

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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CHRISTCHURCH: APRIL, 1898.

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English Women Workers.

WE have received the official report of the Conference of Women Workers held at Croydon in October last. The Conference was arranged by the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland.

This Union consists of (a) ordinary members, who shall be women workers subscribing at least five shillings annually, and (b) corporate members, that is, members of local unions which subscribe at the rate of five shillings for every twenty-five members or less, on their roll. The Union is federated with the International Council of Women. The Governing body of the Union is called the National Council, and consists of representatives of the Local Unions, representatives of all Societies of Women nationally organised, and of all members of the Executive Committee. This Executive Committee is elected by the National Council, but has power to add four to its number. No one is eligible for nomination who has not been a member of the Union for at least a year.

The report of the Conference is published in two vols., containing some 268 pages, and is sold for 2s 6d per copy. It contains the addresses and papers delivered and read; lists of the officers, General Committees and Sub-Committees; Constitution, Bye-laws and Standing-Orders, and lists of the sub-

scribing members. The latter contains the names of a large number of titled ladies, and shows that many members of the British aristocracy are not content to be counted among the drones of society.

The Conference lasted four days, and those who think that our New Zealand National Council undertakes too much work would stand appalled at the activity of these English ladies. The programme for the first day included half-an-hour for devotion, an address of welcome, the Presidential address, and no fewer than *twelve* papers. Nearly all these papers were followed by discussion, and the English method (that of nominating speakers), alone could have enabled the Conference to get through such a mass of work. Many of the subjects were what may be considered specially women's subjects, such as the care of children, nursing, the life of women as elementary school teachers, rescue work, young Englishwomen on the Continent, and Prison work.

Temperance occupied a prominent place in the programme. It consisted of a paper on the medical aspect of temperance by Mrs Clare Goslett, methods of attacking intemperance (a) through the medium of Homes, by Lady Elizabeth Biddulph, (b) by Bands of Hope, by the Hon Mrs Eliot Yorke, and (c) by Legislative action, by Mrs H. J. Wilson.

The fourth day was devoted to a discussion on the attempt to revive the C.D. Acts, and to a consideration of practical rescue work.

The resolution on the former was moved by Mrs Fawcett in a very able speech, and was seconded by the Hon. Mrs A. T. Lyttelton. Mrs Fawcett quoted statistics published by the Government, showing that during the operation of the Acts in India venereal diseases increased in twenty-four years from 212 per thousand in 1865, to 480 per thousand in 1889. She said that the Acts were a failure because they were based on wrong moral principles. A number of instances were quoted from official documents showing that the Acts were regarded as direct and open inducements to vicious habits.

The educational side of co-operation was the title of interesting papers by Mrs Greenwood and Miss C. Webb. Many of the co-operative societies make grants out of their profits for educational purposes. Last year the grants for these purposes had amounted to no less than £46,752. The aggregate capital of the co-operative societies amounted to over sixteen millions, their turn-over to fifty-two millions, and their profits to between five and six millions. Besides the grants for educational purposes, some twenty thousand pounds was voted to charity.

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

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.

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 BOYS' 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, Grey-mouth, 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

and leaflets. I have brought some of these to Convention, and shall be glad to take orders from any of the Unions who would like copies for distribution.

I trust that all our Unions will endeavour to do a great deal more in the cause of Social Purity than has ever been done yet. It is the purity of the Homes in any country that mainly ensures the well-being and prosperity of that country, and it is only from homes where the children have been trained from their earliest days, to be pure in thought, and word, and deed, that we can send out pure men and women, to be our future statesmen, and law-makers and teachers: men and women who will also be the fathers and mothers of the next generation.

MARIA WEBB,
Superintendent.

Since writing this report I have had a report from Invercargill of the Victoria Home for Friendless Girls which seems to be doing very good work, which might be imitated by other of the larger towns.—M.W.

EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS.

There have been four meetings of this kind in connection with the Marton branch of the W.C.T.U., it being usual to hold them on the fourth Thursday of each month. The first was held on the 26th of August, the subject chosen being, "The effect of what we eat and drink on the system." The second, on 30th September was, "Alcohol, its uses as a medicine." This meeting was for the discussion of the question, for and against the use of alcohol as a medicine. Reform dress occupied the attention of the members for the third meeting held October 28. The important subject of "Ventilation of the sick room," was energetically taken up by those present, this being the fourth meeting, 25th November. At all these meetings the subjects were discussed. If the importance of these educational meetings were more fully recognised they would be more heartily entered into.

A. KNIGGE,
Superintendent.

HYGIENE AND YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK.

