

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 1.—No. 12.

CHRISTCHURCH: JUNE, 1896.

2s 6d Per Annum.
Post Free.

Some Notable Women.

By K. W. S.

(Continued from April issue.)

MRS MASSINGBERD,

President of the London Pioneer Club, is a woman of enterprise and organising ability. Portraits of her abound, so that it is probable her appearance is well known to our New Zealand readers. The tweed tailor-made costume, in which she is generally photographed, is her usual mode of dress, and her short hair emphasises her smart, business-like appearance.

I was introduced to her at an evening meeting of the Club, when she gave me a warm welcome as one of the enfranchised sisterhood.

The subject for the evening was "Moral *versus* Physical Force," which was opened by Madam Sarah Grand.

I cannot remember now how the after-discussion strayed to the subject of Women's Suffrage, unless it was that a member when speaking gave it as her opinion that Parliamentary Morals would be of a higher order when women had a voice in the nation's affairs. A visitor rose and remarked that the women of New Zealand had not given much evidence of morality since obtaining the franchise, as some of them had gone to a meeting, and had actually opposed a Bishop on the question of Moderation in drinking habits. Mrs Massingberd said that a lady from New Zealand was present,

and asked if she could throw any light on this subject? I responded, saying that, although the meeting in question was held since I had left the country, I had seen accounts of it in the newspapers, and gathered that the ladies referred to were abstainers, and voted for "Abstinence" rather than "Moderation." My explanation was well received, and this closed the question of the immorality of the New Zealand women. At all events, I heard nothing further of it. After the discussion was over, Mrs Massingberd gathered up the threads in an able way, and the meeting closed.

In "The story of the Pioneer Club," published in the January number of *Shafts*, the following paragraphs appeared:—

"The President of the Pioneer Club is a woman of broad, enlightened views of life, humble in her estimate of her own powers, but strong and proud in her impulses, her hopeful, earnest desires, which fill her with a sense of power and speed her on her way. Through her mental atmosphere many lights stream, enabling her to see the innumerable wants of the world, and to *all* her sympathy is freely given. She is an earnest, unselfish worker wherever work is to be done; no good cause seeks her aid in vain; many have the benefit of her active personal labours and influence; of some she has been the initiative, propelling

force, notably so in the case of the Pioneer Club.

In Temperance reform her work is well known, and has had both moral and practical results. At Bourne-mouth, Burgh, in Lincolnshire and other places, houses of refreshment and rest have been erected, all bearing testimony to the fact that travellers' wants can be attended to, and their needs supplied, without the aid of intoxicants."

As many of our readers are aware

MRS CLARA C. HOFFMAN,

of America, has been invited by our N.Z. Union to "come over and help us" with W.C.T.U. and Prohibition work in next July, and we are now awaiting her cable saying (we trust) that she will come. Mrs Hoffman is a widow with one son, who is, unfortunately, delicate in health, which makes it difficult for her always to arrange for long journeys from home. I saw and heard her first at a meeting of the "World's" Biennial Convention held in London last year, and was much impressed by her.

She is undoubtedly a clever woman, with a striking personality; and there is a quiet strength about her which one recognises unconsciously. She appears to be about fifty years of age; is tall and straight, with iron-grey hair, and expressive black eyes, which, while they are keen and earnest, are ready to twinkle at a moment's notice.

Luckily for her, she has that saving sense of humour without which no human being is complete. When called on to speak at that meeting, she came forward and looked all round at her audience—which numbered many thousands of people—as if she would fain read in their faces how much sympathy she might expect; and after a little began her address. She spoke quietly at first, but with power, and as she dwelt on the wrongs of little children caused by the odious drink-traffic, she grew eloquent and impassionate, not with a surface eloquence of high-flown words, but with a natural eloquence born of deep feeling. When at length she paused a moment, the audience burst into such sympathetic applause as removed all doubt as to her having touched the hearts of her hearers. Nor has she power to touch hearts only. If her own is soft, her head is of a kind which well balances that (so-called) weakness. She is a woman who knows of what she is speaking. She has lectured for the W.C.T.U. in the States for many years, and so has facts and figures at her fingers' ends. Her mind is well stored, her memory is good, and her deductions are logical. Truly a gifted woman and a great platform speaker! I heard her speak afterwards at the Monster Meeting in the Albert Hall, where over 12,000 people had assembled, and there her words were equally effective and well received, while her voice carried to the farthest corner of the upper gallery of that immense building. Mr Leonard Isitt was quite as much impressed with Mrs Hoffman's powers as I was, for, the first time we met after that occasion, we found, on comparing notes, that we had both been thinking how good it would be if we could induce New Zealand to invite her. Mr Leonard and I interviewed Miss Willard together on the subject the day on which the Convention Members and friends were

