

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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CHRISTCHURCH: MARCH, 1897.

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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.

An adjournment was then made, and the delegates and friends proceeded by train to Kaiapoi, in acceptance of an invitation given by Mr and Mrs R. Evans. At the Kaiapoi station were dogs, in which the members were conveyed to Willow Farm. Here, on the lawn in front of the house, was erected a roomy pavilion, wherein were tables furnished with the generous hospitality for which Mr and Mrs Evans are famous. The brilliant sunshine was agreeably tempered by the green grass and shady drooping willows, and the afternoon was pleasantly and profitably spent in singing, social intercourse, and chats as to methods of work.

On Monday two sessions were held, and in the evening there was

A PUBLIC MEETING,

Mrs Sheppard presiding. Addresses were given by Mrs Schnackenberg, Mrs Webb (of Gisborne), Miss Powell, the Rev. P. R. Munro, and Mr T. E. Taylor, M. H. R. Selections of music were given by Miss Maunder (Hawera), and Mrs Hiskins (Lyttelton) sang "Sunshine and Rain," by Blumenthal. Mrs Sheppard said that the W.C.T.U. had a wide scope, had over 40 departments, and could find employment for every kind of talent. They required and welcomed the Band of Hope worker, the scientific Temperance teacher, and the fire and enthusiasm of the ardent Prohibitionist who sought to gain the desired end by Temperance Legislation. There was great necessity for workers of diverse methods to encourage a kindly spirit towards each other, cherishing above all things the atmosphere of charity. The Union believed in the salvation of the body as well as of the soul, in the enlightening of the mind as well as the exaltation of the spirit. The Union did not believe in municipalisation of the Liquor Traffic. It did not believe in being partners in the legislation for vice.

Mrs Schnackenberg traced the history of the Union from its origin in Ohio, when the noble band of women marched through the streets and caused the whiskey-sellers to pour their liquor into the sewers. From there the movement had spread from country to country until it now numbered over 800,000 members. The branches now included the preventive, evangelistic, legal, social, and educational methods of coping with the great evil of intemperance.

Mrs Webb urged the necessity of mothers and fathers recognising their responsibility to their children. Fathers often thought that they had

NO RESPONSIBILITY

whatever in this direction. She spoke feelingly on the way young men who joined athletic clubs were exposed to danger by being drawn to public-houses for their club meetings, and from the habit of "shouting" drinks which prevailed. She urged those present to influence others during the coming year in the Temperance crusade.

The Rev P. R. Munro said he felt it an honour to be associated with the Union, and he was surprised that every clergyman in Christchurch was not there that night. The society was a national one, and all Christian workers should show their sympathy with it. He congratulated the Union on the splendid work it had done during its short existence. He spoke strongly against the municipalising of the Liquor Traffic, and said that if the State thought it could

LEGISLATE FOR VICE,

he, for one, objected to be a partner in the concern.

Miss Powell, in her vivacious manner, gave some interesting particulars of the progress of the movement. In New Zealand they had over 1000 members, including Maoris. Temperance, of course, was the basis of their work, as they were always engaged in

CLEARING UP THE RUBBISH

that the drink sellers made. She spoke of the work among the Chinese; also of that among the Maoris; and gave an account of efforts in aid of friendless girls undertaken by the Union.

Mr T. E. Taylor, M.H.R., was warmly received. He said he was known as a persistent antagonist to the drink-trade, and was proud of that distinction. He saw by the reports of the session that the Union complained of the obstructive action of the Legislative Council where purity reform was concerned. The Ministry had shown its insincerity by making three of the most disgraceful appointments to that Council that had ever been made, in spite of its professed opposition to that House. Those appointments would make the possibility of Temperance legislation

MORE DIFFICULT

than ever. He spoke of the gambling evil, and of the inefficiency of the police force. He urged the necessity of young people of both sexes being brought together for social intercourse, as this would prevent illicit intercourse when they met in the streets.

Mrs Whitby, Lyttelton, whose name was on the programme for an address on the "Equality of Conditions of Divorce," was unfortunately obliged to leave the meeting in order to catch the 10 p.m. train. She very kindly, however, left the paper she had intended reading on the table, with permission to publish a few of her thoughts on this subject. Mrs Whitby stated that she did not believe in there being one law for man and another for woman. In God's sight they are equal, and our New Zealand law, she claimed, should be altered in this direction. Women should not cease agitating until this reform is gained. While she thought that exceptions should be made in some cases, she did not believe in making divorce easy. She quoted Christ's

words, "What God hath joined let not man put asunder."

During the evening the White Ribboners' song, "Some glad day," was very heartily sung by those present.

Convention met again on Tuesday evening and also in the afternoon. On Wednesday morning a long session was held. All present agreed that the gathering was one of the pleasantest and most useful they had had, several of the delegates saying that they felt the need for earnest work more than ever before. Convention closed at 1.15 by the members singing "God be with you till we meet again," and reading the Crusade Psalm.

President's Address.

The President's address was read, and received with acclamation. It referred to the new branches opened during the year. Dealing with the young women's department, the President said that it was of the first importance that their young women should be strong and well trained. The children attending the State schools claimed a large share of consideration. It was most essential that every child should understand the poisonous nature of alcohol, and its baneful effects on the human system. She hoped that Scientific Temperance instruction would receive a stimulus from the Convention, and that a scheme would be formulated which would bring the subject within the reach of every child and young person within the colony. Barmaids had in the past had some attention with regard to their most degrading employment. Could they imagine what it must be to a sensitive girl to be subjected to the insults of the class of men who frequented the public houses? They should do what they could to take these girls from such vile surroundings, and lead them into a better life, either by a petition or recommendation to the Government. Maori work was very encouraging. Mrs

Hewitt was a most energetic superintendent. As to the Parliamentary election, it was surely a great thing to be able to report that the temperance vote had more than doubled from the former election. If they could secure a like increase for the next time prohibition would be carried in New Zealand. She hoped that the Convention would again resolve to ask Parliament to raise the age of protection of young women. The question of the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Acts had again to be considered, owing to the action of the Legislative Council in throwing out the Bill. By resolving on the last Sunday in November as the day when temperance sermons should be preached, and temperance addresses delivered in all the Sunday-schools in the colony, they were adopting the day chosen by some of the churches. The co-operation of other denominations might be solicited, and the cause strengthened. They would be asked to show practical sympathy with their suffering fellow-Christians in Armenia and the poor famine and fever-stricken millions of India. The President concluded her address by thanking the members for their assistance during the year. [Owing to the full text of the President's address being mislaid, we regret we are only able to give an abstract.—Ed.]

Corresponding Secretary's Report.

DEAR WHITE RIBBON SISTERS—

The reports which have reached me indicate that our work is progressing. The late twofold election stirred the activity of our members all over the country. Literature was freely distributed, electors enrolled, and meetings held, and on the eventful day our White Ribboners were visiting from house to house, and very much in evidence at the polling booths. While a feeling of disappointment at the result of these efforts prevails, there is a

general determination to work still harder for the next election. At my request Unions all over the colony have been discussing how best we may educate (1) ourselves, and (2) all those women electors who, for want of knowledge, voted for continuance. I hope that this Convention will give to the question its best attention, and formulate some plan of action whereby our preparations for the next local option poll may be spread over the next three years instead of being crushed into as many months. During the time immediately preceding the election meetings were much better attended, thus giving another proof of the truth of the oft-repeated statement that to hold the Union together it is necessary to give each member something to do. Organisation is a department which needs improvement. I would suggest that the Convention appoint an Organiser-General, whose duty it shall be to correspond with each Union, endeavouring to induce them to appoint a similar officer to carry on aggressive work. For this idea I am indebted to Mrs Collis, of New Plymouth, who has done magnificent aggressive work. Christchurch has also done excellent work in this direction, resulting in the formation of several new branches, while Auckland and Dunedin have each added one. In view of the varied and useful work done in New Zealand during the past year it seems almost out of place to allude to any as specially worthy of commendation. I wish, however, to call the attention of our seaports to the splendid work done among the seamen in Greymouth and Timaru. At the latter port the work has so increased that it has become necessary to appoint a resident caretaker at the Rest and to rent two additional rooms. Our enterprising sisters also found an outlet for their activities during the winter months, when ships were few, in the formation of a Boys' Club, which proved highly successful. Greymouth

distributes literature to the sailors every Sunday morning, as a result of which many attend church and are otherwise benefited. The Feilding branch, re-organised last Easter, has also been instrumental in establishing a club for young men and boys, with reading-rooms, gymnasiums, etc. Blenheim conducted a refreshment booth at the A. and P. Show. Palmerston North has commenced a work amongst friendless girls. Several Unions supply literature to the railway stations. This is a most important branch of our work, as many persons will read when travelling pamphlets upon which under other circumstances, they would not spend their time. The same remark applies to the work of supplying literature to ships and hospitals. Brunner stands alone, having doubled its membership during the year. God brings good out of evil, and the sympathy shown by White Ribboners during the great calamity which overtook the district proved very helpful. The history of this Union should prove stimulating and encouraging to other branches which are now so disheartened as to be tempted to give up. Last year Brunner seemed, through smallness of numbers and lack of interest, to be on the very verge of extinction, but it bravely determined to hold on, and is now prospering. To the disheartened ones I would say, dear sisters, remember that almost every society has to pass through a similar experience to yours. The tide has its ebb as well as its flow. After the first enthusiasm has passed members begin to fall off and interest to fail. Now is the time to show what you are made of. If there is any grit in you, you will say, it is right to have a Union here, and if no one else will make it go, I will. "One on the side of God is a majority," said Wendell Phillips, and you are not yet reduced to that number. Take heart, hold on, keep at it, and next year your

report will gladden our hearts as that of Brunner has done.

Yours in the Work,
MARY S. POWELL.

Report of the Annual Convention of the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union,

HELD IN THE
ART GALLERY, CHRISTCHURCH,
FEBRUARY, 1897.

MEMBERS OF CONVENTION.

Mrs Schnackenberg, Auckland, President; Mrs Ballantyne, Christchurch, Treasurer; Miss Powell, Palmerston North, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs Sheppard, Christchurch (Parliamentary); Mrs Kirkland, West Taieri (Evangelistic); Mrs Venables, Christchurch (Literature); Mrs Blackwell (Relief), and Mrs Soulby, Kaiapoi; Mrs Seed, Feilding; Mrs Arthur and Miss Barnett, Leeston; Mrs Adams, Dunedin; Mrs Cole and Mrs W. S. Smith (Business Manager WHITE RIBBON), Christchurch; Miss Gordon, Napier; Mrs Keir, Rangiora; Mrs Evans, Hokitika; Mrs Rose, Blenheim; Mrs Boxall, Wellington; Miss Chamberlain, Amberley; Miss Maunder, Hawera; Mrs Whitby, Lyttelton; Mrs Webb, Gisborne; Mrs Widdowson, Auckland.

