

years has been the President of the Gisborne Women's Political Association. Her widely-spread sympathies cause her to take a keen interest in all that concerns the cause of humanity at home or abroad, and she is unceasingly busy with her voice and pen in helping on every good work.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

WOMEN AND CHARITABLE AID.—At the recent elections to the Canterbury Charitable Aid Board, Mrs Black, who represented the Selwyn County Council last year, was not re-appointed. This is a matter for deep regret, as it was everywhere acknowledged that she did good and useful work. At the annual meeting of the Board, when a vote of thanks was being accorded to Mrs Black, Mr Westenra made special reference to the good work done by her. In replying, Mrs Black said that though she had felt that most of the members did not desire a woman among them, she had been treated with courtesy by all the members. She had visited a large number of cases, and would have done more if she had found that good resulted; but work of that kind was necessarily different to that of the inspector. She referred to this, because in the minds of some, the two positions were confounded.

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Mrs Black said that in England the women were not put in opposition to the relieving officer, but on the other hand were welcomed on the Boards. The time was coming when a larger proportion of women would be elected on those Boards, and the election would not be left to chance as it was when the Chairman settled the matter by tossing a coin, and the man won. In leaving her seat she was glad to know that her sex was still to be represented by Mrs Wells, and she did not think they would write Mrs Wells down as a failure.

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MRS WELLS was elected to represent the Sydenham Borough Council on the Charitable Aid Board. Mrs Wells is the Secretary of the Women's National Council and the President of the Canterbury Women's Institute, and has a good grasp of social questions. Mrs Henderson, Secretary to the Canter-

bury Children's Aid Society, was also nominated to represent the Boroughs of Lyttelton, St. Albans and Kaiapoi. The votes for Mrs Henderson and a male candidate were equal, and the presiding officer decided the election by tossing a coin. The question of fitness does not seem to have entered this gentleman's head, and his action is expressive of the callous and indifferent manner in which the Charitable Aid duties are performed.

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PERTH (W.A.) W.C.T.U. CONVENTION.—We are pleased to receive reports of this Convention, and more than pleased to notice that two whole columns—sometimes more—are devoted daily to the accounts of Convention in the *West Australian*. Many branches of work are reported on, showing great zeal and energy on the part of the members. Mrs Clark's report as Superintendent of Franchise and Legislative Work was received with great enthusiasm.

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WORK AMONG RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.—Miss Grayson, "World's" Superintendent of this Department, again urges that New Zealand should take up this special branch of work. A letter from Miss Grayson was published in our July issue containing the same request. If any members of the Union throughout the Colony find this matter laid on their hearts, and see their way to an opening for work, will they please communicate with our Editors, or with Mrs Schnackenberg.

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PETITION TO CONGRESS.—In the August issue of the *White Ribbon* a short report of the Grand Rapids Suffrage Convention appeared. Among the resolutions passed at that Convention was the following: "We protest against the introduction of the word 'male' in the Suffrage Clause of the proposed Constitution of Hawaii, and declare that upon whatever terms the franchise may be granted, it should be granted also to women." Miss Susan B. Anthony has written suggesting that our New Zealand women should join with their American sisters in asking Congress for "equal rights" for the women of Hawaii. Hence the petition which was published in our October issue.

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.

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

AN OPEN LETTER TO DISTRICT SECRETARIES.

DEAR "WHITE RIBBON" SISTERS,—Now that the election is over we shall be glad of your reports as soon as possible—in any case they must reach Miss Barnett before January 11th. Will you kindly gather up all the forms and send on—also take the reports of your whole district and from them compile one district report. If you would like a little assistance in doing this please study the Christchurch report for 1898 which will be found in the Convention (April) number of *White Ribbon*.

The Convention will open about February 14th, and I hope we shall have a good representation. Every union has a right to send a delegate, and we want all in the North to remember that it will be some years before we shall again meet in Auckland, and to take advantage of this opportunity. The local friends will provide homes for delegates if names are sent to Mrs Garland, Corresponding Secretary, Lincoln Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. My own address for the next month will be Isca, Windmill Road, Christchurch, but district reports should be sent not to me but to the Assistant Corresponding Secretary, Miss Barnett, Leeston.

Yours in the Work,
M. S. Powell,
N. Z. Cor. Sec. W. C. T. U.

[The following has been received by the Editor, in reply to a query as to the position of the women of Western Australia *re* the Parliamentary vote.—ED.]

DEAR FRIEND,—I have been waiting to give you better news than is to hand at present. What has happened is this: A motion in favour of granting the Parliamentary suffrage to women was introduced into both Houses of Parliament and carried—in the Assembly by a large majority, and in the Council by a majority of only two. This was done to avoid raising the issue in the Constitution Bill, which was introduced later on, embodying the principle of adult suffrage, and which has reached its second reading in the Council. Until it leaves the Council we cannot be said to have got the franchise. You may imagine that our suspense is not pleasant. We are told that it is quite safe, but one never