

reply was received from the Town Clerk granting us, conditionally, the use of the Ladies' Rest Room, in the Town Hall, for a further term. Arrangements were made for our sale of work, and also for a sewing bee, to renovate garments for distribution among the needy.

### Tariki.

On August 7th we held a social. Mr Jemison took the chair, and introduced the district President, Mrs Douglas, who had come from New Plymouth. Her address was both encouraging and helpful. Various other items and refreshments filled up a pleasant evening, and the proceeds provide us with a fund to carry on the work.

### Waimate.

At our last two meetings we have given special attention to purity, readings on the subject being given by Mesdames Borrie, Sharpe and Morrison, and an excellent address on "The Power of Womanhood" by Miss Smart. We distributed a number of booklets on the subject, and have a small lending library of purity books, under the management of our Purity Superintendent, Mrs Graham. The question of comfort bags was brought up, and probably something will be done in that line.

### Whangarei.

This branch, although not reported, has been working on steadily during the six months of its existence. Two quarterly invitation socials have been held, and largely attended. The first was addressed by the ministers of the town, and much interest was evinced in our new branch. The second gathering was held on August 28th, and quite a number of visitors were with us, to learn more of us and our methods. We are particularly fortunate in having the free use of a splendid room, owned by Harrison and Son, for all our meetings. Our workers decorated the room and laid out the tables with delightful effect, and a very nice programme of music was arranged. The President, Mrs Jas. Hutchinson, was in the chair, and gave a short resumé of the work attempted so far. This included papers and discussions on the use of alcohol by nursing mothers, and in sickness and convalescence. Scientific temperance instruction in schools, anti-gambling, narcotics and cigarette smoking, had all been considered, and action taken where possible. Hospital visitors and superintendents for Press work, unfermented wine, home meetings, literature and medal contests had been appointed. Mrs Hill, of the Salvation Army, gave a splendid address on "Women's influence," urging on mothers the need of prayer with their little ones, noting some of the evils that meet even the little school children, and relating her own experiences when visiting hotels on Saturday nights, where young lads were being ruined. As a result of the social, eleven new names were added to our roll, which now numbers fifty.

'Tis time new hopes should animate the world,  
New light should dawn from new revealings  
To a race weighed down so long, forgotten so  
long!  
—Paracelsus.

## District Convention held in Ashburton.

The Annual Convention of the Canterbury District of the Women's Christian Temperance Union was held in Ashburton on September 5th. Delegates were present from Christchurch, Kaiapoi, Timaru and Waimate. Mrs Macleod, President of Ashburton W.C.T.U., opened the proceedings with singing and prayer, after which Mrs Cole, the New Zealand President, occupied the chair, and spoke on words contained in a speech by the late Mrs Mary Hunt, of America. "What ought to be done can be done by all who have the courage and the faith to undertake it." Mrs Cole urged members of Unions never to allow their Unions to lapse, even if only President and Secretary were left, but to do what they could. As long as there were two members they could take part in getting petitions signed and in any special work needed. Mrs Cole also affirmed that the Women's Christian Temperance Union was better fitted than the churches to undertake such work as a crusade against the totalisator, as the Union is composed of members of all denominations. In addition to Temperance, the President considered the Union should take up every year some special work.

Miss Roberts read a paper on "Organisation," after which there was an interesting discussion.

The following resolutions were passed:—

"That a Conference of the Canterbury Unions, composed of two delegates from each Union, be held on the day before the District Convention."

"That this Conference decide upon the reforms to be specially worked for throughout Canterbury during the year following, suggestions to be obtained from the various Unions as to the best methods to be adopted in helping them forward."

"That every member of a Union present at the District Convention be entitled to one vote."

The invitation of the Kaiapoi Union to hold the next District Convention there was heartily accepted, and the first Wednesday in September, 1907, was fixed as the date.

The Convention was continued in the afternoon, when there was a large attendance. The meeting was opened by Mrs Dohrmann, President of the

Waimate Union, after which Mrs Cole read a paper written by Mrs Sheppard, on "The Civil and Political Disabilities of Women." The writer stated that although it could not truthfully be said that New Zealand women were eager to sit in Parliament any more than those of Australia, yet their exclusion was most unjust. The men who would keep them out were either "fantastically chivalrous" or else "barbarously tyrannical." Sitting in Parliament need not take the bloom off a woman's modesty, any more than voting does. The stock argument of woman's incapacity was without weight, seeing that in schools, in colleges, and in the teaching profession exactly the same standard is required.

A very interesting discussion followed, after which the following resolution was carried:—

"That the time is now ripe for the removal of all civil and political disabilities of women."

A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Sheppard for her able paper, also a vote of sympathy with her on account of indisposition, which prevented her from being present.

The evening meeting was opened by Mrs Lill, of Willowby, after which Miss Roberts read a paper on "The Physical Effects of Alcohol." After reviewing the history of scientific investigation into the nature of alcohol, the writer stated that alcohol as a medicine was not only unnecessary but harmful and dangerous, and that it was a destroyer of protoplasm, the foundation of life, and also of corpuscles of the blood. Operations were made more dangerous, infectious diseases more catching, through the use of alcohol. Medical men were coming to call it a sedative, a narcotic and a paralyser, rather than a stimulant and a restorative. She pleaded for scientific temperance instruction in schools.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Miss Roberts for her very able paper, and a discussion followed.

After the transaction of business of minor importance, votes of thanks were passed to the hostesses, and a very enjoyable Convention closed.

Why stay we on the earth except to grow?—*Browning.*

We women hate a debt, as men a gift.—*In a Balcony.*