

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 10.—No. 110.

CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z., JULY 15, 1904.

2s 6d Per Annum Post Free  
Single Copy, 3d.

## National Council of France.

The Report of the first general meeting of the National Council of France open to the public is to hand. This Council was organised in 1901 and the meeting of 1902 was of Executive only.

It is most interesting to notice the various shades of disability and helplessness from which the nations of the earth in this great woman movement are simultaneously seeking to shake themselves free.

The disabilities are the same, differing only in degree, from the four states of America's Union, which have secured equality of opportunity with such good results, down to the weak ones, who can as yet scarcely realise the glad tidings of the Gospel of freedom.

This similarity of endeavour under different conditions will be easily apparent to any who will read the following brief resumé of the Report of the French Council and compare with the work even of the women of New Zealand.

### Mlle S. Monod,

in her presidential address, reminded her large audience that in 1848 certain women of the United States banded themselves together for the amelioration of the lot of women, and that three of these women, viz., Lucretia Mott, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B.

Anthony, had visited France. "I quote names and date 1848," said Mlle Monod, "because these names and this date are inseparably connected with the progress of the woman movement in the United States, and the National Council was only its most recent development." And what could be ac-



MRS. SANDOW.

complished in America could be accomplished in England, in France, in all the countries of Europe. If a National Council could do so much for a single people what might not an international do for all? Forthwith an International Council was formed with Mrs Millicent Garrett Fawcett as its

first President. At the quinquennial meeting of 1893 Mrs Fawcett was replaced by Lady Aberdeen. In 1899 Lady Aberdeen was replaced by Mrs May Wright Sewall, its present president.

### Loyalty to the Golden Rule,

the resolution to cleave to its application as much as possible in all circumstances of life, is the only passport required for admission to the International Council of Women. "Let us recognise," continues Mlle Monod, that in order to work in any serviceable way for the good of humanity we must take this humanity in its entirety. . . . Let us remember that it is only when raising our ideal very high above every paltry, personal preoccupation that we shall find the common ground on which we shall always be able to meet each other with feelings of mutual kindness and sincere fraternity. What will enable us to hold the serene heights of unity and peace with views so varied, ends so diverse—sometimes, perhaps, opposed—if it be not mutual respect for ideas, a cordiality desired and realised regarding suggestions, work, every relation of Association? Altruism, solidarity, fraternity, are not all these gathered up in the grand and beautiful word charity—too often diverted from its true meaning for narrow and material ends? The young people must let us old ones preserve this winning word, which we should grieve to

give up. The true way to keep in touch with our National and International Councils is loyally and constantly to practise the Golden Rule chosen by its large-hearted founders and placed by them at the head of their Rules. "Do to others as you would that they should do to you." [Loud applause.]

The General Secretary,

**Mme Avrie de Sainte-Croix,**

then read her report.

It had been considered conducive to better results, she said, and the more serious study of certain questions, to form four sections within the National Council, approximating to the classification in the French Congress, viz., Charitable Aid, Education, Legislation, Work; to let these sections be entirely self-governing, to leave their management absolutely in the hands of their respective presidents, who should convene them apart from the Council, and who might be able to attract a valuable

**gathering of capable men and women**

outside of the Council.

At the conference of May, 1902, the following resolutions were passed; the first unanimously, the second with one dissident:—

1st. The National Council of the women of France, recognising that the question of suffrage lies at the base of all feminist demands, that by suffrage alone can woman ever attain the autonomy to which she has a right, claims that the principle of woman's suffrage and eligibility to every position be recognised.

2nd. The National Council, however, equally recognising that it might be useful for women, before making use of political rights, to serve an apprenticeship in civil life, demands now and as the very least, the right to vote and be voted for, at municipal elections.

Concluding, Mme Sainte-Croix, in repudiating the charge of working for women exclusively (it all sounds so very familiar to us New Zealanders), said, "Besides all that, we know better than anyone, that it is together with men, men who, like ourselves, desire the best, that we ought to work, that we ought to march onwards towards the city of the future, the city of justice and of freedom. And when the hour of suffering, the hour of misfortune, the test hour arrives, man will find us ever at his side. We shall never forget that the greatest privilege

of women always has been and ever will be, "to love, to help, and to console."

The President of the section dealing with Charitable Aid submitted a long resolution *re* the disinfection of dwellings where tuberculosis had found a resting place.

M. Monod, President of the Department of Charitable Aid and Public Hygiene, was present, and, on being invited by the president, rose to say that he could add little to the most practical and useful resolution which had been drafted; and undertook to see that "gratuitous" was printed on cards ordering disinfection of tenements with a rental of less than 50 francs.

Then came the report of the second section, on Education, which showed the committee to have been chiefly busied about the unification of the curriculum of secondary education.

The report from the third section, on Legislation, dealt chiefly with efforts on behalf of illegitimate children.

The report from the fourth section, on Work, was read by Mme Oster, who

**accentuated the idea of co-operation.**

"The success of co-operative societies supposes a state of affairs which can only be realised by degrees. We believe that it is by suppressing the middleman, associating the workwomen and assuring them of an increasingly large share in the product of their work and by accustoming them to look after their own interests, that one may prepare success for co-operative societies of production."

Mlle Maria Pognon then spoke on "Peace and Arbitration." Closing, she asked the meeting to pass the following resolution by acclamation, copies of which would be forwarded to the President and to the Minister for foreign affairs.

"That the National Council of the women of France, met for the first time in general public assembly, is of the opinion that the government of the French Republic should avail itself of the good offices of the Tribunal of International Arbitration at the Hague for the settlement of all existing international disputes, or any which may in future arise, and warmly supports the proposal of M. Barclay to conclude

**a treaty of permanent arbitration between France and England."**

When thanking Mme Pognon for her interesting speech, Mlle Monod re-

marked "That this arbitration which would secure peace between the nations, and which we invoke with heartfelt prayer, would only assume its true value when the day arrives which will undo and repair all the injustice of the past." The whole assembly, we are told, received these words with pleasure and much emotion.

Mme Jules Siegfried, Vice President, then spoke on "Alcoholism," and paid a just tribute of admiration to what had already been accomplished by American and English women amid the laughter and raillery of the time.

Then followed a number of interesting resolutions by representatives of many affiliated societies for which space is inadequate.

Finally, the first public session of the National Council of the women of France was brought to a somewhat dramatic close by Mme Severine, who asked leave to call the attention of the Council to a story which had that morning appeared in several papers, and of which she had received private information. A poor girl, imprisoned in the harem of Fez, had effected her escape, crossed in a steamer to Cadiz, and thence reached Seville. Charitable people received and baptised (!) her. She succeeded in earning her bread by needlework. The representative of the Sultan of Morocco, however, claimed her, and she was about to be sent back.

**The punishment will be this:—**

"She shall have her feet chopped to pieces with a matraque, that she may be punished as she sinned."

In an impassioned speech Mme Severine asked the signatures of those present to append to a petition begging the Queen of Spain to extend her protection to the poor girl.

Mlle Monod assured Mme Severine that the National Council would consider it an honour to approach the Queen Mother of Spain; and a message was dispatched by urgent telegram to the Queen in the name of the National Council of the women of France respectfully praying her Majesty to accord her high and beneficent protection to the young girl who had sought a refuge in Spain in order to escape from slavery.

Mlle Monod, in closing the session, spoke of the interest with which the debates had been followed, and offered her hearty thanks to all who had assisted in making the meeting a success.

M. H.S.

## 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.]*

### Masterton.

We have made some change in the personnel of our office-bearers lately and the list now is:—President, Mrs. Burton; Secretary, Mrs. L. Devonport; Treasurer, Mrs. Morrison; Agent for WHITE RIBBON, Mrs. Rigg. Our Union is progressing. We were able to send £5 to the N. Z. Alliance, for the Newtown litigation expenses.