A short Executive meeting was held on the morning of Feb. 24th, when a programme of business was arranged.

The following notices of motion were received:—1. "To amend Article IV. of the Constitution."—Mrs Sheppard. 2. "To urge upon Christian Endeavour Societies to form a department for Temperance work."—Miss Powell.

On motion of Mrs W. Smith it was resolved—"That a Committee be formed to receive report of WHITE RIBBON, and to prepare resolutions for Convention." The President then read an interesting letter from Headquarters, Chicago, in which Miss Willard urged upon all White Ribboners the duty of sending assistance to the Armenian refugees. She also intimated that the W.W.C.T.U. intend to establish refuges at various points along the Turkish frontier. Miss Powell suggested that all subscriptions to various funds, such as the Indian Famine Relief Fund, be forwarded through the N.Z.W.C.T.U., instead of passing through the hands of other societies.

A reception meeting was held in the Art Gallery on Feb. 25th at 2 p.m., when addresses were delivered by Mrs Sheppard, Mrs Schnackenberg, Miss Powell, Mrs Webb, Mrs Squires, Mrs McKee, Mrs Grossman, and Mrs Cole. Afternoon tea was served, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent.

After the reception the members of Convention remained for preliminary business. The credentials of delegates were received, and members of committees appointed.

MORNING SESSION—FEB. 26TH.

The session opened with prayer-meeting, conducted by Mrs Schnackenberg. The President's address was then read and received. Mrs Schnackenberg then reported that New Plymouth desired the establishment of a central depot for literature. This, however, was thought impracticable, and it would be better

for each centre to order through local book-sellers. Pamphlets by Lady Henry Somerset, Canons Hicks and Wilberforce, Drs Ridge and Richardson, and others, could be obtained from the United Kingdom Alliance at a low rate.

On the motion of Miss Powell, it was resolved—"That Palmerston North be created a District Union."

AFTERNOON SESSION.

A letter was received from the Secretary of the Brisbane Union, inviting a delegate from New Zealand to the Triennial Convention, commencing April 26th.

The Corresponding Secretary's report was then read and adopted.

The banner offered by Mrs Packe to the Union which could show the largest number of new members for 1893 was presented to the Kaiapoi Union.

Mrs Ballantyne then read the New Zealand Treasurer's report, showing cash balances held by local Unions to be £388 10s 6½d, and the income for the year £199 5s 10½d. Twenty-two of the Unions had not yet sent in Treasurer's report. Reports of District Unions were then read by Miss Powell.

MORNING SESSION.

The reports of the following departments were read:—Juvenile Work, Rescue, Relief, and Mission Work. In connection with the latter report Mrs Whitby gave an account of Mission work in Lyttelton, and Mrs Schnackenberg impressed upon the Unions the importance of holding missionary prayer meetings at least once a month.

Discussion followed upon Preventive and Rescue Work; also upon the evils of smoking and the desirability of appointing a superintendent of narcotics.

MORNING SESSION.—MARCH 1.

The reading of departmental reports was continued.

Mrs Rose gave an interesting account of Maori work in Blenheim, and suggested the opening of a W.C.T.U. among the Maori women there. Mrs Schnackenberg referred to the evasion of prohibitory laws in the King country.

The President then read a paper upon Scientific Temperance Instruction in schools, and urged that the work be taken up throughout the colony.

On behalf of the Napier Union Miss Gordon asked Convention to recommend another book on Scientific Instruction, Dr. Richardson's being thought too advanced for children. A long discussion ensued, and suggestions were made upon carrying out this work through Bands of Hope.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Mrs Sheppard read the Parliamentary Report, after which the following resolutions were carried:—

"That this Convention thanks the Premier for his efforts to repeal the C.D. Acts during the last session of Parliament, and urges that a Bill be introduced whereby the wish of the people (already twice expressed through their representatives) to sweep these Acts from the Statute books of the colony, shall become law."

"That this Convention strongly urges that a Bill be introduced into Parliament whereby the wish of the people, expressed last year, to equalise the conditions of Divorce for men and women, may be carried into effect, and that

this resolution be forwarded to the Premier and to the Speakers of both Houses."

"That this Convention thanks the House of Representatives for having raised the age of protection from 14 to 16 years. It now asks that the age be raised to 21 years, on the following grounds:—All persons under 21 years are considered by law irresponsible where casting a Parliamentary vote, entering into a business partnership, or inheriting property are concerned. Convention holds that the honour of our women is at least of equal importance with these, and claims similar protection."

"This Convention urges that it be made illegal and severely punishable for any youth or maiden under twenty-one to be found in a house of ill fame."

"That, recognising that the economic dependence of women is oppressive, and hurtful to them, and also that it is, in a large measure, responsible for the 'social evil,' this Convention respectfully urges the Government to consider the question, and in all cases where it employs men and women to do the same class of work, remunerate them equally, and so uphold the principle of 'equal wage for equal work.'"

"That this Convention urges the Government to introduce a Bill for the removal of all civil and political disabilities from women."

"That District Unions be urged to a more complete discharge of their duties towards their auxiliary Unions and to the New Zealand officers. That they be advised to hold a District Convention at least once a year, and invite their auxiliaries to attend. That they visit their auxiliaries in turn during the year, holding meetings, suggesting literature and plans of work, and 'mothering' them generally. That they organise new Unions where practicable, and that they collect their auxiliaries' annual secretaries' reports and balance sheets, with their capitation fees, and forward them, with the district report, to the New Zealand Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer respectively before December 31st."

Miss Powell made some suggestions upon reaching and educating indifferent women, and, upon the invitation of the President, Rev F. Isitt spoke upon the same subject.

MORNING SESSION—MARCH 2ND.

At the morning session, Mrs Seed urged the desirability of amending Article VIII. of the Constitution, and, after some discussion, the following resolution was carried:—

"That a committee be appointed to amend the Constitution, and to add the various resolutions passed from year to year; the committee to be composed of the New Zealand officers, with Mesdames Seed, Cole, Sheppard, Newton, and Widdowson."

Mrs Sheppard gave notice of motion—

"That the Corresponding Secretary be instructed to send to Mrs Hannah Whitehall Smith for specimens of 'Schools of Methods,' also a book recommended by the American W.C.T.U., entitled 'Questions and Answers.'"

Mrs Schnackenberg and Miss Powell referred to the necessity for having printed forms issued to each Union for tabulating reports for Convention. Specimen copies were shown of a circular letter to be sent to absent members, issued by the New Plymouth Union. The President reminded the Unions that it is desirable to appoint one or two members to visit absentees.

District reports were read from Midhirst, Manaia, Waimate, and Pungarehu.

Mrs Blackwell spoke upon the importance

of using the initiatory service, and the following resolution was carried:—

"That the initiatory service be embodied in the revised Constitution."

Convention then went into committee on the "WHITE RIBBON."

AFTERNOON SESSION—MARCH 2ND.

The report of the Literature Department was read by Mrs Venables. Upon the invitation of the President, Mrs Grossman then read an interesting paper, and a letter from Miss Willard, upon the Armenian question. Mrs Sheppard also spoke upon the subject, and a collection was taken in aid of the Relief Fund, amounting to £3 13s 6d.

A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Grossman for her paper.

The following resolutions were passed:—

"That Mrs Newton be appointed as treasurer to receive contributions from all over the colony, towards the Indian Familee Relief Fund."

"That a number of papers on various subjects be prepared and read at next Convention."

The following papers were suggested:—

1. "The Responsibilities of Women as Citizens."—MRS SHEPPARD.

2. "The Responsibilities of Women as Mothers."—MRS WEBB.

3. "Our Outlook: Suggestions for Work."—MISS L. M. KIRK.

It was resolved to accept with thanks the invitation of the Napier Union to hold Convention there next year.

An offer was received from Mrs F. W. Isitt to organise new Unions and to strengthen small ones in the North Island, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Wellington. It was unanimously agreed to accept Mrs Isitt's offer, and also to authorise Miss Powell to visit any Unions on her way from Palmerston northwards.

MORNING SESSION—MARCH 3RD.

The following resolutions were carried:—

"That Convention sees the need of a lecturer on scientific temperance, who should be supplied with diagrams and appliances for experiments, and urges the District Unions to engage a White Ribboner for their district, who will regularly visit the auxiliary Unions and Bands of Hope."

"That Convention requests the Corresponding Secretary to reply to Miss Willard's letter re supposed defeat of the Prohibitionist party at the Local Option poll."

"That this Convention, seeing the great need for preventive work, urges on the Unions to hold meetings for the purpose of influencing mothers in the direction of instructing their children in the laws of physiology."

"That this Convention regrets that there are still many churches using fermented wine at the communion service, and urges Christian ministers and church officers to consider their responsibility in this important matter."

"That this Convention recommends that Superintendents of Bands of Hope be asked to induce boys to sign the Loyal Temperance Legion pledge, which includes abstinence from smoking."

"That this Convention recommends each Union to write to all temperance bodies, drawing their attention to the fact that the work of inducing people to sign the total abstinence pledge has largely suffered during the Legislative conflict of the last few years, and asking them to initiate campaigns for the prosecution of this essential feature of our work."

"That this Convention of delegates from all parts of the colony tenders hearty thanks

to the Christchurch Union for its kind hospitality during the meetings, adding the name of Mrs Evans for her kindness at the pleasant gathering at Willow Farm, Kaiapoi."

A vote of thanks was also passed to all those who had assisted in making the concert in aid of the New Zealand Funds a success.

Grants were passed to the WHITE RIBBON on account of Convention reports, and also to Superintendents of departments for postage.

Convention was closed by singing "God be with you till we meet again," and the repetition of the "Crusade Psalm."

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

MISSION WORK.

On being informed of my appointment, I immediately forwarded a circular letter to each Union in New Zealand, impressing upon them the advisability of taking up this Branch, if they had not already done so. It was suggested that Missionary Prayer Meetings should be held, mission literature circulated, and the cause forwarded in any other way that suggested itself to the minds of the members. I had a few replies to this letter. It gave me much pleasure to glean from one or two of these, and also from local reports in the WHITE RIBBON, that two or more of the Unions had initiated Missionary Prayer Meetings.

