and the good old English word "lady" will be saved from degradation.

Miss Agnes Slack, Hon. Sec. of the World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union, has received an invitation from the National Woman's Temperance Union of the United States to attend their next Convention, to be held in California in October. The National W.C.T.U. informs Miss Slack that the freedom of the Republic, also of the city where the Convention will be held (probably San Francisco), will be conferred on her.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

OURSELVES.—We have been greatly cheered during the past month by the many kindly references to and appreciation of the WHITE RIBBON. The *New Zealand Herald* says:—"It is well printed on good paper with clean type, and contains good matter." Our business Manager reports a large and encouraging increase in the number of subscribers. The following are samples of many letters received.—Dunedin—"The last copy of the WHITE RIBBON is a great improvement. I hope it may prove a great success." Trentham—"Will you be kind enough to put down my name as a subscriber to the WHITE RIBBON. I hope it will meet with the support it deserves." Palmerston North—"What an improvement in your last issue! I hope to get more subscribers." Springfield—"The last number of the WHITE RIBBON was splendid. We are in such need of a good woman's paper that I do hope it will succeed." Auckland—"All who have seen your paper like it, and we hope to get more subscribers." Letters like these are compensation for the hard work that accompanies the establishing of a woman's paper.

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Dr Kate Bushnell's new booklet entitled "a Clean Life" is highly praised by Mrs Josephine Butler, Miss Willard, and Lady Henry Somerset. "A Wheel within a Wheel, or 'How I learned to ride a bicycle,'" is Miss Willard's experience, in learning to master the steel steed. "The World through a Woman's Eyes," has just been published by Miss Jessie Ackerman, and is an account of her round-the-world travels. It is described as fascinating and graphic.

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Miss Willard sailed for England on April 22, to be at the eighteenth annual meeting of the B.W.T.A. held in London at the end of May. Immediately afterwards Lady Henry and Miss Willard purposed taking a tour in Ireland and returning to America at the end of September.

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"The Englishwoman's Review," in recording the fact of Mrs Lee's appointment as official visitor to Lunatic Asylums in South Australia, is under the impression that this is the first appointment of the kind in the Colonies.