assembled at Reigate Priory, and she entered warmly into our plan, almost commanding "Clara" to go without any further consideration. Mrs Hoffman, however, thought she should wait for our invitation. She also felt she would like to see her son again before starting for the Antipodes, but she promised us that she would come, providing Australia as well as New Zealand invited her. Miss Willard said that if Australia joined in our invitation the World's Treasury would be responsible for her passage from America (one way). Some time afterwards I called to see her at the pretty rooms she was at that time sharing with Miss Helen Hood, in Ashley Gardens, London, and she told me that Miss Willard had written her to say that she should go to New Zealand with me in the "Gothic," and begin work there "straight away." She, however, was fully occupied till November, and as the "Gothic" sailed at the end of that month she would have had no time for preparation. "I know Miss Willard," she said to me, laughing; "she would start me or any one off to the other end of the world tomorrow, without either purse or scrip, like the disciples of old. Like all great organisers, she plans outlines of work only, and naturally she has no time for detail. But she is a grand woman," she concluded, "and if she stopped to think how many garments we should each need for our equipment she would never have accomplished the great work of our life." Mrs Hoffman is decidedly American in accent, and has many of the peculiar expressions used in her country, which, to my mind, gives an added charm and novelty to her utterances. I trust that New Zealand will soon be welcoming her, and that with her help we shall accomplish great things.

MISS AGNES WESTON

was one of the most interesting women at the above-mentioned Convention

meetings. She always appeared with a body-guard of at least two naval men, while at the monster meeting there were nine or ten in her train, these last having come for the purpose of receiving gold medals for having been true to their abstinence pledges for a great many years, and also working with Miss Weston in getting others to become abstainers. The two who formed her special escort were fine upstanding, manly-looking fellows, and my heart went out to them at once. Indeed, to this day I cannot make up my mind whether these sailors or Miss Weston attracted me most. The manner in which they waited on her was most touching. They followed her as she came on the platform, never sitting down until she was seated first. When she stood to speak they rose, gave a naval salute, and stood immediately behind her, "presenting arms." They were always ready to put her cloak on when she had finished, and it was all done with military promptness, and yet with such tender respect. Miss Weston is evidently proud of her sailors, and they of her. She is a stout, motherly-looking woman of, I should say, between forty and fifty, with a kindly face and a pleasant, musical voice. She speaks simply and unaffectedly, telling with pride and pleasure how many noble fellows had kept their pledges through thick and thin, and despite many temptations to the contrary; and of how many had joined the total abstinence army during the year. She bestrews her addresses with nautical terms in a very amusing way, narrating how some brave sailor had "stuck to his guns" or "nailed his colours to the mast," as the case might be. This habit of hers evidently appeals to her hearers, judging from their demonstrations of sympathy. Miss Weston has done, and is doing, a noble work among sailors—indeed, its value can hardly be estimated—and she is

loved by all, both on sea and ashore. Queen Victoria frequently sends her acknowledgments and encouragements in her work, and also contributions in money for carrying it on. We will conclude this little picture on Miss Weston by saying, as all her sailor-boys do when her name is mentioned,

"GOD BLESS HER!"

While in Paris last October, on my return from a six weeks' Continental trip, I stayed at the Hotel Dominici in the Rue Castiglioni, where I had the pleasure of meeting with

MADAME HANNA K. KORANY, of Beyrout, Syria; and a delightfully interesting woman she is. Although there were a large number of visitors of different nationalities staying at the hotel, she and I quickly found each other out, very soon exchanging ideas, and experiences. She is the lady who represented the Syrian women at the World's Fair, Chicago, and it was interesting to hear from her own lips the difficulties she met with in rousing her countrywomen to realise what a good thing it would be for them to have an Exhibition at the Fair. Madame Korany had to bear almost all the expense connected with the Exhibition, as well as having most of the trouble. She told me how, ever since she was a little child, her heart had ached for the women of her country, her indignation being often aroused at the treatment they received, which, practically, was little better than that accorded to slaves. The most implicit obedience was demanded of them by their male relatives, and when they failed in this they had a hard time of it. Everything was arranged for them from the cradle to the tomb; no voice whatever being accorded to them in the framing of their own destinies. Ever since her marriage, which took place when she was too young to know what marriage meant, Madame Korany has devoted her life

to the emancipation of her countrywomen, and while she often feels despondent at results, she works on bravely. At the World's Fair she gave several lectures and addresses, and evinced great interest among the Americans in the Syrian women. She is apparently about twenty-five years of age, quite a pretty woman, of an Oriental type, with large, liquid, dark eyes, which can soften with sympathy, brighten up with enthusiasm, or flash with indignation by turns. She has a soft face, beautiful dark hair, and is altogether very charming. Her English is perfect, but she has the faintest suspicion of a foreign accent, which is uncommon and musical. She seemed delighted to hear about New Zealand, and congratulated us over and over again on our political enfranchisement. Since her visit to the World's Fair, which she said was like a beautiful dream, she has acted as correspondent to several of the American papers, and when she left Paris in October to go to Beyrout for the winter, it was her intention to return to London in the spring, then to lecture in response to invitations from several Women's Societies. Before leaving she gave me a photograph of herself, which I value highly, and when the circulation of the WHITE RIBBON is considerably increased, and funds are forthcoming, nothing would give me greater pleasure than to have her picture reproduced in these pages.

