

Other noteworthy papers were — "The Early Care and Training of Children under the Poor Law," by Mrs Francis Rye, and the Hon Mrs A. T. Lyttelton; "The Work of Lady Visitors in Prisons," by the Duchess of Bedford and Miss E. A. Cadbury; "Can Punishment be Made Remedial rather than Punitive?" by Mrs Sheldon Amos; "Power in Work," by Miss E. M. Caillard; and "The Pain of the World—How to Face It," by Miss Clifford. Taken as a whole, the Report of the Conference impresses one with the idea of the immense moral force such a federation of women workers possesses.

Reports of District Unions.

AUCKLAND.

This Union is doing good work, having met regularly. Several subjects have been discussed. Four visitors have given us much good cheer by their kind advice, loving counsel, and general views of Union work all along the line. Prayer meetings have occasionally been held. A L.T.L. has also been commenced. A petition has also been sent to Parliament, re Young Person's Protection Bill. Collections have been taken in connection with the relief work.

Davenport reports fairly good attendance and great interest in the work, literature being regularly distributed and left in the ferry boats. One drawing-room meeting has been held, two Mother's meetings, and one on "Social Purity." The subject of Narcotics has also been discussed.

Tauranga reports holding its own, having had two public meetings and taken 52 pledges. Occasional visits have been paid to the Maori settlements, which were much appreciated. "Social Purity" literature has also been judiciously distributed.

GISBORNE.

This Union holds monthly meetings. The chief work of the year has been the inauguration of a scheme for opening Coffee and Reading Rooms. Canon Farrar's sermon, "Make straight paths for your feet," was also distributed by the members, and two special meetings have been held.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

This Union was re-organised under the guidance of Miss Powell during her visit last September, when she visited the auxiliaries also, with much profit to the Union. We intend a new departure, viz., holding meetings in the evenings for those engaged in business as well as the day meetings, which are found most suitable for many of our members. During the year we received a legacy of £1 2s 6d from the estate of the late Miss R. Bayley, whose death makes a break in our ranks. Last November an attempt was made to provide a refreshment booth at the Agricultural Show, but failed for lack of sufficient assistance. Our departments of work are literature, franchise, visiting, evangelistic work, and friendless girls. Midhurst takes up evangelistic, foreign missions, social purity, and literature departments. At Pungarehu, owing to the

smallness of their numbers and the scattered population, they hold meetings only once a quarter. The distribution of literature is carried on. A visit from Mrs Isitt was cheering and helpful. At Stratford, 19 ordinary and two public meetings have been held during the year. Several branches of work are undertaken: juvenile, hygiene and food reform, influencing the Press, social purity, narcotics, rescue work, and literature.

NAPIER.

Two great events in the report of this Union's work have been the preparations for the reception of the members of Convention, and the relief work in connection with the disastrous floods last year. For the latter object we received three guineas from different unions, also a box of useful clothing, which were very acceptable. Evangelistic work is still carried on, also regular visiting at the hospital and other institutions, and the distribution of literature. Mrs Hill has kindly presented us with a very handsome framed motto. Ormondville was formed by Mrs Isitt about six months ago, and later on visited by Miss Powell. The only work at present undertaken is the distribution of literature.

HAWERA.

Hawera, Manaia, and Eltham are still holding their own, the few new members only supplying those who fall out by indifference, or removal. In Hawera several unsuccessful attempts have been made to hold Home meetings, and at last two have been held which were, I think, appreciated. The monthly meetings have been regularly held except once, when only the Secretary appeared. A pocket has been put in the ladies' waiting room for evangelistic and temperance literature. In July, Mrs Isitt conducted a Woman's meeting in the Wesleyan church. Miss Powell also held a meeting in Hawera, and visited some of the outlying districts. At Manaia a very successful Band of Hope is being carried on somewhat on L.T.L. lines. At Eltham there is a strong desire to start a Coffee Room, but they have to wait until they get more information as to how to work it. Since the new year a Somerset Union has been organised at Okaiawa, and two of the members have undertaken to carry on a branch of the Loyal Temperance Legion to be held fortnightly for an hour in the afternoon.

WANGANUI.

Wanganui has to report the addition of several departments. Juvenile work has been taken up, consisting of a class for girls. A couple of members teach knitting, sewing, and darning, temperance and religious instruction being imparted. I should also add how much we appreciate the advice of Miss Hewson, late of Christchurch, in assisting to form the class. Relief work:—Several families have been assisted, parcels of clothing being received and distributed among the needy. A Committee was also appointed to visit the hospital, speaking a few kindly words and leaving suitable literature, which appears to be much appreciated by the patients.

The box at the Railway Station is regularly visited and kept well supplied with literature. A special effort was made at the time of Mrs Isitt's visit to attract outsiders to the meeting. It took the form of a social. Much good work has been done, meetings being held regularly, and a lively interest taken in the many

questions discussed. We have now one auxiliary, Turakina, which was formed by Miss Powell in August. Five meetings have been held and duly reported in the local press, a flourishing L.T.L. also being carried on and a quantity of literature distributed.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

Pahiataua. This Union has only been formed since July. Being so short a time in existence it has not been able to do much. Meetings are being held, both for business and prayer. A L.T.L. has been formed with a membership of 39, which is most encouraging. We are hoping to improve as we grow older.

Woodville. Five branches of work have been taken up. A good Band of Hope has been established here. Reports of meetings sent to local papers. We hope next year to take up more work.

Ashurst is still struggling on. A visit from Mrs Wrigley cheered them, and they hope in the future to do more than they have done.

Feilding is doing good work, the following being taken up:—Band of Hope, relief work, unfermented wine, gymnasium for girls, Press work, and literature distributed. Afternoon tea is provided by the ladies to the members and friends of the cricket club during the summer months.

Dannevirke has only been formed four months. The work they have in hand is a Youth's Club, and relief work.

Turakina has only been in existence 11 months, but they are doing what they can to forward the work. They have a L.T.L. which is progressing favourably.

Colyton being a new branch have not much to report. Influencing the Press, reporting meetings, and distributing literature has been their work.

Marion. The work carried on here is as follows:—Missionary, educational, unfermented wines, literature, and a L.T.L. Miss Powell visited us in August, and stirred us up to greater activity in our work.

Foxton. Another of the auxiliaries organised during the winter has held five meetings, all of which were reported to the local press.

WELLINGTON.

The branches of work engaged in by the Wellington Union are, evangelistic work, visiting the gaol being a special part of this work, hospital work, in which we were greatly cheered and helped by a visit from Mrs Barney, who conducted Bible readings for women, and addressed two public meetings in Wesley church; Juvenile depravity, in connection with which, Lady Stout kindly lent her drawing-room to hold a meeting. Other meetings followed, which resulted in the formation of a "Society for the protection of women and children." Mothers' meetings, held once a month; literature, railway boxes being kept supplied; WHITE RIBBON; Press. A lecture was given by Rev F. H. Spencer, with a magic lantern, on Physiological Temperance. At Petone a branch was formed in August by Miss L. M. Kirk, in which the Girl's Sewing Guild is a leading feature. At Masterton, temperance sentiment is steadily growing and the outlook encouraging. Twelve meetings have been held. Unfortunately the Coffee rooms have had to be given up, owing to the raising of the rent, but it is hoped that they will be opened again in the winter. The Levin branch was refreshed by a visit from Mrs Isitt. The distribution of literature is