

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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The Use and Abuse of Alcohol as a Medicine.

By Dr W. A. Chapple, Wellington.

Alcohol may be a beverage to anyone—it is only a medicine to the total abstainer. Whoever uses alcohol regularly in health forfeits all claim upon its medicinal virtues in disease. To the drinker, alcohol first loses its virtues as a stimulant before it develops its vices as a poison. If one would get the good of alcohol in diseases, he must abstain from its use in health. As well prescribe exercise to a postman, or fresh air to a shepherd, as an alcoholic stimulant to a wine-drinker. Further, if one would have the good of alcohol as a stimulant in old age, he must have abstained from its use through life. To the constant drinker alcohol offers nothing but—first, a “fool’s paradise,” second, an irresistible craving, and third, an early death. To the total abstainer it offers a medicine in time of disease and in senile decay.

As alcohol possesses the power of producing evanescent sensations of pleasure and exhilaration followed by depression, and also possesses the power of inducing ultimately an irresistible craving for itself, and further, as its use in many diseased conditions is distinctly injurious, its prescription should be strictly confined to medical men. Alcohol is a diffusible stimulo-sedative, useful as a medicine in certain diseased

conditions; but as its prescription should be restricted to those qualified to diagnose the condition where a stimulant, a sedative, or a stomachic tonic is indicated, some less potent and dangerous substitute should be used in those simple cases where medical advice is not sought. The administration of spirits and wine to boys and young people for every little trifle and for absurd excuses is a perilous practice, and is often the origin of a fatal habit. If alcohol must be given in acute illness it should be disguised as such in liquid food, to avoid the inception of dangerous associations.

The common ailments in which alcohol is appropriately prescribed, but in which other equally effective remedies may be used, are:—(1) Fainting (not due to loss of blood); (2) loss of appetite; (3) pain; (4) debility. These are frequent abnormal conditions in which a stimulant may be appropriately prescribed and frequently used, but with a crave-begetting drug like alcohol, which has the power to enslave, degrade, ruin, and destroy human victims to the third and fourth generation, it is the bounden duty of everybody to seek a remedy free from these dangers, if it can be found—and who will say it cannot?

In fainting, a small cup of hot, strong coffee, to which from half to one teaspoonful of sal volatile has been added, is a valuable stimulant and restorative,

or the same dose of sal-volatile in hot or cold water, may be used. These possess all the stimulating and restorative properties of alcohol in any of its forms, and may be used when this drug is indicated. As a stomachic in loss of appetite, dyspepsia, colic, and flatulence, no amount of stout or ale could equal in efficiency such valuable remedies as the syrup of orange and quinine, or Eastern’s syrup, or the compound tincture of cinchona, or maltine made by the M. M. Co., any or all of which can be secured from a chemist as cheaply as alcohol, and with the doses written on the labels. In acute pain, the admirable preparation well known as chlorodyne, in every way eclipses alcohol as a remedy, and antipyrin, in five-grain tablets, is to be had from any chemist, and for the relief of pain is safe, simple, and effectual beyond the claims of alcohol. In debility and low vitality, alcohol is mostly a delusion and a snare, and cannot for a moment be compared with Fellowe’s syrup, cod liver oil, Kelper’s extract of malt and oil, maltine, and quinine and iron in doses of one grain of quinine and ten drops of tincture of steel.

There are many conditions in which alcohol is given indiscriminately, and with great harm and danger to the sufferers. In bleeding it is always wrong and fatal to give spirits. Alcohol increases the circulation and thereby promotes hæmorrhage.

It is a grave offence against good practice to give spirits in child-bed, because of this danger, and it should never be given under any circumstances by nurse or friend without a doctor's specific order as to time and quantity.

It is a great mistake to give spirits indiscriminately in case of accident. There may be a severed vessel concealed by the clothing or an internal rupture, from which the bleeding may be gently accelerated by the administration of alcohol or any stimulant.

Fainting or collapse due to loss of blood should not be treated by any stimulant until the source of the blood has been securely stopped. Fits and sudden attacks of unconsciousness should not be attacked with spirits. It is much better not to do anything at all than to fly to the brandy bottle. Alcohol lowers the temperature by diminishing oxidation, and by dilating the surface circulation, thereby allowing a radiation of the body heat. It is wrong, therefore, to give spirits at times of great cold. The body heat should be maintained by wraps, friction, hot bottles, exercise, and hot coffee, hot soups, and hot food. Spirits produce a feeling of warmth by increasing the gastric and the cutaneous circulation, but the temperature is depressed, and the cold intensified by this action.

Many people take alcohol at night for the purpose of inducing sleep. Alcohol is distinctly unsuitable for such a purpose, apart from the grave-begetting danger. Temporary congestion and stimulation of the brain precedes the soporific effect of alcohol, which further disturbs the normal relations of one brain centre to another. These conditions are antagonistic to normal sleep. Except under medical advice, alcohol should not be used to induce sleep. A warm bath at bedtime, or immersion of the feet and legs in hot water, are effective soporifics. No drug should be used except under medical directions.

That alcohol acts as a disinfectant and protects from infectious disease, is claimed by some as an excuse for its use. Spirit drinkers can claim no such immunity, on the contrary, constant drinking diminishes tissue vitality, and tissue resistance to infection. The drinker not only becomes more prone to infectious disease but has less power to overcome it when once attacked. If one knowingly has come, or must come, in contact with infection, fresh air, and sunlight, and moderate exercise, after a bowl of strong soup or beef tea, or a hearty

meal of easy assimilable food, by building up the tissue vitality, and tissue resistance, can claim a potent influence in overcoming infection; alcohol can claim none.

With a two-ounce bottle of sal volatile, a half-ounce bottle of chlorodyne, and a small bottle of five-grain tablets of antipyrin, alcohol may be safely and profitably dispensed with in most common ailments suggesting its use and cases of emergency requiring "first aid." [It should be distinctly understood that some of the medicines suggested in the preceding paper are very powerful, and should not be used without medical advice.]—*Medical Pioneer*.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL.

