

Evangelistic Department.

In a private letter to a friend, a Dunedin White Ribboner says:—

"You will be pleased to hear a Norwegian ship came into Port. We gave the sailors a tea, followed by a Gospel meeting. They could not express themselves in our language, but could understand what we said. At the close of the service the captain, with tears streaming down his face, said in broken English, that for himself and crew, he thanked us, 'Oh! so much; in all their travels wound the wide, wide world, no peoples nowhere be so kind.' But the best of all was the next Sunday, when five of the crew were converted. Like Christian in 'Pilgrim's Progress,' they were so deeply convicted they would neither eat nor sleep, they wept and trembled, but when they saw the Light they shouted for joy and the workers with them, and I said, Hallelujah! Is that not what it ought to be—foreigners coming to a Christian land to find the Saviour? It is a long time since conversions impressed me so much."

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR SISTERS,—

You will remember that at the N.Z. Convention, held last March, I was instructed to write to Mrs Mary H. Hunt, expressing the desire of our N.Z. White Ribbon Army that, if possible, she should pay us a visit and so help forward the cause of *Scientific Temperance Instruction* in our schools. As you have already learned, Mrs Hunt has been promoted to higher service and our invitation arrived too late.

The Convention also expressed the hope that at the World's Convention, to be held in Boston next month, Mrs Harrison Lee—while unable to represent us, as she is delegate for Queensland—might speak for us and answer any enquiries, she being so well informed as to our No-License work, legislative conditions, etc. Mrs Lee replies as follows:—"Thanks cordially; . . . I shall be pleased to represent or to speak for the grandest little country in the world."

According to instruction from the N.Z. Executive, I have written to Mrs Napier, asking her to represent this

colony at the Boston Convention, but there has not yet been time for a reply.

Both ladies have been asked to make special reference to our Bay in the forth-coming International Exhibition, and interest all White Ribboners in it.

Yours in the Work

MARY S. POWELL.

Wanganui, 4. 9., '06.

DEAR SISTERS IN THE WORK,—

Allow me to remind you that each Union of the W.C.T.U. throughout the colony should send the nominations for *each officer* of the N. Z. Executive to the Editor of the WHITE RIBBON paper before the 6th of next October. These officers are:—N.Z. President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer. These nominations will then be considered at the forth-coming Convention in Christchurch.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours sincerely,

EMMA L. MOODY BELL.

Y.W.C.A., Dunedin,
Sept. 6th, 1906.

Parliamentary Notes.

By MRS A. R. ATKINSON.

Parliament was opened on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 21st, with a Governor's speech of unusual brevity and modesty, containing, however, one paragraph that is eminently satisfactory:—"The question of making provision for old age pensions as well as that of a separate Endowment Fund for educational purposes and hospitals and charitable aid, is a subject of national importance, and proposals for setting aside suitable endowments for these purposes will be submitted to you." It is indeed good news that some statesmanlike and stable provision is to be made for old age pensions, instead of that payment of them out of revenue which "bad times" might render almost impossible.

The debate on the Address-in-Reply occupied Thursday and Friday, and was opened by Mr T. E. Y. Seddon, M.H.R. for Westland, seconded by Mr Poole, both of whom made a good impression on the House.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS BILL, introduced by Minister of Justice, provides special courts for children under 16 years of age, and directs police officers to report to the magistrate in regard to the

offender. It also proposes to suppress publication of such cases by the newspapers. The system is already being worked in the colony, but without the force of law. Passed 2nd reading.

HABITUAL CRIMINALS AND OFFENDERS BILL is a step in the direction of the indeterminate sentence and aims at turning the lives of those devoted to criminal pursuits into useful directions; wages according to scale to be placed to credit of the prisoner, and from time to time, as the minister may direct, to be applied to the maintenance of prisoner's wife and children (if any), balance (if any) to be paid to him on his liberation. In Committee.

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN AMENDMENT BILL.—The most interesting clause of this Bill is one forbidding the receipt of any premium with an adopted child. In Committee.

OPIUM PROHIBITION ACT AMENDMENT BILL, providing that retailers shall keep a book for entry of all purchasers' names, has passed through Committee without amendment.

PAYMENT OF JURORS BILL provides for payment to jurors of 8s per day and 4s per half day in civil cases instead of —for the case. Passed 2nd reading.

Tolerance.

The highest result of education, is tolerance. Long ago men fought and died for their faith; but it took ages to teach them the other kind of courage—the courage to recognise the faiths of their brethren, and their rights of conscience. Tolerance is the first principle of community; it is the spirit which conserves the best that all men think. No loss by flood and lightning, no destruction of cities and temples by the hostile forces of nature, has deprived man of so many noble lives and impulses, as those which his intolerance has destroyed.—*Helen Keller.*

Mr. R. H. Bligh at Work.

WANGANUI.—Mr R. H. Bligh had a most successful mission here last month. Two meetings for women and three for men were held, and Mr Bligh also addressed the various colleges and schools. The meetings for women were held under the auspices of the W.C.T.U., the chair at the Friday night meeting being occupied by Miss Powell and on Sunday afternoon by