

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## Our Twelfth Convention.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

THE event of the month in W.C.T.U. circles has been the assembling in Christchurch of the annual Convention. The Christchurch friends evidently think that pleasant surroundings are conducive to pleasant meetings. At the last Christchurch Convention they secured the beautiful Provincial Council Chamber, and on the present occasion they hired the Art Gallery for the use of the delegates. The selection was a good one. The assembly room is light, airy, and spacious, well furnished with chairs, grand piano and organ, and decorated with many handsome pictures. Adjoining are committee, cloak, and dressing-rooms, and a tiny kitchen, conveniences which were all duly appreciated.

The N.Z. Executive met on the afternoon of Wednesday, Feb. 24th. In the unavoidable absence of Miss Kirk, the Executive was fortunate in securing the services of Mrs Widdowson, the secretary of the Christchurch Union, who very kindly undertook the office of Recording Secretary for the session.

### RECEPTION OF DELEGATES.

On Thursday an "At Home" was given, to receive and welcome the delegates. By the aid of settees, occasional chairs, mats, carpets, curtains, etc., the

ball was transformed into an immense drawing-room. Afternoon tea was provided for the two hundred ladies who accepted the invitation to be present; and a very enjoyable afternoon was spent.

Mrs Sheppard referred to the gratification it gave her to see the Unions so well represented, but deeply regretted the absence of Miss Kirk. She thought the great aim of the members should be to rouse the

### MOTHER LOVE

that exists in almost every woman, so that women throughout the country might be roused to join in the uplifting of the race. She quoted a fine poem by Mrs Charlotte Stetson, entitled "Mother to Child," illustrative of her words. She thought women should avoid party politics, and give their votes and support to good men who would work for the moral reforms they wanted. Mrs Sheppard then introduced Miss Powell, the N.Z. Corresponding Secretary, who spoke brightly and with force on the need for educating women, especially young women, in their duty as electors, so that they should cast their votes intelligently and usefully. She said the local option poll lately taken was

### MOST HOPEFUL

in that the number who voted "No-license" had doubled itself in three years.

Mrs Schnackenberg, N.Z. President, spoke briefly on the work of the Union, emphasising the need for scientific temperance instruction.

Miss Torlesse, of Christchurch, urged the Union to take up the question of legislation against the employment of women as barmaids. She said that while she knew there were many fine women who acted as barmaids, very few who remained in the position for any length of time ever recovered their position. The life had a lowering tendency, and it was almost impossible that it should be otherwise.

Mrs Squires gave a most graphic account of what she had suffered through the drink traffic, interesting her hearers, and more than once raising a laugh by her quaint expressions and her varied experiences.

Mrs McKee and Mrs Grossmann both spoke briefly on the Armenian question, dwelling on the part which Lady Henry Somerset and Miss Willard had played in helping the Armenian refugees.

At the close of the reception, a short session was held for the transaction of routine business. Delegates' credentials were received, after which plans were discussed for the more methodical working of the Union. The delegates then partook of tea, after which Miss Powell put them through a musical drill. On Friday sessions were held both morning and afternoon. Saturday morning found the members at work again until half-past eleven.