ABSTRACT OF PAPERS READ AT THE LAST SESSIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL.

Continued.

Old Age Pensions.

MRS BLAKE read a paper on "Old Age Pensions." She said that could the vote of the council be accorded unanimously in favour of an adequate pension being given to every man and woman as they reached the age of 65 years that decisive vote would doubtless carry weight with the Ministers and representatives of the people of this country, not only out of consideration for the delegates, but for the large number of persons whose wishes and views they represented. They were all well aware that they apparently nearly gained their point towards the end of last session of Parliament, but a hitch occurred which put a stop to anything being done in the matter. Mrs Blake proceeded to refer to the conditions of modern industry, as showing the necessity for old age pensions. She quoted with approval Professor Marshall's statement that "the conditions of industry change so fast that long experience is, in some trades, almost a disadvantage, and in many it was of far less value than a quickness in taking hold of new ideas and adapting one's habits to new conditions. In these trades an elderly man finds it difficult to get employment except when trade is brisk. In short, the tendency of modern industry was against the aged, and not merely against the aged, but against even the elderly." She went on to

point out that statisticians contended that a man was at his best between 25 and 45. The period of decline set in from 45 onwards at an always accelerating rate, until at the age of 55 his earning powers were diminished by one-third to one-half, and his difficulty of obtaining work increased. To such as these the old age pension would give joy in possession, and infinite comfort in prospect. She thought every one, without distinction of class or means, should be entitled to a pension. Justice demanded that what all subscribed to all should have the benefit of. Then many in this colony strongly set their faces against anything like pauperisation of the aged workers. As regarded the question of how the money was to be raised to meet the demand on the public funds if old age pensions became law, she proposed that part of the money be raised by imposing a tax of so much per week on personal earnings, and part by a tax on land. She further suggested that some of the mines of the colony be worked for the benefit of the aged. She knew that it had been proposed to tax certain things, such as tobacco, the totalisator, and other special things. She, however, thought that this was not at all a good plan. If any special commodity was to be taxed, let it be an article of general consumption. Whilst making these suggestions she was quite willing to admit that the men who conducted the business of the country were the best people to devise ways and means in regard to old age pensions. As regarded State-aided pensions, it seemed to her that the difficulty of collecting and the difficulty of avoiding all chance of imposition was very great. Besides, all insurance and State-aided schemes really assisted the thrifty and well-to-do working people; but the true object of pensions was to help the just and unjust equally, and thus teach us many lessons, one of the chief being that until from birth every person has equal opportunity, we could not expect equally well ordered lives from all

The Unemployed.

MRS BULLOCK (of Wanganui) read a paper on "The Unemployed Evil, a State problem; some suggestions as to its gradual eradication." She divided her subject into five sections, dealing in the first place with the reality, ubiquity, magnitude, intensity, and urgency, of the unemployed phase of the great industrial problem as it existed to-day in Great Britain and America. Then she dealt with the causes of the

evil; thirdly, with humanitarian efforts and new views of State functions; fourthly, with the unemployed in Australia and New Zealand; and finally, she suggested ways in which the unemployed labour forces might be utilised with advantage to themselves and profit to the State. In dealing with the last section of her subject she suggested that the Government should establish co-operative industrial settlements under State control as a means of dealing with the unemployed difficulty. Well managed, she said, these would be cheaper than charitable aid institutions. We wanted to nationalise our great natural resources. That done, let us call upon the Government to develop them in the interests of the people. It might be said that took money. It took money, indeed, but it ought to spell prosperity. The money expended ought to be money invested, and should return handsome profits to the coffers of the State. The development of our natural resources would afford employment to all our healthy surplus labour for generations. As for the money, the English market was glutted with it. Let the Government boldly announce an industrial policy and borrow the money to carry it on; but the policy must be well matured, and no unremunerative works should be started as temporary expedients. Let us have no "undesirable immigrants," unless advocates of their admission were prepared to throw open their own doors to beggars. In order that the State might be more a permanent employer of labour, an immediate and complete stop should be made to the alienation of Crown lands. These should continually be in process of clearing for cultivation and occupation, and increased facilities should be afforded for settlement upon them of the hard-working poor. State farms should be multiplied and forestry encouraged. A great forestry department worked on reproductive lines might provide permanent employment for an immense number of people. Another means of reducing the unemployed difficulty was by increasing the powers and functions of municipal bodies. Why not make every municipality responsible for a defined proportion of its own unemployed population? In that case up-to-date bodies would soon be found establishing industries for the absorption of these.

Technical Education.

MRS TASKER read a paper on "Technical Education." She advocated that

women should agitate until they got free technical education taught in night schools to the children of the poor. If this point could be gained she was sure that it would keep a number of youths off the streets at night. The general and technical elements of sanitation should be taught in every school, and the same might be applied to every trade. We should have less of the "made in Germany" did we foster technical education in our schools. Cooking should be taught in our schools, and boys should learn it as well as girls. Technical education in athletics was also much to be desired. Every child should be taught to swim, and instruction freely given in the art of restoring the apparently drowned. There would be no difficulty in finding time to have the laws that generally governed health taught in schools. Instead of the afternoons that were wasted in destroying girls' eyesight with fine sewing, lessons of a more useful nature could be substituted. Teach them and preach to them if need be the follies of tight-lacing, of painting and powdering their skins. The eyesight was very often injured for life by tight-lacing. Mothers should see to it that their daughters did not adopt so foolish and dangerous a habit. Let them also try and educate school boards up to the duty of cleanliness, and endeavour to get them to provide free baths for the children. If a big bath was a fixture at every board school the children would be healthier and there would be less disease. The elements of agriculture could with advantage be learned in our technical schools and practical teaching obtained on our State farms. Want of funds was the never-failing cry of the education boards, and yet thousands of pounds could be raised by city councils for useless expenditure. Mrs Tasker concluded her remarks by moving—"That in the opinion of this council a larger measure of technical education in connection with and in addition to our primary and secondary schools is much to be desired, and that the sum hitherto appropriated to the purpose is altogether insufficient." This was carried.