I am sorry that on account of ill-health I have such a poor report, but I had to obey medical orders and take a rest for a time, and undergo a course of treatment which has benefited me so much that I hope to be able to take up the broken links again. I had to suspend my visit North, also to Timaru, where I had hoped to hold some meetings in connection with the young women's branch. I purpose going to Naseby next week to give a course of lectures on Hygiene and Domestic Economy under the auspices of the local W.C.T.U., and also to give an address on the 24th at a concert got up to raise funds for their Winter's Juvenile Work. We must still seek for guidance in the matter of our young women. I come in contact with large numbers and find that Christian Endeavour work has superseded our Y. work for the present, and I still think it would not be wise to multiply organisations. Meetings got up occasionally with bright women speakers to keep the interest alive is what we want for our young women. As for Hygiene, a good deal has been done locally this year in the way of sending short articles to papers. I am sorry that Miss Filleu's removal to Melbourne has caused the Oamaru Y's to disband for want of a leader. They paid

the rent of the hall for the year and left the Boys' Club in the hands of two earnest Christian men, who have carried on the work with the co-operation of one or two of the old Y. members. I ask that the prayers of the Convention may follow our dear young sister and fellow-labourer in her new sphere of work (I believe she has a large Bible class of young men). She did her work nobly in N.Z.

I cannot close this meagre report without thanking you all for letters of loving sympathy sent in my time of trouble.

E. B. MILLER,
Superintendent.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Police Department,
Commissioner's Office,
Wellington, March 14, 1898.

No. 215.

MADAM,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst., addressed to the Hon. the Minister of Justice, upon the question of having separate places of detention, in the large towns of the colony, for persons supposed to be insane while awaiting examination, and in reply thereto to inform you that the matter is receiving the attention of this Department.

I am, Madam,
Yours obediently,
W. B. TUNBRIDGE,
Commissioner of Police.

Miss L. M. Kirk,
Recording Sec. W.C.T.U. of N.Z.
St. Paul's Schoolroom,
Napier.

OUR OWN PAPER.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL N.Z. WHITE RIBBONERS.

DEAR WHITE RIBBON SISTERS,—

Before this letter meets your eye you will have received a direct communication from head-quarters setting forth the immediate necessity of energetic action if our little paper is to continue in existence. To let it drop is out of the question. What a disgrace to a colony of enfranchised women that they cannot keep one woman's paper going! The fact is the WHITE RIBBON is not pushed nearly enough *outside* our own ranks. Thousands of women in New Zealand have neither seen nor heard of it, many of whom would be very glad to subscribe if it were introduced to them. It is not a paper that we need to be ashamed of, is it? In mentioning it I always make a point of the Parliamentary summary which comes out every

month during the session. Now that we are fully-fledged electors we ought to keep abreast of the doings of Parliament, and know what the men are doing who are *supposed* to represent us. But, really, to wade through the columns of Parliamentary news in the daily paper is more than most women have time for. Then there comes in the WHITE RIBBON and five minutes' careful study will inform you what measures bearing upon the special interests of women or home have been introduced during the month, and with what result. I have always considered that column in itself worth half-a-crown a year to any busy woman. Then there are details of what other women's societies are doing, and on the last page an excellent health paper. I have used "A. W.'s" directions for packs and other forms of hydropathic treatment with great benefit, so can heartily recommend them.

Coming then to our own work. What disorganisation would follow if now we had no "official organ." No body would know what anybody else is doing except at Convention time—once a year. Why, such a retrograde step is unthinkable! So now we must all set to work. Every White-Ribboner should take the paper unless quite unable to afford it; officers cannot satisfactorily do their work without it. Let every member get at least *one* new subscriber, and send on address and half-a-crown, before June 1st, and the thing will be done.—Yours in the work,

MARY S. POWELL,
N.Z. Cor. Sec. W.C.T.U.

P.S.—In the list of Departments published last month, my name appears as Superintendent of Medal Contests. That department has been undertaken by Mrs Spence, of Marton. Please make the correction in your Convention number, and then there will be no confusion.—M.S.P.

DEAR MADAM,—Will you kindly publish the following fact:—That an enlarged photo of Miss F. E. Willard, done by one of Auckland's best artists, can be had by applying to the Auckland Union, price six shillings. An early order will oblige. All Unions should have one. Cabinets, one shilling.—Yours, etc.,

S. A. PLUMMER.

Half-a-crown a year will procure you a copy of the WHITE RIBBON, posted direct, and you will thus be kept in touch with a large section of the thoughtful women of the colony.