JUSTICE.

Three men went out on a summer night;
No care had they or aim;
They dined and drank—"Ere we go home,"
Said they, "we'll have a game."

Three girls began that summer night
A life of endless shame;
And went through drink, disease, and death,
As swift as flying flame.

Lawless and homeless, foul, they died;
Rich, loved, and praised the men;
But when they all shall meet with God,
And Justice speaks,—what then?

STOFFORD A. BROOKE.

WOMEN'S SOCIETIES

CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—A meeting of the committee of the Canterbury Women's Institute was held on Saturday evening at Chancery Lane Hall; the President in the chair. The platform forwarded by the Progressive Liberal Association was approved of, but it was resolved to ask the Society to consider planks three and four as one, and to add to the platform, "The removal of all political and civil disabilities from women." In answer to the circular forwarded by the Wellington Women's Social and Political League, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—"That as the Canterbury Women's Institute is a non-party organisation, it cannot see its way to co-operating with the Wellington Women's Social and Political League in the matter of presenting a congratulatory address to the Premier." The need for the appointment of a suitable commission to inquire into the present method of the treatment of criminals having been long recognised by the Institute, the Secretary was instructed to forward to the various social and political leagues throughout New Zealand a petition for their endorsement embodying this view, the petition to be forwarded to the Minister of Justice. The delegates to the Surplus Labour League presented their report. Their actions were endorsed. The Premier's reply to the deputation which waited on him on Saturday afternoon was considered very unsatisfactory, and it was resolved to continue to agitate on the lines of the following resolution passed by the National Council of the Women of New Zealand:—"That the establishment of co-operative industrial settlements, formed with a farm as a basis, and gradually embracing all kinds of industries, would do much to solve the unemployed difficulty—more, indeed, than any remedy that has as yet been applied." A general meeting followed the meeting of the committee, when the subject of marriage and divorce was considered. At the conclusion of the debate the following resolution was passed:—"That this Institute is in favour of the Hon J. Macgregor's Bill of 1895, which provides that divorce be granted for adultery or desertion."

AUCKLAND WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC UNION.—The usual fortnightly meeting of this Union was held on June 22, in

the Wesley Hall, Mrs Collings, President, in the chair. The members congratulated Mrs Collings on her appointment as Official Visitor to the female department of the Lunatic Asylum. In replying she said that they all knew that there were many things a woman could not speak to a man visitor about, and especially in such a place as the asylum. Our poor suffering sisters in such institutions wanted all the sympathy a woman could give. A letter was read by the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs D. E. Chapman, from the Editor of the WHITE RIBBON, and a copy of that paper was laid on the table. It was agreed that reports of the Union's meetings should be sent to the WHITE RIBBON, and all members who could should take the paper. An excellent paper on "Old Age Pensions" was read by Mrs Gibson. After discussion a resolution was passed asking her to read it again on one of the open nights, and a vote of thanks was accorded to her. It was resolved that Miss Summers be asked to give a paper on the Chinese Question, she having had a practical knowledge of it through her travels. The paper on "Economic Independence" from the WHITE RIBBON was then read, and arrangements made for the next meeting, which is to be an open one.

WELLINGTON SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIETY.—On May 18th a meeting of the members of the above society was held in the Kiosk, Panama-street, chiefly to hear an account of the Convention recently held in Christchurch, which resulted in the formation of the Women's National Council. Mrs Plimmer occupied the chair. In her address concerning the transactions of the Convention, Lady Stout explained that at present the National Council of Women consisted of delegates from societies which have affiliated. Unfortunately, the societies invited and represented at the Conference were political organisations, with one exception. The Council was intended to represent, and should represent, all societies of women, and its object in the meantime was to have all women engaged in industrial, professional, social, and political work organised, and afterwards represented by delegates in the Council. The proceedings in Christchurch were conducted under the auspices of the Canterbury Women's Institute, and were confined to political questions. As a Council they did not claim to be infallible, but certainly their work was done as conscientiously and as honestly as any work done in Parliament. They