### Lower Hutt.

On May 5th Dr. Chapple kindly came out from Wellington and gave us a most interesting lecture on "Scientific Temperance." On June 2nd a Cushion Sale was held, by which, together with donations, we cleared £15. The proceeds are towards paying for a Hall which the Union has been enabled to secure. Mrs. Kirk, of Wellington, kindly opened the sale and also gave an address on the founding and the work of the W. C. T. U.

### South Dunedin.

This newly-formed Union promises to be a live one. At our last meeting we secured another member and also another honorary one. Two of the local ministers are now hon. members of our Union. At the June meeting Mrs. Mazengarb took the chair. Sundry arrangements were made in connection with the "Congress" entertainment, and it was also decided to hold a special afternoon social, inviting the ladies of the district to meet Miss Powell and Miss Hughes, hoping thus to interest them in the work and to secure new members.

### Dunedin.

During the last month, the Organiser, Miss Hughes, has been visiting in and around Dunedin, in the interests of our work, also arranging the "Congress of Nations" in the city and two of the suburbs.

The performance of the "Congress" on May 26th was very successful, the performers acquitting themselves most creditably. We hope that as a result of this effort, greater interest will be taken in our work by the young women.

Proceeds of the entertainment, £10 10s, was sent through the N. Z. treasury to the N. Z. Alliance fund.

A special meeting of the Union was held on the 31st May, when Miss Powell and Miss Hughes addressed those present; 4 new members were enrolled, and several subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON were secured.

A drawing room meeting was held by our President, Mrs. Mazengarb, at her home, with the object of interesting ladies who had never attended our meetings. Miss Hughes addressed them on the work. At the close several ladies expressed their willingness to become members.

At this meeting the following resolution was unanimously passed, "That this meeting further expresses indignation at the three-fifths votes of the electors in Newtown and Bruce being nullified through petty trivialities, and calls upon Parliament to pass,

as an emergency measure, such legislation as shall validate the licensing polls in Newtown and Bruce, or provide for immediate second polls therein, and also the necessary legislation by way of Amendment of the regulation of Local Elections Act as shall prevent the will of the people being similarly thwarted in the future."

### Nelson.

The June meeting was well attended. Two new members were received and one name proposed for membership. A paper on Self Culture was read by one of the members. A resolution was passed expressing indignation with New Zealand legislation as evidenced by the present state of affairs in connection with Newtown and Bruce. Regret was also expressed at the action of the Nelson Licensing Committee in granting 11 o'clock licenses on such trivial evidence and in opposition to the judgment of the Sergeant of Police, who gave evidence of the evils resulting therefrom. Members of the Union had received personal testimony of distress occasioned to mothers, wives and sisters by the extension of the hours.

### Auckland.

At the No License Convention held in Auckland on June 3rd, the Union undertook the task of providing luncheon for the delegates and visitors.

At the meeting held on June 9th, Mrs. Daldy read a paper on Tobacco and Tobacco Using. A resolution was sent to the Premier asking him to take such steps as are necessary to validate the Polls in Newtown and Bruce, or to provide for an immediate second poll being taken. It was decided to send three guineas to the N. Z. Alliance towards the litigation expenses; this amount was supplemented by moneys collected by Mrs. Woods. On June 22nd the meeting elected the Treasurer and Secretary as its representatives on the Provincial Council. Sympathy was expressed for the Rongotea friends in having a wholesale license forced on them and it was decided to send a letter to the Union there. A resolution was also passed protesting against the introduction of the liquor traffic into the Islands of Rarotonga and Niue.

### Blenheim.

The June meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Freeth. After the routine business had been gone through an interesting paper on "The Effects of Alcohol on the Heart" was read.

Our July meeting was held on the 5th at the house of Mrs. Sinclair and was well attended, various matters of interest being discussed.

### Christchurch.

Our Union met on June 23rd, to discuss the Premier's proposals re "The Preservation of Infant Life." Various resolutions and suggestions were adopted. Copies were sent to the Premier, also to the two daily papers. Mr Seddon replied in the following terms:—"Many thanks for your very valuable paper of resolutions and suggestions on Child Life Preservation. It will be of great service. I have also to say that the congratulations and sympathy of your Union are very helpful and encouraging to me."

The A. and P. Association have agreed to

erect a kitchen at the Show grounds for the use of the Union, to cost £200. This will supply a long felt want and is altogether encouraging. Two new members were enrolled. [A copy of the resolutions and suggestions is published on another page.—Ed.]

### Stratford.

A Musical and Educational meeting was held June 30th at 8. p.m. Mrs. W. L. Kennedy was in the chair. Miss Maunder, of Hawera, gave an interesting address on Temperance Hygiene, and is hopeful that very soon instruction on the subject will form part of the Syllabus in our State schools. Rev. B. Hutson gave a graphic account of the Palmerston Convention, followed by a thrilling description of the Strathmore case. Strathmore is 20 miles from Stratford en route to Auckland, and is composed chiefly of diligent, peace-loving settlers, but it is also a haven for a few who have found the temptations of the town too strong for them. On this place "The Trade" had cast its covetous eyes and petitioned for a license in June. Gladness and thankfulness reigned supreme when it was known that the verdict was "No-License." The musical part of the programme was most enjoyable and was followed by a dainty supper, much appreciated by reason of a very hard frost.

### Renwicktown.

On June 22nd the monthly meeting was held in the Presbyterian Schoolroom. The President asked Mrs. Rose, President of the Blenheim Union, to preside. After the transaction of local business, Mrs. Spence, of Blenheim, read a paper on Hygiene, by Mrs. Oldham, of Napier, which was freely discussed. One new member was enrolled, one new subscriber to the WHITE RIBBON was obtained, and the visitors duly thanked.

### New Plymouth.

At the June meeting a good deal of correspondence from various departments was dealt with. Petitions were signed, protesting against the proposed introduction of liquor into Rarotonga and Niue, and also against the Government holding licenses for the Tourist department. Several interesting cases were reported of benefits received and of accession to our membership as a result of the public sitting room provided by our Union. It was decided to co-operate with other New Plymouth Temperance Societies re stall at the Christmas Carnival.

### Wellington.

Mrs Kirk presided at the July meeting. The appointment of a President was again held over. Letters were read from Mrs Crump re home meetings, and Mrs Upton re influencing the Press. A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded Mrs J. C. Luke for the use of her grounds for a garden party, when over £10 was raised. High appreciation of the Premier's action re child life preservation was expressed, and several resolutions bearing on the subject were passed.

### Napier.

Three members of the Union, Mesdames Oldham, Miller and Israel, went to the residence of Mrs Wilkie, Port Ahuriri, to hold a drawing room meeting. Arrangements were made to continue the meetings monthly.

A largely attended meeting was held in St. Paul's schoolroom on June 16th. An executive committee was formed consisting of five ladies; one from each of the churches, and two prominent gentlemen, to consider ways and means of providing free social and reading rooms in Napier, which are much needed. A large general committee was appointed and we hope the whole scheme will soon be put on a firm foundation. Sums of money were subscribed towards the expenses of the Bruce and Newtown litigation, Miss Howe was sent as delegate to the Palmerston North Convention. We are sorry to say our President (Mrs Sandilands) is debarred by illness from taking her position. Mrs Oldham is appointed President *pro tem*.