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Dakele ...	1	10
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Ama ...	1	6

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Ranee, finest Indian ...	2	2
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THE WHITE RIBBON

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DISTRIBUTING DEPARTMENT MRS VENABLES

The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 1898.

Crowded Out.

Owing to pressure upon our space
our leading article has been crowded
out.

For the same reason we were unable
last month to find room for a number
of reports of Unions and Women's
Societies. They appear in this issue.

Frances Willard.

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

In common with White-ribboners in other parts of the world, memorial services were held on the appointed date, March 20th.

THE CHRISTCHURCH UNION

engaged the Opera House, and the service was commenced at 8.15 p.m. The platform—which was decorated with the American flag, white flowers, and ribbons—was filled with a large number of representative men and women, and the singing was led by an efficient choir and orchestra. Mrs Cole, President of the Union, presided. Prayer was offered by the Rev W. Tinsley, and the large concourse of people was addressed by Sister Christian, Mr G. J. Smith, M.H.R., Miss McGuinness, and the Rev F. W. Isitt.

THE AUCKLAND UNION

held their service at the Tabernacle. There was a large gathering of White-ribboners, who had tastefully draped the rostrum with emblems suitable for the occasion. The service was conducted by the Rev J. Clark, who said he had had the great pleasure of being Miss Willard's host during a ten days' mission in England. Mr Clark took for his text the words, "For she hath been a succourer of many," Romans xvi., 2, and dwelt very admirably upon the life and works of our beloved chieftain.

[Reports of services held in other towns have not been forwarded.]

The Close of a Beautiful Life.

AMERICAN papers by the last mail give some particulars of Miss Willard's illness and death. From them we learn that until less than a week before her death there was no reason to suppose that she was seriously unwell.

Miss Anna Gordon, Miss Willard's private secretary, and her constant and devoted companion for twenty-one years,

wrote to head quarters, Chicago, on February 12. The letter was dated from New York, and stated that Miss Willard had been suffering from influenza for three weeks. Until three days before the letter was written, there had been no unusual symptoms, and it was supposed that she would be even better than usual, because of the enforced quiet and rest. Then it was found that she was extremely weak, and showed no rallying power, and headquarters was communicated with.

On Feb. 14 Mrs L. M. N. Stevens, National vice-president, left for New York to try and help Miss Gordon. From that time frequent telegrams bearing messages of alternating hope and fear were received, until 3 o'clock of the morning of Friday, Feb. 18, when Mrs Katherine Lente Stevenson, corresponding secretary, received the following telegram from Miss Gordon:—"Our precious leader has entered upon the activities that are not succeeded by weariness. * * God comfort us all."

In the early evening of the 17th, Miss Willard grasped Dr Hill's hand, and asked him to tell her exactly what to expect. Dr. Hills told her the truth—that she was failing so rapidly that he could not promise her that she would see another morning. To this Miss Willard replied that it was well. Turning slightly on her bed, after she had heard the doctor's answer to her query, Miss Willard called Miss Gordon to her, and gave her some final instructions concerning the work of the W.C. T.U. At her bedside were her niece, Mrs. Katherine Willard Baldwin, Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens, Miss Gordon, and Dr. Hills. She was conscious up to midnight, and just before breath departed she opened her eyes and seemed to recognise those about her. She pressed Miss Gordon's hand and smiled faintly. In another moment she had passed away.

After her death, a cable message from Lady Henry Somerset was received by

Miss Gordon saying that if there was any hope of seeing Miss Willard alive she would sail at once from England.

During the day of the 18th Miss Willard's body was removed from the hotel Empire, where she died, to the home of Mrs Baldwin, where it remained until Sunday afternoon, when funeral services were held at the Broadway Tabernacle. The service was conducted by Bishop Newman, and Drs Payne and Tipple, all of the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which Miss Willard was a member. The casket was covered with a white silk banner, studded with golden stars, and the insignia of the organization to which she had given her life. The sides were sashed with deep white ribbon caught in a large bow, with a clasp of gold, at the foot of the coffin. The church was crowded, and the large number of floral tributes which had been received were used in conjunction with palms for decorating the building. In compliance with Lady Henry Somerset's cabled request, Mrs Katherine Lente Stevenson procured a heart of pure white roses, and laid it upon Miss Willard's heart; an eloquent tribute from the faithful friend across the water.

At the conclusion of the service the remains were taken back to Mrs Baldwin's home, and at 9 o'clock on Monday morning the sad journey to Chicago was begun.

