

of lectures here, which were most interesting and instructive. On Monday, May 10, the W.C.T.U. gave a reception to Miss Kirk in the vestry of the Wesleyan Church. The room was very tastefully decorated by several of the ladies. The Taylorville W.C.T.U. were invited to join us in welcoming Miss Kirk, which invitation several members accepted. A large number of friends and sympathisers also were present, as were the Rev Garlick (Wesleyan), Rev Stuart (Presbyterian), and Rev York (Anglican). Miss Kirk gave a short address, which was very much appreciated by those present. Her voice is so soft and sweet, and her words so well chosen, that they sink into the hearts of her hearers and compel sympathy. Several of those present also spoke a few words. After Miss Kirk's address the friends were regaled with afternoon tea, which was bountifully provided by the ladies of the W.C.T.U. The Taylorville friends left for home per 4.15 train, after having spent a most enjoyable time. As a result of the reception several ladies gave in their names as members, one of whom was initiated at our last meeting. As regards the other three days' mission, the afternoons of which were for ladies only, they were very well attended, great enthusiasm and interest being awakened. The evening meetings, which were mixed meetings, were also very well attended by the ladies, only a few of the lords of creation venturing to hear a lady lecture. But the absentees missed a treat, as those present declared they were well repaid by attending. Financially speaking, the mission cleared itself of all expenses, thereby showing the interest manifested in it. During her mission here Miss Kirk was the guest of our President (Mrs Gaskin), and in saying that we can truly say she was well entertained.

Kaiapoi.

On Tuesday, May 11th, we had the honour of a visit from Mrs Barney. In the afternoon a meeting was held at the Coffee Rooms, when Mrs Barney chose for her address our Lord's first appearance to a woman, commissioning her to tell the disciples that He was risen indeed. She also told us what a woman ought to be who wore a "bow of ribbon white." "She ought to be pure, consecrated, helpful and loyal." In the evening Mrs Barney gave an address in the Institute Hall to a well-filled house, Rev W. J. Gow (Presbyterian) presiding, the subject being Prison-work. Friends from

Amberley, Rangiora, and Woodend were present at the afternoon meeting. Mrs Barney's visit to Kaiapoi must be looked upon as a red-letter day by our Union, she being the first of our beloved leaders to pay us a visit, and we are sure that her loving words of encouragement will be the means of cheering and stimulating us all to greater efforts in the future. The monthly meeting was held on May 26th, and to our great sorrow our beloved President was absent in consequence of the illness of Miss Blackwell, Assistant Secretary. The following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting expresses its heartfelt sympathy with Mrs Blackwell, President of this Union, upon the illness of her daughter, and her enforced absence, praying most earnestly that by God's blessing Miss Blackwell may soon be restored to health." A resolution was also carried expressing great regret at losing Mrs McKinsey. We solicit most earnestly the prayers of all White Ribboners on behalf of our much-beloved President and her daughter.

* WOMEN'S * SOCIETIES *

CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.—This society decided to invite a conference for the purpose of discussing the Local Government Bill, the result being that delegates were sent from a number of local bodies. Mrs Wells, President of the convening body, was voted to the chair, and requested Mr Ell to introduce the business of the evening. Mr Ell pointed out that as the present Bill contained about 500 clauses it would be impossible to deal with it as a whole, and suggested that it should be dealt with under the following headings:—(1) Franchise; (2) Powers and Functions of Local Bodies; (3) Division of the Country.

After a great deal of discussion the following resolutions were passed:—(1) "That for the election of members of local bodies, the qualifications of electors be the same as for the election of members of the House of Representatives." (2) "That in voting for loans all persons of 21 years of age and over, having resided for 12 months in a district, be entitled to vote, and shall exercise one vote only." (3) "That all questions submitted to the voters be decided by a majority of those voting, and that to make a poll valid

it shall not be necessary that one-third of the persons enrolled must vote."

On June 3rd the Conference met for the second time. It was proposed that the better course would be to consider the question of the division of the country, after which they could better deal with the powers and functions of local bodies. This course was adopted, and, on the motion of Mr Hoare, it was resolved that, instead of the seven divisions proposed by the Bill of 1895, the following five should be adopted:—County, borough, rural district, urban district, and village. It was also decided to recommend that the number of County Councils should be not less than forty; that a district not exceeding four square miles in area, with a population of not less than 4000, should be entitled to be constituted a borough; that rural districts should not exceed nine square miles in area; that districts not exceeding two square miles in area, with a population of not less than 2000, should be entitled to be constituted urban districts; that a district of not less than 300 inhabitants may constitute a village under the Bill. The next meeting was fixed for the 18th June.

Notes of Convention

HELD RECENTLY IN PALMERSTON.

BY A DELEGATE FROM WELLINGTON W.C.T.U.

As it would be quite impossible to report all meetings fully, it seems to me best to give extracts from those subjects which most nearly concern us as women.

After much discussion, it was resolved to abolish the reduction vote from the ballot paper, and place the power of reduction in the hands of a committee, it being the opinion of Convention that the three issues were confusing to the electors.

In the discussion *re* the Colonial Option Poll, it was unanimously resolved that clubs be included.

At the public meeting held in the theatre, Sir Robert Stout, Mr T. E. Taylor, M.H.R., and Miss Ahier spoke, Sir Robert making a point of the fact that Nansen did not have any liquor during his travels, and would not allow his men to have any.

Miss Ahier, in her address, asked, "What are the women doing? Are they working against this evil to the utmost of their power?"

Mr Taylor pointed out that numbers of Christians voted for the Liquor