Immediately on receiving notice of the date of Convention I issued post-cards to all Unions asking for reports of Missionary Work. I am sincerely sorry that the time has been much too short to enable me to receive answers from all.

Replies have come to hand from Greymouth, Brunnerton, Hawera, Palmerston North, Oamaru Y's, Ashburton, Kaiapoi, Rangiora, West Taieri, Stratford and Blenheim. Of these eight report "No Mission Work undertaken."

From Greymouth comes an encouraging report. Four Missionary Prayer-meetings have been held—average attendance 14. C. I. M., and L. M. S. boxes have been on the table to receive donations, and some of the members subscribe to "China's Millions," and other Missionary Magazines.

Oamaru Y's report having sent a large parcel to New Guinea during 1896, and are preparing another.

West Taieri report that they help in sending boxes to the Zenana and New Hebrides Missions, as well as bags for the "Sailors' Rest." At the Mother's Weekly Prayer Meeting, part of the time is devoted to Prayer for Missionaries. They also collect for the Chinese and Children's Mission Aid, and other Missions. This I consider a very cheering report, and some of the other Unions would do well to take a pattern from West Taieri, in this particular branch at any rate.

In connection with the Hokitika Union, I have to report regular monthly Missionary Prayer-meetings, which are attended by outsiders as well as members. Extracts from Mission Magazines are read, and prayer offered, while donations are received for the C. I. M.

I am surprised at not receiving reports from Lyttleton and Wellington, as I understood they had taken up this branch of work. Perhaps the delegates from these places will kindly give verbal reports.

MARION B. JACK,

Superintendent.

(Continued on page 8.)

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THE ORIGINAL ROOMS,

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their own Lunch, and will be supplied with
cup of Tea or Coffee for 1d.

THE WHITE RIBBON.

EDITOR—MRS SHEPPARD ... BOX 209, CH. CH.
 ASSOCIATE EDITOR ... Miss L. M. SMITH
 TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER :
 MRS W. S. SMITH, 201, Hereford Street, Christ-
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 DISTRIBUTING DEPARTMENT MRS VENABLES

The White Ribbon :

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1897.

Convention Notes.

At the second Executive Meeting several suggestions were made for the better conduct of Convention meetings, also of those held by the various Unions throughout the year. An important one was that Presidents should insist on each member rising and addressing the chair, and speaking in a clear tone so as to be heard by all present. Members, it was urged, should not address each other excepting through the chair. If members forgot this rule and conversed together, even in a low tone, a bell should be rung by the Secretary to call the meeting to order. If consultation between two members were a positive necessity, such were recommended to write their communications on a slip of paper or retire into an ante-room.

Another suggestion had reference to the compilation of secretaries' reports, which, naturally, emanated from Miss Powell. To save the duplication of District and Auxiliary Departmental Reports, the District and Auxiliary Superintendents only should report such through the New Zealand Superintendents. It was urged against that plan that the Secretaries Reports' would necessarily be meagre were the departmental reports abstracted. Miss Powell thought, however, that all the temperance and general work of the Unions, account of public meetings, &c., would still be left, but suggested that brief comment should be made by Secretaries of Unions of departmental work done, with a notification that the report of such had been sent to the N.Z. Superintendent.

The latter should, in her report, give full credit to each Union for work done in her department, so that no record would be lost, and no Union discouraged.

A SUGGESTION that the District Secretaries should collect auxiliaries' reports and forward them to N.Z. Secretaries before December 31st was embodied in a resolution, and published in the minutes of Convention.

A HOPE was expressed that as next Convention would be held some time in February, delegates should be appointed in good time, and notification sent to the inviting Union (Napier).

REGRET was felt that so many of the branches failed to send either reports or balance-sheets to Convention. All were agreed that the word "Local," used to describe the Unions, should not be used, the terms "District" and "Auxiliary" being sufficient, and the use of a third term causing confusion.

Miss Powell proposed that "Educational meetings should be held in each Union alternately with the ordinary business meeting, when a paper, or several short papers, might be read by the members on some subject of interest to the Union." The proposition was gladly received by most of the delegates.

WE regret that all the Unions have not forwarded the names of their officers for 1897, and ask now that this omission may be rectified before our next issue. We suggest that members who wish to keep the Convention number of the WHITE RIBBON for reference should fill in the names of officers (when published) in the blank spaces left for them in the list.

National Council of Women of New Zealand.

(TO MEET IN CHRISTCHURCH, MARCH 24, 1897).
 PROGRAMME.

FIRST DAY—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24.
 Morning—Presidential Address and Committee
 Afternoon—Equal Wage, Equal Work, and Sweating—Mrs Hendre.
 Evening—Responsibilities of Parents—Lady Stout.

SECOND DAY, THURSDAY, MARCH 25.
 Morning—Committee.
 Afternoon—Party Government, Elective Executive, Reform of Upper House.
 Evening—Reception?

THIRD DAY—FRIDAY, MARCH 26.
 Morning—Recess
 Afternoon—Criminal Code and C. D. Acts—Mrs Cunningham.
 Evening—Removal of Civil and Political Disabilities—Mrs Daldy.

FOURTH DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 27.
 Morning—Recess.
 Afternoon—Nationalisation of Land and Means of Production—Mrs Wells.
 Evening—Economic Independence of Married Women, and Marriage and Divorce—Mrs Sievwright.

FIFTH DAY—MONDAY, MARCH 29.
 Morning—Recess.
 Afternoon—Technical Education—Mrs Tasker.
 Evening—The Unemployed—Mrs Bullock.

SIXTH DAY—TUESDAY, MARCH 30.
 Morning—Recess.
 Afternoon—Old Age Pensions—Mrs Blake.
 Evening—Health—Mrs Wells.

SEVENTH DAY—WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31.
 Morning—Committee.
 Afternoon—Enforcement of Maintenance in Illegitimacy—Lady Stout.
 Evening—Charitable Aid—Mrs Evans.

EIGHTH DAY—THURSDAY, APRIL 1.
 Morning—Recess.
 Afternoon—Peace and Arbitration—Miss Bain
 Evening—Moral and Scientific Aspect of Temperance—Miss Kirk.

NINTH DAY—FRIDAY, APRIL 2.
 Morning—Committee.
 Afternoon—Prison Reform—Mrs Collings.
 Evening—Character in our Public Men—Mrs Fleming.

[Owing to unforeseen circumstances, the Women's National Council, which was to have met in Wellington on March 18th, has now decided to hold its annual sessions in Christchurch, opening on March 24—ED.]

The Rev. P. R. Monro.

The death of the Rev P. R. Monro, is a shock and grief to numbers of people all over the colony. As a Christian Minister he was faithful and fearless having the courage of his convictions, even when his outspokenness meant worldly loss. He was equally strong and brave in his espousal of Temperance Reform; while with all his mental force and energy he was generous and warmhearted, even to those from whom he differed.

His fellow-workers in the Temperance Cause will especially miss his genial presence, and his whole-souled co-operation. It is difficult to realise that he has gone from us, and that there is a necessity for a closing up of the ranks.

But we cannot but feel that his example will help to strengthen many a weak hand and feeble knee in the great humanitarian cause which he so nobly espoused, and this thought in a measure, consoles us.

With his sorrowing wife we have the deepest sympathy.

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.

Neglected Children.

The "Cry of the Children" is in every true woman's ears, and the "Child Problem" is a National problem; we therefore believe that our readers throughout the colony will be glad to read the following manifesto, published by the Canterbury Women's Institute:—

The Canterbury Women's Institute feels that the State's noblest assets are its people, and therefore attention must be drawn to their culture. The production of noble men and women depends on the physical, mental, moral and spiritual training of children. At present large numbers of children are growing up in the community with little or no education, no good influence and no home supervision. The result of this is that many at a tender age become criminals, while it is hardly probable that those who escape the taint will become useful members of society if left in these surroundings. Classification is then necessary. Those who have become criminal should be separated from those who are merely unfortunate. As the children possibly inherit bad tendencies, these should be counteracted by good environment. State Homes should be provided for both classes, where children shall be nurtured, protected, trained and educated for life's work by women of great culture and refinement. These Homes should be situated on fertile land, upon which, under proper supervision, the services of the children might be utilised for providing the vegetables, fruit, milk, butter, cheese, honey, &c., for the use of the inmates.

In order that the children should come under the influence of the Home before they were irretrievably corrupted by their surroundings it seems advisable that they should enter the Home before the age of seven. A crèche should be part of the Home, where the children could be cared for till the age of four. From four to seven they would receive kindergarten instruction. From seven to twelve they would follow the primary school curriculum, devoting a portion of their spare time to domestic and out-door duties. From twelve to sixteen, while a small portion of time should still be devoted to intellectual training, the greater portion should be occupied in fitting the pupils for their future duties as men and women. The girls might be taught cooking, nursing, laundry-work, dress-making, tailoring,

care of infants and kindergarten-teaching, the boys receiving instruction in the care of animals and general farm work. Both boys and girls might be usefully and healthfully occupied in gardening. Some of the boys from the age of fourteen might be apprenticed outside of the Home. Children showing special talent in one direction should be aided to develop it.

While women would have the care of the Home, masters would be necessary to teach the bigger boys. The administration of the Home should be in the hands of a Board composed of an equal number of men and women elected by the people, but responsible to the Government.

Australia.

The third Triennial Convention of the W.C.T.U. of Australia is called for the 26th April, to meet in Brisbane.

The Convention will be preceded by an all day of prayer on the 23rd, with a welcome reception at night, a juvenile demonstration Saturday afternoon, and services conducted by the delegates on Sunday. The day sessions will be occupied by the ordinary routine business, varied by papers on the topics of the day, introduction of visitors, election of officers, &c., and in the evening meetings will include an intercolonial "Y" night, a franchise gathering, a united Temperance rally, and a Purity conference. During the Convention the banner of the World's President, Miss Frances E. Willard, LL.D., will be presented to the colony having the largest gain in membership since January, 1896.

Report of Departments.

[CONTINUED].

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT.

Your Superintendents record with regret that several Bills of great importance to women, and regarding which resolutions were forwarded to Wellington from last Convention, were rejected by the Legislature of the Colony during the year.

The Bill dealing with the *Equality of Conditions of Divorce* for men and women, passed the House of Representatives by 40 to 11, but was rejected by the Legislative Council by 29 to 11.

The *C.D. Act Amendment Bill*, which was really a Repeal of the C. D. Act, was passed by the House of Representatives but on reaching the Legislative Council was thrown out. Hoping that a further consideration of the subject would cause the Council to act differently, Mr Seddon introduced the Bill in a slightly altered form.

