

Aid Board some complaints as to cruelty by the Wardsman at the Old Men's Home.

The Board appointed a committee to investigate the matter, and the committee not only exonerated the Wardsman, but commended him for the manner in which he had performed his duties.

The matter was not allowed to rest here. An information was laid against the Wardsman, and the charge was heard by the Stipendiary Magistrate. According to the *Wanganui Herald*, "Mrs Builock (a member of the National Council) prosecuted, and conducted the case for the informant in a way that convinced all present that women are quite as capable of conducting such cases as men." We congratulate these ladies for their compassion and public spirit, and wish we could offer similar congratulations to the Board. The whole case proves the absolute necessity for women on our Charitable Aid Boards. It is work that they are eminently fitted for, and we greatly regret that Mr Roche's motion, at the Charitable Aid Conference in Wellington, "That it is desirable that local bodies should be partially represented by women on Charitable Aid Boards," was negatived.

### Important to Unions.

MISS POWELL requests that all reports of auxiliary Unions be sent at once to the Secretary of the District Union to which they are affiliated, and that the District Secretaries should compile therefrom ONE COMBINED Report, and forward to her not later than the end of January. Her address is care of Rev. W. J. Williams, Auckland.

Mrs. Hill, N.Z. Treasurer (Bluff Hill, Napier), requests that the local treasurers forward to the District treasurers, and the District treasurers forward to Mrs Hill, before the end of January, the New Zealand capitation fees, the World's capitation fees, and a copy of the balance-sheet.

### Let The Women Keep Silence.

THE conclusion arrived at by a majority of the members of the Christchurch Diocesan Synod (which held its sittings last month) that women shall not be allowed to speak or vote at parish meetings, would have roused our indignation greatly were it not that the comic side of the question appeals to us strongly, helping to restore the mental balance and soften our asperity. The old well-worn arguments, which one would have thought could not in decency be resuscitated, were all served up afresh: *i.e.*, Women's incompetency in business matters; their inferiority of brain; the danger of their admittance driving men out of the Church; the fear of such a step leading to an ecclesiastical revolution; and, in fact, of its being the thin end of the wedge, leading—Heaven only knows where—probably to the Church's entire disintegration.

One reverend gentleman besought his brethren to remember the words of St. Paul. He did not specify which words, but we believe all present took for granted that he referred to those that have since been paraphrased:

"Let the women keep silence all."

The reverend gentleman evidently forgot that even Paul, imbued as he was with Jewish traditions regarding women, had so far imbibed the spirit of his Master as to recognise and honour several women as having "laboured with him in the Gospel."

This didn't mean that they sewed their fingers to the bone, or begged from door to door in order that Paul should have a good stipend, or a well-appointed parsonage. But it meant that they took an active part with him in spreading the good news.

What blasphemy! what sacrilege! cries the Church dignitary. But whether the Church will or no, the time is coming when the Church will recognise and welcome women into its folds—not as drudges or underlings, but as honoured equals with those who have so long usurped authority. That this is not a forlorn hope is shown by the manly and sensible speeches made in Synod in support of Mr Dunnage's resolution—"That it is desirable that women should have the right to speak and vote at parish meetings." The voting was as follows:—Ayes: Clergy, 16; Laity, 14. Noes: Clergy, 32; Laity, 15. It will be seen from these figures that one-third of the clerics, and

half of the laymen were progressives. Such a proportion constitutes more than "a little leaven," and so we have hopes for the future of the Church.

In connection with Archdeacon Harper's remarks on the inferiority of women's brains, and their consequent incapacity for grasping and dealing with ecclesiastical questions, it may be interesting to recall a few words spoken by Canon Wilberforce in a recent sermon preached at Westminster Abbey—"When in the irresponsible self-complacency of a supposed superiority, man dares to depreciate women intellectually, morally, and socially, he is guilty of two errors. First, he denies an elemental truth of creation; and secondly, he is publicly advertising the slowness of his own perceptions of Christian enlightenment."

### Rambling Notes.

BY THE NEW ZEALAND CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Midhurst was reached on Sept 2nd. The public meeting was small, and the disgust of the friends—who had expected a crowd—proportionate. This was, however, much more than counterbalanced by the women's meeting the next afternoon, which was the largest afternoon meeting I have had anywhere. Little Midhurst, re-inforced by three new members, now numbers thirty-three, with a large staff of honoraries. It also subscribes for fourteen copies of the WHITE RIBBON. Hear and be ashamed, O ye larger towns that take a much smaller number!

A meeting had been arranged at Tariki road, but it was Saturday night, and the notice had been very short, so only a small audience assembled. The next day I had the pleasure of addressing the little Church of England Sunday-school, which Mrs Harkness is so energetically carrying on—at present single-handed.

I reached Inglewood on Monday, and spoke in the Wesleyan Church the same night. Considering that, through some misunderstanding, my arrival had been announced as *probable* but not certain, the friends turned out remarkably well. The Tuesday was spent, under the guidance of the Rev H. Blamires, in driving around the country, working up the women's meeting for the next day. This was very successful. The friends were very sorry they had allowed Mrs Isitt to go away