Party Government.

MISS HOOKHAM read a paper on party government, the elective Executive, and the reform of the Upper House she said the way to reform the Upper House was to make no more appointments. Let members die out or dwindle down to so small a number that for very shame's

sake the remnant would be glad to hide their heads. Under the shelter of a pension this course would be easy enough if we did not labour under the curse of party government, each party in turn being all too ready to bolster up its power or reward its faithful adherents by new appointments to the Upper House, so that before we could hope to be rid of the Second Chamber we must be free from party government. In the old country it had had its own use. In the days of pocket boroughs, bribery, and corruption it might have been expedient to set one thief to catch another, but its absurdity here had been shown more than once—never more clearly than by the bestowal of the franchise on women, the most liberal measure, perhaps, that was ever passed in the world. But man loved place, power, patronage, and perquisites, and these were all secured for the time being by the party in power. The new Premier was generally the old leader of the Opposition, and when he was "sent for" to form a new Ministry it was a matter of concern with him not to obtain colleagues who were better men than himself, but men not likely to run him close for the lead. The consequence was that the so-called Government was apt to become a "one man show," or else beset by jealousies which jeopardised the vital interests of the country, so that the first and most practical step to reform the government was some new method by which the best and ablest men amongst our chosen representatives might be entrusted with the reins. There were really but two known methods. The first was aristocratic, by nomination from above, with all its partisanship and pertinacious place-seeking under which we had so long suffered. The second was democratic, by election from below; and they hoped by an elective executive to put an entire stoppage to patronage, partisanship, and pickings. The objection constantly urged to an elective executive was that if the best men were chosen, irrespective of party, they would fight like cat and dog, and so our last state would be worse than the first. The answer was that there would be nothing to fight for. Office would no longer depend on a party majority, but on integrity and ability. One side would no longer find joy in turning the other out of office, for there would be no guarantee that they would step into the other's shoes. Good measures would not be withdrawn as now for the sake of upholding interests, and democracy would no longer be a name but a

reality. The thing seemed too good to be true, but it had been tried in certain States of America, and, she believed, in Switzerland, and all the evidence was in its favour. With an elective executive party government would be scotched for ever, and the graceful despatch of the Upper House would only be a matter of time. Miss Hookham concluded by moving—“That in the opinion of this council the welfare of the country can only be secured by a reform in the method of government, which shall include an elective executive, the abolition of party government, and the reform of the Upper House.”—Carried.

NEWS OF THE UNIONS

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

Palmerston North.

The usual Educational meeting was held on April 14th, when the afternoon was devoted to the discussion of some of the recommendations of the recent Convention. Mesdames Brown and Cunningham were appointed delegates to the C.E. Societies and requested to urge upon them the claims of Temperance. It was resolved to communicate with the outlying districts with a view to visiting and organising; also to call the attention of the local Temperance bodies to the necessity for a pledge-signing campaign. As all dissenting churches in the town use unfermented wine, it was decided that nothing could be done in this connection.

Friday, the 30th, was a red-letter day in our history, as we were then favoured with a visit from Mrs Barney. At 7 o'clock our White Ribboners and other workers gathered in the Presbyterian Hall for a handshake and an informal chat with our honoured visitor. At half-past seven we adjourned to the larger Hall, where a good audience had already assembled. The local President introduced Mrs Barney. The speaker kept the audience enthralled for about an hour, now almost in tears, and again rippling over with laughter, as she recounted her experiences among prisoners and paupers, and told how the old, old story had sunk into hearts seared with crime. She urged all women present to answer the call of the Crusade Psalm and join hands against the liquor traffic. At the conclusion of the meeting we dispersed, feeling confident that Mrs

Barney's short visit would result in great benefit to our Union, in holier living, and in a more earnest determination never to rest until the abolition of the drink traffic is secured.

Stratford.

At our meeting on the 7th of April it was proposed that 10s be forwarded to the Munro Memorial fund, and a letter of sympathy. A lengthy discussion *re* gymnasium during the winter months took place. Stratford is destitute of any recreation for young men during the long nights of winter, and our Union will do its best, with the assistance of the townspeople, to start a gymnasium. The difficulty will be to get instructors, but we hope to get volunteers for the work. The members who went into New Plymouth to bid “God-speed” to Mrs Douglas (President of the W.C.T.U. there) had a most profitable time. Mrs Douglas will be much missed.

Naseby.

At the meeting held on April 9th a communication from Mrs Soulby, of Kaiapoi, was read. Resolutions were passed adopting the recommendations contained in the letter, with slight modifications. Arrangements are being made for cottage meetings. A supply of literature has been ordered. At the meeting held on April 23rd a resolution expressing sympathy for our Vice-President, Mrs Jacob, was passed. Mr Jacob, who has always sympathised with our work, died suddenly on April 12th. Miss J. A. Smith has been appointed treasurer.

Kaiapoi.

The usual monthly meeting of this Union, was held on the 31st March. There was a good attendance. After Bible reading the Secretary gave an interesting account of Convention. The President read a letter received from Mrs Packe, about the banner won by the Kaiapoi Union for having the largest number of members in 1892. On the presentation of the banner, Mrs Packe wished the following verses of scripture to be read:—Rev. xxii., verse 12 to end of 14, which concerns the motto on the banner “Called, Chosen, and Faithful,” also the exhortation of Barnabas in Acts xi., 22, 23. “That with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord,” which is symbolized by the clematis adorning it. A very successful meeting was brought to a close by singing the Temperance Doxology.

Dunedin.

The monthly meeting was held in the Y.W.C.A. rooms. There was a good attendance of members. The President (Mrs Thomas Dick) presided.