The second Bill was also passed without hesitation by the Lower House, but was again rejected by the Council by 18 to 11. The shame of perpetuating this indignity to women clearly rests, not with the representatives of the people, but with a body of men of whose age and experience we might expect better things.

Your Superintendents are glad to record that the Age of Consent (or "Age of Protection," as we now call it,) has been raised from 14 to 16 years, and hope that it will be raised

still further, many girls of 16 being mere children, and ignorant of sex questions. They strongly urge that physiology should be taught to young people, on the plan recommended by our English and American Medical White Ribbon Sisters.

The Bill for the removal of Women's Disabilities was thrown out in Committee of the House of Representatives by 24 to 17.

The Bill for Women's Admission to Parliament was also rejected by that House, by 24 to 22.

The *Alcoholic Liquors Sale Control Bill* passed through the House of Representatives, but was thrown out by the Legislative Council.

Your Superintendents gladly note that the *Female Law Practitioners Bill*, which leaves women free to practise law in our colony, passed successfully through both Houses.

A Bill for the *Suppression of Juvenile Delinquency* was introduced by the Premier, and several of our Branches communicated with the Government and the M.H.R.'s of their respective districts, expressing satisfaction at the introduction of the Bill, and suggesting amendments thereto. This measure was subsequently dropped in Committee. Our Branches sent resolutions of thanks to the Speakers of both Houses after the raising of the "Age of Protection" from 14 to 16, which was accomplished by the passage of the *Criminal Code Amendment Act*.

Our Branches also sent resolutions of thanks to the Government and the House of Representatives on their passing the Equality of Divorce and C.D. Act Amendment Bills, and expressions of disappointment and protest to the Legislative Council which voted against those measures.

Your Superintendents would earnestly urge temperance women to keep clear of party politics. At the last General Parliamentary Elections some of our temperance women (not members of the W.C.T.U.) worked and voted for candidates who were nominees of the liquor trade, because they were run by a certain political party. Let us give our support to those who will give us the moral reforms we want, irrespective of which side of the House they are on.

LOCAL OPTION POLL.

Although not strictly belonging to the Parliamentary Report, a word or two may be said as to the result of the Local Option Poll. A return published in the Government Gazette gives the total votes of the licensing poll, from which it appears that votes were cast by 259,898 citizens. Of these, 139,580 voted for continuance of licences, and 120,318 voted for reduction or prohibition. The Prohibition vote has immensely increased. The vote in 1894 was 48,993, and in 1896 it was 98,172. It is highly important that we should set ourselves to steady persistent work for the next three years.

We must organise and educate, laying a solid foundation on which we may agitate for this great reform.

K. W. SHEPPARD, Christchurch,

L. M. KIRK, Wellington,

Superintendents.

WORK AMONG THE MAORIS.

Mrs Hewitt sends no report to Convention, although we have had interesting accounts from her during the year which have been published in the WHITE RIBBON. Mrs Webb, from Dampier's Bay, Lyttelton, reports that

they are doing good work among the Maoris there. She testifies to the excellent services of the schoolmaster, Mr Bone, who during his seven years' residence in Dampier's Bay had been an influence for good in promoting temperance among the natives. Mrs Rose, of Blenheim, reported a conversation with the widow of the late Chief Kore. Pledge cards and literature were given her, with which she was highly pleased, and wished for more. Kore, when his people came home intoxicated from the neighbouring townships, would not allow them to enter the pahi, but insisted upon their spending the night upon the island near by, no matter what the weather. The chief's widow gave the assurance that her son would enforce the same rule.

RELIEF WORK.

In presenting the report of Relief Work, your Superintendent regrets not having a further one to submit to you, but Convention being held earlier than usual, has prevented many Unions sending in their reports in time. Those I have received represent good work done. My heart has been cheered by knowing that wherever Unions exist they are centres for good, that of them it may be said, as Miss Willard puts it, "They are Christianity in motion." While in many Unions Relief Superintendents are appointed who visit and relieve cases of sickness and distress, others find that the work is done in other ways by Dorcas or Benevolent Societies, to which many of their members belong, and there is no need therefore for them to take up the work in addition to these. Your Superintendent wrote to most of the Unions suggesting methods of work, and has received replies from Invercargill, West Taieri, Oamaru, Levin, Lyttelton, Timaru, Feilding, Greymouth, and Kaiapoi.

ANNIE BLACKWELL,
Superintendent, Kaiapoi.

SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE INSTRUCTION.

The great need in this most important Department is the appointment of some person in each district who would visit day-schools and Bands of Hope, and other young people's societies, for the purpose of lecturing and giving addresses on the subject with diagrams or experiments. Several Unions ask that Convention will formulate some plan of work in the Department for the year. I shall urge upon Convention the necessity for immediate action in this direction. No reports from Unions are to hand. Wellington Union, I am told, is arranging for a series of lectures, with diagrams to be given to all children and young persons. Auckland has for some time been favoured with the valuable help of Mrs Kerr, who visited the City schools at stated times. Her addresses were much appreciated, but our sister has been promoted, and the work is left to us to carry on.

Juvenile classes have been started in Ponsonby on the lines of the Loyal Temperance Legion. We anticipate much good as the result. I earnestly hope the work will be taken up all through the colony.

A. J. SCHNACKENBERG,
Superintendent, Auckland.

ORGANISATION.
(New Plymouth Branch.)

During the year I have been able to visit and hold meetings in some thirteen towns and

villages:—Hawera, Patea, Wanganui, Eltham, Ngairi, Stratford, Midhurst, Toko, Inglewood, Okato, Pungarehu, Rahotu, and Opunake. At Wanganui a flourishing Branch existed till about four years ago, when it became disorganised. Now they have made a fresh start, with several new members. The Branch at Inglewood was formed in Nov 1885, with 12 members, but through lack of someone to take the office of President and hold meetings, has resolved simply to work as a Somerset Union, the individual members working by means of pledge books and literature. A similar state of things exists at Patea, Eltham, Okato, and Rahotu. The Stratford Branch has over 40 members, and is steadily working and growing, as also are the Branches at Hawera, Midhurst, Toko, Nagaire, and Pungarehu.

It was feared at first, by the New Plymouth Union, that the expense would prove a bar to attempting organising work. However the cost has proved but trifling. The friends in the various districts not only entertained the visitor, but also arranged for her free conveyance from one place to another; such vehicles as flax waggons, butter waggons, expresses and grocers' carts, being occasionally pressed into service. Though not always pleasant at the time, yet these journeyings will afford me many an amusing reminiscence, while I have also the cheering thought of the vast amount of work the new members will be able to accomplish.

MARY COLLIS,
Organiser.

RESCUE WORK.

Early in the year I communicated with the local Superintendents in the different towns, and gathered that all the branches are in sympathy with the work. In some places, where there is a society already at work, the Union has been content to render assistance rather than see two weak organisations.

In Auckland, special attention is being paid to juveniles, and I thoroughly endorse the sentiment of the Superintendent, "It is better to fence the precipice at the top to prevent the fall, than to pick up the mangled remains at the bottom." Dunedin reports that several members are devoting themselves to individual cases. In Invercargill we have a Home for Friendless Girls in connection with the Union. Twelve girls have passed through our hands, and though some have disappointed us, others have proved most encouraging cases. Other Unions are wishful to take up the work, but the labourers are few.

MARGARET JONES,
Superintendent.

HYGIENE, AND Y's WORK.

My time last winter was fully occupied in giving practical lessons on Domestic Economy and Hygiene under various school committees and organisations, therefore special lectures under the auspices of the W.C.T.U. were not necessary. Through the efforts of the delegate from Blenheim at last year's Convention, I was asked by the Marlborough Education Board to give a course of lectures to the public school-girls. The Board provided everything, and the lectures were free to the teachers, and to the girls of the upper standards in town and country schools. I bring this matter specially before you as a good way of benefitting young people in smaller towns. Our temperance work may also be advanced by inducing some of our women, who have platform ability, to

take up this useful branch of work. Homely as it is, one may through it influence many people who could not be otherwise reached.

While in Blenheim I had the privilege of addressing a meeting under the auspices of the Union on "The Rights of Women," their right to educate themselves, and train up their daughters in all things holy, pure, and useful.

After leaving Blenheim I went on to Napier, when, as many of you know, sorrow's hand was laid upon me, and I was prevented from fulfilling my engagements in Wellington, Christchurch, and Kaiapoi.

I think special meetings for young women in connection with the parent Unions would meet present requirements, both with regard to Local Option Poll matters, and also Hygiene. These meetings could be followed up later with Y Unions, when suitable leaders had been found—consecrated young women, who meant to keep to the work under all difficulties. Special efforts should be made to get girls in domestic service to attend these meetings. They will usually willingly do so if their mistresses can be induced to allow them time for the purpose without interfering with the usual evening out.

Last year, Mrs Barnes, the energetic Superintendent of the American Y's, requested me, as N.Z. Superintendent of Y's, to send texts for each day for one month, with Helps for opposite page, and also photograph, to put in their Y Almanac for 1897. I had much pleasure in complying with her wish, and have ordered one dozen. The price of the almanac is 15 cents, and it contains portraits of the Y leaders in different lands.

With regard to Hygiene, special attention has been paid this year to the value of wholemeal bread and fruits—apples especially. I have also been exhibiting to my pupils hygienic clothing, and coloured plates showing the misplacement of the internal organs through corset-wearing.

E. B. MILLER.

JUVENILE WORK.

I regret that I have very little to report in connection with Juvenile Work, as very few Unions have sent me the necessary information. I have had a considerable amount of correspondence during the year, but many, though anxious to undertake it, find great difficulty in securing suitable leaders for any kind of Juvenile Work. This is greatly to be regretted, as the results of last election seem to prove that if the liquor trade is to be driven out of the colony, it must be by the votes of those who will attain their majority during the next few years. In many towns, Bands of Hope do their work so well, that but little room is left for our Unions to work in this direction, but I think something might be done by offering prizes to scholars for the best essays on different aspects of the temperance question, by encouraging them to qualify themselves for an examination on some Temperance Text Book. I regret that owing to a mistake, literature that I ordered from America did not arrive, but several Unions appeared to appreciate what little I was able to send them.

I am sorry to send such a meagre report, as I know work has been done, and I trust that next Convention will show a better record.

MRS BROWN,
Superintendent, Invercargill.

LITERATURE.

Reports to hand only from Naseby and Christchurch.

The inland portion of the Waiheke Electo-

rate is the seat of the operations of the Naseby Union. Eighteen copies of the *Prohibitionist* are circulated, and during the latter part of 1896 4000 leaflets were distributed throughout the Manioto Plains.