### Invercargill.

Arrangements are being made to purchase a small portable organ for the use of the singing band, and the Battalion Band have promised their assistance. At the July meeting railway station literature was arranged for. The deputation who had waited upon the M.H.R. of our district reported that they had every confidence in our representative's sympathy and influence being upon the side of what is right, but regretted that he does not see his way clear to vote for the abolition of the totalisator, his argument being that were the totalisator abolished, the greater evil, the bookmakers, would abound. Of course we do not see why legislation could not suppress them also. Four different petitions re Temperance reform were passed for signature. It was also decided to protest against the sale of liquor being allowed in Niue and Rarotonga or any other territory occupied by Native races under the control of the New Zealand Government.

### Organisers' Reports.

[MISS HUGHES.]

Wednesday, 1st June, found me, in company with Miss Powell and a number of southern delegates, being whirled away northward by express, to the Annual Alliance Convention to be held in Christchurch. As we journeyed, delegates increased until we were a party of about thirty.

The next few days were a most welcome and enjoyable break in the ordinary routine of Organising work, and a stimulus to still more strenuous efforts. The Convention gave splendid opportunity for meeting the workers from all districts, and making arrangements for future work. It was an additional pleasure to attend this Convention as I was able to represent the City of Auckland, there being no other delegate from my native town.

On Saturday 4th I returned to Dunedin, and although it was 8.30 p.m. when I arrived I found a room full of girls awaiting me at South Dunedin, for a "Congress of Nations" rehearsal.

The next few days were spent in South Dunedin, visiting, and preparing the entertainment which was given on the 8th, our recently formed South Dunedin Union thoughtfully providing both tea and supper for the girls. Next day a meeting of the Union was held, both Miss Powell and myself being present and addressing the meeting, at the close of which the little Union of ten members was increased to twenty-three.

On June 10th, in the home of Mrs. Mazengarb, President of the City Union, about twenty ladies gathered at an "At Home;" these were mostly of a class not easily induced to attend our Union meetings. After a lengthy talk about the work of our Societies throughout the colony, seven ladies responded to the President's invitation to join the Union, and an eighth has since expressed her desire to do so.

The girls of the Dunedin "Congress of Nations" were photographed for the "Otago Witness."

The following week was spent chiefly in arranging and working up the "Congress of Nations" entertainment for the Kaikorāi Valley. The master of the school kindly introduced me to the various classes, and allowed me to speak to them, and several school children's items were arranged in addition to the "Congress," the entertainment being successfully given on Monday, 20th June.

In response to a request from the No License friends, I addressed the after service Gospel Temperance meeting in the Alhambra Theatre on Sunday 19th. This meeting was said to be the most successful held this season, and was entirely given by ladies.

On 21st June, I took my farewell of Dunedin, and reaching Lyttelton that evening was met by workers there. Next afternoon we had a meeting of the Union to discuss ways and means of work, and the same evening the first rehearsal with a lively party of Lyttelton girls, all delighted to assist me in the "Congress." Hearing that at times additional children's pieces have been given as well as the tableaux, the members favoured the suggestion to give these also, in order to spread the interest as widely as possible; and a busy week followed.

On the 23rd one of the members with myself cycled out to the Maori Pah, the beautiful daughter of the Chief quite readily consenting to take the part of "Maori" in our "Congress" and to give the poi dance. It was a great pleasure to know that our darker sisters in this locality are regularly visited by members of our Lyttelton Branch.

On the 24th I had the pleasure of addressing the Lyttelton Band of Hope, and can say unhesitatingly it was the wildest, noisiest crowd of little colonials I have been among; the amount of lung power expended alone on reciting the pledge being an exhibition not soon to be forgotten.

On Sunday evening, 26th, I was pleased, with our members, to visit the Sailors' Rest of the town and give a little Gospel address to the seamen.

On Monday, 27th, the Lyttelton "Congress" was given and much appreciated, the audience being good in spite of unfavourable weather.

On Wednesday, 29th, the meeting of the Union was held; the attendance was small, but four names were proposed for membership. It is hoped that I may be able to give this Union another meeting when we hope to receive more.

Leaving Lyttelton on the 30th I travelled to Timaru and have started on a fortnight's work which I hope will be a time of helpfulness and blessing to our little Union here.

[MISS POWELL.]

My first duty upon returning from the Alliance Convention was to work up the branch at S. Dunedin. This was organized

by Miss Hughes some weeks ago on a very wet day, so the membership (ten) was quite inadequate for so populous a neighbourhood. Four days spent in visiting, followed by a social at which Miss Hughes and I both attended, resulted in an increase of membership to twenty-five, so we felt quite cheered.

The next entertainment was an attack of influenza which I had managed to fight off until after the Friday social, when I collapsed. Happily, the Milton visit (which should have commenced on the Saturday) fell through, as the friends thought it better to wait a little before organising there. On Thursday (16) I journeyed to Oamaru in such a downpour of rain that my kind hostess had given me up. During the following week I called upon between thirty and forty women, trying to interest them in the White Ribbon work. A great deal of good work is being done in Oamaru, but there is need for a branch to influence the mothers as to total abstinence and purity. I found a number of the women quite awake to this fact and the ministers and other friends gave me all assistance in their power, but some of the best workers systematically doused my scheme with cold water from the very beginning and when the crucial point was reached, a very small audience gathered in the Athenæum Hall and only eight voted to form a branch. I knew of seven or eight more who would join, but as the number was quite inadequate for the size of Oamaru we did not organize, as I feared the work might only fall through after a time.

We had a packed and enthusiastic house for the "Sweetheart" lecture, and I spoke in the Methodist Church on Sunday and addressed a flourishing Band of Hope in connection with the same Church.

On 25th a move was made to Waimate, where much the same condition of things exists as at Oamaru—plenty of organizations, but none just doing the White Ribbon work. However, I am doing my best and on Friday shall learn the result.

### OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

#### An Open Letter To N.Z. White Ribboners,

DEAR SISTERS,—I find a good deal of misconception is abroad respecting the work of Miss Hughes and myself, as Organising Agents. First, let me explain the entertainment which Miss Hughes gives under the title of "The Congress of Nations," an entertainment which every branch in a neighbourhood where a considerable audience can be gathered, should most certainly ask for. If you allow it to pass you by, you will greatly regret it when you hear more about it. In the first place, Miss Hughes does not take the twenty-eight girls round the country with her, but selects them locally, gives them their parts to learn and provides

dresses. Each girl is dressed, as far as possible, in the national costume of the country she represents, and as she makes a little speech setting forth what is being done in that country in regard to our work, the result is not only exceedingly pretty, but highly educational from a temperance point of view. Moreover, it always attracts a large number of persons who will not go to a temperance meeting. But it must be clearly understood that any Union wishing for this entertainment must be prepared to take off Miss Hughes' hands any work which can be delegated to another, such as getting out notices, selling tickets, procuring the musical items with which the characters are interspersed, and in every way helping to make it a success. Both Miss Hughes and I take the financial responsibility of any meetings, etc., and the proceeds go to the organising fund (you will remember the contributions asked for from the branches only covered the support of one agent for one year, and as there are two working and we want the work to go on year after year, it becomes necessary for us to do our utmost to make our work as far as possible self-supporting). Both Miss Hughes and I spend a large proportion of our time in visiting ladies likely to be interested in the work and inviting them to a meeting of the Union, at which a number of them join. These, of course, bring in a revenue to the local funds and the Union benefits by these and by the increased interest excited in the work. Those Unions which have not already been visited will receive an intimation from one or other of us and can then say whether they wish a visit.

Will the President or Secretary of each Union kindly see that this letter is read at the next meeting, so that the matter may be understood.

You will see by our monthly reports that the work is prospering. Several new branches have been formed and promise to do well, and those already in existence have received more or less help from the visits of your organisers.

With warmest White Ribbon greetings,

Yours in the work,

M. S. POWELL,

N. Z. Cor. Secretary.

If you have not slept, or if you have a headache, or sciatica, or leprosy, or thunderstroke, I beseech you by all angels to hold your peace, and not pollute the morning to which all the housemates bring serene and pleasant thoughts by corruptions and groans.—Emerson.

