

### The Rev. L. M. Isitt.

The reception accorded to the Rev. L. M. Isitt in the Opera House, Christchurch, on Thursday, July 2nd, was as enthusiastic as his warmest friends could wish. The hall was crowded in every part, and when he rose to respond to the many welcomes given to him, cheer after cheer rent the air, so that it was some few minutes before he could begin his address. His visit to England and the States seems to have freshly fired his zeal, and he has most unmistakably thrown down the gauntlet to the representatives of the Liquor Trade, proclaiming himself their strong opponent while the last barrel of whiskey remains "unprohibited." We like his bold announcement of "War to the death" as much as we liked his brotherly spirit when he said that he felt no personal enmity to any man, and would much rather do his opponents good than harm. It was the Drink traffic, with its deadly results, that he would work against with all his powers. Our W.C.T.U. was represented by Mrs Newton, who, in a few well-chosen words, addressed her welcome to those of the other Temperance bodies, and presented Mrs L. M. Isitt with a beautiful bouquet.

We are glad to welcome Mr Isitt among us once more, and expect that his influence will be felt at the coming Licensing elections.

### Dr. E. B. Ryder.

This clever woman has delivered her course of health lectures in Christchurch, and has also given her most interesting lecture on life in India. The attendance at her lectures has been large and increasing, and Dr. Ryder has created a most favourable impression.

Her protest against the use of drugs and alcohol, and the frequency of unnecessary surgical operations for women, showed that she is abreast with the best modern teaching. Her advice as to the value of water as a drink, the use of wholemeal bread in preference to white bread, her suggestions as to

rational clothing of woollen texture, and hanging from the shoulders, were most valuable. The harmfulness of corsets, and indeed of all garments that compress the body, was specially emphasised. Dr Ryder is doing philanthropic work in creating sympathy for the little child-wives in India, and circles have been formed to sustain the interest. Donations received by these circles are to be forwarded, not to Dr Ryder, who takes no responsibility as to funds, but to the Central Committee in India.



THE third session of the twelfth Parliament of New Zealand was opened on Thursday, June 11th. A number of measures especially interesting to women have been introduced, and have met with varying fates.

#### Admission of Women to Parliament Bill.

This Bill was introduced by Dr. Newman, but apparently even a Liberal Parliament is not yet prepared to admit women to the actual work of legislation, as the motion for the second reading was lost by 24 to 22.

#### Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill.

This was introduced by Mr G. W. Russell, and was to the effect that women may become eligible for any office or position to which men may be appointed.

The prospect of a woman possessing the same right to shape her life as a man has, was too awful a thing for a majority of our M.H.R.s, for, after safely passing the second reading, the Bill was thrown out in Committee by 24 to 17.

#### C. D. Act Repeal Bill.

This Bill was introduced by Mr Seddon, and was practically unanimously passed by the House of Repre-

sentatives. On reaching the Legislative Council the Bill was rejected by 27 to 11. Seeing the persistent way in which the Council has rejected this and other social reforms, we trust that it will not be long before the Councillors have to consider a Bill providing for the abolition of the Council.

#### Criminal Code Act Amendment Bill.

One very important provision in this Bill is that relating to the Age of Consent, which has been raised two years, and now stands at 16 instead of 14 years of age.

#### Deceased Husband's Brother Marriage Bill.

This Bill has evidently been introduced to give the deceased husband's brother the same privileges as the deceased wife's sister, and appears likely to pass.

#### Divorce Bill.

Two Bills have been introduced—one by Mr Collins, providing that the conditions of divorce should be the same for women as for men; and one by Mr McNab. Mr McNab's Bill gives three grounds for divorce, viz.:—Adultery, desertion, and for conviction and imprisonment for attempted murder of the petitioner; and passed its second reading on July 8th.

#### The Female Law Practitioners' Bill.

This Bill, introduced by Mr G. W. Russell, passed through the House of Representatives.

#### Domestic Servants' Half-holiday Bill.

This Bill was introduced by Mr Kelly, of Invercargill, to secure a weekly half-holiday for domestic servants. The second reading of the Bill was carried on the voices.

#### Limitation of Power of Disposition by Will Bill.

This Bill is for the purpose of limiting the extent to which a man can will his property away from his wife and children. It was introduced by Sir