Christchurch printed and published 40,500 leaflets specially adapted for distribution before the late elections. Copies of leading Temperance journals from England and America are still taken for the use of members.

C. VENABLES,
Superintendent.

Report of White Ribbon

FROM APRIL 11, 1896, TO FEB. 20, 1897.

Although the past year has been one of hard and uphill work, there is, we think, much hope for the future of our paper. During the year the WHITE RIBBON has been greatly enlarged, both in the size of the pages, and in their number. The enlargement is due to the unselfish energy of Mrs Sheppard, who, with the business-manager, personally canvassed for advertisements and secured a sufficient number to pay for the extra cost incurred by the increased size.

Our circulation has about doubled itself during the year, and the thanks of the committee are due to a number of our members, who have shown a large amount of zeal in procuring new subscribers. We are sorry to say there are still numbers of our members who do not subscribe. With a membership of over one thousand, and subscribers who are not members of our Union, there is no reason why we should not have a much longer subscription list. This would make our finances easy.

After allowing for the cost of printing up to the end of June, it is estimated that there will be a deficiency of about £26 on the year's working. The greater part of this amount was incurred during the earlier part of the year, and is mainly owing to the apathy of our Unions. Had they shown more energy in seeking new subscribers immediately after last Convention, the greater part of this loss would have been saved. We now want 300 new subscribers to put us on a sound footing.

It should be the duty of Convention to say how these may be obtained. With regard to the income from advertisements, it cannot be expected that this will be so large in the future unless other centres are called upon to help. We therefore suggest that the Dunedin, Wellington, and Auckland Unions should undertake to secure advertisements.

We have received many spontaneous and cheering testimonies as to the excellence of the WHITE RIBBON.

What is now wanted is for each of our members to give a little hearty personal work, and the future welfare of our organ will be secured.

JENNIE M. SMITH,
Business Manager.

REPORTS OF LOCAL UNIONS.

(Abridged from those presented to the Convention).

AUCKLAND.

The number of members is at present 50. Two members have been removed by death during the year, viz, Sisters Kerr and

Edmonds, both of whom we shall greatly miss. Nineteen meetings have been held, besides which the Union has taken part in three public meetings held in the interests of temperance. A Loyal Temperance Legion has been formed by Mrs Davis, Superintendent of Scientific Instruction, ably assisted by Mrs Main, Superintendent of Juvenile Work. Meetings are held fortnightly, and their interest in the work is steadily maintained. The Union endeavoured in every way to assist the Prohibition cause at the elections, carrying on a systematic and extensive distribution of literature during the months previous. Dr. E. B. Ryder visited Auckland and was received by our Union. She expressed sympathy with our work and cheered us by her words. Mrs Wilkins, an English lady who has visited India, testified to the statements of Dr. Ryder re "Little Wives of India." We have also been helped by visits from Rev G. Walker and Mr. H. Field, both of the New Zealand Alliance. A branch of W.C.T.U. has been started at Devonport (North Shore). The young society promises well for future work.

DEVONPORT.

This Branch was organised at a meeting held on August 3rd, 1896. Sixteen members have been enrolled, and monthly meetings held. Pledge cards are kept on hand by most of the members, and temperance literature has been circulated.

TAURANGA.

This Branch held its first meeting on May 6th, 1896. We have upon the roll 8 Europeans and 33 Maori members. Our aim has been to carry on temperance work among the Maoris, and we feel greatly encouraged. We provide a good meal for them, and afterwards address them with the aid of an interpreter. Twenty-five have donned the blue ribbon and signed the pledge.

NAPIER.

There are 36 members upon the roll, as well as 8 honorary ones. Twenty-five meetings have been held during the year, the business being of the usual varied character. Efforts were made to prevent another hotel being licensed, which were unfortunately not successful. We also failed in our attempt to introduce Dr. Richardson's book on Scientific Temperance into the district school. However, we do not intend to let the matter rest. Our Union helped to raise money for the New Zealand Alliance scheme, and, in view of the elections, distributed some hundreds of leaflets. We take in regularly the "Union Signal," "Woman's Signal," "Medical Pioneer," and "Prohibitionist," while a number of our members take in the WHITE RIBBON.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

The Departments undertaken during the year have been as follows:—Evangelistic Work, Literature, Franchise, Visiting, Organisation, and Juvenile Work, all of which have been pushed vigorously. Branches have been instituted at Wanganui, Inglewood, Hawera, Patea, Eltham, Ngaire, Stratford, Midhurst, Toko, Pungarehu, Rahotu, and Opunake. During the year visits were received from Mrs Schnackenberg and Miss Kirk. Public meetings in each case were held, and the objects of the Union explained and furthered.

The WHITE RIBBON, "Union Signal," and "Woman's Signal," are the current periodicals

subscribed to by our members. Our members' roll contains 53 names, with an additional 8 as honorary members. Fortnightly meetings have been held during the year with moderately good attendance.

Much valuable work in favour of Prohibition was performed by our members at the late Local Option Poll, and although not successful to the degree anticipated, every effort will be made during the ensuing three years to educate indifferent women on this subject.

PUNGAREHU.

This Branch was organised on April 29th, 1896. It was decided to meet monthly, but the full number of meetings have not been held owing to the wet weather. We started with 7 active members, and 1 honorary, but our numbers have increased to 13 active, and 2 honorary members. Beside the ordinary work of the meetings, we have taken up the Distribution of Literature and Franchise Departments.

MIDHURST.

This Union was formed on May 27th, 1896, with 11 active and 7 honorary members on the roll. We have now 22 active members. Thirteen meetings have been held, and proved both pleasant and profitable. Our Visiting Committee has been working well, and is very attentive in cases of sickness. We have taken up the distribution of literature, and for the purpose have had some splendid leaflets and other papers.

STRATFORD.

This Branch was organised on 29th January, 1896, by Mrs Coilis, of New Plymouth. We have 44 members upon the roll, and have held twenty-three meetings. During the year we have taken up house to house visitation, coupled with circulation of temperance literature. Our Union has also subscribed to the Armenian Relief Fund.

HAWERA.

We have 26 names on our roll, but our usual attendance is small. Meetings have been held regularly since our organisation, except during the month of January.

MANAIA.

Our Branch has a membership of only 10, but though few in numbers it is a hearty little band, and will, we hope, do some lasting work when it gets fairly started. Miss Ward has been elected Superintendent of Literature.

WANGANUI.

This Union was formed in February, 1896, with 12 members, since which our members have increased to 28. In May, our President, Mrs G. H. Smith, attended the Palmerston Convention. At the request of the Wanganui Prohibition League one of our members has been appointed a delegate to attend the League meetings. Members of the League have also visited our Union, and given us short, helpful addresses. Just before the election several of our members undertook house to house visitation and distribution of leaflets. A box at the Railway Station has also been supplied with literature. During the year, twelve ordinary meetings have been held, and three open meetings. One of the latter was addressed by Mrs Schnackenberg, and proved highly successful. The other two were held before the elections and were addressed by our own members.

During Mr Isitt's visit we arranged a tea-meeting for temperance workers and friends.

LYTTELTON.

Our Union numbers 21 members. Meetings are held weekly; Missionary, Evangelistic, and Temperance alternately. Several of our members visit the Seaman's Rest on Sunday evenings, and sing Sankey's hymns, which the sailors heartily appreciate. Suitable literature is distributed at the close of every Sunday evening. About once a quarter entertainments are held, when the towns-people provide a pleasant evening's amusement for the sailors. Over 3000 Alliance Leaflets were distributed before the election. Some of our members were stationed at the polling booths on election day, giving voters the "How to Vote" paper.

FEILDING.

This Branch has now 20 members on the roll. A club for young men and boys has been formed, with a gymnasium, and two rooms for reading and games. The results have been satisfactory. Good temperance work was done before the election, by placing names on the electoral roll, and distributing "How to Vote" pamphlets. The distribution of a hundred copies of the "Prohibitionist" is still continued. We have a Band of Hope with 300 members, and the meetings are well attended. The success of this branch of work is due mainly to the efforts of Mrs J. C. Thompson. An interesting address was given to members and friends on January 29th by Miss Kirk, of Wellington, on the origin and aims of the Union. The question of Social Purity has engaged our attention, and we are in sympathy with the Bill introduced into Parliament last session, for clearing the streets at a certain hour, feeling it desirable in the interests of morality, and of the young of both sexes.

WELLINGTON.

This Union has long felt the desirability of possessing rooms for its work, and to aid in this matter a sale of work was held in July, by which a few pounds were secured for the fund. The railway boxes have been supplied with literature, from time to time. The Hospital band has been conscientiously continuing its work. Relief work has been attended to, but this Department suffered a severe loss by the removal of Mrs Corlett to Auckland. Subscribers have been secured, and it is hoped the numbers will be at least doubled during 1897. The Brunnerton calamity called forth sympathy on all sides, and although our members had subscribed, they voted a sum to be sent to the W. C. T. Union at Brunner, with a letter of condolence. In conjunction with all temperance friends, this Union welcomed our friend, Rev. L. M. Isitt, most heartily after his visit to England and America. Our missionary prayer meeting it was decided to merge with one already formed. Several of our members are engaged in visiting the poor, and obtaining pledges. We are anxious to increase our membership, and to undertake more work than in the past.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Number of members on roll, 63; average attendance, 22. Three new Unions have been formed, viz: at Leeston, Amberley and Waimate. The Kaiapoi branch has been formed into a District Union. Prison Gate Mission—Early in the year the Union withdrew from this branch of work, and accorded a hearty