In response to a request from the citizens of Churchville, Miss Willard's birthplace, a halt was made there for a few hours to give her friends there an opportunity for taking a last farewell. The cortege arrived in Chicago on Wednesday morning, the flags of that city flying at half-mast, in response to a request from the Mayor. Received by a guard of honour, the casket was taken to Willard Hall, which was exquisitely decorated with garlands of white flowers and fern.

From morning till evening many thousands of men and women passed reverently through the hall to take a last look

at the form of one of earth's noblest women.

Arrayed in a dainty gown of white silk and lace, it lay as if in a dreamless sleep. From the little satin slippers to the pillow that cushioned the weary head, all was a vision of purest, softest white. A spray of lilies of the valley was loosely clasped in one hand, and Lady Henry Somerset's token of lilies of the valley and Cape jasmine had been laid over her heart.

In the evening the casket was taken by train to Evanston, and was received by the students of the North-Western University. By them it was taken to Rest Cottage, the home which Miss Willard loved so well. Here also floral tributes had been received, among them being a wreath of violets and roses from the Catholic Little Sisters of Visitation. On Thursday morning the body was removed to the first Methodist Episcopal Church of Evanston. Among the decorations here was a floral rainbow erected by the Superintendent of Flower Missions, beneath which was a broad white ribbon bearing in silver letters Miss Willard's last words on earth: "How beautiful to be with God." The service was conducted by Dr Bristol, the pastor of the church, and Bishop Bowman.

Addresses were given by the President of the University on "Miss Willard as an Educator," by Mrs L. S. Rounds on "Miss Willard as a Patriot," by Mrs Clara C. Hoffman on "Miss Willard as a Leader," and by Mrs K. L. Stevenson on "Miss Willard as a Friend." A number of ladies and gentlemen also gave addresses, amongst the former being Miss Johansdotter of Iceland, who said that "through her women all over the world are sisters." Then the casket was taken out through the pure white snow, glistening in the calm bright sunshine, and laid away in an outer coffin of oak and burnished copper in the Rosehill Cemetery.

NEWS OF THE UNIONS

[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

Auckland.

The fortnightly meeting of March 23 was specially interesting. The Evangelistic, Bible in Schools, Social Purity, and Relief Work Superintendents handed in their reports and a profitable discussion followed. Our delegate to Convention also gave a lengthy report of the proceedings. One new member was received, the President reading the initiatory service. Lady Henry Somerset's letter withdrawing all she had said in the way of sanctioning legalised vice was read, and it was decided to send to her a congratulatory letter. Mr Judkins (Sec. N.Z. Alliance) and his wife have been holding a short mission here. The women's meetings were presided over by White Ribboners. Unfortunately few outsiders were present, and it is felt that home meetings, may, perhaps, be of greater service in awakening women to their responsibilities.

Leeston.

We celebrated our second anniversary on March 17th, by an "At Home" in the afternoon, and a public meeting at night. The hall was beautifully decorated, and arranged as a large drawing room. Over 150 of both sexes accepted invitations. Afternoon tea was dispensed by members, and Mrs Arthur, President, received guests. The report of work showed that we had gained 13 new members, present membership 46; that 13 well-attended meetings had been held and increasing interest displayed. Good work had been done by distributing temperance literature. Mrs Sheppard warmly congratulated the Union on their successful year, their good gathering that afternoon and especially on having the sympathy and attendance of so many gentlemen. The death of our beloved leader, Miss Willard, was then touched on by the speaker and personal reminiscences given. Mrs Munnings spoke principally on her own branch of work in the Union, "Mothers' Meetings," and urged all women to be "builders with God." Musical items were contributed by Misses Wills and Barnett, and Mrs Arthur. At the evening meeting the chair was taken by Rev. Grant. The S.A. band played up to the hall and led in the opening hymn, "Forward be our Watchword." The hall was crowded.

Addresses were given by Revs Griffin, Grant, A. C. Laury, Ensign Lane, Mrs Munnings, and Mrs Arthur, and musical selections were given at intervals. Collections during the day amounted to over £4.

Our annual meeting was well attended. Mrs Arthur was re-elected President; Mesdames Hill and Paulyer were elected Vice-Presidents; Miss Barnett, Secretary; Miss Wills, Treasurer; and Mesdames Griffin and Nairn, with Misses Breach and Harper, Literature Distributing Committee. Mrs F. W. Isitt gave an address on the Responsibilities of our Pledge. During the week the Rev. F. W. Isitt gave three addresses in our district under the auspices of the W.C.T.U. which will help our work immensely.

Dunedin.

At our monthly meeting special reference was made to the death of Miss Willard: it was also decided to forward a letter of sympathy to the American branch. The question of appointing an organiser for the South Island was fully discussed, and the suggestion heartily approved. Report of Mothers' meetings was encouraging. Mrs A. S. Adams was appointed Assistant Superintendent of Bands of Hope. Promises of financial help for Sailors' Rest were received.