### Parliamentary Jottings.

Parliament was opened on June 28th. A day or two earlier, the Premier delivered a long and spirited address at Newtown, in which he showed prospect of carrying through the session despite his late serious break-down in health. He promised early licensing legislating to deal with voided polls and other matters; and though defending the "no license, no liquor" clause of last year, he seemed otherwise desirous to meet the expressed wish of the country at large. It is plain, however, that the Parliamentary battle of the year is to be fought on the land question; the struggle of Leasehold *versus* Freehold cannot long be delayed. In his speech, the Premier strongly denounced the "flippant demand" that Crown tenants should have the right to purchase their land out and out; which demand is the one avowed and solid plank in the Opposition programme. Mr Seddon declared that on no account would he ever consent to such an immoral breach of contract as this reversion to freehold, which, he argued, would immediately result in the State making an inopportune present of £2,000,000 to Crown tenants now, and finally result in barring the land to every poor man hereafter. Leasehold, as at present, means land for the people; freehold, as proposed, means land for the rich man, and double gain to the money-lender, whose catspaw he declared the Crown tenant to be, as championed by the Opposition. But the House, he said, having saved farmers from the money-lenders by the Advances to Settlers Act, was not likely to pay seven millions to put them again at his mercy.

The conclusion of this speech treated in an admirable and statesmanlike tone of certain national aims and reforms. His plea for close settlement of every acre, for a self-supporting and self-containing system of life and industry, strikes every thinking mind as the true safeguard against those hitherto recurrent cycles of depression, which he declares can be avoided. His warning against the menace of trusts (a curse to any country) is significant. But most practical and cheering of all was the maintenance of his late excellent proposals for checking infant mortality, and reducing the perils of maternity among the poor.

The Governor's speech supplemented the Premier's outline of the session by

three additional proposals,—first, to appoint four Parliamentary under Secretaries, as employed at Home, to cope with the growing pressure of departmental business. Secondly, it is announced desirable to appoint a High Commissioner of New Zealand, as in Canada and South Africa, to safeguard the colony's interests at Home. Lastly, it is proposed to set up a Commission to deal with the land question. As all three proposals involve expenditure, they are likely to be keenly debated. It is possible that a Commission is the best way to get at the vital points of the land problem. On the one hand there are the keen and safe arguments of the land reformers, such as Messrs Ell, Taylor, Laurenson, and Fowlds; on the other hand, there are the seemingly practical and sincere arguments for possible freehold, put forth by the Farmer's Union. Meanwhile, alas! many valuable Crown lands are being put up for sale; soon it will be too late to shut the stable door.

Notable despatch is being shown so far; the Address in Reply only lasted two days. A batch of Government Bills has been read already, the most important being the Referendum, the Shop and Offices' Bill, and the Midwives Bill. The Referendum differs little from that of last year, save in a longer list of tabooed questions, not to be submitted under the general referendum. These include altogether, local public works, raising of money, revenue of crown, taxation, electoral franchise, and abolition of Legislative Council. This last gives the Bill hope of passing the Upper Chamber; but on the whole one wonders what is left, except the Bible in schools, which has been expressly held over on the promise of the larger bill. It has already passed its second reading in the House.

The Shops and Offices' Bill is also being pushed on. It provides, among other things, that shops are to stay open 52 hours a week, not more than 9 in one day, nor are employees to be kept more than 5 hours without stopping for a meal. Overtime is to be paid at the rate of one and a half; and is only allowed at stock taking. Saturday half-holiday is to be referred to the country next general election, and when settled there, will stay in force 6 years. Temperance and other reformers are strongly for the Saturday half-holiday.

The Midwives Bill, the outcome of the Premier's ultimatum of last May on Infant Mortality, has been well launched;

it provides for the registration of midwives and for the establishment of at least one State maternity home in the colony. Those who have already practised three years will be registered without passing examination. However minor details may be modified later, there is no doubt that the measure is wise and timely, and will be approved generally by the House.

Of the two Public Service Board Bills introduced respectively by Mr Herdman and Mr Laurenson to abolish ministerial patronage, the former has been already discharged from the Order Paper on a disputed point of procedure.

Sir W. Stuart proposes to introduce a bill for an Upper House to be elected by the Lower House, and to hold office 7 years.

Petitions are pouring in against the proposed iniquity of licensing the sale of liquor in Rarotonga and Niue.—J.M.

## Christchurch

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Pupil of Sandow, and Sandow  
Medallist, 1898.

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## THE WHITE RIBBON.

EDITOR ... MISS L. M. SMITH, Box 114, CH.CH  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ... MISS JESSIE MACKAY.  
BUSINESS MANAGER ... MISS L. M. SMITH,  
Box 114, Christchurch.

*The White Ribbon:*  
FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1904.

### "The Little Health of Ladies."

A speaker in a Christchurch hall the other evening remarked that we read about our bodies being temples, but that a good many people seemed content to possess not a temple but a miserable "shanty." The "little health of ladies" was so common a condition of life a few decades since that Frances Power Cobbe wrote a pamphlet on the subject, exhorting women to so utilise fresh air and exercise as to remove the disability. Fainting and smelling salts are, it is true, now out of date, but woman is not yet altogether ashamed of weakness and frailty. Centuries of mis-called civilisation have induced in her a disbelief in the possibility of a health and vigour at all comparable with that of man. She looks upon physical disability as a concomitant of womanhood, and a mother of several sons has been known to express grief when a little daughter is born to her from the idea that weakness and suffering must inevitably be the lot in life of the girl child. In the structure of woman, she thinks, is some flaw which prevents the traditional latest creation

from having pronounced upon it the divine ultimatum, "very good."

But disintegration in this wall of error has begun, and surely if slowly must it crumble away. To woman in the so-called gentler walks of life is becoming patent the necessity of constant preparedness for duty. With the fast changing conditions of present day life come increasing demands upon woman's nerve and muscle and power of endurance. And when once a need is keenly felt, human nature, true to instinct, sets about supplying that need. In the more public fields of industry health is of vital consequence to woman's success and power to take her place with the man worker. Steadiness of hand and strength of nerve are in many callings essential; and in all positions regularity of attendance, refusal to be hindered by weakness or weather, are of prime importance. If woman is to perform the equal work which is the *sine qua non* of the asked for equal pay she must adopt such a mode of life as will tend to equality of health. Three special points to which woman must devote her attention if she would make of her body a beautiful, useful "temple" and not an uncomely, helpless "shanty" are, undoubtedly, fresh air, intelligent exercise, and non-restrictive dress.

We have spoken of the urgent necessity of health as affecting the individual woman, but the "little health of ladies" is also a menace to the nation and the race. It has been said that the most effective way of preventing the "fertility of the unfit" is to make all people fit. That prenatal influences are largely responsible for infant mortality is certain, and to woman's transgression of the laws of life in the three particulars of air, exercise, and dress may be charged many an empty cradle and early filled grave. The male whisky has as active partner in his

death dealing industry the female corset.

Apropos of the close connection between disobedience to nature's laws and the perils of maternity, we may say that in connection with certain colleges for physical culture in the Old Country, records are being kept of the girl pupils who enter upon matrimony. (These records are not to be published in full till at least ten years have elapsed, in order to insure the value of the deductions drawn therefrom. At present the records extend over a period of about seven years.) Out of many hundreds of these former pupils who have become mothers, not one has for the new life forfeited her own. Talking, too, with a lady who lived for years in a rural district in England, where the bulk of the women work in the fields with the men, and certainly have of air and exercise a plenitude, and scarce know the name of corset, the writer was assured that death as a result of giving birth was unknown, and that in an incredibly short time the mother resumed her usual avocation. To human error, verily, and not to creative act may we attribute the "little health of ladies!"

