

the only work undertaken. Regular meetings have been held.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Christchurch increased its membership last year by 12. The past year has been a busy one. The following departments are worked by the Union:—Evangelistic, literature, library, hygiene, juvenile work, drawing-room meetings, relief work, rescue work, scientific temperance, Sunday trading, mothers' meetings, social purity, legal and parliamentary. The Union also has charge of two Coffee rooms, which are well patronised. The luncheon booth at the Agricultural Show was this year a great success. The Union still pays for the Women's page in the *Prohibitionist*.

Leeston reports eleven meetings held during the year. Addresses have been given on Hygiene, and Food Reform, and on nursing the sick. 1000 leaflets (Prohibition in Kansas) have been distributed throughout the electorate. Most of the departments are taken up.

Ashburton holds monthly meetings. Cottage meetings have been held and temperance lessons given to the public school children. Cases of clothing were also sent to Hastings for Flood Relief fund. There has been an increase in membership, and more subscribers obtained for the WHITE RIBBON.

Timaru is still holding its own and the Union's special work is done amongst the sailors who frequent the port.

Lyttelton holds weekly meetings, when temperance and missionary work receives attention. Maori work is carried on under the superintendent, and the Pah is visited by the members of the Union, when an evening's entertainment is provided.

Kaipoi has held several public meetings, and has received visits from Mrs Barney and Mrs Isitt. The Coffee-rooms are self-supporting. Leaflets have been distributed, and educational meetings, and Bible meetings, held. The auxiliaries have also been visited.

Rangiora and Amberley are still holding on, and efforts have been made to interest the public in the work by holding public meetings.

BLENHEIM.

The thanks of the Union are again due to Miss Youmans, of Wellington, for a series of tableaux and entertainments, which were very successful, adding £25 to the funds. Also, to Miss E. Rose and her friends who organised and successfully carried out a Competition Concert, netting over £11.

The Union secured the booth privileges at the Cycling Club's sports on May 24, at Friendly Societies sports on Nov 9, and again at the A. and P. Show on 24th Nov, giving us a net return of £5 for the first, £7 12s for the second, and £56 for the Show. Literature: This branch of the work has been regularly attended to, under the superintendence of Mrs Brewer, and Mrs Wheeler. Drawing-room meetings were held at Mesdames Rose's and Girling's respectively, and were well attended and much enjoyed. Mrs Isitt visited our district and addressed various meetings in the Union interests. The rooms are not doing the business we would desire as we have a deal of opposition. Miss Gaunnie has been in charge since November 1896, and gives every satisfaction.

GREYMOUTH.

Meetings are being held monthly and the following work has been taken up:—Prayer meet-

ings held in different houses, vessels in port visited on Sunday morning and temperance literature distributed. A district has been taken and suitable reading matter left. This branch is much appreciated by those visited; a most flourishing L.T.L. society, the boys and girls taking a great deal of interest in the work. There are 90 on the roll. Miss Kirk's visit during the year resulted in more activity amongst the members and six new ones joined. The hospital is also visited. Brunerton has a most flourishing Union, members taking an unusual interest in the work. This union has the following branches, missionary meetings, literature distributed, and relief work. Miss Kirk's visit was a great boon, and a Boy's Club is to be started as one result of her visit.

HOKITIKA.

This Union is continuing its good work, the following branches being taken up: Parliamentary, Press, literature, and missionary, evangelistic, and juvenile have been most encouraging. Cottage meetings are held weekly, and are well attended. A young girl's sewing class was held during the winter months and proved most instructive. This class consisted of 20 members. During their meetings the subject of temperance was placed before them, and 18 signed the pledge. We were pleased with Miss Kirk's visit, when good meetings were held. We thank God for the past, and take courage for the future.

DUNEDIN.

The usual number of meetings was held during the year, and at the meeting held to welcome and listen to Mrs Barney, about 100 persons signed the pledge.