Rangiora.

At our February meeting the matter of appointing an organising agent was discussed and heartily approved. A letter from Mrs Josephine Butler was received, thanking the Union for vote of sympathy with, and appreciation of her life work, passed some time ago. Distribution of "W.C.T.U. Letter to Absent Members" was arranged for, and a resolution was passed expressive of our sense of the deep loss we have sustained in the death of Miss Willard.

Marton.

At our first meeting in the year we had a large attendance. Mrs Spence, president, gave an account of three Temperance meetings held in Auckland, and also showed the handsome medals intended as prizes for the elocutionary contests to be held in connection with the L T L. Miss Dalrymple (from Feilding) gave an address at the February meeting, dealing with the subjects she wished to bring forward at Convention, viz., Bible in schools, boys and smoking, and savings banks in schools. Miss Dalrymple kindly consented to represent us at Convention.

Woodville.

The first meeting of the year was held on February 25. In order to try to create a greater interest in the work of the Union, it was decided to hold the monthly business meetings at the homes of the different members.

Devonport.

At the February meeting of our Union appreciable papers on "The early Training of Children," and "Home Influence" were given by Mrs Hampson and Mrs Roberts.

Reference was made to the sudden death of Miss Willard, and our members join in the deep felt sympathy towards the union in the great loss sustained through her removal from the ranks.

Kaiapoi.

Our Monthly Meeting was held on March 30. Votes of sympathy with Mrs Alcorn, and Mrs Kirk, of Wellington, were passed. Mrs F. W. Isitt gave an address on "Women's Responsibility with regard to the Liquor Traffic," and also spoke of her visits to Unions in the North Island, and of the great good done by house to house visitation.

Turakina.

Two new members were enrolled at our March meeting. A paper was read giving the opinions of noted judges of the present day upon alcohol. Discussion followed, and reference was made to the large number of "respectable" drunkards to be seen in our Empire city, and also to the apathy of the police in dealing with the nightly riots at hotels.

Colyton.

At our February meeting two names were added to our members' roll. After dealing with general business, Mrs Fennell gave an address on Narcotics.

The March meeting was well attended, and again two joined our ranks. Our President read extracts from the life and works of Miss Willard, and testified to the loss sustained by her death.

On March 11 a drawing-room meeting was kindly arranged for by Mrs R. L. Pudney. Miss Powell spoke on the work of the Convention and on the Maori Mission.

The same evening a largely-attended public meeting, held under the auspices of the Band of Hope, was held in the Methodist Church. Mrs R. Pudney presided, and, after other items, Miss Powell spoke on the Union work among the Maoris.

Naseby.

The Union met for business on Jan. 20 and Feb. 18. It was agreed that a concert be arranged to raise funds for winter industrial classes. This was held on Feb 25 in the Town Hall. At the close of the concert, Mrs Miller, N.Z. Superintendent of Hygiene, gave a short address, the subject being "Our Boys and Girls." A series of cookery lessons are now being given by Mrs Miller. Both adult's and children's classes are well attended. The Union hopes to conduct practising classes during the next few months. Our late Vice-President, Mrs Jacob, is now installed at the Dunedin Sailors' Rest.

Greymouth.

At our April monthly meeting reports and correspondence were read and dealt with. A monthly missionary meeting is held, and the boats and hospital are visited. The L.T.L. meets regularly, and great interest is shown in its work. Feeling reference was made to the death of Miss Willard. We are looking forward to the visits from Messrs H. E. and T. E. Taylor.

* WOMEN'S * SOCIETIES *

CANTERBURY WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

—AT a meeting of this Society, held on March 25th, a discussion took place on education. A paper was read by Miss Percy, and Miss Bain spoke at some length. The President, Mrs Wells, summarised her ideas on the subject in the following report, which she submitted to the Institute, and which was adopted:—(1) That a much larger portion of time should be given to reading and exposition in our public schools. (2) That instead of the long list of geographical names and uninteresting facts and figures, geographical readers containing lessons descriptive of the country, life and habits of the various peoples be used. (3) That historical readers containing lessons dealing with the history of the life of people at various parts of their story should supersede the recital of unconnected dry facts. (4) That science readers should supersede the bare lecturettes given on science. (5) That the taste of the children should be cultivated by graduated readers containing extracts from our noblest thinkers. (6) That power of expression should be diligently cultivated by frequent verbal para-