The principal business arising out of the minutes was the proposed social and the visiting of absent members.

A committee was appointed to arrange for a social to be held on the 11th of May. The secretary was instructed to issue invitations to all members.

A sum of money was voted to the Munro Memorial Fund. The secretary was instructed to forward a letter of sympathy with the donation.

A letter was read from the secretary of the Kaiapoi Union urging members to further the distribution of the WHITE RIBBON. The union fully approved of the excellent paper, and voted a sum of money to be forwarded to the editor to aid the expenses of carrying it on.

Miss Nicol apologised for not attending the Convention; through serious illness in her family she was unable to do so. Mrs A. S. Adams very kindly filled the position, and as Mrs Adams was present she would explain several important matters to the union which the Convention instructed her to do. This Mrs Adams did in a very admirable way, briefly and to the point.

Subscriptions towards the Sailors' Rest were collected.

Two new members were added to the membership, and one member resigned. The secretary was requested to write and ask her to reconsider her resignation.

Mrs Bett, who comes highly recommended, was appointed caretaker of the Sailors' Rest.

Leeston.

The election of officers on April 6th resulted in Mrs Arthur being re-elected President, Mesdames Hill and Bennet Vice-Presidents, Miss Barnett Secretary, Miss Wills Treasurer, Mrs Chamberlain and Miss Barker Visiting Committee, and Miss Harper canvasser for WHITE RIBBON. The balance-sheet showed a credit balance of 13s 6d; working expenses for the year, £7 odd. Mrs Hill, V.P., occupied the chair. A letter was read from the President, who is on a visit to Dunedin, referring to the loss our Union would sustain through the removal of Mr and Mrs Lawry to Wellington. Miss Barnett then referred to Mrs Lawry's past work, and on behalf of the members presented her with a gold W.C.T.U. brooch. Mrs Lawry feelingly replied,

after which all joined in singing "God be with you." Afternoon tea was dispensed by two or three lady members, which afforded an opportunity of saying goodbye. We regret very much losing Mrs Lawry and Mrs Frost from our midst, but trust other Unions will gain good.

Hawera.

On the return of our delegates from Convention a social was held. The attendance was large, the speeches short and bright, and the singing enjoyable. The April meeting was wholly occupied by the delegate's report and in voting money for various funds which needed help. To-day we send a donation to the WHITE RIBBON. Arrangements have been made for starting two new W.C.T.U. branches next week, and when Miss Powell comes it is hoped she will find good work being done. Another effort has been made to start home meetings, but without effect; but we hope to try again soon.

Christchurch.

A meeting was held on April 7, when Mrs W. S. Smith presided. The report of the special committee was presented, but its adoption was postponed. On April 15, a special meeting of the Executive was held to make arrangements for Mrs J. K. Barney's visit. It was decided to call a representative number of workers together, and ask for their co-operation in making Mrs Barney's visit a success. This was to be done by a printed circular. On April 22, an educational meeting was held at 3 p.m. A report from the committee which met at 2 p.m., stated that a committee from the Salvation Army, the Samaritan Home, the Prohibition League, and others, had been formed to help forward Mrs Barney's mission. It had been decided to give that lady a "Reception Social" at the W.C.T.U. Coffee Rooms on the day of her arrival, and to hold a meeting for women afterwards. A programme was suggested, subject to alteration.

Mrs Venables read a paper upon "Narcotics," which was followed by an interesting discussion. Miss Maguinness gave an address on "Scientific Temperance," which was much appreciated.

Rangiora.

An ordinary meeting was held on Feb. 19, 6 members present.

Mr Walker's offer of literature was received, and it was decided to obtain 1000. A discussion took place as to what can be done to get Maori leaflets

and pledges sent by Mrs Hewitt to the Pah. Mrs Carr undertook to ask Mr Carr if he and Mr Dellow will try to visit the Pah to obtain pledges.

An ordinary meeting was held on March 26. Mrs Keir, delegate to the late Convention, gave a most interesting and exhaustive account of the proceedings there, and was heartily thanked. Two new members joined. A unanimous resolution of sympathy was passed with Mrs Monro in the sad loss she has sustained. Several members spoke of their deep regret and the great loss sustained by the Temperance cause generally.

Meeting held April 30, 7 members present. Decided that we invite our Kaiapoi sisters to visit us at next meeting. (Since decided to defer this pleasure for a month, owing to Mrs Barney's visit.) Discussed how we could best do more practical work, especially in several needy cases.

Deep regret that we are losing the services of the Isitt Bros. for a time, and warm wishes for success in their new spheres were expressed.

Wellington.

During the last week our Union has received much help and pleasure from the visit of Mrs Barney. Although our public meetings were not so well attended as we had hoped to have them, we cannot but feel that God was with us and guiding dear Mrs Barney in her messages to us. May He continue to bless her with all journeying mercies. Our usual monthly meeting was held on Thursday last, when a number of new members attended, some of them fruits of Mrs Barney's mission. As the President was out of town, Mrs Boxall conducted the meeting, and spoke very faithfully to us concerning God's promises and also on the duty of prayer.

Items from Miss Slack's Monthly Letter.

It is decided the World's Convention shall meet in Toronto, Canada, from October 22nd to October 26. On October 29th the National Convention of the United States W.C.T.U. will meet in Buffalo.

It is hoped, amongst other distinguished visitors, Miss Tatiana Tolstoi, daughter of the great novelist of Russia; Miss Johansdotter, sister of the Premier of Iceland and a leading White Ribboner of that country, who has orga-

nised all through the island, will be present.

UNITED STATES.—In response to the plea of Miss Willard, the National W.C.T.U. has sent, since November last, 7000 dols. to help the sufferers in Armenia. Mrs Barney, of Providence, Rhode Island, at the request of the World's W.C.T.U., will sail from San Francisco early in April for a trip round the world. Mrs L. M. N. Stevens is going south on a tour of observation and work in Georgia and other States. She hopes to start for England in May, to be present at the annual meeting of the B.W.T.A.