Several members of Parliament were solicited by correspondence to use their influence in favour of women being appointed as members of Charitable Aid Boards, the reply from each being satisfactory.

The annual tea-meeting in connection with the Sailor's Rest was held, and was quite a success.

Parliament was also solicited for a grant of money towards a Reformatory, but the sum placed at disposal had already been spent.

Port Chalmers auxiliary. Missionary work has been added during the year. Nine business meetings held and four cottage meetings. A woman's tea-meeting came off in the Rest, which was, in every sense, a success.

Members, however, have been much disheartened at the consumption of strong drink that goes on in their midst, and feel that as things are, they are utterly powerless to check it.

The annual meeting was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Miss Griffin, in the absence of the president, presiding. Finances were in good condition.

It is pleasing to note that members of the W.C.T.U. continue to take a warm interest in the Bands of Hope carried on in the town.

West Taieri. Members on the roll, 13, and there have been ten meetings. Cottage meetings have been frequent and much appreciated. Temperance literature has been distributed, and done good service. Mission boxes and Sailor's Rests have been helped by way of bags, books, and money collected. The work is, however, carried on under difficulties; the members are so scattered and most are busy mothers, and find it hard to leave their homes and walk two or three miles. There are two prosperous Good Templar lodges with a creditable roll of members, and it is cheering to be

able to say that the temperance cause has a high stand in our midst.

At Naseby ten meetings have been held. Mother's meeting is held weekly; a poor box is kept; collections made and special cases of distress are relieved. The WHITE RIBBON paper is supported. The chief work is promoting temperance.

Invercargill has not been idle during the past year. Thirteen meetings of the Union, and about the same number of extra meetings have been held and been fairly well attended. Arrangements were made early in the year with the proprietor of the Southern Cross that on the payment of a small sum we should have half a column in which to insert temperance notes, or any articles which would help us in our work. This has been continued during the year and we believe that good has been done. Last May a visit was received from Mrs Barney, W. Superintendent Prison Work, which for a time roused our members to greater interest in the mission. Several public meetings were held, and were well attended. A drawing-room meeting was held on the last day of Mrs Barney's visit.

Friendless Girls.—This branch of the work has not been neglected, and a large number of girls have again been helped. Mrs Barney's visit led to the establishment of the "Victoria Home," which has already afforded shelter to many. Hospital visiting has been carried on during the year, and our visitors have had much to cheer them in their work. The literature boxes have been kept well supplied.

Juvenile depravity.—A deputation waited on the Mayor to ascertain if anything could be done to prevent young children walking the streets after dark. The Mayor regretted the fact that the Council could do nothing in the matter.

Reports of Departments.

DUNEDIN SAILORS' REST.

Referring to the Dunedin Sailors' Rest, Mrs Kirkland writes:—"We, of the Dunedin W.C.T.U., are truly glad that the "East" is our very own, and that no one can hinder us in our work." Mrs Kirkland, Mrs Don, Miss Statham, and others, take a lively interest in the "Rest," and frequently hold meetings for sailors. The following report has been supplied by the "Rest" Missionary:

The Dunedin Sailors' Rest was opened 5th July, 1887. Almost every day since that date its doors have been open for sailors of all Nations. Daily they come to read, write their letters, chat with each other, or listen to the Gospel story. In order to win their presence, we visit every vessel that comes into harbour, and when with us we endeavour to show every kindness within our power. Writing material is provided free; we freely distribute tens of thousands of tracts, papers, magazines, and books yearly. As there is considerable wear and tear, besides giving parcels of reading matter to vessels leaving port, we should be very grateful if friends would forward any spare newspapers, books, &c., in any language. The Postal authorities kindly allow printed matter to pass free if addressed to me at the Rest. No seaman leaves port, if we know it, without a Bible or Testament. Though many thousands come in and out during the year, money is never mentioned to any seaman. We trust God to supply all the needs of the Rest from other sources.