vote of thanks to Mrs Venables for her many years of work. Elections.—The candidature of Mr. T. E. Taylor was strongly supported at the bye-election in March, and large quantities of pamphlets were issued prior to the general election in December last. Literature.—The literature for the election campaign was arranged by a special Committee, and in great demand all over the colony. We have had 1000 Pledge cards printed in books of 25 each, also 40,000 leaflets,—17,000 of which have been sent through the post. The Union still subscribes to the "Woman's Signal," "Union Signal," and "Medical Pioneer." Coffee Rooms—This branch of work is very satisfactory, and new rooms have been opened in a more central position, in addition to those in Manchester Street. Luncheon Booth.—The booth at the A. and P. Association's Show, was double the size of that of the preceding year, and was a comfort to thousands. Girls' Sewing Class.—Is being continued satisfactorily. Evangelistic Work.—Meetings have been held in Gloucester Street Temperance Hall, also Cottage Meetings in Linwood. Leeston has been twice visited, and at Amberley a well attended meeting was held in the Town Hall, when addresses were given by Mesdames F. W. Isitt, Caverhill, and Rev. Gow. Franchise—A large drawing-room meeting was held in the Art Gallery on Sept. 25th, to commemorate the enfranchisement of women. Afternoon tea was provided, and addresses given by Miss Bain, Mesdames Sheppard, Wells, McKee, Munnings, and others. Page in "Prohibitionist."—There are 113 subscribers, and thanks to the efforts of Miss Gordon the numbers are increasing. Hygiene and Heredity.—Our Superintendent, Mrs Wells, is continuing to do good work through the medium of the WHITE RIBBON. Many have testified to the good derived from adopting her simple methods of treating disease. Drawing-room Meetings.—Five meetings have been held, and a great amount of interest evoked. The aim has not been to influence Temperance people, but those who do not attend our public meetings. Two very satisfactory meetings of factory girls have also been held, which have proved helpful to the girls, and resulted in the placing of their names upon the electoral roll. Several copies of Dr. Nicholl's "Laws of Generation," have been ordered. Relief Work.—Several deserving families have been helped with clothing and money. Rescue Work.—Country lodgings have been found for many young girls in need, until work could be obtained, and clothing had also been supplied. In most cases satisfactory reports have been received. Mothers' Meetings and Social Purity.—Many meetings have been held in conjunction with the N. Z. Mothers' Union, which have been the means of much blessing. Parliamentary.—Re Juvenile Depravity Bill, our Union heartily approved of the measure, and forwarded the following suggestions to the Premier, Speakers of both Houses, and all the members for Canterbury:—(1) That it should apply to boys as well as girls, and that as it stands, it gives far too much power to the police. (2) That women might be appointed as Police Matrons to deal with girls, and also to act as truant officers.

BLLENHEIM.

During the year there has been an increase in the membership of 20, making a total of 60, with an additional 17 honorary members. The financial position of the Union is much better than last year. Our thanks are specially due to Miss Youmans, and those who assisted her,

for her series of tableaux entertainments which netted £59 12s 10d, out of which fund the Union, in conjunction with Miss Youmans, contributed the sum of £20 to the Brunner Relief Fund. The debating society is both a source of income to the Union, and of intellectual entertainment to members attending the rooms. Social meetings were held weekly during the winter months and were largely patronised. An entertainment was also given on our behalf by the Young Ladies' Cricket Club. A large quantity of temperance literature has been distributed, and additional subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON have been secured. Addresses have been given by Mrs Millar, Mr Crabb, and Rev Ward. We were successful in securing the refreshment booth at the Marlborough A. and P. Association's Show, and the results were gratifying. Though unsuccessful at the general elections, much interest has been aroused in the temperance work.

LEESTON.

Number of members, 36. This Branch was started on March 19th, 1896, by Mesdames Isitt, Cole, and Newton, who were sent as delegates from Christchurch. Twelve well-

PORT CHALMERS.

During the year 11 business meetings have been held, 2 women's tea-meetings in the "Rest," also 9 prayer-meetings in different parts of the port, all of which have been very helpful.

Before the election we all worked with a will in distributing literature, placing names on the roll. There are two strong Bands of Hope in Port, numbering 300 children.

WEST TAIERI.

Number of members is at present 12. Only 7 meetings were held during the year owing to the absence of our President. Leaflets and pamphlets on Social Purity, and Temperance, and Gospel literature have been distributed. A Mothers' meeting is held every week conducted by our President. Literature and a parcel of bags have been distributed among the sailors, and subscriptions made to the Brunner Relief Fund, and the Sailors' Rest.

BRUNNERTON.

We began the year in much discouragement, and when the great calamity befell our district we hardly hoped to survive. But interest was rekindled, attendance increased, and membership more than doubled itself during the year. The practical sympathy shown us by the New Zealand and other Unions did much to bind us together. Seven ordinary meetings have been held. Our membership numbers 26, 2 being honorary. 1200 Prohibition leaflets have been distributed, and 200 leaflets "How to Vote." The district was canvassed for the purpose of placing names on the electoral roll, and to urge the people to vote. Deserving poor have been assisted, and some Parliamentary work done.

Two successful public meetings have been held at which Temperance addresses were delivered, and several pledges taken. We hope to take up work in the Missionary and Juvenile Departments during the coming year.

INVERCARGILL.

Seventeen meetings have been held. Number of members, 42. In February, a tea and

public meeting was held on behalf of the Friendless Girls' Society, when addresses were given by Mr. Kelly, M.H.R., and several ministers. Several of our members also took part in the meeting. Attention having been drawn to the prevalence of immorality in the town, an earnest letter was written to the Ministers' Association, asking their co-operation in endeavouring to raise the tone of public opinion on the subject. Our member was interviewed re raising the age of consent, repeal of C.D. Acts, and other matters in which we are interested, and promised us his cordial support.

Hospital work has been regularly kept up, and is much appreciated by the patients. During Dr. Kyder's visit to the town several of our members assisted in making her meetings successful. Municipal.—A prohibitionist having stated his intention of coming forward as a candidate for the Mayoralty, our Union resolved to work on his behalf. Parliamentary.—An intending candidate for the House of Representatives was interviewed, but the Union decided to support their former member, Mr Kelly.

Literature.—Tract distribution has been carried on, the boxes at the Railway have been kept supplied, and Christian Endeavour Societies furnished with literature for distribution. WHITE RIBBON.—During the year an effort has been made to increase the number of subscribers to this paper, and in this we have been very successful. Relief Work.—This Department was taken up and Mrs Lennie appointed Superintendent. Several cases of destitution have been relieved.

Rev. L. M. Isitt's Mission.—The Union gave two tables to the monster tea-meeting, and assisted in other ways to make the meeting successful. Local Option Poll.—Seven weeks before the election, arrangements were made with the morning paper for the use of half a column in which to insert any article they desired. This was kept up weekly until a few days before the election, when every issue was supplied with strong extracts and original matter. Members worked energetically to render the "No License" vote as large as possible. A house to house canvass of the town was made, and a large number of leaflets distributed. Two days before the election a mass-meeting was held, and the "White Ribboners" joined in the procession. A pithy leaflet, "Vote as you pray," was also distributed. During the year a large correspondence has been maintained with N. Z. officers and Superintendents, which has kept us in touch with other work in the colony.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

The first meeting of this Union was held in July, 1896, since when its membership has been steadily increasing, until it now numbers 36, and 2 honorary members. Fortnightly meetings are held, business and educational meetings taking place alternately. A public meeting for women was held in October for the purpose of rousing them to a greater interest in the temperance cause. Another public meeting was held immediately before the general election. House to house visitation was carried on for the purpose of enrolling women. "The Prohibitionist" and no license leaflets have been distributed, and the "Union Signal" is subscribed for by the Union. The work of helping friendless girls has made progress, and we are now ready to give assistance and shelter when the need arises. The work of influencing the Press has been faithfully done by our President Miss Powell. Early in January 1897, we received a visit from Mrs Wycliffe

Wilson, President of the Sheffield W. C. T. Association. She told us of the good work being carried on by the Sheffield women, and her words of counsel and encouragement were appreciated by all.

RANGIORA.

Number of members 15. Seven ordinary meetings have been held. Mothers' meetings have also been held. In August, several of our members paid a pleasant visit to the Kaiapoi Union. A return visit was paid to us in October, when a helpful paper on Temperance was read by a Kaiapoi member. Two special meetings were held in November to arrange the election campaign, and hundreds of leaflets were distributed throughout the district. We have a small balance in hand, and we enter on the year's work in a hopeful spirit, hoping to show an increased membership in our next report.

KAIAPOL.

Our numbers for this year are 49. We have held 12 monthly meetings, and 12 Bible Lesson meetings. A large quantity of literature was distributed before the general election from house to house, and also at every meeting. Mrs Schnackenberg paid us a visit after Convention, and gave us a very spirited address. We also had a very pleasant visit from Mrs Munnings, who addressed us on the subject of "Mothers' Meetings." On January 2nd, Mr R. Evans gave a large picnic at Willow Farm, the whole of the proceeds to be given to the Coffee-Room Funds, which enabled us to pay all outstanding accounts and leave a balance in hand. The WHITE RIBBON has several subscribers and is much appreciated.

LEESTON.

Number of members, 36. This Branch was started on March 19th, 1896, by Mesdames Isitt, Cole, and Newton, who were sent as delegates from Christchurch. Twelve well-attended meetings have been held. Papers have been given by members, also by Revs Grant, Lawry, and Dr. Withers, the latter on the "Effect of Alcohol on the Nervous System." Several public meetings were held before the election, and our Union was assisted by the Revs Grant, Lawry, and Captain Saunders, S.A. Much satisfaction was felt at the result of the Local Option Poll, showing we were only 13 short of a three-fifths majority. We subscribe to WHITE RIBBON, "Prohibitionist," and "Woman's Signal." Temperance leaflets were also circulated throughout the district before the election.

WAIMATE.

This newly formed branch has 34 members, and boasts of a Band of Hope numbering 130, under the care of Miss Avery, Superintendent of Juvenile Work.

ASHBURTON.

We have 11 members on the roll, and meetings have been held nearly every week. Our work has consisted of visiting the sick and helping the poor.

We have interested ourselves in getting subscribers for the WHITE RIBBON, and the "Prohibitionist." During the year a huge demonstration was held, when the Union took an active part in collecting provisions. Leaflets were distributed, and names enrolled before the election.

TIMARU.

We have had 9 ordinary meetings and several special ones, with an average attend-

ance of 11 members out of a roll of 40, about half that number being honorary members. The work among our sailors has been most encouraging, and we found it necessary to have a care-taker on the premises, and to rent two additional rooms. During the winter months, when few ships were in port, we started a Boys' Club, our aim being to provide instruction and recreation for the youth of the town. The results were very satisfactory. In May a social was held in connection with the "Rest" and Club. Subscriptions were collected in aid of the Sailors' Rest. A weekly sewing meeting was started, and a sale of goods held in October, by which the sum of £14 was added to our funds.

We have been very much encouraged and gratified from time to time by receiving letters from sailors leaving port expressing their appreciation of help received during their stay at Timaru.

Dorcas meetings have been very successful, and the work this year has been self-supporting. Preceding the election Temperance literature was distributed, and various members assisted at the polling-booth on election day.

HOKITIKA.

We regret that our membership, owing to removals, &c, has decreased this year to 13 being 7 less than last year. Of these seven we cannot forbear to mention Mrs Burrows, Mrs Barrow, and Miss Johnston, who did splendid work during her stay, and was the originator of the cottage meetings.