Beyond the Veil.

One of England's best and brightest of women-workers, Mrs Massingberd, the President of the Pioneer Club, London, passed into the land of shadows recently. She was a strong advocate of temperance and a worker for the emancipation of women, and in the cause of freedom everywhere. She was clever and enterprising, and had great business capacity, which won for her the admiration of all who worked with her.

But it was her cherry, helpful ways which gained for her the love of her many friends. It is said of her that she was never deaf to a call for help, whatever the nature of that help might be. And so she is sorely missed from the ranks of helpers, and by the many who experienced her loving sympathy.

Mrs Massingberd was a strong upholder of cremation, and ordered for herself. Her memorial service was conducted by Canon Wilberforce on the same day that the Bill for Women's Suffrage was being discussed in the House of Commons. Numbers of exquisite wreaths from personal friends, as well as from the various women's societies, covered the chancel floor of St. John's Church, Westminster, where the service was held. Many of the "Pioneers" and "British Women" left the Central Hall of the House of Commons to attend this service, and returned there after it was over to await the tidings of the fate of the Women's Suffrage Bill. Some of us feel glad to have had the pleasure of a hearty hand-clasp from this large-hearted woman before she passed into the "beyond," and sympathise deeply with those who worked side by side with her and loved her as only fellow-workers can love each other.

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EDITOR—MRS SHEPPARD ... BOX 209, CH. CH

ASSOCIATE EDITOR ... Miss L. M. SMITH

TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER:

MRS W. S. SMITH, 201, Hereford Street, Christchurch.

DISTRIBUTING DEPARTMENT MRS VENABLES

The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1897.

**The National Council
Beatified.**

ONE of the most noteworthy features of the recent meeting of the National Council of Women was the hostile attitude adopted by the Press of the Colony.

In one only of the daily papers was the Council fairly reported. The "Otago Daily Times," with great enterprise, arranged for a full telegraphic report of the Council's proceedings, and was extremely fortunate in being represented by a gentleman of great ability.

The readers of the "Otago Daily Times" had therefore the privilege of seeing, day by day, a full and complete synopsis of the sayings and doings of the Council of Women. But, with this solitary exception, the newspaper reports throughout the colony have

been either incomplete or inaccurate, and in many cases were both.

For many reasons this is to be regretted. The public have been prevented from knowing what really transpired at the meetings of the Council, and a large amount of ignorant misrepresentation and abuse has been discharged through the editorial columns of the Press. Some of the wildest accusations against the Council have been made by the religious papers. The Council desired that the disabilities imposed by a semi-barbaric law should be removed. The "New Zealand Church News" says nothing about this, but gravely informs its readers that the members of the Council wished to "make all the laws for their own sex, and for the other sex too." Then a letter was received by the Council suggesting that the Queen should be asked to institute a distinct order of merit for women distinguished for their good works. This proposal was promptly and decidedly rejected by the Council, yet the "Church News" says that the members "must have a royal order of merit entirely for themselves. They must be Dames of the Southern Cross, or companions of the Star of Victoria!" The "Church News" recommends the Council to study St. Paul. In return and in view of the above we would commend to our contemporary a study of the Ninth Commandment.

The organ of the Methodist Church, now known as the "Advocate," has been ably conducted for many years, and has in the past done good service to the woman's cause. But in a recent issue, the "Advocate" devotes the best part of a page to a deluge of contempt for, and misrepresentation of, the Council of Women. The Editor gracefully suggests that women are peacocks because they wear feathers. He says that the Council showed "sublime egotism" because

one of its members ventured to say that man is the "complement of woman."

The Council thought that the causes for divorce should be the same for men as for women, that there should be only one standard of morality for both sexes. This view the "Advocate" deems "startling, not to say shocking."

The Council expressed its opinion that the whole of marriage law that is founded on the doctrine of *possession* (or *coverture*) should be repealed. The "Advocate" is apparently ignorant of legal terms, for it seriously informs its readers that the Council demanded a "wholesale repeal of the marriage laws." It asserted that "these ladies" were "clamorous" for "a dislike to motherhood, a lax marriage, an easy divorce, a love of money to spend, a desire for power, and a love of publicity."

In reading this abusive and untruthful tirade, it is hard to tell whether the desire to laugh or to be sorry is the stronger. So queer a mixture of the ludicrous and the lamentable would suggest hysteria were it not for the fact that male editors never suffer from so distressing a complaint.

Whatever the cause that impelled so astounding a production, we are sorry for the editor, and sympathise with the adherents of the Methodist Church, who have been grieved by its appearance in their paper.

We sympathise also with the members of the Council who have been so misrepresented. All earnest and intelligent, many of them are thoughtful grey-haired women, mothers of families, who have been brought face to face with the problems of evil for which they seek a remedy. However accustomed they may be to the rebuffs and abuse which have been the lot of women-workers from Mary Wollstonecraft downward, yet flippant criticism and untruthful statements cannot but wound. For their encouragement we would remind them that it was said of

old, "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and say all manner of evil falsely against you." In the present, as in the past, they must look for their reward, not in the praise of men but in the knowledge and assurance that right will prevail against might, that "nobler modes of life, with sweeter manners, purer laws," will as surely come as the dawn follows the night.

Mrs J. K. Barney.

SINCE our last issue Mrs Barney has arrived and departed for the Southern part of the colony.

Commencing her mission at Auckland, she visited Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch, Kaiapoi, Timaru, and is now in Dunedin. From thence she goes to Invercargill, and eaves for Tasmania about the 26th.

Mrs Barney has a motherly appearance, is of medium height, with a forehead both broad and high, deep set eyes, and a most benevolent expression.

Her voice is low-pitched, clear, yet soft; and her speech has a slight but pleasant flavour of the Great Republic.