### Women and Legislation.

We would draw the attention of our readers to the resolutions and suggestions on the Premier's Memorandum adopted by the Christchurch Union and published in this issue. Mr Seddon has distinctly asked the women of the colony for their opinion and advice, and it is highly desirable that there should be no hesitancy, after careful consideration, in expressing that opinion and in tendering that advice.

In the matter of these proposals *re* Child Life Preservation, we shall ultimately get what we want if only women are sufficiently unanimous and persistent. There are many reforms ardently desired by women—by some women. If all our New Zealand women were thoroughly alive to their privilege and responsibility there would be no C.D. Acts besmirching our statute books; there

would be no legalised totalisator inviting men, women and children to gamble; there would be no health and virtue destroying liquor bars; the children in our State schools would have imparted to them instruction in laws pertaining to their highest well-being; our penal system would be one of reformation, not largely of retaliation; and woman herself would have full liberty to attain to those positions which freedom alone can determine her capacity to fill.

In season and out of season, then, let our women's societies make their voice heard on all matters pertaining to the weal of the people in general and of women and children in particular.

### To Our Subscribers.

Subscriptions for the current year are now due. Bills are awaiting payment and it is hoped that Unions, WHITE RIBBON agents, and individual subscribers will do their utmost to send in, without delay, any moneys that may be owing. There are still some long outstanding subscriptions, and quite a number of our readers have received an intimation that "an early settlement will oblige." Will those concerned please note this further reminder and remit without delay.

### Our Illustration.

It is with much pleasure that we give our readers, on the first page of this issue, a portrait of Mrs Sandow, the wife of the celebrated exponent of physical culture. Mrs Sandow is the daughter of Mr Warwick Brooks, the well known photographer of Manchester, England. At the time of her marriage she was extremely delicate, but under the tuition of her husband has developed into the exceedingly healthy and comely looking lady we see to-day.

Mrs Sandow has never taken any public part in her husband's work, delighting in a simple home life. But it is not surprising to learn that she is a firm believer in that work, and that in a quiet way she has influenced many women to take up the duty of cultivating soundness of body.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

RONGOTEA.—Our sincerest sympathy is with Rongotea White Ribboners. For years they, in common with other Temperance workers of the district, have successfully resisted every attempt to open a licensed house in the district.

Now, in spite of protest, in spite of a numerously signed memorial, a "moderate" committee has granted a wholesale license to a boarding-house!

\*

**PETITION FOR SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE INSTRUCTION.**—Miss Maunder writes that she has received a large number of signatures to the above Petition and also that Mr McNab, M.H.R., has kindly promised to present the Petition.

\*

**NEW DEPARTMENTS OF W.C.T.U. WORK.**—The Victorian Union has lately added a "Department of Domestic Helpers" to its list of activities, and will aim at making more efficient the domestic helper and also at improving the conditions under which she labours. One of the Y Unions of America has lately taken up the work of physical culture; and at headquarters, according to a recent issue of the *Union Signal*, the U.S.A. President appears to be considering the question of a crusade against objectionable advertisements.

\*

**REVOLT AGAINST TYRANNY.**—Mrs Dora B. Montefiore, of Hammersmith, England, has refused to pay the income tax on the ground that, being a woman, she is denied a voice in the spending of the taxes, and "taxation without representation is tyranny." As a consequence of this "passive resistance," a bailiff was placed in the house, and the dining-room sideboard, chairs, a dressing table and washstand, and Mrs Montefiore's bicycle were distrained, for the debt of £9 15s 6d.

\*

**USEFUL TO UNIONS.** We have received from Mrs Spence, of Blenheim, a tastefully designed little booklet setting forth the aims and work of the W.C.T.U., and giving full particulars as to our organisation in New Zealand. Mrs Spence has had a large number of copies printed, and can supply them at the very small cost, including postage, of 1s 6d per doz. Unions wishing to increase their membership will do well to order. One of these little blue and white booklets placed in the hands of outsiders will most effectively serve to introduce the W.C.T.U. to their notice.

\*

**WOMEN IN THE CHURCHES.**—The General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church of America was held in May at Los Angeles, California, and is notable as being the first Conference to admit women delegates. Of the

546 delegates in attendance at the Conference twenty-five were women, several of these being prominent W.C.T.U. workers.

\*

**LADY HENRY SOMERSET'S HOME FOR INEBRIATE WOMEN.**—Queen Alexandra, accompanied by the Princess Victoria and a small suite, attended a concert given in aid of the Industrial Farm Colony at Duxhurst. Lady Henry delivered a most touching address, and Archdeacon Wilberforce eulogised the work of the Home. 3000 applications for admission are refused every year.

\*

**ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.**—W.C.T.U. women have erected a beautiful bronze fountain at the St. Louis Exposition. The fountain is placed almost within the shadow of the Statue of Peace. It is said to be the only place on the grounds where ice water is supplied free of charge. To Miss Elsie Ward, a competent New York sculptor, was given the task of modelling the bronze fountain.

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### Women on Educational Bodies.

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On June 27th, at Yaldhurst (Canterbury), the school committee election resulted in women only being chosen to direct matters in connection with the local State school. Their position has excited much interest, and we may safely say that the doings of no other committee in New Zealand will receive such close attention from the public as will the activities of these Yaldhurst ladies.

In the North Island we find that women have for some time occupied honourable positions on scholastic boards. In November of last year, Mrs John Mackay (Secretary of the Stratford W.C.T.U.) was elected a member of the Stratford District High School Committee. This year Mrs Mackay was re-elected, receiving only one vote less than the highest on the poll. A Mrs Monkhouse was also this year elected on the same committee.

Up to about two years ago the Taranaki Education Board had as one of its members Miss Heywood, who proved herself a most valuable member and resigned her position solely on account of removal from the district. Mrs Dougherty, formerly Chairwoman of the Rahotu School Committee, was also elected a member of the same Board.

### National Congress of Mothers.

The annual meeting of the National Congress of Mothers (U.S.A.) was held in Chicago May 11th-14th, and was so largely attended that the halls engaged proved inadequate for the audiences. "Principles of Government in Home and School" was the subject of an address the first evening by Professor George Howard Griggs. His advice to mothers was explicit, "Don't be so neat about the house that your child is driven into the streets in order to be comfortable." "Don't make the child lie by asking embarrassing questions, but be careful not to suppress the imagination." "When the child reaches the interrogation age, be indulgent, but never tolerate impudence." Professor Griggs advocated independence of thought and action for the child, and claimed that much of a child's seeming perversity could be attributed to too much nagging on the part of over zealous parents.

As a preventive of parental carelessness, Judge Lindsay advocated the imprisonment of parents for the wrongdoing of their children. He charged the mothers and fathers of the nation with the responsibility for the crowded reformatories and gaols.

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### Child Life Preservation.

At a special meeting of the Christchurch W.C.T.U. held on June 23rd to consider the Premier's Memorandum on the above subject, the following resolutions and suggestions were unanimously adopted:—

The Christchurch Women's Christian Temperance Union has resolved unanimously to congratulate the Premier, in that he has called attention to the very important subject of child life preservation, and to record its satisfaction that the women of the colony, as well as the men, have been asked to give their serious consideration to the Premier's proposals on this subject. Taking the clauses of the Memorandum *seriatim*, the members of the Christchurch Union offer the following suggestions:—

#### Registration and Certificates of Midwives.

The Union approves of the proposal that midwives should be registered and certificated, but strongly objects to any doctor or doctors being allowed to grant certificates. It considers that certificates should be a guarantee of experience, ability, and knowledge, and should only be granted after due and careful examination, by a properly constituted Board of medical officers. The Union respectfully urges that great care should be taken in drafting the clause relating to the prohibition of any but registered midwives, as it is well known that in many districts it might be absolutely impossible for such attendance to be obtained, and it would need to be very



clearly stated that no penalty attaches to those who render aid in such cases.

