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## THE WHITE RIBBON.

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*The White Ribbon:*

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1907.

## Woman's Work in the Home.

Surely, if slowly, is woman coming into her kingdom. Of this fact a reminder is given in the adoption by the Board of Governors of Canterbury College of Mr John Studholme's proposal to establish a chair of Home Economics. For not withstanding glib phrases concerning the importance of

woman's work and sphere, in actuality no definite standard of value has been attached to the labour of a woman on behalf of home and family. She might order her household to perfection and work her brain to the verge of distraction and her fingers to the bone in the interests of husband and children; she still ranked as a "dependent," was spoken of as being "supported" by her husband, and could claim only the barest necessities for physical existence. This most practical avowal that the manifold duties connected with the healthful upbringing of the young and the maintenance of order and cleanliness in the home are fit subjects for profound study, will do much towards giving woman in the home her rightful status. And while the wife and sister and mother in the home will thus obtain from others recognition of their work and worth, certain it is that woman herself will see an increased dignity and importance in domestic duties and will understand that household responsibilities demand for their right fulfilment careful preparation and study. Thus, apart altogether from the exertions of the lecturer or professor, the home keeping woman and her work will, through this new departure, gain both in esteem and efficiency.

## Neglect of "The State's Most Precious Asset."

A serious flaw in the Infant Life Protection Act has recently been brought under public notice in Christchurch. At the inquiry held concerning the death of an infant nine months old, an inmate of a licensed house, evidence showed that the keeper of the house had four children under her care. Fifteen persons altogether lived in the house, the only domestic

assistance being given by two sons. The Act contains no proviso limiting the number of infants that may be placed in charge of one person, and the jury very naturally voiced its opinion that an amendment to the Act in that direction was necessary. The same case also revealed the fact that the inspection of such licensed homes is of a most superficial character. The child had slept with two older children in an attic containing less than 300 cubic feet of air space, whereas each child should have at least 500 cubic feet. The inspector said that inspectorship was part of her duties as police matron, and that it would take two women to properly carry out the inspection. The whole case points to the fact that these poor little waifs, hitherto supposed to be safeguarded by the Act, are at present liable to most cruel and criminal neglect.

## The New Councillors.

Sir Joseph Ward has always favoured the bi-cameral system of government, and the Legislative Council has been granted a new lease of life in the appointment of fourteen new members. Of these, three are farmers, three are lawyers, two are labour leaders, one is a doctor, one a journalist, one a manufacturer, one a merchant. The list is completed by Mr Wi Pere, formerly member for the Eastern Maori District, and by Mr Hamilton Gilmer, a Wellington brewer and hotelkeeper. We have heard of most of the others in some public capacity, but we do not remember hearing anything of Mr Gilmer before. Doubtless a conscientious effort has been made to represent all classes, and in the nature of things, the class which Mr Gilmer stands for now demands a negative rather than a positive order of qualifications. On the whole, the appointments seem calculated to make for good solid government, if they do not in a body inspire any great enthusiasm. Giants, unlike the poor, are not always with us. But such men as Mr J. T. Paul, Mr C. M. Luke, Mr John Barr and Mr G. J. Smith may be