were not governed by any private motives for the gratification of selfish ends, but undertook the work for the good of their less fortunate sisters. They believed that all good men and women were with them in their object, or would be when they understood the questions. They were quite prepared to face all the ridicule that jealousy and ignorance might cast at them, remembering that all reforms and reformers had in their time undergone ridicule. Lady Stout entered into a detailed explanation of the matters discussed by the Conference and her own action in regard to the resolutions passed. In conclusion, a vote of thanks was passed to Lady Stout for her address. [Five out of the eleven Societies represented were Social, not Political, organisations. Industrial bodies were invited to co-operate. The Canterbury Women's Institute simply took the initiative steps of issuing the invitations and drafting a programme. At the first session Convention resolved itself into a National Council, and from that time became responsible for all business transacted. It is true that all the subjects dealt with were political, but it is difficult in a democratic country to draw the line between political and social. Of all the subjects dealt with, we know of only one that was not essentially social. That they were also political is due to our environment.—ED. WHITE RIBBON.]

WANGANUI WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEAGUE.—On May 22nd a special meeting of the above League was called for the express purpose of receiving the report of their delegate (Mrs. Williamson) to the recent Christchurch Convention, and was well attended. Mrs. Bullock, who occupied the chair, briefly explained the object of the gathering, and after the minutes of the previous meeting of the League were read, she called on Mrs Williamson to give her report. Mrs Williamson gave a detailed account of the Council's proceedings, criticising them in a most impartial manner, quoting press accounts for and against us; but showing that a large number of the newspapers throughout the colony were greatly in sympathy with much that was done at the Council. Mrs Williamson also said—"Of adverse criticism we of course got our full share; but I am happy to say that it all came from people who were not at the Conference—from newspapers which had not a representative present; and we all know that there is no criticism so pungent as that which comes from those who know little or nothing

of the subject with which they are dealing." Mrs Williamson resumed her seat amidst applause, after which the chairwoman said that she was sure the Convention would prove of benefit to the whole colony. From what their delegate had told them, and from the flattering press notices of the meetings of the delegates, it was evident that women were quite as capable as men in dealing with questions of public interest. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs Williamson, who briefly acknowledged the compliment, and expressed her pride in being selected as their representative.

DUNEDIN WOMEN'S FRANCHISE LEAGUE.—A well-attended meeting of the Women's Franchise League, on May 28, considered the education question. A resolution was carried by a majority affirming that the Scripture text-book should be prepared by a committee, and the question of its introduction into the schools should be submitted to the people by the referendum. It was also resolved by a large majority that the question of Bible-reading in schools should be submitted to the people by the referendum. A circular was received respecting an address and presentation to the Premier and Mrs Seddon. It was stated that the executive considered that, as the League was a non-party organisation, it ought not to take part in the demonstration, but that the letter and list should be laid on the table, and an opportunity given to individual members to join in the demonstration. A number of subscriptions towards the movement were received in the room.

GISBORNE WOMEN'S POLITICAL ASSOCIATION.—A meeting was held on May 22 to receive the report of the delegate (the President), Mrs Sievwright to the National Convention of Women recently held in Christchurch. Mrs Sievwright said that they were indebted to the Executive of the Canterbury Women's Institute for the delightful idea conceived and carried out of convening an assembly of New Zealand women leaders. At the same time steps were being taken by Mrs Eva McLaren, of London, towards the organisation of a National Council for New Zealand, and to this end she had asked Lady Stout to act as President, and Mrs Sheppard as corresponding secretary till such time as New Zealand women would be able to draw up their own constitution and to elect their own officers. The coming Convention at Christchurch furnished the desired opportunity, and it was

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. Kellogg'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.

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The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 1896.

Juvenile Immorality.

“What shall we do with our boys and girls?” is asked by many of our earnest-minded men and women at the present time, and truly the answer is difficult to find.

A correspondent from Wellington writes:—“What can be done to clear the streets of these giddy, light-mannered boys and girls who patrol arm-in-arm, giggling and shrieking, and pass on, going down to the side-streets? Would it be possible to fine parents or guardians who do not get their children in at a decent hour? Could we not have a Curfew Bell? I don't know how it is in Christchurch, but in

Wellington it is something surprising. One of our leading papers calls them 'juvenile prostitutes,' and thinks the police should have power to clear the streets."

We have heard of the conduct of the juveniles in Dunedin lately; Auckland has the same story to tell; and in Christchurch the subject is exercising the minds of our Church dignitaries, newspaper editors, the members of the various Women's Societies, and, indeed, of all who wish to see a better state of things brought about. The fact is that the

PROBLEM IS SO COMPLEX

and many sided that, to find anything like a real solution, we should have to dive deep down into the very heart of things; and, while such a search might in one sense stagger us by its immensity, yet, by an honest attempt to get at some of the primary causes of the evil, we should be more successful than in being content merely to scratch its surface or begin on the outside and work inwards.

