

Of course, apart from direct spiritual work we try, as far as we can, to assist any in temporal need. Almost daily cases confront us—food, shelter, clothing, work and advice. Frequently we get billets on board ship for youths who have been drifting on shore, so that they may start afresh.

Often during the year we have the men together for a cup of tea and kindly counsel from shore friends. For instance, last night (Feb 4th) over 100 seamen and friends sat down to a comfortable tea provided by "Rest" workers, after which, short addresses were given by the Rev Dr. Annaud, of the South Sea Islands, and other friends, including several seamen. These gatherings are much appreciated by the sailors.

We rejoice most over the spiritual work. Gospel meetings are held every Friday and Sunday evenings, with good attendance. It is no uncommon thing to see Britons, Americans, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Germans, Italians, French, Russians, and men of other nations, joining together in a hymn, or quietly listening to the Gospel of God's grace, not un- frequently from the lips of one of their own number. God has again, during the past year, wondrously blessed those meetings, and especially the personal dealing with souls. Volumes could be filled with extracts from sailors' letters, masters, officers, and men, thanking God for blessings received.

Apart from the "Rest" we give what time we can spare to the weary, sick, and dying,—especially seamen in the Hospital, &c.

Most gratefully do we thank the Harbour Master, Shipping Master, and Shipping Registrar for kindly aid; the proprietors of the "Daily Times," "Evening Star," "Christian Outlook," "Advocate," and other papers for free copies; several coal companies for coal; many friends for help in donations, Bibles, books, magazines, newspapers, writing material, weekly supplies of flowers, &c., and specially all kind friends who personally have come down to help at the Rest from time to time.

TIMARU SAILORS' REST.

The energies of the Timaru Union have been concentrated chiefly in maintaining the Sailors' Rest, which has been well patronised and appreciated by the sailors visiting this port. Our Union has been much encouraged to go on with this needful work, as sailors leaving port often leave a letter thanking the members of the Union, and especially the caretaker of the Rest, for help received during their stay in port.

Through the kindness of the Harbour Board, four of our members were formed into a visiting committee to the Rest, and concerts are arranged for the seamen every few months. On Sunday nights the Rest is always open, and Sankey's Hymns are sung. Temperance literature has been distributed at regular intervals.

M. AVISON,
Sec. Timaru Union.

OAMARU BOY'S CLUB.

The report showed that the Boys' Club had been conducted on the lines so successfully carried out by Miss Filleul for the past ten years. The boys evinced great admiration and kindly remembrance of their former superintendent. The library consists of 125 volumes of excellent books, which were much appreciated by the boys. By means of an entertainment fund had been provided for increasing their stock of carpenter's tools, etc., and hopes

were entertained of getting a good start again in March. The treasurer reported a credit balance of £2 11s.

LITERATURE.

The Unions, excepting Naseby and Wanganui have not sent me any reports. They seem to think it quite sufficient to mention the literature in their general reports. I think it would be well if more notice were taken of the improper literature which is being so freely circulated. I wrote to the Minister of Justice re certain papers which were sold in several shops in Christchurch. I am afraid very little has been done as yet, but the subject must not be allowed to drop. The police department wants waking up on this matter, for much that is indictable is being circulated. Wanganui sets a good example in furnishing the waiting-room at the railway station with suitable literature: this could be done with great advantage at every station. There has been a great demand for social purity literature during the past year, but I have been able to supply very little, owing to lack of funds for purchasing suitable literature or to order it from America. I sent to America for a supply of the leaflet, "Whose Daughter," instead of getting the printing done here. 1500 copies were sent me, and only 600 were sold to the Unions. Someone, therefore, must bear the loss. No superintendent can do this work without funds, and the subject wants more than a passing thought. There are many earnest, vigorous women in the Unions now, and I hope some one will take up the work and make more of it than I have time or strength to do. I have had great pleasure in my work, and have enjoyed the fellowship of my fellow-workers. I am not eligible for re-election, but shall be glad to give any assistance in my power.

