

their banners. We were successful in getting a handsome one for our own Union. The ladies' sitting-room in the Borough Council Chambers was renovated and decorated and during the Exhibition weeks had a record attendance. Our superintendent of Prison and Reform work reports fewer cases coming under her notice than in the previous year, only one woman having passed through the gaol and she was housed for only a night on her way to the Lunatic Asylum. Other cases are as follows:—

(a) A young girl who had got into trouble in connection with an illegal operation was helped during her illness, her trial, her stay in the hospital, and sent to a township further north, suitable and permanent work being found for her.

(b) A young girl with her baby of a few weeks old—a case of desertion—was helped in the matter of clothing, medicine, etc. A home was found for the child, where small payments will have regularly to be paid, and a situation found for the young mother.

Through the kindness of Miss Powell, Organising Agent, the sum of £1 10s was donated towards the funds of this department of our work.

Correspondence with those who have been helped is continually kept up. A family in very poor circumstances through the continued illness of husband and father have been helped in the matter of food, clothing, etc.

A wife, with four little children, neglected by a drunken husband, has been helped. Provision made for the husband to enter the hospital and arrangements made for the woman to have the custody of the children, also to receive help from the Charitable Aid Board.

NGAIRE.—In the early part of the year we co-operated with the Band of Hope and sent £6 to the Alliance. During May we were led to believe a license would be asked for for Ngaire and made preparations to oppose the same. Those formerly in charge of the Band of Hope decided to drop the meetings for the year. The Union took the matter up and has carried on most successful meetings, taking a number of pledges. We were all interested in the Exhibition stall and contributed to the same. Mrs Webb's address on Purity has been read and members recognise the importance of this subject. In December Miss Powell visited us and gave an address and lecture which greatly interested us.

MIDHURST reports that, having suffered severely through removals, they have not been able to get together a meeting for some time.

STRATFORD.—During the year we have been favoured with visits from Rev. F. W. Isitt, Miss Maunder, Miss Powell, and Mr Wake, of Eltham. Purity literature has been obtained, well circulated among mothers and much appreciated. More active workers are needed. Arrangements have been made by our branch to secure several prominent Temperance speakers during the present year, and we hope to see excellent results from their visits.

TARIKI.—During the year resolutions were sent to our Member *re* the Licensing Bill. The S.T.L. petition was circulated. In September Miss Powell came to give us a lecture but bad weather interfered. Contributions have been made to funds of the N. Z. Union. During the winter months scientific temperance lessons were given and two medals given for essays on these lessons.

NAPIER.

We are going to try meetings once a month to see how that will work, with a young woman's meeting on the alternate fortnight. We are hoping by careful visitation to keep more in touch with absent members and get them more interested. Mrs Wilkie is in charge of the home and mothers' meetings, through which we hope to get more members and spread an influence that will help us at the coming election. Of course as that time draws near we shall hold meetings more frequently and try and enrol as many No-License workers as possible.

ORMONDVILLE is working well and has more than doubled its membership.

HASTINGS.—Our society was organised in June 1904 by members of the Napier Union, and attendance and interest have been fairly well sustained. The Literature department is the only one worked by a superintendent, Mrs Collins (who, we regret to say, is leaving the neighbourhood) having distributed 10 lbs weight of literature in the short time she has been at work, and this principally at the trains, where she has not always met with encouragement. Though there has only been one department of work really taken up, yet we have done work in connection with some of the other branches. Petitions have been sent to Parliament dealing with Gambling, Child Life Preservation, the Introduction of a Text-Book into the State Schools, etc; also a petition was sent to the local Borough Council, dealing with Street-Gambling, and a bye-law was passed forbidding it. Several discussions have taken place on the Bible-in-Schools question and other important matters. We are hoping that we may influence some more ladies to come and help in the crusade against evil.

WANGANUI.

Since our last annual report 27 new members have joined the Union. During the year eleven ordinary meetings have been held, preceded by half hour prayer meetings. Papers on Evangelistic Work and Work among the Young have been read and found helpful, and a special meeting was held to consider the amendment to the Premier's Memorandum. During Miss Powell's visit two very successful public meetings were held. At one, for women and girls, Miss Powell dealt with the subject of Purity and at the other with the Origin and Aims of the W.C.T.U. The departments of work include Evangelistic, Literature, Relief, Rescue, Parliamentary and Educational. A visiting committee is doing good work among absent members and a WHITE RIBBON agent has been appointed, also a Press reporter.

PALMERSTON NORTH.

COLYTON.—During the year eleven meetings have been held. Resolutions have been adopted and sent to Parliament in connection with the sale of liquor at Niue and Raratonga and the Licensing Bill. A large number of signatures was obtained for the petition *re* Temperance Instruction. Literature on various subjects has been distributed, notably several books on purity by Mrs Atkey, of the B.W.T.A. A lantern and musical evening swelled our funds and we were thus able to make two grants to the colonial work. Our energetic organising agent, Miss Powell, paid us a visit in November and through her visit and lecture fresh interest has been

aroused and new subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON were gained.

MARTON.—We have not much to report in the way of work; our members are undertaking the distribution of the Crusader, the monthly paper in the No-license interests, which is to be published till next election, and we hope to do more in anticipation of that same event.

FIELDING.—Few meetings have been held on account of bad weather and scanty attendance. Bible reading in the High school, which was daily conducted by five local ministers, has been abandoned on account of non-attendance of the scholars, but we are trying to get it re-established. Those of our members whose heart is in the work do their utmost, but it is the combined effort which is lacking.

WOODVILLE.—Our first meeting was held on September 16th. On account of our late start and the fact of our members being mostly new to the work of the Union, we did not do very much last year. We have, however, succeeded in placing a box for the W.C.T.U. literature in the railway station, also in the reading room of the public library, and arranged for the distribution of temperance literature to country districts in view of the coming election.

WELLINGTON.

Much work has been undertaken during the year. The Premier's Memorandum has been considered. The paper on Hygiene and booklet on Purity have been circulated among the members and much appreciated, and Miss Powell's visit and lectures to girls were both helpful and enjoyable. Our box at the railway station is supplied with literature. The Home for the Aged and Needy is visited and the Hospital singing band is looking for new members so as to continue its good work. It finds the piano provided by the Union a great help. The Girls' Association rooms at Newtown are still flourishing under Mrs Boxall's efficient direction. Strangers to the town are heartily welcomed and girls are frequently helped to obtain situations.

LOWER HURT.—This branch is making headway. A corresponding secretary and WHITE RIBBON agent have been appointed and a hall purchased for Temperance work. A box for literature has been placed at the railway station. One Educational meeting has been held and a Scientific Temperance lecture given by Dr. Chapple.

PETONE.—During the year the branch successfully opposed the granting of a wine license. An open air protest meeting was held and a petition prepared and signatures obtained, and the members had the satisfaction of seeing the application withdrawn. Some of our members formed part of the deputation to the Premier *re* the Licensing Bill. Literature has been taken regularly to the railway station and the WHITE RIBBON has been distributed from house to house. Fortnightly home meetings have been held and talks on Temperance given.

MASTERTON.—Subscribers to the WHITE RIBBON have increased in number and literature has been freely distributed both in the town and to the settlers and saw millers in surrounding districts. Several Educational meetings and one Mothers' meeting has been held. Miss Powell's visit was both enjoyable and helpful and new members were secured.