

THE WHITE RIBBON.

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The White Ribbon :

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15 1907.

A WOMEN'S EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition of Women's Work, which Lady Northcote has just opened in Melbourne, is a unique enterprise south of the Line, and the Commonwealth has gone into it with astonishing heartiness; in fact, the scope and magnitude of the exhibition has far surpassed the most sanguine dreams of its promoters. A more timely and apropos undertaking there could not be, in view of the fact that the real problem of the industrial world to-day is woman's true position in it. If woman is to continue neither fish nor flesh in the matter of her work, if she has to go on doing man's work on boy's wages, an actual breadwinner under the guise of an irresponsible amateur, it will be necessary to convince the best men of our time that her work is as essentially inferior as it is tacitly assumed to be. And this exhibition will make it extremely hard for the visionary Conservative to make out his traditional case. There is not a seemly form of athletics omitted from the physical culture department, not a phase of technical and art work unrepresented, and, most convincing of all, the domestic and the scientific have been blended with signal success in the children's department, including the model

nurseries, accommodating 50 babies at a time, which department will give valuable lectures and demonstrations on the lines of Infant Life Preservation. Seeing that every State in the Commonwealth has had thousands of women at work for months, and that the Government has given valuable assistance through the Education and Railway Departments, the influx of visitors will be great, and the permanent results cannot fail to be great also. New Zealand has taken no national part in the Exhibition, but it has sent over private specimens of art work, such as the hand-made books of Miss Ettie Rout, of Christchurch. Also, the Wellington Museum authorities are responsible for an interesting exhibit of Maori women's work.

J.M.

THE MAORIS AND THE DRINK TRAFFIC.

In a letter which appears on another page, Miss Hera Stirling voices a feeling that is steadily growing among the educated members of the Maori race. They see the havoc which the drink is making among their fellows through the agency of unscrupulous white men, and naturally feel that they should have the right to record their vote against the traffic. They see the members of other dark-skinned races—negroes, foreigners—recording their votes, while they, the original owners of the country, are debarred from a like privilege. Of course, to give all Maoris votes would, in many districts, simply be playing into the hands of the liquor dealers, and sanctioning the wholesale ruin of this easily-moved people. The protection of native races is one of the main planks in the platform of tem-

perance reformers. The right solution of the problem it is not easy to see. Certainly the question is one that merits the most careful consideration of Maori students and legislators, and their pakeha friends.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Nominations for New Zealand W. C. T. U. Officers.—Only two Unions (Kaiapoi and New Plymouth), have as yet sent in nominations for N. Z. officers. Each of these Unions wishes to reinstate the ladies at present holding office—viz., Mrs Cole, President; Miss A. Webb, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Powell, Recording Secretary; and Miss McCarthy, Treasurer.

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New Union at Riverton.—During her journeyings in the South of the Dominion, Miss Murcutt organised a branch of the W.C.T.U. at Riverton. Forty-five ladies gave in their names as members, and the officers are: President, Mrs Gray; Vice-President, Mrs Foston; Secretary, Miss Borland. We congratulate the Riverton friends on the formation of so strong a Union, and wish them speedy and permanent success in their work.

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The Ashburton W.C.T.U. and the Band Contest.—Under the superintendency of Mrs Lill, the Ashburton Union last month most wisely launched out in a new direction by entertaining the visiting bandsmen during the band contest in that no-license town. The expense was, of course, considerable, but the greater part was met by gifts in kind and money collected by Mrs Lill, and the balance (some £15) was, we understand, met by one of God's good stewards, who had guaranteed to make good any deficiency. Mrs Lill says: "We entertained them for the honour of our town. We knew the other side would try to make them drunk and then say no-license is no good, so the Union took it up." It is safe to say that, whatever their drinking proclivities, those visiting musicians will henceforth cherish a warmer feeling for W.C.T.U. work and workers.