### State Payment of Midwives for the Poor.

The Union is in full accord with the proposal contained in this clause, provided that application is made for such help to some appointed body, whose business it shall be to ascertain whether the circumstances of the applicants are such as to warrant the State paying for it, and the Union suggests that such body shall be a committee of ladies, who will voluntarily offer and give their services gratuitously for this purpose. They might be directly elected by the people, or by societies interested in charitable work.

### Maternity Homes.

The Union is strongly opposed to the multiplying of maternity homes. It supports the establishment of lying-in hospitals, where married women could obtain such medical attendance and skilled nursing as, owing to circumstances or locality, they are unable to command at their own homes. The Union considers the need for maternity homes is sufficiently met at present by philanthropic bodies.

### Foundling Hospitals.

The Union is very much opposed to the establishment of foundling hospitals as such. It believes the addition of properly-equipped children's wards to, and in connection with, existing hospitals, would meet the need for medical aid and proper nursing in the cases indicated in this clause. The Union suggests the appointment of a medical man or woman (who should be a Government officer) who could be called in to sick children by the very poor. This officer should have power to order a child's removal to the children's ward if necessary. The Union believes that a number of children die owing to the fact that their parents are not in a position to incur the expenses of medical attendance. The Union would like to see penalties imposed on anyone taking advantage of the provision for free medical attendance whose circumstances did not justify this assistance from the State.

### Nursing at Home.

The Union warmly approves of the suggestion that the State should provide properly trained nurses where needed, where such attendance is not within the means of those in whose home the sickness is, provided the application for such nurse is made to and sanctioned by the body appointed to inquire into such cases, which might be the same committee suggested by the Union when dealing with the State payment of midwives for the poor.

### Training of Nurses.

The Union is of opinion that a larger number of trained nurses is very much needed. It recommends that such nurses should be trained in the general and lying-in hospitals, but does not think it necessary that board and lodging should be provided gratis by the State for these probationers, unless circumstances render such help absolutely necessary.

### Prevention of Cruelty and Neglect.

The Union is of opinion that an alteration is needed in the law to permit of the appointment of properly trained inspectors,

who, by exercise of the powers vested in them, may afford further protection to children from neglectful, cruel or vicious parents or guardians.

### Day Homes for Infants.

The Union strongly urges the Government to establish free kindergartens for children from three to five years of age, with a day-home for younger children. It suggests that such kindergartens and day-homes should be in connection with the primary schools, as in cases where a mother goes out to work it would be impossible for her to go a long distance to and from such day-home; if the home were connected with the public schools the little ones could often be taken there in the care of an older brother or sister.

### Insurance of Infants.

The Union believes that the insurance of children's lives, under ten or twelve years of age, should be absolutely illegal.

### Maintaining Illegitimate Children.

With regard to weekly payments being commuted for a lump sum, the Union desires to point out that in such cases the money agreed upon is secured to those taking charge of or adopting a child. The Union believes such premiums have, in the past, been inducements to needy and unscrupulous persons to take charge of children who came to untimely death through neglect and cruelty, and it therefore suggests that in future all such sums for commutation of weekly payments should be fixed by law (the minimum being not less than £100) and vested in trustees, appointed by the State, who will pay weekly instalments, for the maintenance of the child, to those persons who have adopted or taken charge of it. By this means many parents who now abscond after making a few weekly payments, would be prevented from shirking their responsibilities. Where commutation does not take place, the Union holds that weekly payments should be guaranteed by sureties. No adoption or charge of child should take place until approved of by the above-mentioned trustees.

### Illegitimate Children.

In reference to illegitimate children, the Union urges the following resolutions, which it has unanimously passed, upon the attention of the Premier:—(1) That the State should make generous provision for the maintenance, supervision and education of all such children; (2) that parents should be obliged to contribute according to their means to the support of their children; (3) that these children, where paternity is proved, shall possess an equal legal status with those born in wedlock, and shall be registered in the name of the father; (4) that a public officer, who may be a woman, should be appointed, whose duty it would be to discover parentage, if possible, with a view to enforcing proper maintenance of the child; (5) that the father of an illegitimate child should, before the birth of the child, be compelled to make provision for its maintenance, and for the support of the mother both before and after confinement; (6) that all children dependent on the State should not be boarded out, but should be placed in cottage homes, where their environment should approximate as

nearly as possible to that of a well-ordered and good home.

This Union, believing that true statesmanship seeks to attack evils in their causes and not merely in their results, holds very strongly that no scheme of prevention will be complete or successful that ignores the part that strong drink plays in causing a high rate of mortality among children. The heartless neglect and cruel privations to which many children are subject in this colony are attributable in almost every case to the drinking habits of their parents or guardians. Nor is this the only or worst evil which drink exerts through the parents upon the children. Nothing is more insisted upon by scientific medical authorities than that much of the degeneracy existing in our day is due to the physical effects produced by alcohol. Very recently the Council of the British Medical Association, through a committee which included Sir Lauder Brunton, Sir Henry Thompson, Sir William Turner, Sir Victor Horsley, and Professor Sims Woodhead, drew up and circulated a petition. Latest advices from England inform us that 15,000 doctors have signed this petition, which declares: "That having regard to the fact that much of the degeneracy, disease and accidents which medical men are called upon to deal with is directly or indirectly due to the use of alcohol, and that a widespread ignorance prevails concerning not only the nature and properties of this substance, but also its effects on body and mind, we, therefore, urge the Board of Education in England and Wales, the Scottish Education Department and the Irish Education authorities, to include in the simple hygienic teaching, which we desire, elementary instruction, at an early age, on the nature and effects of alcohol." The petition explains at length the steps taken to give this teaching in other countries, especially in Canada and the United States. An international medical manifesto published more than a year ago, and signed by doctors in most of the civilised countries, states: "That alcohol tends to produce in the offspring of drinkers an unstable nervous system, lowering them mentally, morally and physically."

The Union also draws the Premier's attention to the accompanying "extract" and asks him to especially note the high death rate among the artificially-fed infants. With such facts before us, and with the knowledge that thousands of children leave school profoundly ignorant of almost every law of their own being, the women of this Union respectfully urge the Premier to make provision that will enable the laws of health, and the truth concerning the physical effects of alcohol, to be clearly taught to every child attending our public schools.

In conclusion, the Union desires to mention that it believes early seduction is one cause of infant mortality among illegitimate children. They believe that more girls are led astray between the ages of sixteen and nineteen than at any other age. The New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union, the National Council of Women and other women's societies, have urged for years that the age of consent should be raised to twenty-one years, and again this Union most strongly appeals to the Premier, on behalf of young girls, to give effect to this desire so often and so strongly expressed by thinking women from one end of the colony to the other.



## THE HOME.

### Woman's Greatest Handicap.

BY M. ELLSWORTH OLSEN.

A paragraph in one of the dailies describing a recent game of some sort in which both ladies and gentlemen participated, remarked that the former were greatly handicapped by their skirts.

This slight incident suggests a larger and far more important question, namely,

### What is Woman's Real Handicap

in the great struggle of life? Is it her skirts, or is it the unfortunate way in which she has chosen to support them. If medical men are to be allowed a voice in the matter, there cannot be the slightest doubt that the prevalent custom of hanging several skirts from a tightly-corseted waist is at once unphysiological, unpractical, and physically injurious.