We have held 9 business meetings during the year. Evangelistic Work.—The report is very encouraging. Weekly meetings have been held at different cottages. They have been well attended, and much interest has been evinced. Missionary Department—Miss Jack, Superintendent, reports the continuation of monthly Missionary Prayer Meetings. Parliamentary—Mrs Thomas has endeavoured to influence women to enrol their names. Just before the general election several hundred leaflets "How to Vote," and "Will the Revenue Suffer?" were posted to women in country districts. In July a resolution was passed and forwarded to the Premier, deploring the action of the Legislative Council in rejecting the Bill for the repeal of the C.D. Acts. Literature—Nine fresh subscribers have been obtained for WHITE RIBBON. We also subscribe to the "Woman's Signal," and circulate it amongst our members. Efforts have also been made to influence the Press in the cause of temperance.

GREYMOUTH.

This Branch has held monthly meetings during the year, also Missionary Prayer Meetings, which were well attended. Number of members on roll 22, several of whom are subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON. Literature has been distributed among the sailors every Sunday; as a result, many sailors attend Church and appreciate the interest taken in them. In September a branch of the Loyal Temperance Legion was organised with gratifying results. Starting with 14 members, in three months the numbers increased to 54. Fortnightly meetings are held from 7 to 8 o'clock. Lessons are given in Physiology and Temperance. District tract distribution, Hospital visitation, and special work during the elections have also been undertaken. The Treasurer's report shows a satisfactory credit balance.

NASEBY.

This Branch was formed on August 10th, 1896. It has a membership of 10. Nine ordinary meetings have been held. Two public meetings were conducted by the Union, and assistance given by members at three public temperance meetings. Literature was distributed prior to the Local Option Poll in December. The "Prohibitionist" is regularly distributed.

MOSGIEL.

We have 16 members on the roll. Ten meetings have been held during the year. Work has been done in the direction of helping the poor, and the Mothers' Meetings on Saturday evenings are still continued. A good deal of work was done before the election, and many leaflets distributed.

DUNEDIN.

We desire to say at the outset that, considering the very favourable circumstances under which we commenced the year, we had hoped to be able to lay before you some grand results for the year's work. However, it was not to be. We must honestly confess we have been sadly disappointed, but not in the slightest degree discouraged. I refer specially to our failure in securing the election of our candidates, also in the women's vote at the recent election *re* Prohibition. We cannot speak too strongly on this point. Women, who are the greatest sufferers from this accursed traffic, have certainly, for some unaccountable reason, trad-ed to the lowering of humanity by their late vote for continuance of license.

The year commenced with the holding of the annual Convention, which was in every respect a great success. The daily meetings of the Convention were well attended by members from all parts of the colony, and the public meetings were also attended by large numbers. Everyone felt some good was accomplished. There was one grand feature about the Convention—that was that every woman seemed to be so thoroughly in earnest in the endeavour to secure better legislation on social questions affecting our sex. We have, through the kindness of the Convention, a very large quantity of literature on the purity question, and shall be happy to supply members or unions with a batch of such literature for distribution.

The rooms at Leavitt House are let for a small sum by Mrs Dunn.

The flower mission work at the hospital has been attended to by Mrs Thomas Dick with very great success.

Mr McI aren, as superintendent of juvenile work, has from time to time sent very encouraging reports of his work among the children.

The superintendent of unfermented wine has not at all allowed the subject to drop. It only rests with a few of our churches to abolish the intoxicating cup from the Lord's Supper. Some have weakened the wine very much with water, thinking to stifle their conscience by so doing. We have every confidence that in time the total abstainers in every church will yet assert their right to have the unfermented wine used at the holy ordinance of the Lord's Supper.

The Women's Franchise Bill was thrown out in the English House of Lords without even the form of a division. Is it any wonder that reformers should say, "Let such an obstructive Chamber be either mended or ended?"

BALANCE SHEET

**OF THE
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE
UNION OF N.Z.,**

For the Year ending February 22nd, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

To Balance from last year	14 7 1
CAPITATION FEES:—	
Napier	1 0 0
New Plymouth	1 4 0
Auckland	4 7 0
Tauranga	0 4 0
Christchurch	1 10 6
Rotorua	3 14 0
Leeston	0 13 0
Brunnerton	0 8 0
Timaru	1 0 0
Wairarapa	0 0 6
Waimate	0 15 0
Lyttelton	0 10 6
Hokitika	0 7 0
Kaipoi	1 4 0
Palmerston North	0 12 0
Wellington	1 4 6
Mosgiel	0 7 0
West Taieri	0 7 6
Naseby, Otago	0 5 0
Rangiora	0 7 6
Invercargill	1 1 0
Stratford	1 2 0
Dunedin	1 0 0
Blenheim	1 0 0
	24 4 0

WORLD'S W. C. T. U.:

Auckland	0 9 2
Palmerston North	0 2 0
Kaipoi	0 10 0
Waimate	0 2 6
Lyttelton	0 1 9
Hokitika	0 1 2
Mosgiel	0 1 2
Rangiora	0 2 6
West Taieri	0 1 3
Naseby, Otago	0 0 10
Invercargill	0 3 6
Wellington	0 4 1
Stratford	0 3 8
Christchurch	0 5 1
Dunedin	0 3 4
	2 12 0

TO BRUNNER RELIEF FUND

Wellington	2 0 0
Christchurch	3 0 0
	5 0 0

ARMENIAN FUND—

Naseby, Otago	1 0 0
Literature sold	0 9 0
	£47 12 1

EXPENDITURE.

TRAVELLING EXPENSES—	
President	7 14 0
Secretary	4 0 0
Treasurer	3 4 1
	11 18 1

POSTAGE—

President	1 0 0
Secretary	1 7 10
Corresponding Sec.	0 7 11
Literature Department	0 1 7
Treasurer	0 18 0
	3 15 4

AFFILIATING AND DELEGATES FEES —

Women's Nat. Council	2 2 0
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GRANTS:

Printing Convention Number	4 0 0
WHITE RIBBON...	4 0 0
	6 2 0

ACCOUNTS—

Literature	1 0 0
Stationery	0 3 9
	2 3 9
BRUNNER RELIEF—	
N.Z. Union	2 2 0
Wellington	2 0 0
Christchurch	3 0 0
	7 2 0
ARMENIAN—	
Naseby, Otago	1 0 0
Cash in hand	15 10 11
	£47 12 1

I have compared these items with the entries in the Cash-book, and find the balance to be correctly stated.

(Signed) W. SIDNEY SMITH.

February 24, 1897.

(Signed) DORA BALLANTYNE,

February 24, 1897.

Treasurer.

Balance Sheet of Local Unions.

1896.	Name.	Income.	Expenditure.	Balance.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	Lyttelton	7 14 4	6 0 0	1 14 4
	Brunnerton	13 17 1	11 3 8	2 13 5
	shburton	8 9 2½	6 11 8½	1 17 6
	Hawera	4 6 1	3 7 2	0 18 11
	Timaru	7 12 10	4 1 4	3 11 6
	" Sailors Rest and Boys' Club	82 14 1	81 3 11	1 11 0
	Christchurch	312 1 8	253 13 8	58 8 0
	" Coffee Rooms	807 4 1	678 4 3	128 19 10
	Hokitika	6 19 6	4 11 3	2 8 3
	Rangiora	2 12 9½	2 5 6	0 7 3½
	Mosgiel	10 1 6	2 4 2	7 15 4
	West Taieri	7 6 3½	6 13 6	0 12 9½
	Blenheim	343 19 6½	342 15 8½	1 3 10
	Wellington	18 3 1	9 16 1	8 7 0
	Napier	20 15 8	19 14 6½	1 1 1½
	Kaipoi	20 14 9	20 14 9	
	Auckland	26 11 10	12 16 6	14 15 4
	Palmerston North	4 11 0	2 8 3	2 2 9
	Dunedin S.R.	89 19 5	70 5 5	19 14 0
	"	84 15 2	57 17 8½	26 17 5½
	Invercargill	15 2 11½	14 2 10½	1 0 1
	Grey-mouth	3 18 0	3 8 6	0 9 6
	Naseby	3 15 6	3 15 6	
		£1903 7 2½	1615 17 11½	286 9 3

D. BALLANTYNE,
Hon. Treasurer to W.C.T.U. of N.Z.
Examined and found correct E. M. DEAKIN.

The following branches did not present balance-sheets: Gisborne, Stratford, Tauranga, Wanganui, Feilding, Levin, Marton, Midhurst, New Plymouth, Leeston, Amberley, Manaia, Masterton, Devonport, Pungarehu, Ngaire, Toko, Rotorua, Ohinemutu, and Whakarewarewa, Port Chalmers, Waimate.

Names and Addresses of Local Officers.

AUCKLAND.

President—Mrs Schnackenberg, Mt. Albert
Secretary—Mrs Mitchell, Arthur-street, Ponsonby
Treasurer—Mrs Davies, Arch Hill

DEVONPORT.

President—Mrs Crump, Wesleyan Parsonage
Secretary—Mrs Crump, *pro tem*
Treasurer—Mrs Little

TAURANGA.

President—Mrs H. L. Brittain
Secretary—
Treasurer—

ROTORUA.

President—Emare Poromaiti
Secretary—Miss Robinson
Treasurer—Teretu Rātema

OHENIMUTU.

President—Emare Poramati
Secretary—Mrs Foley
Treasurer—Teritu Ratema

WHAKAREWAREWA.

President—Sophia (Maori Guide)
Secretary—Isabella Thomas
Treasurer—Annie Walker

NAPIER.

President—Mrs Miller, Bower-street
Secretary—Mrs Roscoe
Treasurer—Mrs Kirk, Marine Parade

GISBORNE.

President—Mrs Webb, Holy Trinity Vicarage
Secretary—Miss Morice
Treasurer—Miss E'ta Baker

NEW PLYMOUTH.

President—Mrs Douglas
Secretary—Miss Ahier
Treasurer—Mrs Walton

PUNGAREHU.

President—Mrs Hickman
Secretary—Miss Sailer
Treasurer—

MIDHIRST.

President—Mrs W. Hill
Secretary—Mrs Sergeant
Treasurer—

STRATFORD.

President—Mrs Hodder
Secretary—Mrs Mackay
Treasurer—Mrs Dymond

NGAIRE.

President—Mrs Crowther
Secretary—Mrs Bhingard
Treasurer—

TOKO.

President—Mrs Kennedy
Secretary—
Treasurer—

HAWERA.