But, before stating what we believe are some of the causes which lead to this conduct on the part of our young folk, we would first say that often the evil itself is, we suppose unintentionally, very much exaggerated. In every boy and girl there is, or ought to be, a latent energy, which, if it does not find a natural outlet under favourable conditions, will seek one in forbidden paths, which is often the beginning of untold mischief.

Scientists tell us that "dirt is matter in the wrong place," and we believe that perverseness in children is energy in the wrong direction. Isolated cases of juvenile depravity are apt to cause a scare in the community, and create a feeling among good, respectable people that young New Zealand is literally "going to the dogs." Owing to statements of this kind having been made

in Christchurch recently,

SPECIAL AND CAREFUL ENQUIRIES were made, the result being that, while it was found that some actual evil did exist, most of the evidence went to show merely instances of rude, rough, and boisterous behaviour, and of keeping late hours.

Taking all such favourable evidence into consideration, however, we are bound to admit that the evil is a real one, and the sooner some measures are taken to stop its growth the better it will be for the community.

In a short article like the present we can only touch the fringes of the subject, and so will only point out what we believe to be some of the exciting causes of the evil, leaving the question of a remedy for a future issue.

Heredity is a factor in the physical, mental, and moral tendencies of human beings, and it is acknowledged that the children of

DRUNKEN AND DISSOLUTE PARENTS

are those who are easiest led astray, owing to their inherited weakness. Mr. B. O. Flower, editor of the *Arena*, contends that it is the children of loveless marriages—those "loveless children" who are "cursed at the beginning of life, and canopied by bitterness and gloom in the pre-natural state" that swell largely the great well-spring of immorality. But if the influences of heredity are strong, those of environment are still stronger. When one thinks of the homes in which some of these children are "dragged up," one can hardly wonder that our streets are thronged with larrikins.

Many causes are responsible for these homeless homes. In some cases both parents are drunkards, and the children are neglected in every way, and do much as they like. In others, the father drinks and the mother, between wretchedness of body and spirit, "lets go," and the children are again neglected. In some instances a large

family is crowded into a very small house, and the parents are often glad when the children go out. Again, there are families the fathers of which have either died, or have been obliged to go elsewhere to look for work, leaving the mother to

STRUGGLE WITH POVERTY

and to look after the children. Such children are sometimes more than the mother, single-handed and severely handicapped, can manage, and they often get quite beyond her control. It is almost a foregone conclusion that most of these children are badly fed. Want of money, want of time, want of knowledge, and sometimes want of interest on the part of the mother, all help to produce ill fed children. But it is not always want of money which is responsible for many of our ill-fed children. There is a culpable ignorance among a certain proportion of our mothers, the result of which is incalculable.

Unwholesome foods badly cooked; white bread instead of brown; too many rich dishes and condiments; and too much butcher meat, produce "ill-fed" children. A diet of too stimulating a character is as bad in its way as an insufficient diet, both producing morbidity of body, and, consequently, of mind. It has been remarked that "we rarely see a robust, healthy

MAN IN THE DOCK,"

and that the "criminal classes are in the main not only under-fed, but ill-fed." So that, in considering the causes of juvenile immorality, we must take the question of foods into account.

But there are still other causes to be considered. There are homes where the parents are querulous, and impatient of anything like fun and frolic among the children. Is it any wonder that these young folk get as far away from such parents as possible, and gradually form the habit of going out to seek the pleasure denied them at home?

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.

*

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.

*

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.

*

"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.

In New Zealand we have several official lady visitors to Lunatic Asylums.

*

C.D. ACTS.—We notice that an attempt is being made by a section of the Auckland City Council to carry a recommendation to the Government to introduce a Bill on the lines of the existing Contagious Diseases Acts, to apply to both sexes, and providing for male and female inspectors to carry out its provisions. We have little fear that any serious attempt will be made in this direction, but we shall watch very keenly the proceedings of these gentlemen, who fondly imagine that the physical consequences of immorality can be evaded by legislative enactment.

*

ONE WAY OF DOING IT.—Among the resolutions passed by the National Council of Women was one in favour of reforming the Upper House. The recent Maori "Parliament" is said to have taken a practical step in this direction. When Bills were passed by the Lower House and sent up to the Lords to consider, the latter were put on one meal a day until the Bills were passed. It is stated that the popular Chamber experienced no difficulty in getting its measures expeditiously carried.