CLARA VENABLES,
Superintendent.

UNFERMENTED WINE.

I am so grieved that owing to illness I have been unable to draw up anything like a report of my work for the year, but a good deal of correspondence has taken place with some of our vine-growers, the chief difficulty with them is getting the right kind of grapes, and the risk of a market. However, some of them will, I believe, try to make it in small quantities.

Have written to all Clerks of Presbyteries throughout New Zealand re the use of "Unfermented Wine" at the Communion, and have received answers from the following:—

Hawkes Bay.—In general use.
Lyttelton.—More than half the churches use it, that is about 12.
Geraldine.—Three churches use it.
Nelson.—All the churches use the wine, or wine locally made.
Mataura.—Two churches only use it.
Oamaru.—Three out of seven churches use it.

AGNES W. BEGG,
Superintendent.

PRESS WORK.

In presenting my report on the Press Department, I have to deplore the fact that it appears to be the one most difficult to work successfully. The opposition of the average newspaper to the work in which we are engaged makes it almost impossible to reach the public, and to influence them through the Press.

During the year I forwarded circulars to all the District Unions, requesting them to be careful to send reports to daily papers, also to WHITE RIBBON, and Woman's Page in *Prohibitionist* and also advising them to make as much use as possible of the correspondence columns. Some of the District Unions sent reports of what they themselves were doing, but Kaiapoi is the only District Union which collected auxiliary reports. All Unions forward reports of meetings to daily papers, and advertise special meetings. Christchurch has sent correspondence to daily papers on C.D. Act, and women's vote at parish meetings. Invercargill, Feilding, Woodville, Colyton, and Pungarehu, set an example that is worth imitating. Each of these pay for half a column in the local papers, which is kept supplied with temperance matter or any items which may be helpful to our work. We would say to other Unions, "Go and do thou likewise." I feel sure that this department might be made of great use to us if Unions would only realise its importance. The public always read the daily papers, and if we can by any means make use of the press for the dissemination of our truths, we should do so. There are many who will never attend our meetings, that could be reached by these means.

It would not be right to ignore the influence for good exerted by our own WHITE RIBBON, and the *Prohibitionist*. With these powerful aids, we should extend our work, although other papers are almost closed to us. Each Union should appoint a Press superintendent, and the correspondence columns of the local papers made great use of, especially when any question in which our Union is interested comes up for discussion.

SOCIAL PURITY AND RESCUE WORK.

In presenting my report on the two departments of Social Purity and Rescue Work, I have to state that I sent a circular letter to 42 Unions, containing a few practical suggestions as to methods of carrying on the work. I have received letters in reply from 15 Unions, viz., Ashburton, Blenheim, Feilding, Greymouth, Leeston, Levin, Marton, Napier, Naseby, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Tauranga, Waimate, Wellington, and West Taieri. From the three large centres, Auckland, Christchurch, and Dunedin I have no information, so I can only hope that a great deal more is being done in the cause of Social Purity, and also in Rescue Work, than will appear in my report. Including my own Union (Gisborne), I can only report on the work of 16 Unions.

From the reports sent in from these 15 places, I find that all, or nearly all, are circulating a good deal of literature, and several are doing what they can privately to restore girls who have fallen. One or two are also trying to influence mothers as regards the care of their sons and daughters. Two Unions have also sent contributions to be transmitted to one of the Rescue Homes. Several Unions have asked to be supplied with specimen leaflets which I have had much pleasure in forwarding. In Gisborne our work has been mainly confined to the distribution of literature but we have been able to do a little in Rescue Work and have sent one girl to a Home in Auckland, to which we are also subscribers. We hope to do more, both for young men and young women next year. Some months ago I wrote to Miss Dyer in London, who was offering grants of literature on the Social Purity question, asking for a grant, and she very kindly sent me a liberal supply of little books