

Rambling Notes.

BY THE NEW ZEALAND CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

I am sure our White-ribboners all over the colony will feel interested in the aggressive work which is being carried on in the Palmerston North district. By invitation of a member of the district Union residing at Ashurst, on June 9, four Palmerston White-ribboners drove out to that town. It was a raw, cold afternoon, and glad were we to find ourselves seated at Mrs Crichton's hospitable fireside. After tea we repaired to the Wesleyan Church to take part in a public meeting for women; Mrs Crichton occupied the chair, and the audience numbered nine. However, nothing daunted, we went faithfully through with the programme—which included short addresses by Mrs Grace and Mrs Butters, while I explained the objects of the W.C.T.U.—and we secured three bright girls as a nucleus for the future. On July 14 I again visited Ashurst, accompanied by Mrs Barry, the district secretary. The afternoon meeting for women was well attended, and a branch organized with twelve members. Captain Law, of the Salvation Army, was the first to sign, and at the evening meeting our Army friends gave up to us their hall and did everything possible to make the meeting a success. The building was well filled and we enrolled more women, bringing the membership up to eighteen. Moral:—Never be disheartened, and "despise not the day of small things." Mr George Grant, who had come out to speak at our meeting, drove us home, and a merry trio we were, in spite of a bitter wind and driving rain.

The Woodville friends had for some time been anxious for a branch, and meetings were arranged for Monday, July 19. The weather was most unkind—cold and wet—and I almost hoped they would wire, "No use to attempt meeting this weather." As they had more faith than I, they telegraphed that they were expecting me, and the noon train found me *en route*. A slip on the line detained us for three-quarters of an hour; a Lutheran pastor engaged me in conversation, and we had a battle royal on the subject of women speaking in public, Paul, of course, figuring largely. At three o'clock a number of ladies assembled in the Foresters' Hall, Woodville, where a bright fire had been lighted. After explaining the objects and scope of the work, a branch was organised. A Good Templar social at

night further raised our membership by three. The next afternoon and evening were spent, under the guidance of my kind hostess, Mr Cox, in visiting a number of ladies in the neighbourhood and interesting them in the work. On Wednesday afternoon I travelled to Dannevirke, to speak at a Band of Hope social. All the friends being engaged in the preparation of the tea, I procured a list of the principal ladies in the town likely to join us, and sallied forth. My official position was duly set forth on my card, but the magic letters W.C.T.U. meant nothing to them. How I laughed in my sleeve, for I think they took me for a *book fiend*! As soon as I mentioned *Women's Christian Temperance Union* the scene was changed, and I met with great cordiality and attention. [N.B.—Profiting by this experience I now write the words in full.] The evening meeting, which included a farewell to Rev W. and Mrs Judkins, was a great success, and at the close several new pledges were taken. Next morning, after writing a local for the paper, and inserting an advertisement calling a meeting of women in the Town Hall for Friday afternoon, my hostess—the Mayoress—drove me out to visit some likely members. Arriving at home at noon I found a letter from Ormondville stating that the infant Union commenced by Mrs Isitt in June last were expecting to meet me the same afternoon. There was just time for a hasty dinner before the train started, and upon arrival at my destination I was met by Rev T. J. and Mrs Wills, and taken to the house of Miss Paterson, the secretary. Here the friends soon gathered, and after an interesting talk together one more member was enrolled. I was kindly entertained at the Vicarage, and favoured with an insight into Mr Wills' new book, which I hope will be circulated as widely as possible, as it will be very useful to our work. All secretaries will shortly receive an advance notice of the work, and I would urge that they get as many orders for it as possible, particularly among Church of England friends.

Returning to Dannevirke on Friday, in the afternoon I met the ladies interested in our work, and enrolled several as White-ribboners. The office of president proved a terrible stumbling-block, and finally an early date was fixed for a meeting to elect officers, which, I understand, has since been done.

On Saturday I travelled to Pahiatua, where I was the guest of the Mayor,

Mr Job Vile. After Church on Sunday evening I addressed a public meeting in the Town Hall. Rev H. Beggs took the chair, and in announcing the meeting for women the next afternoon he besought the women present to do anything they were asked—a request which bore good fruit the next day when we formed a branch, as no difficulty was experienced in electing suitable officers. As I passed through Woodville another meeting of the Union there was held, and on the Wednesday I returned to Palmerston. Foxton was visited next day, and a branch started there, which will have the advantage of the fostering care of Mrs Astler, of Levin. In all nineteen pledges were taken, and thirteen subscribers for the WHITE RIBBON secured.

Just before posting I may mention that an energetic Union has been formed in little Colyton, and four subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON secured.

PLEDGE.

LOYAL TEMPERANCE LEGION.

Trusting in God's help, I solemnly promise to abstain from the use of alcoholic drinks, including wine, beer, and cider, from the use of tobacco in any form, and from profanity.

Items from Miss Slack's Monthly Letter.

WORLD'S CONVENTION.—Much interest was shown in the great International Convention during our B.W.T.A. meetings. Letters from Toronto gave information of elaborate preparations which are being made on every hand.

B.W.T.A.—On May 31st Lady Henry Somerset gave a reception to the 750 delegates attending the Council meeting. The first part of the evening was spent in pleasant social greetings, and refreshments were supplied and music, after which Lady Henry, in a graceful speech, welcomed the delegates and introduced Miss Willard's chief coadjutor, Mrs Stevens, as one who had been a loyal, successful worker for more than 20 years, and on behalf of the delegates presented Mrs Stevens with a basket of beautiful flowers. Then, after Mrs Stevens, speeches were given by Lady Windeyer, Miss Solly, Mrs Kirk, and Mrs Chant. During subsequent meetings, resolutions were passed against any re-introduction of the C.D. Acts in England or India, and in favour of the principles of direct veto and local option. A cable was received from Miss Willard, the key-note of which was "higher." The Council sent a cable of grateful, loving greeting in reply.