

from being present. His letter of apology contained the words, ". . . by means of the totalisator we are inoculating the whole community with the vice of gambling."

Mrs Cole said that Government authorisation had made gambling appear respectable, but that did not make it less evil, and the Union hoped to be able to present as large a petition as had been prepared in connection with the women's franchise movement.

The Rev. R. S. Gray moved: "Seeing that the wisdom of all nations and of all ages has found that the habit of gambling invites every condition of folly and vice, causing misery, ruin, and demoralisation, seeing also that the increase of gambling since the legalisation of the totalisator has been so great as to become a national menace, and believing the obtaining of revenue from a legalised vice to be opposed to all principles of public morality, and that our young people are led to suppose that gambling through the totalisator is respectable because the law sanctions it, this meeting strongly urges Parliament to repeal any Act, or Acts, making the use of the totalisator lawful." In the course of his speech, Mr Gray remarked that the *London Times* had said some years ago that "horse-racing was an amusement to which was directly attributable more ruin, more misery, and more demoralisation than to any other pastime." Why had the sport of kings become the vast agent of demoralisation? Simply because the spirit of gambling had fastened like a vampire on the sport of horse-racing. There was no manner of harm in the fair trial of horses; but horse-racing had been bit by the vampire until it was itself vampire-like. It was the filthiest sport in which men engaged. Magistrates had acknowledged that they could not take the word of those connected with horse-racing. Before the introduction of the totalisator there had been eleven recognised bookmakers. Now there were hundreds. Drink, gambling, and impurity were inseparably joined.

The Rev. W. W. Sedgwick seconded the motion. He said that Christians were bound to fight the foe that was eating to the very heart of New Zealand. Every Government existed for the welfare of the community. The totalisator had not benefitted the community; it had, on the contrary, intensified gambling. It therefore behoved the Government to no longer legalise a gambling

machine. Mr Sedgwick read the late Charles Kingsley's letter to his son on gambling.

The motion was carried unanimously. Mr T. E. Taylor said that the time was opportune, from a political standpoint, to deal with the evil of gambling. As far as could be judged, there was a cleaner atmosphere in politics than there had been. In 1904-05 the total investments had been £1,437,000; of that the Government had received as its share £21,571, every penny of which was as dirty as the money received from the drink traffic.

The Rev. L. M. Isitt said the question was one that should be ventilated in all its aspects, and he believed that full public recognition of the facts would mean a wave of indignation that would sweep away the totalisator.

Before the meeting closed the names of those willing to help in circulating the petition were taken, and Mrs Cole again urged all present to take a share in the work of ridding the country of the evil, and thereby free themselves from sharing in the unrighteous gains.

Our Educational System.

THE EVILS OF CRAM.

The most sincere thanks of the people of this Colony does Dr. Truby King merit for his strenuous and able efforts to launch them on the ocean of divine discontent with our educational system. For many years have New Zealand parents and politicians been apparently blindly satisfied with the manner of life of the school children. Here and there a solitary parent might be found who mourned either the stunted intelligence, or the impaired physique of his child, and averred that education, in the true sense, was almost unknown. But such expression was not general.

For months past Dr Truby King has been conducting a crusade in Otago, pointing out that mental weakness and derangement, as well as bodily infirmity, are directly traceable to the system of "cram" so generally operative in our public schools. One result of the doctor's efforts is that at least some of the teachers are awake and ready to co-operate with Government in the matter of reform. On August 7th, Dr King delivered a lecture in Christchurch. But as he then "crammed" into one evening material that would

have sufficed for six lectures, had it been possible for him to extend his visit, one cannot pretend to give even an outline of the address.

The lecture was made most interesting by means of diagrams, wherewith the lecturer made manifest the results of the right and of the wrong method of treatment of plants, animals and children. In the care and training of the young, the first essential must be food. Air was just as much a part of food as anything else, but people would sleep in impure air and could be expected to do nothing else until they were taught, by the proper ventilation of the schools. Sunlight and warmth must also be included as foods. Play and games should be a part of all school life. Rest and rhythm were two most important essentials, yet at the most important period of life many girls had little rest, working twelve hours a day to prepare for examinations. A strong race could only be reared in the open air, where the senses were trained and the muscles strengthened. An afternoon or two a week in a boat would give a boy far bigger mental stature than hours in school. There should be medical inspection of all school children, to see whether they were fit for ordinary school life. A great deal of what was taught in school was absolutely useless afterwards.

B.W.T.A. ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Papers containing full reports of the thirtieth annual council and public meetings of the B.W.T.A. (affiliated to the World's W.C.T.U.) came to hand just too late for any reference thereto in our last issue. We cannot, however, leave the great gathering entirely unnoticed. The great public meeting was held in Queen's Hall, London, the Earl of Carlisle presiding, the speakers including Mrs Ormiston Chant—a portion of whose fine address we hope to publish in a future issue—the late Sir Wilfred Lawson, the Bishop of St. Albans, Rev. Silvester Horne, Mr Leif Jones, and other members of Parliament. On the Sunday previous Miss Slack had arranged for seventy meetings in London churches. These meetings were all successfully carried out, many pledges being taken, and each Church being made to feel its responsibility in the matter of grappling with the drink traffic.