As a platform speaker she has won all our hearts. Simple and unaffected in manner, appealing directly to the sympathy of her hearers, hiding, as it were, her intellect behind her tactfulness, she wins rather than commands her audience.

Announcing herself as one who objects to pose as a reformer, but as being simply on a trip to "mother" the Unions, her delightful qualities of the heart now out while the whole assembly feels "mothered," and responds to the big-hearted woman on the platform. Tactful, thoughtful, without a word or gesture that the most fastidious could take exception to, with a wealth of experience placed before us, she wins our love and commands our respect. We are grateful for her visit. We are sorry—deeply sorry—that its shortness

prevented us from deriving the full benefit of her counsel and experience.

We sorely need it. A little lonely outpost of civilization at the far end of the earth, we are seldom favoured with the presence of one of the World's Superintendents of Departments, and we are apt to grow rusty and apathetic.

Up to the present date no accounts have reached us of Mrs Barney's meetings in the North Island, save one or two fragmentary items. It is difficult to account for this untimely silence, but certainly the Southern Unions have good cause of complaint against their sisters in the North. Had prompt information been sent South as to what Mrs Barney was doing and could do, meetings in the South Island could have been made much more successful.

Mrs Barney arrived on Thursday, May 6. About 60 ladies and gentlemen who were likely to be interested in Mrs Barney's work were invited to meet her at tea in the new coffee rooms of the W.C.T.U.

In the evening a public meeting for women was held, and the rooms were crowded to overflowing. On Friday, Mrs Barney gave a Bible reading in the Opera House at 3 o'clock, and in the evening gave an address on Gospel Temperance in the same place.

Saturday Mrs Barney devoted to visiting the Samaritan Home, St Mary's Home, and the Lyttelton Gaol. At the Samaritan Home she gave two addresses, one each to the men and to the women, and gave a homely talk to the inmates of St. Mary's Home. At the Lyttelton Gaol, on asking permission to address the men prisoners, she was informed that as it was not the rule and no instructions had been received, she could not be allowed to do so. Permission, however, was given her to address the women inmates of the prison. During these addresses, which were deeply touching and sympathetic, numbers of those unfortunate

people whom Mrs Barney tenderly designates as belonging to the dependent, defective, and delinquent classes were affected to tears. On Sunday morning she preached in the Durham-street Wesleyan Church, and in the evening addressed a large audience in the Opera House.

On Monday Mrs Barney gave a very interesting address to a large and appreciative audience in the Opera House on "Prison Reform."

Tuesday she devoted to Kaiapoi, holding meetings in the afternoon and evening.

On Wednesday she gave a "Home Talk" to mothers and fathers in the Y.M.C.A. Hall at 3 o'clock, and lectured in the evening at the Oddfellows' Hall.

On Thursday Mrs Barney left by the express train for Timaru, and a number of friends assembled on the platform to bid her "God Speed."

Mrs Barney wishes us to say that she deeply regrets that the time at her disposal did not permit her to visit the smaller centres. She wished particularly to be of use to all her local Unions, and had hoped to have been able to visit them all. Her time-table was arranged for her before she left America, and she had to press on in order to fulfil engagements ahead.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor.

MADAM, — The recommendation by Convention that district Unions appoint members to visit auxiliary Unions will, if carried into effect, prove very helpful to the latter, but a number of irregularities brought to light during Convention might be prevented, even in the case of newly-formed unions, were some such plan as the following adopted. I would suggest the publication in booklet form of the Constitution, suggestive bye-laws, the duties and relations of auxiliary districts, and N.Z. officers, the initiatory service, information regarding the WHITE RIBBON re-

ports, and also the W.C.T.U. pledge. A list of books suitable for use by members might be added. These could be sold to auxiliary Unions for, say 2d per copy. A copy would be given to every member on her initiation. Present members would be glad to have all this information in a succinct form, and if the booklets were sold as suggested, no expense need be incurred by the N.Z. Union.—I am, etc.,

WHITE RIBBONER.

Naseby, April 23rd.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

In response to the resolutions forwarded to the Premier and the Speakers of both Houses from the recent Convention, the following replies have been received by the N.Z. Corresponding Secretary:—

Premier's Office,
Wellington,
April 15th, 1897.

Miss Mary S. Powell,
Corresponding Secretary,
W.C.T.U. of N.Z.,
Palmerston N.

Madam,—The Premier has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, forwarding resolutions passed at the Convention of the Union recently held at Christchurch, relative to the C.D. Act, Divorce, Age of Consent, Equal Wages for men and women, and the removal of civil and political disabilities from women. In reply I am to say that all these matters will receive the careful consideration of the Government.

Yours obediently,
ALEX. WILLIS,
Secretary.

House of Representatives,
Wellington,
April 10, 1897.

MADAM,—I am directed by the Hon. the Speaker of the House of Representatives to acknowledge the receipt from you of a copy of a Resolution passed by the Women's Christian Temperance Union of N.Z., urging the amendment of the law of Divorce, and to inform you that as the present meeting of Parliament is only for the special object of dealing with the visit of the Premier to England, for the purpose of attending

the celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession, the matter of the marriage law will not be dealt with this session. I have the honour to be, madam,

Your obedient servant,
H. OTTERSON,
Clerk Assistant.

In a letter to Miss Powell, Miss Agnes E. Slack, World's Corresponding Secretary, says:—"I do not see any likelihood at present of Lady Henry and Miss Willard going to New Zealand. I returned home from America on Dec 26. I had a delightful time there, only it was rather too busy and I did rather too much, the distances were so enormous. I expect returning there in August to be ready for the World's Convention in October. Can you send a delegate from New Zealand? We should so much like you to be represented, but if that is not possible please let me have a report, not exceeding 2,000 words, of our N.Z.W.C.T.U. Please keep the Convention well to the front in your press as we are anxious the whole world should feel the influence of our great gathering in Canada.