The custom involves two flagrant transgressions of physiological law. 1. It causes serious displacement of the abdominal organs. 2. It interferes with that most important of all vital processes—breathing.

### Dangerous Compression.

The so-called waist-line occurs at a most delicate point in the body, which is the juncture of some of its most important organs. The liver, an organ weighing some three or four pounds, lies just across the line, and has been known, in cases of very tight-lacing, to be almost cut in two. The stomach, kidneys, bowels, and the other abdominal organs are all affected by the corset, which presses them downward out of their proper places, straining the tendons by which they are supported, and greatly hindering them in exercising their various functions. Indigestion in some of its most obstinate forms has been caused by this prolapsed state of the stomach. In some cases one or even both kidneys have been en-

tirely detached from their proper fastenings, causing the condition known as "floating kidney." Abscess of the kidney is another form of disease that may be brought on in this way, while cancer of the stomach, or of the breast, is probably chargeable to the corset in a majority of instances. For example, Dr. R. Clement Lucas, reporting two cases of cancer of the breast in a recent number of the *Lancet*, assigns as the determining cause of the cancer developing at this site "the injurious friction of the margin of the corset for many years."

But aside from these definite diseases there can be no doubt that a great many of the wandering pains, the "dragging-down sensations," and those ill-defined feelings of *malaise* and general

the circulation, and tend to bring about a diseased state of the system.

### Tight Lacing Seldom Admitted.

Of course no woman will admit to wearing tight clothes. But many of the harmful results which have been pointed out in the foregoing paragraphs are produced without having recourse to that extreme tight lacing which results in the wasp-waist. Any article of clothing, whether it be an ordinary corset, a so-called "health-corset," or simply tight waist bands, is harmful to the extent that it interferes with full breathing, and crowds the abdominal organs. The various displacements mentioned may also be caused by very moderate lacing, being due as much to the weight of the skirts as to the im-

mediate constriction of a tight corset. These displacements, it may be added, are much more frequent than is generally thought.

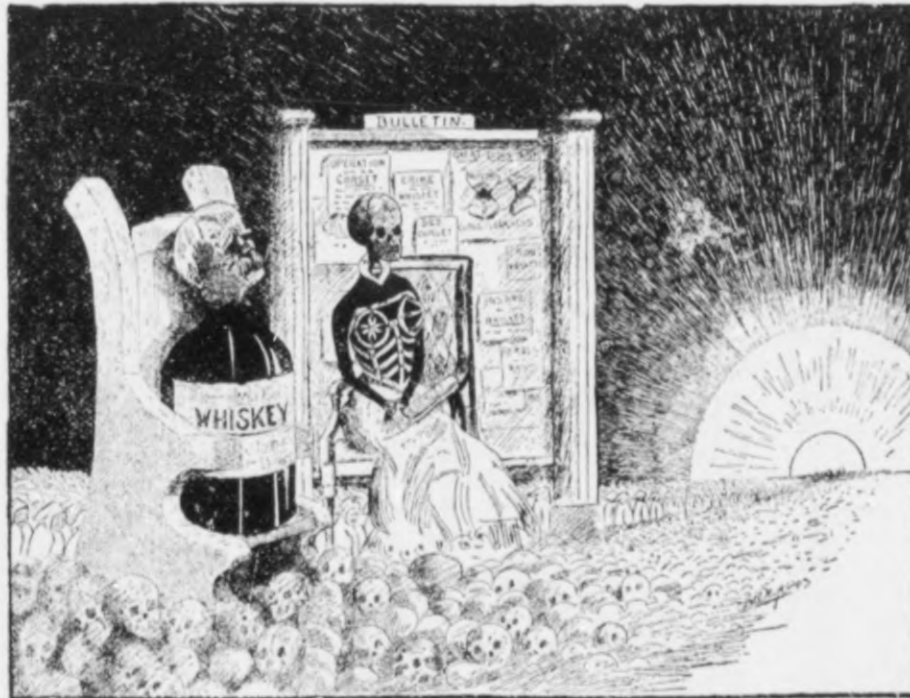
### Displacements Inevitable.

Dr. J. H. Kellogg recently made "a careful examination respecting the position of the stomach, liver, and bowels, in fifty working-men and seventy-one working-women, all of whom were in ordinary health. In the seventy-one women examined, prolapse of the stomach was found in fifty-six cases. In nineteen of these cases, the right kidney was found prolapsed, and in one case, both kidneys. The fifteen cases in

which the stomach and bowels were not prolapsed were all persons under 24 years of age. None of these had ever laced tightly, and four had never worn corsets or tight waist bands, having always worn the clothing suspended from the shoulders."

Only six of the fifty men had prolapse of the stomach and bowels, and of these "in only three was the degree of prolapse anything at all comparable with that observed in the women." These three, the doctor found on inquiry, had used a belt or something equivalent as a support for the trousers. In one of the men the right kidney was prolapsed.

It will be seen from these figures that prolapse of the stomach and bowels is six times as frequent among



"TWIN PARTNERS IN CRIME."

The above cartoon is published in Bernarr Macfadden's Magazine, *Physical Culture*. Whisky and Corsets are, it declares, twin partners in crime.

discomfort of which women often complain, are due primarily to the displacements caused by tight-lacing.

Breathing is very materially interfered with by fashionable dress. Not one civilised woman in a hundred breathes naturally with her whole lungs, as she ought. The central and lower portions of these organs are held as in a vice by those steeled or whale-boned stays; only the upper lobes are entirely free. As well expect to work a bellows after first firmly tying the handles together, as that a pair of lungs thus hampered in their work can admit a sufficient amount of fresh air to properly purify the blood. The inevitable result of this attenuated breathing is that impurities which should be thrown off through the lungs are retained in

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women as among men, and no one at all acquainted with the action of the corset can wonder at this, or have any doubt as to the cause.

Fashionable dress not only preys on the health of our women, it also hampers them seriously in the discharge of their daily duties. Work which would be pleasant and healthful when done with untrammelled waist and free muscles, becomes hard and toilsome to one who, so far as the trunk muscles are concerned, is strapped up something like an Egyptian mummy. Shop-girls would lose half their back-aches, and much of that disagreeable "tired feeling" if they were to adopt a healthful mode of dress. Behold the vigour and airy grace of young ladies in their gymnasium suits; then compare their cramped movements and mincing gait when dressed in the latest fashion.

### Not Beautiful.

This brings us to another phase of the dress question. Granting, as many of our fair readers may do, that tight-lacing is physically injurious, they may be disposed to urge that it is at least conducive to beauty. We answer, No. In the first place, there can be no lasting beauty without health; hence whatever is unhealthful is inimical to true beauty. In the second place an abnormally small waist is itself a monstrosity, and entirely out of harmony with the form as a whole.

### Not Womanly.

But is it not womanly to have a small waist? No, it is not womanly, unless general helplessness, and a fair prospect of premature invalidism, be considered in that light. The *Venus de Milo* is universally acknowledged to present a perfect model of womanly proportions. Yet the waist measure-

ment of this statue is exactly 47.67% of its height; while that of the Apollo Belvidere, generally considered to be the finest specimen of well-developed manhood, is only 45 per cent.

A small waist, according to the ancients, belonged to men, rather than women, and they were entirely right, for the male has, in proportion to his height, the smaller abdominal organs.

No one with an eye for beauty can admire the stiff, harshly-rounded waist and angular outline the *corsetière* is so proud of. Artists will have nothing to do with it; and if one were found to paint such a monstrosity, no respectable art gallery would hang it. You will look in vain in all the best poetry to find any allusion to this false type of beauty. It was none of these hour-glass phantoms in high-heeled shoes that Milton referred to in those well known lines:

"Grace was in her steps, heaven in her eye,  
In every gesture dignity and love."