*

THE "SONG OF THE SHIRT.—Scarce a soul New Zealand born, and familiar with Hood's lines, but has wept in heart over England's daughters who "sew at once with a double thread a shroud as well as a shirt." And yet it would seem the same tragedy is being enacted here in our own land. Four and sixpence for six days' work—and not eight hours a day! Such is the fact recently brought to light in Wellington. Can the purchasers of such "blood-stained" garments rest in their clothes? Until such legislation can be enacted as shall make it impossible for a fair day's work to be bought for less than a fair day's wage ought not every woman to abjure the ready-made garment and personally employ a seamstress at a living wage.

*

JUVENILE CRIME.—One of the saddest features connected with the recently tried cases before our New Zealand Supreme Courts is the long list of comparatively juvenile offenders. As a consequence two problems stare us in the face and demand a speedy solution. First, how to discipline the morally diseased, so that they may be reformed instead of hardened; and second, how

to get to the root of the matter, to determine the causes, hereditary or other, that lead to the manufacture of such an undesirable and pitiable element in the community.

Welcome to Rev. L. M. Isitt.

The tenth Annual Alliance Meeting and third Colonial Prohibition Convention is to be held in Wellington, beginning on June 24. In the morning the annual business meeting of the Alliance will be held, the President, Sir Robert Stout, presiding. In the afternoon the General Prohibition Convention will hold its first session, under the presidency of Mr A. C. Begg, of Dunedin. Papers will be read on "The Legislative Programme" and "Action re Parliamentary Candidates." At six o'clock there is to be a Welcome-tea to the Rev. L. M. Isitt. At the evening meeting the welcome will be continued. Sir Robert Stout will preside; Miss L. M. Kirk will represent the W.C.T.U., Rev. P. R. Monro the Canterbury Prohibition Council, and Mr. A. R. Atkinson the Wellington Prohibition League. The Rev. L. M. Isitt is announced as the chief speaker. On Thursday, the 25th, the Convention will be resumed. Papers will be read on "Police Administration," "How to Vote at the Option Poll," "Does Liquor Revenue Pay?" and "Work During the Year." In the evening there is to be a mass meeting, and on Friday there will also be a public meeting. The Convention meetings will be held in the Courtenay Place Congregational Church. The tea is to be in the Taranaki-street schoolroom, and all the evening meetings are to be in the Skating Rink.

A "New Woman" has found a new use for photography. She took a snapshot of her husband while drunk. He found the portrait by his plate one morning, studied it, put it in his breast pocket, and has not been drunk since.

The WHITE RIBBON is the only paper in the colony started, owned, edited, managed, and published by women.



Paris, Illinois, U.S.A.

April 3, 1896.

My dear Mrs Schnackenberg,—

Before this reaches you you will have learned from the *Union Signal* that I am to go this summer for work in Japan. I write to express a hope that I may come to you, not as a missionary, but as a lecturer, when my work in Japan is done. We need you to come to us rather than that we should go to you, for I believe that any country may be measured by the degree of its appreciation of womanhood, and New Zealand has been one of the very first to give its women the substantial recognition that we desire. Our workers who have been in Japan tell me there is no financial support given, so I shall have to depend upon the better organised countries to help me make expenses. May I not, for the work's sake, hear from you at your convenience; and will you be so kind as to send me a copy of your last minutes, with cost of same?

Yours in the bond that makes the whole world akin,

(MISS) CLARA PARRISH.

[We do not know what the decision of the Executive may be, but it seems to us that, with the return of the Rev. L. M. Isitt, and the expected visit of Mrs Hoffman in August, it would be difficult to make room for an additional worker.—ED. WHITE RIBBON.]

BARON VON Liebig stated that, if a man were to take daily eight to ten quarts of the best Bavarian beer, in the course of twelve months he would take into his system only the nutritive constituents of a five-pound loaf of bread.

THERE are 967 women employed in the National and State Banks of the United States, and no woman so employed has ever yet been found a defaulter.

LADIES have recently been appointed as "managers" on the Boards of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, and the Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

NEWS OF THE UNIONS

[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

New Plymouth.

Mrs Collis writes:—"Organised two new branches at Midhurst and Ngaire last week, the first with eleven members and seven honorary members, and Ngaire with eight members. Literature is being freely distributed. Distant visits for organising must cease now for the winter. Am canvassing for the WHITE RIBBON.

Oamaru.

Throughout May we have had very good meetings. One night we adjourned on account of a mission being held in one of the churches, and are going on our way rejoicing, because three of our members there sought and found a Saviour. This year we are trying a different plan of work, each one bringing something to do for herself, instead of sewing for the usual sale of work. Last year we made enough to carry us through this year without having recourse to this method of raising funds. Our first meeting in the month is Bible night, which we all enjoy; we either conduct it ourselves or invite someone to give us an address. The second meeting is Missionary night, when the Unions bring items of interest from the foreign mission field, and we are busy helping to fill a mission box for New Guinea. On the other nights we read and discuss matters of interest, thus having bright and varied and useful gatherings.