Lady Henry has been ill, she is better, but is doing almost no public work."

* WOMEN'S * SOCIETIES *

We have received a number of reports of meetings of various societies at which delegates to the recent meeting of the National Council gave an account of the proceedings thereat. As our space is largely encroached on by a synopsis of some of the papers read before the Council, we are unable to find space for the reports of these meetings. By our next issue we hope to have cleared off some of our accumulated copy, and shall be glad to resume our usual reports of meetings.

Work Among the Maoris.

No report of this department was received at Convention, but we have since learned items of the work carried on by Mrs Hewett.

In January a "social" was held by the Maori converts, at which over 200 men were present.

The work has been spreading among a number of Maori Pahs, and is being heartily taken up by the native women around Rotorua. Early in February

Mrs Hewett gave a tea to the Maori scholars, and then formed the first Maori branch of the "Ministering Children's League," 40 of the children giving in their names as members.

On February 20, Mrs Hewett, accompanied by Mrs Foley as Secretary of the Ohinemutu W.C.T.U., proceeded to Maketu, Mrs Foley acting as interpreter. At Maketu they were entertained by the Rev. Ramaka, and held a very successful meeting, forming a new branch. Miss Spencer, formerly of Rotorua, was elected President, and as that lady is thoroughly conversant with the Maori language and customs, the branch should be very successful.

Mrs Hewett and Mrs Foley then went to Te Puke, visiting the Natives in their whares, obtaining new pledges, and encouraging the blue-ribboners already there.

They also visited the Native School at Te Puke, and speak highly of the work done there. On their return a short stay was made at Te Ngae, where wedding festivities were going on. Eight blushing brides were led to the altar by as many bridegrooms, and it is interesting to note that no intoxicating drink was to be seen. Since Mrs Hewett's previous visit 17 men have joined the Union. Distribution of medals and Testaments was made at Te Ngae, and a hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs Hewett and Mrs Foley for their visit.

Third Triennial Convention Of the W.C.T.U. of Australasia.

This Convention met at Brisbane, Queensland, on April 27th, fifty-two delegates from the various Unions being present.

The Presidential address by Mrs Nicholls was able and comprehensive.

Interesting reports were presented by superintendents of departments.

Mrs Nicholls (S.A.) was re-elected president of the Australasian Union, the result being received with loud applause.

Miss Lockwood (S.A.) was elected Australasian secretary, and Mrs Thompson (V.) treasurer.

An especially interesting report was that given by Mrs Lodge, of Tasmania legislative work, stating that though their labours had not been in vain, but had produced great and substantial improvement, nevertheless rose-coloured views should not be entertained. No great permanent improvement in the conditions of the country could be expected until Government declared that the liquor traffic was an

evil which must be put down in the interests of society. Reference was made to the efforts taken to secure the repeal of the C.D. Act, and to obtain permission for suitable workers of the W.C.T.U. to visit prisons, gaols, and lockups for the purpose of holding services, distributing literature, and securing signatures to the total abstinence pledge. The reports of the colonial superintendents of legislative work were also read, detailing improvement in liquor and other laws obtained.

"The Brisbane Courier" criticises the proceedings of the Convention in a manner not unkindly but still disapproving of almost everything the women have been trying to do. An editorial begins thus:—"It need not be said that we are in hearty sympathy with the general object held in view by the union, which we take to be the higher welfare of the people." But when it comes to commenting on the details, especially those dealing with legislative enactments, it says:—"If this union degenerates into a political and scientific association, if it insists on dealing with everything in heaven above and earth beneath, its primary social object will be smothered, and it will dissipate its energies to cackling impotency. We beseech our woman reformers, whom we would like to see a power, to remember that the greater the comprehension the less the intensity. The flood shallows as it spreads. Let them hark back to their first love, and they will yet do great things."

In effect, therefore, the Editorial advice is by all means go on working for the "higher welfare of the people," but don't be political, don't be scientific. If you do, we cannot countenance you.—It is needless to say that unjust laws cannot be altered but by legislative enactment, and Editors may as well try to stop Niagara as to try and persuade women to cease working on practical lines.

Mr Moody on Divorce.

Mr Moody, the celebrated preacher, has been conducting a mission in the largest public hall in Boston, Mass., and he astonished and startled an immense audience by the following observation:—

"Now, I want to say to you wives, if you know that your husbands are living impure lives, get a divorce. A man has no business to be living in impurity and expect his wife to live with him.

"Oh," you say, "such preaching will break up our homes." What of it? Some ought to be broken up. There

are too many men living double lives, and they ought to be unmasked.

"But I tell you, wives, you have the power to save your impure husbands. Refuse to live with them, and they'll give up their sin. If women would only stand up for their rights, we should not have so many impure men.

This outspoken utterance has stirred Boston tremendously. The "Daily Transcript," says:—

"It is really to prevent divorce, not to promote it, that the great popular preacher spoke. It is certainly not disintegrating to family life to preach an expansion of the old idea that a man's 'honour' in monogamous marriage rests with his wife, and that his behaviour concerns her quite as much as hers concerns him. Not even the most Conservative critics can object to this advice given to wives in Boston to decline to countenance or permit conditions not only illegal, but against both private and public safety and happiness."

Mr Moody's observation is the first instance that I remember of the recognition by a man of the fact that divorce has a penal aspect for men as well as for women. With a curious unanimity men, from the most coarse to the most respectable, when discussing divorce, assert that women only would suffer from its being made easy, for (the foundation of the argument is) married men are only too pleased to be rid of their wives, while the wives' interests are wholly bound up in clinging on to unwilling husbands. But this is not true. Men are generally unwilling to have a fairly happy and well-managed home broken up, to be separated from their children or to have those children left motherless, and to know that their misconduct is made public; and they are as much punished by divorce as women are. The infamous provision of our own divorce law, under which a wife cannot divorce her husband for even gross and open infidelity, for even infidelity under her own roof, is maintained by men because they fear that wives would avail themselves of the fear of divorce in husbands' minds to check those immoralities that are so rampant in our midst; and they do not want such a check to exist. Unquestionably, to equalise the divorce laws in England, so that a wife could divorce an unfaithful husband, would greatly tend to moralise our society. It would give wives, as Mr Moody says, "the power to save" husbands who are en-

couraged to vice by the immunity from all punishment given them by the present state of the law.—*Woman's Signal.*



THE HOME.