To take another example, how utterly inappropriate to the strained movements of a tightly-laced woman are the following lines:

"Her grace of motion and of look, the smooth  
And shining majesty of step and tread,  
The symmetry of form and feature set  
The soul afloat, even like delicious airs  
Of flute and harp."

### Grace of Movement Impossible.

Grace of movement is a necessary adjunct of beauty, and it is obviously impossible of attainment while the waist is stiffly bound up in a corset. A beautiful waist must bear a right proportion to other parts of the body. If the figure as a whole is slender and willowy, the waist will naturally be rather small, but its beauty will be marred by a corset. In women of

more solid build, the waist is naturally larger; but here, too, the tightly-laced corset is out of place, since it renders impossible both harmony of form and freedom of movement, and thus virtually exaggerates any fulness of the figure. The ordinary corset is really utterly foreign to true womanly beauty. It makes no provision for those soft, undulating curves, and that delicately rounded contour which are at once the glory and the charm of well-developed womanhood.

Therefore it is thoroughly inartistic, as well as unhealthful, and ought to be forthwith banished along with the other instruments of torture that have come down to us from the dark ages.

But would you not allow a woman to improve her figure? By all means, as long as it is done in the proper way. A well-selected course in physical culture will do much to develop the bust, and also to reduce any undue fulness at the waist which may be caused by accumulations of adipose tissue. Women who have passed middle-age would find it greatly to their advantage to spend a few minutes daily in special exercises of this character. The charming grace and buoyancy of youth need not depart so early as is usually the case, if only proper attention is given to the culture of health.—*English Good Health*.

THE EFFECT OF PROHIBITION IN KANSAS.—When prohibition went into operation it had a population of 996,616, including 617 convicts. After 21 years of prohibition the population is 1,470,405, and only 788 prisoners—while the population has increased nearly 50 per cent. During the same period the criminal population of license Nebraska has outrun the general growth of the population 47 per cent.

## Women's Christian Temperance Union

OF NEW ZEALAND.

ORGANISED - 1885.

'For God, and Home, and Humanity.'

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MRS HILL, Bluff Hill, Napier.

OKAIAWA W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets in the Church on the  
last THURSDAY in the month, at 2.30 p.m.

President:.....MRS BREMER.

Secretary:.....MISS GILLING.

Treasurer:.....MISS SCOTT.

CHRISTCHURCH W.C.T.U.

GENERAL MEETING second Wednesday,  
2.30 p.m.; Educational Meeting fourth  
Wednesday, 3 p.m.; at the Y.W.C.A. Rooms,  
Gloucester Street.President—MRS C. S. HOWARD, Richmond.  
Recor. Sec—Mrs Wicks, Grafton-st, Ferry Rd.  
Corres. Sec.—Miss W. W. Smith, P.O. Box 114.  
Treasurer—MRS. SEED.

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Wed., 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Blackwell, "The Wil-  
lows." Sec. and Agent for White Ribbon—Mrs  
Soulby. Assis.-Sec.—Miss Blackwell. Treas.—  
Mrs. T. G. Blackwell.

NAPIER W. C. T. U.

THE Union meets every alternate Thursday  
in St. Paul's Schoolroom, at 3 p.m. Pres.—  
Mrs Oldham, Lucy Rd. Sec.—Mrs E. A.  
Israel, Edwardes St. Treas.—Mrs R. Saunders,  
Vautier Street.

SANSON W. C. T. U.

THE UNION meets the first and third  
Wednesday, in the Vestry of the Wes-  
leyan Church. Pres.—Miss Harris, Sec.—  
Mrs Crichton. Treas.—Mrs Wrigley.

BLENHEIM W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on the first Tuesday in  
the month at 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Rose, Kag-  
worth. Sec.—Mrs Griffen. Treas.—Mrs Hay.  
WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs W. Parker.

AUCKLAND W. C. T. U.

GENERAL Meeting in the Central Mission  
Hall, Albert Street, Second and Fourth  
Wednesday, 3 p.m. Executive meets 2.30.

President—Mrs. Dewar, Ponsonby.

Secretary—Mrs Upton, Beresford St.

Treasurer—Mrs Hughes, Mount Eden.

WHITE RIBBON Agent—Mrs R. M. Wallis,  
Mount Eden Road.WELLINGTON W.C.T.U. President—  
Secretary—Miss Kelly,  
46 Nairn St. Treasurer—Miss Wilkinson, 20  
Pirie-st. "White Ribbon" Agent—Mrs Amos,  
Owen-st. Union meets first Thurs. each month,  
in Wesley Church Class Room, at 3 p.m.  
Girls' Association Rooms, Constable-street,  
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Girls Invited.

DUNEDIN W. C. T. U.

GENERAL MEETING held in the Y. W.  
C. A. Rooms, Moray Place, First Tuesday  
in the month, at 3 p.m.

President—Mrs Mazengarb, 40, High-st.

Secretary—Miss E. McCarthy, 99, Cannon-  
gate.

Treasurer—Mrs A. S. Adams, Cargill-st.

White Ribbon Agent—Mrs Heatley, Bell-  
knowes.

INVERCARGILL W.C.T.U.

GENERAL Meeting held on the first  
Tuesday of every month in the Tem-  
perance Hall, Esk Street, at 3 p.m.

PRESIDENT—Mrs Baird, Spey Street.

SECRETARY—Mrs Muirhead, Conon Street.

TREASURER—Mrs Small, Gladstone.

FEILDING W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on first Thursday in  
the month, at 2.30 p.m., in Presbyterian  
School-room. President—Miss Minchin.  
Treasurer—Mrs Frost. Secretary—Mrs J. B.  
Pickering. WHITE RIBBON Agent—Mrs  
Burnley.

PETONE W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets in the Church of  
Christ, Sydney-street, on first Wednes-  
day, at 3 p.m. President—Mrs Jackson.  
Secretary—Mrs G. D. McKwen. Treasurer—  
Mrs D. B. Howe.

NEW PLYMOUTH W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets the last Wednesday in  
the month, in Whitely Hall, at 3 p.m.  
President—Mrs Maunder. Secretary—Miss  
Ambury. Treasurer—Miss Sadler. Superinten.  
Literature—Mrs Neal. WHITE RIBBON Agent  
—Miss Taunt.

WANGANUI W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets in the St. Paul's Class-  
room, on the first Friday in every month.  
PRES. (pro tem)—Mrs J. Smith. SEC.—Mrs S.  
F. Whitcombe. TREAS.—Mrs Beaven.

NELSON W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets in the Methodist School-  
room, on the second Tuesday in the  
month, at 3 p.m. PRES.—Mrs W. J. Williams  
SEC.—Mrs Crump. TREAS.—Miss Atkinson.

TARIKI W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets every second Thursday  
in the month at 7.30 p.m. President—  
Mrs Fenwick. Secretary—Mrs Jemison. Treas-  
urer—Mrs Waite.

DEVONPORT W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on the last Wednesday  
in the month, in the Wesleyan School-  
room, at 3 p.m. President—Mrs Wilkinson.  
Secretary—Mrs Veats. Treasurer—Mrs Butler.

LOWER HUTT W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on the second Tuesday  
in the month, at 3 p.m. PRES.—Mrs Hobbs.  
REC. SEC.—Miss M. Jenness. COR. SEC.—Miss  
Burt. TREAS.—Mrs Routly. W.R. Agent.—  
Mrs Ledbrook.

GREYMOUTH W.C.T.U.

MEETS first Thursday in the month at 3  
p.m., in the Vestry of the Methodist  
Church. Pres.—Mrs Gaskin. Treas.—Mrs  
Sweetman. Sec.—Mrs Hansen.

## The "White Ribbon"

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