President—Mrs A. C. Atkinson
Secretary—Miss Maunder
Treasurer—Miss Maunder

MANAIA.

President—Miss Williams
Secretary—Mrs Limbrick
Treasurer—Mrs Limbrick

WANGANUI.

President—Mrs G. H. Smith, Gengton-street
Secretary—Miss Tucker, Campbell-street
Treasurer—Mrs W. J. Lloyd, Glasgow-street

PALMERSTON NORTH.

President—Miss Powell, care of W. Park, Esq.

Secretary—Miss C. E. Barry, Main-street
Treasurer—Mrs J. G. Brown, Amesbury-street

FEILDING.

President—Mrs Greenwood
Secretary—Miss Thorapson
Treasurer—Mrs Goodbehere

WELLINGTON.

President—Mrs Kirk, Brougham-street
Secretary—Miss C. E. Kirk, Brougham-st.
Treasurer—Mrs Hoby, Woolcombe-street

LEVIN.

President—Miss Dalrymple
Secretary—Mrs Ostler
Treasurer—

MARTON.

President—Mrs J. P. Leithbridge
Secretary—Mrs C. Parkinson
Treasurer—Mrs Mossman

MASTERTON.

President—Mrs Fannin

Secretary—Mrs Smalley
Treasurer—

CHRISTCHURCH.

President—Mrs Sheppard, Box 209
Secretary—Mrs Widdowson, Box 382
Treasurer—Mrs Seed, 17 St. James'-street, Linwood

LYTTELTON.

President—Mrs Whitby, Dampier's Bay
Secretary—Miss E. Kenn-r, Coleridge Terrace

Treasurer—Mrs Clark, London-street

ASHBURTON.

President—Mrs Andrews
Secretary—Miss Hannaford, Barnett-street
Treasurer—Mrs M. A. Jackson

LESTON.

President—Mrs Arthur
Secretary—Miss Barnett
Treasurer—Mrs Grant

TIMARU.

President—Miss McLean
Secretary—Mrs Guilbert
Treasurer—Mrs Hull

WAIMATE.

President—Mrs Dukes
Secretary—Mrs Butcher
Treasurer—Miss Strong

KAIAPOI.

President—Mrs G. H. Blackwell
Secretary—Mrs Souby
Treasurer—Mrs T. G. Blackwell

AMBERLEY.

President—Mrs Rapley
Secretary—Miss Chamberlain
Treasurer—Mrs Roche

RANGIORA.

President—Mrs Graham King-street
Secretary—Mrs T. G. Smith, High-street
Treasurer—Mrs Keir, Ivory-street

BLENHEIM.

President—Mrs Litchfield
Secretary—Mrs Rose, Keyworth
Treasurer—Mrs Griffin, Charles-street

HOKITIKA.

President—Miss Barnard Hampden-street
Secretary—Miss Jack, Bealey-street
Treasurer—Miss Batten, Hampden-street

GREYMOOUTH.

President—Mrs Ga-kin
Secretary—Mrs Miller
Treasurer—Mrs Hansen

BRUNNERTON.

President—
Secretary—M. Scott
Treasurer—

DUNEDIN.

President—Mrs Dick
Secretary—Miss Nichol
Treasurer—

PORT CHALMERS

President—Mrs Porteous
Secretary—Mrs Hodge
Treasurer—Mrs Beauchop

MOSGIEL.

President—
Secretary—
Treasurer—

WEST TAIERI.

President—Mrs Kirkland
Secretary—Mrs Welch
Treasurer—Mrs Neill

NASEBY.

President—Mrs McCosh Smith
Secretary—Miss McCarthy
Treasurer—

INVERCARGILL.

President—
Secretary—Miss Girle, Avenal
Treasurer—Mrs J. B. Service, Avenal
YOUNG WOMEN'S UNION—OAMARU.
President—Miss Filleul
Secretary—Miss Henderson
Treasurer—Miss Campbell

N. Z. OFFICERS, AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

President—Mrs Schnackenberg, Mount Albert, Auckland.

Corresponding Secretary—Miss Powell, care of W. Park, Esq., Palmerston North.

Recording Secretary—Miss L. M. Kirk, Brougham Street, Wellington.

Treasurer—Mrs Hill, Bluff Hill, Napier.

Drawing-room Meetings—Mrs Newton, North Belt, Christchurch.

Evangelistic—Mrs Kirkland, The Manse, Outram, West Taieri.

Juvenile Work and Kindergarten—Mrs Brown, Box 77, Invercargill.

Sabbath Observance and Sunday Trading—Mrs F. Isitt.

Missionary Work—Miss Jack, Hokitika.

Young Women's Work and Hygiene and Food Reform—Mrs Miller, Bonnie Bank, London Street, Dunedin.

Maori Work—Mrs Hewitt, Manakau, Wellington Province.

Scientific Temperance Instruction—Mrs Schnackenberg.

Unfermented Wine—Mrs Begg, Clyde Road, Napier.

Press Work—Mrs Cole, Christchurch.

Mothers' Meetings—Mrs Munnings, Lincoln-road, Addington, Christchurch.

Social Purity—Mrs Webb, Holy Trinity Vicarage, Gisborne. Poverty Bay.

Bible in schools—Miss Dalrymple, Levin.

Narcotics—Mrs Rose, Keyworth, Blenheim.

Sailors' Rests—Mrs Begg, Ross St., Roslyn, Dunedin.

Peace and Arbitration—Miss Dalrymple, Levin.

Literature—Mrs Venables, 240, South Belt, Christchurch.

Relief Work—Mrs Blackwell, Kaiapoi.

Legal and Parliamentary—Mrs Sheppard, Box 209, Christchurch, and Miss L. M. Kirk.

Rescue Work—Mrs Webb, Gisborne.

Prison Reform Work—Miss E. Gordon, Springfield-road, St. Albans, Christchurch.

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Editor—Mrs Sheppard.

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Distributing Department—Mrs Venables. Committee—Mrs Schnackenberg, Miss Powell, Miss Kirk, and Mrs Wells.

Delegates to National Council of Women—Miss L. M. Kirk.

A W.C.T.U. Refuge for Escaped Armenians.

Our New Zealand President, Mrs Schnackenberg, has received and forwarded to us a long letter from Miss Willard on the above subject, and from which we take the following extracts:—

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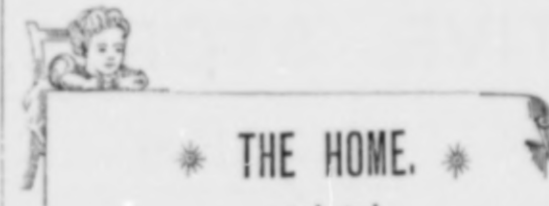
To our Comrades and all who love and trust us:—Hereafter the Armenians can never feel a sense of safety—at least not in our time. The more forceful among them are determined to risk all in effort to reach freedom, and while it is not for us to strengthen this purpose on their part we must hold ourselves in readiness to help the refugees who are constantly escaping from the dominion of the Turk. But we must not let this work cause us to cease sending help to the shelterless and starving who remain in that hapless country. We must give money to establish industrial homes and orphanages for the women and children, but it must be apparent to all that if we can help to find homes and work for the starving refugees we have at the same time helped to set the Armenian people on their feet, and to put a new hope in their hearts for the future. The sorrowful and outraged women can do but little for their nation. The vigorous and forceful families and youths who have the energy and skill to save themselves alive by making their escape are full of promise for the years to come. They are devoted to the interests of their country and determined to live rather than to die for her. Thousands of them are penniless to-day in Bulgaria, Alexandria, Marseilles, and all along the border of that accursed Turkish Empire. It is the purpose of the leaders you have chosen, and who believe that they are but carrying forward your wishes into deeds, to establish a home for refugees at some strategic point, possibly in Bulgaria, which shall belong to the World's W.C.T.U., and shall testify to the loyalty and tenderness of our society towards those who most need our help at a time when the heart of the whole world was stirred by their unutterable misery. It is true we are a temperance society, but in an exigency like this, one word only measures the depths of our sacred obligation, and that word is HUMANITY. We are Christian women, and if we would not strive to help the people who of all others since the world began have suffered most for Christ, then we might well strike that Holy Name out of our own. Already we have commissioned Mrs Laura Ormiston Chant to go to Bulgaria and report the situation. It is quite likely that Lady Henry Somerset and her son will soon follow for the purpose of establishing the refuge which will be but one of a line of refuges of which Lady Henry Somerset writes me as follows:—

"We must arrange all along the coasts in Russia, Armenia, and in Bulgaria, touching as

near Turkish territory as possible, refuges to which the flying Armenians can go, where they will find a sort of St. Bernard's (without the dogs), and where they can be warmed, clothed, and sheltered, and then sent on to some of the larger colonies that are being established by the Duke of Westminster's committee. Everything is shaping itself now, and it looks as if we shall get organization at least throughout England."

At the recent Annual Convention of the National W.C.T.U. in St. Louis, more than a thousand dollars were received, which we hope to use in helping found the refuge.

Miss Willard concludes by expressing the hope that each Union will do its utmost to collect subscriptions for these our fellow creatures who are in such dire distress. All moneys collected may be sent to the New Zealand treasurer, Mrs Hill, Bluff Hill, Napier



A BAD FALL.—While practising on a cross-bar the other day, a young man fell on his head and was rendered unconscious. He lay for an hour in this condition when help arrived. A hot bath was prepared to which Barilla soap cut up and boiled in a saucepan of water, was added. While in the bath the patient's back and head were thoroughly rubbed and douched. Great relief was obtained in a short time, and the patient was then put to bed. Cold towels were applied to the spine and changed as soon as they became heated. The feet were carefully attended to, but as they had been well rubbed on coming out of the bath no hot pad was necessary. A quiet sleep ensued. In the morning a soapy sitz bath was pre-

pared in which the patient was thoroughly laved and douched. The warm sitz bath was followed by a cold sitz with the feet at the same time in hot water; on coming out of the bath the body was well rubbed to insure circulation. An injection of about a quart of warm soapy water was then given. Cold towels were applied to the spine, and the hot water bag covered with a damp towel placed at the feet. A little porridge was the only food allowed. Sips of cold water were taken at intervals. By the end of the day the patient was on a fair way to recovery.

What is required in cases of concussion is to encourage circulation and to promote an even temperature. For this purpose the parts affected should be gently rubbed and hot and cold pads applied as may be required. No stimulants of any sort are needed. Every partical of pure alcohol has one specific effect upon the nerve system, and that is to lessen vital action.

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