

in the war against drink it has surely been given by the events of the present holiday season. In Christchurch, even the daily papers felt constrained to comment on the number of drunken young men to be seen in the streets, while from all parts of the Dominion has come news of suicide, manslaughter, rioting, and crime and evil of all description on both land and sea, as the direct result of the traffic in alcohol.

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The Possibilities of Drawing-room Meetings.—We sincerely hope that note will be taken of the Napier Union's report this month. Fifty new members have been gained, chiefly through the agency of drawing-room meetings. There is no surer way of arousing and deepening interest in the many-sided work of the W.C.T.U. than by wisely organised gatherings in private homes.

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Miss Agnes Slack in India.—During the latter part of 1907, Miss Slack, World's W.C.T.U. Secretary, was on tour in India, and from the Rev. Dr Mansell we have received a lengthy and interesting account of her visit to Bareilly, an important city, and the seat of a large military garrison. Miss Slack visited many of the native homes, and gained an insight into the need for and possibilities of Zenana work. A splendid opportunity for temperance work was given, and splendidly utilised, in connection with an At Home given by General and Mrs Spens. Miss Slack was invited to give an address, and her words made a deep impression on the officers and their wives. Many members and honorary members were gained for the W.C.T.U. during her visit.

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A Dearth of Nurses.—The Inspector-General of Hospitals, Dr. Valentine, reports that one of the principal difficulties in connection with the hospitals of the Dominion is the lack of nurses. So many occupations are now open to women that they do not come forward so readily for hospital service. Hospital Boards are therefore arranging that probationers must serve four years instead of three.

Prohibition in Finland.—According to reports received, the Finnish Parliament has been most thorough in its measures dealing with the drink traffic. Except for medical and technical purposes, the importation and production of spirits is absolutely forbidden, and a non-alcoholic beverage must be used for the sacrament.

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The W.C.T.U. in the United States.—The annual Convention of the U.S.A. W.C.T.U. was held in Nashville, Tenn., the meeting place being the First Presbyterian Church, a fine old building, which in 1863 was filled with beds holding 600 sick and wounded soldiers "wearing the blue and the grey." The only woman nurse among the sufferers was Mary Jeanett Telford, a white ribboner who has but recently passed away. The Convention "put itself on record as overwhelmingly opposed to limiting the term of service of the National officers."

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Sisters,—

Allow me to remind you that, according to an amendment of the constitution made some years ago no member of Convention has more than one vote. Every year each New Zealand officer is asked, by branches unable to send a delegate, to act as their proxy. Now, if she accepted this position, she would have to relinquish her own vote, and, perhaps, cast one quite at variance with her own views. The members of the Convention are as follow:—The four New Zealand officers: V.P. at large (Mrs Atkinson), Editors and Business Manager of "White Ribbon," and New Zealand Superintendents of Departments, with the officers of district Unions, all of whose names will be found upon pages 14 and 15 of the last Convention number. So it is useless to apply to any of the above to act as proxy. If those branches which cannot send a delegate will apply to me I will do my best to provide one. For conditions re delegates and proxies, see official corre-

spondence in November and December issues. We hope to have a large number of delegates at the Convention. This is especially desirable in election year.

Secretaries will please note that all Union reports go to Miss Webb, Acting Corresponding Secretary. Reports of departments should be forwarded to the New Zealand President. Several Secretaries have sent nominations for New Zealand officers to me; these should go to the "White Ribbon."

With all loving New Year's greetings.

Yours for the Cause,

M. S. POWELL,
N.Z. Recording Secy.

To Local Treasurers.

Waihao Downs
January 6, 1908.

Dear Sisters,—

It is very necessary that all local treasurers who have not yet done so should send in immediately capitation for 1908, and balance-sheet for 1907, and please fill in clearly the name of your Union, and how many members you are paying capitation for. Those local treasurers who have not a receipt-book for capitation may procure one on application to the New Zealand Treasurer. Each book of forms lasts twenty years, and costs 1s 2d posted. With many thanks to those treasurers who have simplified my work by promptly sending in required data, and kind regards to all,

I am,

Yours in the work,
MARY McCARTHY,
Hon. Treas., N. W.C.T.U.

The ten commandments were not intended to abridge the liberties of God's children. They are a fence to shut us out from paths that would certainly lead the soul into bondage.—Timothy Prescott.

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Be not disturbed about the future, for if ever you come to it you will have the same reason for your guide which preserves you at present.

—Marcus Aurelius.