phrase of the various studies. (7) That grammar should be taught as having a vital connection with speech, and that composition be considered the chief end to be aimed at. (8) That much more attention should be given to the æsthetics of the schoolroom; reprints of high-class paintings, replicas of statues, and quotations from the great world philosophers should adorn the rooms. (9) That our pupil teachers should be pupil teachers in reality, acting only under supervision, and having much more free time for study. (10) That the classes are too large, debarring the teacher from giving the individual attention each child requires. (11) That a higher attainment of education than that now afforded by the Fourth Standard be compulsory on all children, and that the Secondary Schools be concurrent with the Primary Schools. (12) That public central Technical Schools be established. (13) That the Art Schools should afford free education to the children who have passed out of the schools. (14) That classes for scientific instruction be free, and that practical help be afforded to such of our youth as desire to prepare for an agricultural career. (15) That schools of mines be free, so that our miners may participate in the benefits of the latest scientific discoveries. (16) That the Industrial Schools Act be amended so as to include within its scope the children of parents who are vicious or criminal. (17) That it is absolutely essential for a Christian State to keep its orphaned and neglected children beyond the age of fourteen, and to prepare such children for the work that seems most suited for each. (18) That a free university course is essential for all who desire to qualify as teachers. (19) That in every centre a lady should be appointed by the State to act on behalf of the neglected children, such lady to be in communication with the truant officer, Charitable Aid Board officials, police and philanthropic organisations: (1) To enforce regular attendance at school and to provide clothes and books for the children of the merely unfortunate parents. (2) To have the children of the vicious and criminal committed to State homes. (3) That the staffs of our industrial schools should consist of men and women of high culture.

AUCKLAND WOMEN'S POLITICAL REFORM LEAGUE.—A Society bearing this title was formed in Auckland on March 29th. Mrs Johnston was appointed president. The objects for which the League has been formed are—(a) To

stand together as women, apart from all considerations of class or party; (b) to inculcate the doctrine that moral and industrial worth is the true standard of individual and national greatness; (c) to stimulate patriotism and national sentiment; (d) to secure the right of the majority of electors who record their votes to control the sale of alcoholic liquors as a beverage and the suppression of gambling; (e) to secure to the workers of both sexes equal wage for equal services, the full enjoyment of the wealth they have created, and sufficient leisure wherein to develop their intellectual, moral and social faculties; (f) to insist upon justice for women by the abrogation of all laws which bear unequally upon them, and to urge the enactment of one moral and statutory code for man and woman alike. The League is described by its members as "a number of unselfish women willing to assist in the purification of public life."

SOUTHERN CROSS SOCIETY.—A special meeting of the Southern Cross Society was held. Correspondence was read from the Minister of Justice acknowledging resolution of Society *re* female Visiting Justices and Assistant Inspector of Gaols—Secretary intimated that, as programmes of N.C. meeting had not been received by Society, she had written to Secretary of Council to send them.—It was moved and carried unanimously, "That the Southern Cross Society regrets the retirement from political life of so able and upright a statesman as Sir Robert Stout and desires to place on record its appreciation of his valuable services to the country. It was decided to support Mr Duthie's candidature for the Wellington bye-election.

SOCIETY FOR PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN.—A meeting of the Executive of the Society was held on the 3rd of February. Correspondence was read from Miss Porter, Sec. N.Z.S.P.W. & C. giving an account of the method of procedure of the Auckland Society in dealing with certain cases. The Rev. Chas. Murray (Carterton) wrote *re* overworking of Country School Children and the lack of parental training in morality, &c. Mr J. R. Blair wrote accepting office as one of the Trustees of the Society. One of the canvassers, Miss Boughton, wrote a report of her work and success during the last month. The amount collected was not much as Miss Boughton had been seriously ill with influenza, but she had succeeded in securing many promises of support for the Society. The member-

ship of the Society new numbers about 80 and many donations have been received. The Society hope to be able to open a Girls' Club in the beginning of Winter.

National Council of Women of New Zealand.

ANNUAL MEETING.

TO BE HELD IN THE GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON,

FROM 20TH TO 28TH APRIL, 1898.

PROGRAMME.

First Day—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20.

Afternoon—Meeting of Delegates, 3 p.m.

Evening—Presidential Address, Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer.

Second Day—THURSDAY, APRIL 21.

Morning—Committee.

Afternoon—Notice of Motion *re* Removal of Women's Disabilities.

Evening—Paper by Mrs. Seivwright (Gisborne), Parental Responsibility.

Third Day—FRIDAY, APRIL 22.

Morning—Committee.

Afternoon—Notice of Motion *re* Amendment Criminal Code.