Rangiora.

The usual meeting was held on Friday, May 29th, five members present. After the devotional exercises the minutes of previous meeting were read and confirmed.

An acknowledgment of the 7s 6d forwarded by this Union to the Brunner Relief Fund was received from the Secretary W.C.T.U., Wellington. A letter from the Superintendent Juvenile Work was read, asking what this Union was doing for the young folks, and, if anything, to forward an account of it. Decided that, as there are several Bands of Hope in connection with different Churches in the town, also a flourishing Juvenile Temple connected

with the Good Templars, we do not see that anything further is needed.

A letter from Mrs Sheppard, Editor of WHITE RIBBON, asking for a monthly report of our meetings was agreed to.

It was also decided that we should procure some Temperance leaflets for distribution before the Election, to try and arouse all possible interest. A paper on the Liquor Bill was read.

The meeting closed in the usual manner.

Wanganui.

This Union was re-organised on February 13th, chiefly through the instrumentality of Mrs. Collis of New Plymouth. Since the visit of Miss Kirk, a few months ago, the necessity of such a step had gradually been gaining ground. Our members now number sixteen. We are hoping soon to obtain honorary members, and, in order to facilitate this object, have fixed the fee at 2s. 6d. On May 12th we had a visit from Mrs Schnackenberg, and, although very short notice was given, a most successful meeting was held, between forty and fifty being present. In the course of her remarks Mrs Schnackenberg said that the W.C.T.U. was started in New Zealand eleven years ago, and from that time to this the societies had steadily increased. The work engaged in by the members was by no means limited to temperance. Departments of work were many. Scientific instruction, influencing the press, evangelistic work, legislation and petition, social purity, and many other sections form part of the work engaged in. Those present were asked to see that their names were on the electoral roll, and they were urged when voting to select good men who would advance the interests of society. Most of the laws relating to women were not good ones, and what the W.C.T.U. was aiming at were equal laws for men and women. The necessity of Bible reading in schools was touched upon, and also the wisdom of providing temperance literature for the children. We hope soon to put some of these valuable hints to practical use. On May 25th our President, Mrs G. Smith, attended the Temperance Convention at Palmerston North. She has expressed great pleasure both with the meetings and with the kindly hospitality provided for delegates. Our Union is subscribing to the WHITE RIBBON. We have obtained pledge books, and are looking forward to securing signatures.

The names of the Wanganui Union's officers are as follows:—President, Mrs

Smith; secretary, Miss Tucker, Campbell-street; treasurer, Mrs Lloyd. In the list of officers published in our convention number the names of the secretary and treasurer of the Mosgiel Union were transposed. Mrs. C. Murdoch, Factory-road, is secretary; and Mrs Janet Bringans, Forth-street, is treasurer.

Wellington.

The usual monthly meeting was held on the first Thursday in June; there was a good attendance. The President urged all present to take the WHITE RIBBON, and to try and increase the subscription list. The sum of £1 was voted to the WHITE RIBBON funds, also £1 to the local superintendent of Relief Work, and £2 to the Brunner Relief Fund, contributed by four Unions. It was resolved to send this through the N.Z. Treasurer, with the suggestion that the W.C.T.U. contribution should be distributed by the Brunner Union. A committee was appointed to co-operate with the Prohibition League to arrange the monster Welcome Tea to the Rev L. M. Isitt.

Feilding and Palmerston.

THE Feilding and Palmerston Branches—which collapsed some time ago—have again got upon their feet. On Easter Monday the friends took advantage of the presence at the Feilding Demonstration of the N.Z. Corresponding Secretary to make another attempt. The following week Miss Pcowell presided at a meeting when officers were elected as follows:—President: Mrs Greenwood, Toringa; Vice-Presidents: Mrs Cocker and Mrs J. C. Thomson; Secretary: Mrs Higgin, Pintril House; Treasurer, Miss Goodbehere.

On May 11th our N.Z. President held a meeting in Palmerston North and explained to an attentive audience of her own sex the objects of the W.C.T.U. The following resolution was proposed by Mrs Gee, seconded by Miss Meads and carried unanimously:—*That in the opinion of this meeting the time has now come to re-organise the local W.C.T.U.* This was followed by the enrolling of members—the membership at present standing at nineteen. A meeting is to be held on the 10th inst., when officers will be elected and work taken up. At both Palmerston and Feilding several subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON were secured.

Surely now—in view of the approaching election—is the time to organise the women all over the Colony. Every little township should have its

W.C.T.U. Cannot the friends in every larger centre follow the laudable example of some of our Christchurch White Ribboners and go out into the country to hold meetings with this object?



