

Women's Temperance Publishing Association—Timely Talks—Must it be Prohibition? On Which Side Are You? Science and Total Abstinence; Rights of Those Who Dislike Tobacco; Restriction or Prohibition.

Signal Lights—Who is Responsible?; Temperance and Labour Questions; Why am I a Prohibitionist?; A New Era in Temperance Reform.

Campaign Leaflets—Where Is Thy Brother? Hard Times; Drink or Groceries, Which?

Little Folks Leaflets.

National Leaflets—Scientific Temperance in Schools; Capital, Labour, and Temperance; Little Things in Child Life; Reasons Why Women Should Vote.

Department Leaflets—Narcotics; Experts' Evidence Concerning Tobacco.

National Leaflets—A New Regime: Fair Play.

Pledge Cards; White Ribbon Hymnal with Music.

A large parcel of "Purity Literature," including "Storm Bell," by Mrs Josephine Butler.

#### SAILORS' RESTS.

DUNEDIN.—Unless one can go into details, and space forbids, regarding cases of interest during the year, and they are many, this report would be so similar to past ones, that I feel a repetition would not help the work. So, for once, I will call from a lengthy and kindly written notice of the Dunedin Sailor's Rest that appeared in the *Evening Star* of February 2nd:—

"So quietly is the good work carried on at the Dunedin Sailor's Rest that many in the city are almost unaware of its existence, notwithstanding this, it is one of the liveliest of the many institutions we have in our midst." "In conversation with one of our reporters the other day, the captain of one of the vessels now at the wharf expressed himself in terms of high admiration of the manner in which the Rest was conducted. He had had years of experience of Sailor's Rests in every part of the world, but the one in Dunedin was quite different from all others. In other places collections were made at the meetings, but here that was never done. It seemed to him that they were good Christian people who had it in hand." "He had attended some of the Mission meetings, and the tea recently given to seamen in Port, and was well pleased with his visits. The reading-room he spoke very highly of, and said it was better kept than any other he had seen. The meetings were largely attended, and he found that the seamen appreciated, and spoke well of the efforts that were being put forward on their behalf, etc." The *Evening Star* continues:—"Such testimony, coming from so reliable an authority, should be very gratifying to those instrumental in the up-keep of the Sailor's Rest. There can be no doubt that it is doing a good work, and deserves well of the whole community.—A. R. FALCONER.

TIMARU.—In presenting our Annual Report in connection with the Sailor's Rest, we have to congratulate ourselves upon the work done during the year, especially the fact that we now possess a Rest of our own. The Harbour Board having built new premises a request was made to them for the old building; this was granted. Then application was made to the Railway Department for a site, and after some delay the present site was granted for ten years at a mere nominal rent. The buildings were removed, renovated inside and outside, and one large room, 30 x 15 feet, was set apart for the

use of the sailors, the remaining four rooms are for the use of the caretaker. The removing and alteration cost £85.

The sailors appreciate the efforts made on their behalf, many express their thanks for the kindness shown. The men of the barque *Andes* expressed their gratitude in presenting to the ladies a beautifully illuminated address to be hung up in the room. Owing to a change in caretaker, we are only able to supply the number of men who have visited the Rest during the last six months. The number of sailors who have availed themselves of the privilege is 221. The number of visits from the above is 494. Several socials have been held and they have been very successful.—E. GUILBERT.

#### BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.

I regret being unable to report that anything like a uniform opinion prevails among those I have made a point to consult as to the desirability of introducing, as a code subject, Bible reading into our State schools.

Against it, the same numberless objections that have hitherto been current continue to be repeated, whilst those who would welcome the teaching of Bible knowledge are very much divided as to how this should be imparted, some urging that the Bible as a whole ought to be the class-book, whilst others would have selections only; but I must also add that very many would quite object to the selection called, "The Irish Scripture Text Book."

In Dunedin, Wellington, and some other places—but under voluntary superintendence—Bible classes continue to be fairly well attended, and with good results; but laudable efforts such as these come very far short of what is absolutely needful for every child in the colony.

Until public opinion very much alters, it seems to me hopeless to ask that the legal right to have Bible reading in the schools be granted, but I venture to suggest for consideration that, meanwhile, Bible ethics—to which no possible objection can be made—form part of the education given in every State school. Thus God-given rules for life—to name only the Ten Commandments—would find an abiding place in the mind of almost every girl and boy in the colony. And surely this would be an inestimable blessing?

L. W. DALRYMPLE,

Supt. of Bible in Schools Department.

#### UNFERMENTED WINE.

Reports to hand from Dunedin, Christchurch, Palmerston North, New Plymouth, and Auckland.

In all these places most of the Nonconformist Churches use unfermented wine at the Lord's table. The wish is expressed that all churches would see it their duty to remove every stumbling block out of the way of the weaker brethren.

Dunedin Union has, through repeated effort, succeeded in getting unfermented wine used in all but one church.

#### EVANGELISTIC.

In various ways the work has been carried on with marked success, and reports to hand evince a growing interest.

Gospel Temperance sermons are preached in most of the Nonconformist churches at least once a year. In some places Gospel Temperance meetings have been held, in others meetings for Bible study. Hospitals and

Homes have been visited, at which Temperance tracts and periodicals have been distributed. Singing bands have proved themselves useful.

Good work is being done among girls in Newtown. In Wellington a Sunday afternoon Bible class has proved helpful to many, and several have found peace in Christ.

Evangelistic work at Sailors' Rests has been encouraging. Few ships leave our port (Dunedin) without some soul having been brought from darkness to light. Many cheering letters are received from the sailors. Bibles, hymn-books, and other literature are freely supplied.

M. H. KIRKLAND.

#### SABBATH OBSERVANCE AND SUNDAY TRADING.

Warm and encouraging replies have been received from twenty Unions, each promising to do what they can on this important question. Eighteen Unions asked for literature, which I was glad to send.

Our Feilding members have also been very true and sympathetic. Some of our members exerted themselves, and the police have been advised from head-quarters to be vigilant, which has caused a little more caution as to Sunday hotel trading and closing at appointed times.

Good work has also been done among the Maoris in the matter of Sabbath observance.

MARIAN MINCHIN.

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK.

A Young Women's Union was formed at Auckland last August, and after a little consideration it was deemed wise to change the name to that of Young People's Union. It is well officered by members of both sexes, and in January reported a membership of 23. The work taken up has been the distributing of literature and assisting the W.C.T.U. with the Temperance Kiosk at the Exhibition.

Wanganui reports a Sewing Class for Girls at which suitable readings are given.

Lyttelton has also taken up work among girls, a report of which has been sent in under the head of Preventive Work.

E. B. MILLER,

Supt. of Young Women's Work.

#### HYGIENE AND FOOD REFORM.

I have no reports from Unions, as this department of work does not seem to be taken up by our Unions as a special subject.

The laws of health are so simple and plain that any intelligent person engaged in such work as cottage or mothers' meetings, work among young women, or juvenile work, should make a point of reading up the subject, and having talks at stated intervals on such themes as sanitation, spread of disease, structure and care of the body, hygienic clothing, the value of the various foods in building up a sound body, etc.

I would again urge the Unions to do their very utmost, wherever School Boards have not taken up the matter, to see that our growing girls, particularly those who have to earn their living as servants, have as much practical teaching in cooking, etc., as is consistent with their school duties, to help fit them for their work.

E. B. MILLER,

N.Z. Supt. of Hygiene and Food Reform.