Evening—Paper by Miss Saunders (Canterbury), Education.

Fourth Day—SATURDAY, APRIL 23.

Morning—Recess.

Afternoon—Notices of Motions. Party Government and an Elective Executive.

Evening—Paper by Mrs. Daldy (Auckland), Marriage, Divorce, and Economic Equality.

Fifth Day—MONDAY, APRIL 25.

Morning—Committee.

Afternoon—Notice of Motion—Old Age Pensions.

Evening—Entertainment.

Sixth Day—TUESDAY, APRIL 26.

Morning—Notice of Motion—C. D. Acts.

Afternoon—Notice of Motion *re* Temperance.

Evening—Paper by Mrs. Evans, M.A. (Wellington)—Treatment of Criminals.

Seventh Day—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27.

Morning—Notices of Motion—Peace and Arbitration, State Bank, &c.

Afternoon—Notice of Motion—Industrial Co-operative Settlements.

Evening—Paper by Miss Benjamin, L.L.B. (Dunedin)—Some Inequalities in the Law regarding Men and Women.

Eighth Day—THURSDAY, APRIL 28.

Morning—Election of Officers.

Afternoon—Unfinished Business.

Evening—Paper by Miss Stella Henderson (Christchurch), Local Government Reform

The morning sessions of the Council will occupy from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.; the afternoon sessions from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.; and the evening sessions from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. The afternoon and evening sessions will be open to visitors.

Health of the Army in India.

The following appeared in the *Times*, *Standard*, *Daily News*, and *Daily Chronicle* of Feb 8th, 1898:—

Lady Henry Somerset has addressed the following letter to Lord George Hamilton:

"Eastnor Castle, Ledbury,

"Jan 27th, 1898.

"Dear Lord George Hamilton.

"Your Lordship invited me ten months ago to give you my view of the despatch that had been addressed to the Government of India on the health of the Army, and in a letter in which I did so, I ventured to suggest some methods, moral, and disciplinary, which seemed to me the only ones likely to succeed, because they had at least the merit of being logical.

"I was led to do so by two considerations—first, the despatch in question seemed to imply that the Government would give every encouragement to every form of elevating agency, and so emphasize the altered spirit in which the subject was approached, and that such suggested supervision would only affect an incorrigible minimum; and, second, that the system I had in mind would be so drastic and penal in its nature as to make State interference odious, and finally impossible. That was ten months ago; and in that time nothing has been done of which the public has heard to strengthen the forces that make for moral improvement.

"What has been done—viz., the repeal of the Indian Acts of 1895, which prohibited inspection—has been in a direction exactly opposite. It seems to have been the object of the Government to obtain the maximum of impunity with the minimum of protest from those who desire to see the State shape its actions according to Christian views of ethics.

"I need not tell your lordship I am not writing to say how strongly I am still opposed to the course which the Government has taken; but I find that my letter to your lordship of last year has been taken by many to mean that I am on the side of the accepted view of State Regulation, and I am from time to time quoted as a sympathiser with such views. I am, therefore, writing to withdraw any proposals made in that letter, for this reason—that the events of the past year have convinced me of the inadvisability and extreme danger of the system that in April last I thought might be instituted. The absence of any serious effort by

36 Handsome Silk Blouse Shirts, 25/6,
Now 8/11
500 yds Extra Wide Liberty Silk,
all colours, 2/3 Now 1/6½
13 Ladies' Lovely Satin Boleros,
32/6 Now 15/11
132 Stylish Shirt Blouses, 4/11, 6/6
Now 2/6, 3/6
450 Dress Lengths Coating Serge,
12/11 Now 8/9
750 yds Wide Fancy Millinery Rib-
bon, 1/11, 2/11 Now -/6½, -/9½
95 Charming French Hats and
Bonnets, 35/- to 63/- Now 19/11
2 Beautiful Silk Crepon Mantles, 63/-
Now 39/6
500 pairs Ladies Kid Gloves, 3/11
Now 2/11