THE HOME.

SCARLET FEVER.

The prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the past few weeks affords us an opportunity to say a few words regarding the treatment of this dreaded disease. The general symptoms after the first premonitory signs of fever are a bright scarlet efflorescence on the face, neck, and breast, extending downwards over the trunk and limbs. The throat is sore and there is difficulty of swallowing. The books give a terrible list of diseases which follow Scarlet Fever, but "these consequences," says Dr Trall, "are owing much more to maltreatment than all other causes put together. The melancholy records of medical science afford on no page a stronger exemplification of 'The Deadly Virtues of the Healing Art,' than on that wherein is written the management and fatality of Scarlet Fever."

Now as to its treatment, the method is simplicity itself. Prepare a hot soapy sitz bath; make the temperature suit the comfort of the patient. An ordinary washing bath will serve the purpose perfectly well if a sitz bath is not available. Use, if possible, barilla soap stamped with Mr Clinton's mark. Cut up a good sized piece of the soap and boil it in about a quart of water, and add it to the bath water. Let the patient sit in the bath (this cold weather it should be given before a pleasant fire) with the feet in a basin of hot water. Lave the body thoroughly while in the bath, with soft flannels;

then take a jug, and with the water of the bath thoroughly douche the back and the abdomen with the warm soapy water. Let the patient remain in the water as long as it is pleasant to him. On leaving the soapy bath, the patient should be wrapped in a blanket and sponged from head to foot with tepid acetic acid and water, or vinegar and water. Only one portion of the body, however, should be exposed at one time. The head and neck may first be sponged and then covered; then a shoulder and arm, and so on. This simple plan will obviate any disagreeable feeling of chill. The feet and legs will also need special attention as they generally incline to be cold. They should be packed in hot flannels wrung out of boiling water, and the hot flannels covered with dry ones to keep in the heat.

When the pack cools sponge the legs and feet with tepid vinegar and water, and place the hot water bag, covered with a damp pad, to the feet (a hot water bottle with a damp flannel will do equally well), as the heat applied to the feet must be moist. The bed can be protected easily enough by a little careful management. Now, with regard to the throat, which needs constant care. It must be bandaged, not too tightly, with a small towel wrung out of cold water. As soon as the bandage becomes hot replace it by a fresh one. Cold cloths must likewise be applied to the head and the abdomen, and changed when they become heated. To insure the comfort of the patient which must always be considered the cold compresses over the neck and abdomen must be covered with dry ones.

To move the bowels an injection of water (a pint or pint and a-half is required) should be given. Whenever diarrhoea attends use cold enema. Force no food on the patient, but at intervals administer a sip of cold water and acetic acid (a teaspoonful of acid to a

tumbler of water). The oatmeal jelly, the recipe for which was given last week, may be used if the patient feels capable of taking any food.

If this treatment is persisted in for two or three days the scarlet fever will run no course from bad to worse, but will succumb to a rational method of treatment.

Correspondence on the subject of "The natural Treatment of Disease" will be gladly welcomed by A.W., care of WHITE RIBBON Editor, Box 114 Christchurch.

ALCOHOLISM AND CONSUMPTION IN FRANCE.—At the last meeting of the Academie de Médecine, M. Lagneau said that the increasing frequency of phthisis in men is due in a great part to indulgence in intoxicating liquors. As a prophylactic remedy, the speaker proposed that the licences and taxes of all wine shops should be greatly increased. In Paris alone, in 1890, there were 29,583 drinking shops of every kind, or one to every third house, and each year this number is increased by 5,000. At the same meeting M. Magnan proposed, as a prophylactic measure against alcoholism, the creation of special asylums for the treatment of inveterate drunkards. He said that in Paris alone the progress of alcoholism was incredible; in 1894, at the lunatic asylum, Sainte-Anne, nearly 40 per cent of the patients received were dipsomaniacs. Up to the present these persons were treated as ordinary lunatics, but it is certain that such treatment only attenuates, and sometimes cures, the acute or subacute affectus produced by alcohol, without, however, modifying the passion for strong drink. Consequently, it seemed absolutely necessary to place dipsomaniacs in a special institution, where the surrounding influence would have a real moral effect on their propensities.—*Medical Press.*

MADAM Nansen, wife of the explorer, Dr. Nansen, is a public singer, has a large number of pupils for singing, etc., and is a notable housewife.

A lady doctor has been appointed as the medical officer in connection with an educational establishment for officers' daughters at Hernalds, Austria.

COMMENTING on the frequency of outrages on little girls, the *Woman's Signal* notes that, in five such cases occurring in one week, the guilty men were each sentenced to but three months imprisonment!

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