Health.

A PAPER READ BY MRS A. WELLS, OF CHRISTCHURCH, AT THE RECENT SESSION OF THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND.

I. THE EVIL EFFECTS OF DRUG ADMINISTRATION.

THE necessity for precision in the use of medical terms is a matter of deep practical importance, for remedies are supposed to be given in order to cure disease. But the term disease has been perpetually applied to designate deranged conditions which are, in fact, only the symptoms of some other deranged condition. It has thus come to pass that remedies are perpetually administered to cure mere symptoms, leaving the causes which produced those symptoms altogether overlooked and unmolested. One speaks of local disease and general disease. The former term is proper enough provided it be clearly understood that although these local affections take the name of disease they are, in fact (with the exception of malformations, organic defects, and external injuries), only the symptoms, signs, proofs, or effects of some previous trouble. The term disease is given to inflammation, but, strictly speaking, inflammation itself is only a symptom of a foregone diseased condition. Inflammation can be produced at will. Scratch the hand with the point of a fork so as to lacerate the blood-vessels and nerves, and inflammation ensues. Clearly it is the laceration which constitutes the first departure from health in the hand—that is, the first cause of which the inflammation is the effect.

Now, it is one of the great distinctive marks of living things that they can repair their own injuries. If a man's leg is broken there is in his system a power by which the fracture will be repaired. It is effected by a modification of some of the ordinary nutritive actions. The function of secretion in the injured part becomes altered. A bony matter is secreted and poured all around the fracture like thin mortar.

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This mortar becomes solid and hard, and surrounds the broken extremities of the bone, and holds them firmly together. All the surgeon can do is to lay the two broken ends of the bone together and to place it in an easy position. Nature does the rest. All diseases are cured by a modified action of one or more of the nutritive actions, and the property which living things possess of so properly accommodating the nutritive functions and fitting them to the removal of disease is what is termed "the curative principle Nature"

The process of recovery involves three considerations—(1) the removal of the causes of disease; (2) the supplying of the conditions for health; (3) the exalting of the enfeebled curative principle of Nature. Now, these are the things which the drug system professes to do. Let us consider the manner in which it attempts their performance. A patient is suffering, let us say, from lack of secretion in the bowels. The object is to increase the intestinal secretion. In drug practice this is achieved by administering certain acrid and irritating substances called purgatives. The stomach now becomes nauseated, its membranes inflamed, its nerves irritated, and its functions disordered. From the stomach the purgative passes into the blood, which carries the poison to all the organs, which it irritates in a similar manner, till presently that remarkable power called the "conservative principle," which is ever on the watch to preserve the living organism from mischief, takes alarm and makes a violent effort to expel the poison, and this it finally effects through the bowels. The object then is achieved—the secretion from the bowels has been increased. But at what a cost! The stomach has suffered, the blood has been poisoned,

the other organs irritated, and Nature violently taxed to expel the offending substance. But this is not all. In a day or two the trouble recurs, and a similar course is again adopted. So says Dr. Johnson: "Nature and the doctor are for ever at war, and the poor patient's inside is the perpetual field of contention."

The cause has not been removed, and therefore the effect continues. It is a serious indictment, too, against the drug system that there is a fashion in drugs, and the fact there are dozens of drugs now exploded from the pharmacopœia which only a few years ago possessed the universal confidence of medical men is enough to show the utter fallacy of medical experience, unless it is based upon some intelligible principle. "In modern times," says Bostock in his "History of Medicine," "and more remarkably in Great Britain, no one thinks of proposing a new mode of practice without supporting it by the results of experience. The disease exists, the remedy is prescribed, and the disease is removed. We have no reason to doubt the veracity or the ability of the narrator; his favourable report induces his contemporaries to pursue the same means of cure; the same favourable result is obtained. Yet in the space of a few years the boasted remedy has lost its virtue; the disease no longer yields to its power, while its place is supplied by some new remedy, which, like its predecessor, runs through the same career of expectation, success, and disappointment."

The fact is, as a medical writer points out, that a patient suffering from some disease dosed with a particular drug has chanced to get well from some fortunate circumstance, and forthwith the drug becomes a fetish to be

swallowed by others, who find themselves not better but rather worse for it; and so we find the lame reason advanced by a drug physician that the particular drug he may prescribe has proved beneficial and will probably do so again, which bare assurance is far from convincing to a logical mind. Moreover, a visit by the same patient to other physicians will be apt to shake his faith the more. As many doctors as many remedies he will most probably find, and each will have that his own particular drug has its special saving grace. "Doctors disagree;" it is a proverb quite cheerfully accepted. Let us illustrate how absurd is their disagreement. "Bleeding has been extensively used in typhus fevers for 300 years, yet physicians are divided in their opinion as to whether it is good or bad practice. Opium has been in use for over 2000 years, yet medical men cannot agree whether it acts primarily as a sedative and secondarily as a stimulant or exactly the contrary, primarily a stimulant or secondarily as a sedative. Mercury has been used for hundreds of years, and extensively employed during the last 60 years, and some authors consider it a tonic, others a stimulant, others an alterative, others a sedative, and yet others an antiphlogistic (cooling, reducing). Brandy has been freely administered in the treatment of cholera, and the result is half the physicians commend it; half condemn it utterly. No less than four different methods of treating ordinary fevers have prevailed: the bark and wine practice, the cold affusion practice, the bleeding and saline practice, and the mercurial and opium practice.

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.

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