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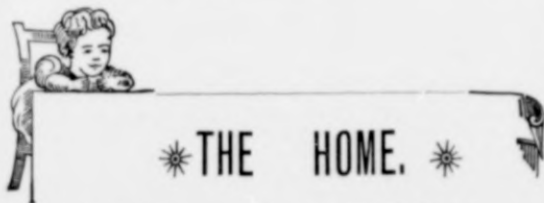
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350 New Sunshades, 4/11, 6/11, 8/11, 10/11,
14/11, 18/11, Now 2/5½, 3/5½, 4/5½, 5/5½,
7/5½, 9/5½
750 French and English Robes, 17/6, 25/6,
32/6, 42/- Now 12/9, 18/6, 25/6, 32/6
8000 yds New Print, -/5½, -/7½, -/9½, -/10½
Now -/2¼, -/3¼, -/4¼, -/5¼
490 Cooking Aprons, -/9½, 1/4, 2/4, 3/9
Now -/6½, -/11½, 1/6, 2/6
144 Children's Cashmere Dresses. 6/11, 12/11
Now 4/6, 4/6
25 Infants' Pretty Tunics, 12/11, 15/6, 18/11
Now 7/11, 9/11, 12/9
490 Ladies' Stylish Sailors, 1/-, 1/3, 1/11
Now -/6, -/9, 1/-
3000 Ladies' Summer Vests, -/6 Now -/2¼
360 White Muslin Aprons, 1/3, 1/11, 2/11,
Now -/9½, 1/3, 1/11

the Government to bring about a higher standard in the Army is a final proof to me that as long as regulation of any kind can be resorted to as a remedy, it will always be regarded as the one and only panacea. My view was that it would be instituted as an odious, but possibly effective, auxiliary to moral efforts. I find it will always be accepted as a convenient substitute. I take the liberty of addressing this explicit withdrawal of an endorsement in whatever form of the principle of regulation, because it was in a letter to your lordship that I originally incurred the responsibility. I trust, therefore, to your lordship's indulgence to forgive me for troubling you further in the matter.

"I remain, my lord,
"Yours very truly,
"ISABEL SOMERSET."



* THE HOME. *

A TALK TO MOTHERS.

"AH, if I had known in time, if my mother had only told me," is the heart-broken cry of many a young life ruined from want of knowledge of a subject which has the most vital connection with happiness or woe.

Think, mothers, how careful we are that our children shall have a good education, and how proud we are of their scholastic success. But, alas for our darlings, how often do we imagine that education stops at scholastic attainments. How often are our children launched on the rude waves of life's sea with never a word in explanation of the wondrous meaning of sex. How

often is the very idea of the need of such an explanation scouted, and any suggestion avoided that would lead naturally to it.

From earliest childhood the question naturally and rightly arises, "Whence came I?" and the query is met lightly, thoughtlessly, cruelly, with a lie in response. The subtle poison begins its deadly work; here is the first lesson in deceit. No thoughtful child believes the story of the cabbage or the stork origin. Other questions bearing on the same subject are evaded or again answered with a lie, and the child begins to understand that there is some fearful mystery surrounding the subject of his enquiry. The light laugh, the prompt repression, are causes which have the most lamentable and far-reaching effects, bearing their train of woe adown the centuries. Oh, mothers! it is time to forbear this lying and betake ourselves to truth. And yet this simple duty seems hard to most of us, so terribly akin, from the perversion of our thought, seems sex and sin.

But are we not all asking "Whence have we come, and whither are we tending?" Our little child but echoes the question of the sages of all the ages, and proud we should be that we can at least reveal some of the secret it seeks to know. If we could begin by explaining—we of this materialistic nineteenth century—that our bodies are habitations,—temples, as St. Paul so beautifully terms them,—of the Holy Spirit; that they are given us in order that this glorious Spirit, which comes from God, and whose marvellous beauties we can scarcely begin to realise may shine through them, we shall have got over a great deal of the seeming difficulty. Then it will be easy to say, further, that so marvelously does the great All-Spirit build

that the grand old oak, the dear, fluffy little chick, and the tiny babe, all begin life from one wonderful little cell, and at that beginning the one which grew to be the oak, and the other that became the chick, could hardly have been distinguished from the one that became the baby's body.

Here, see, the bean, the nest of the baby bean plant: how like a tiny egg it lies snugly wrapped in the softest covering. It is the offspring of the flower, the fairest thing the bean plant could show. When the time comes for it to set about its life-work, as we know it, the soft cradle opens and it sinks into the ground—a little child-bean.

So the babe from this tiny cell grows and grows under its mother's heart, encircled round with the softest, loveliest wrappings until the time has come for it to set about its life's work too, and then it comes into the light of day, and changes its snug, warm nest for its mother's welcoming arms. Surely some such communings with our little ones would gain their confidence, and as the years roll by the needs that come with them would be more easily responded to, and life for our loved ones made, oh! how much more, easy.

"Rest."

Rest is not quitting
The busy career;
Rest is the fitting
Of self to one's sphere.

'Tis the brook's motion—
Clear, without strife,
Fleeing to ocean
After this life.

'Tis loving and serving
The highest and best;
'Tis onward, unswerving—
And this is true rest.—Goethe.

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