

A very enjoyable evening was spent. At the close temperance literature was distributed. After expenses were paid £2 4s. remained for our Treasury.

HUTT.

At the monthly meeting Mrs. Keay, President, occupied the chair. After the preliminaries, Mesdames Hart and Jansen were elected Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Ballintyne, an old and esteemed member, was accepted as a life member of the Union. During August a "Medal Contest" will be held, great interest being evinced among the contestants. Mrs. Chatfield reported that papers had been sent to the different lighthouses, &c. Mrs. Ledbrook, an energetic worker who is about to visit Christchurch, was asked to convey greetings to our sisters in the Cathedral City. A paper entitled "Awards and Punishment," by Miss McCarthy, was read. It was agreed to invite Mrs. Harrison Lee to address a meeting at the Hutt. Our numbers are increasing, one new member was initiated. On the whole things are improving under our esteemed and energetic President.

TIMARU.

Our monthly meeting was held on 14th July. The usual report of the Sailors' Rest was read from Mr. Stead, 218 visits being recorded. A letter from Mrs. Upton, urging evangelistic work among the poor, hospitals, &c., was read. Two Delegates were appointed for the coming Covention to be held in Christchurch. Mesdames Targus and Scott were appointed to interview the stationmaster for permission to place literature in the ladies' waiting-room.

The monthly meeting was held on August 4th in the Y.M.C.A. rooms, Mrs. Scott presided. Mr. Stead reported a quiet month, 70 sailors taking advantage of the comforts of the Rest. The "Waimate" is expected for a few days stay, so the ladies are preparing a social evening for the "boys." A report was read of the Conference recently held in Wellington.

MASTERTON.

A "Drawing-room" meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Millar, the President in the chair. Mrs. Tobias Millar was appointed Superintendent of Literature. Musical items were given by the Misses Elliott and Millar. Mr. J. Bridges gave a short address, which was both encouraging and helpful. Afternoon tea was provided by Mrs. Millar, to whom a vote of thanks was accorded.

A large and enthusiastic meeting of members and friends was held at the residence of Mrs. Buttle, Mrs. Green, President, occupied the chair. Mrs. Burton was elected Superintendent of Evangelistic Work and Mrs. O. Prugel Superintendent of Anti-Gambling. Musical items and recitations were contributed by Mrs. Te Tau, Misses Daniels, Bennington, and Squires. The Rev. J. N. Buttle, in a few well-chosen words, urged all to do their best to uphold the motto of the Union "For God, Home, and Humanity." A vote of thanks was given to Mrs. Buttle, who provided afternoon tea.

LITERATURE DEPARTMENT.

Mrs. Hughes, N.Z. Superintendent, can now supply the new leaflet on "Sabbath Observance," price 10d. per 100. She has also a supply of Miss Willard's book, "Do Everything."

NEW LADIES' REST-ROOM AT NEW PLYMOUTH.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

It was a happy moment for the Committee when the last touches were put to the pretty room that had been set apart by the Borough Council for the Ladies' Rest-room in the new Carnegie Free Library which was opened on June 24th. They were happy in the thought that the Council had learned to value the good intentions of the wearers of the white bow, and had invited them to take charge of the new room when the old one should be vacated; and proud, justly proud, of the result of the thought and labour which they had put into furnishing it. It is indeed a dainty and pleasant room to rest in, with its fine, sunny windows looking out on the sea. A thick cork carpet softens the tread. Near the entrance door is the reading-table covered with a handsome cloth, spread with the most up-to-date Temperance and other literature. A writing-table, furnished with everything necessary, stands between the sunny windows, and over it hangs, as in benediction, the picture of our beloved Frances Willard. A large screen in green and gold shuts off a secluded table where sandwiches and other refreshments brought in may be eaten. All about are chairs of various kinds, some with cushions and some without; the rattan lounge, finished off with frilled amber-coloured cushions, gives a decidedly home-like finish to the whole. The windows are draped in cream Madras muslin; pictures and temperance charts hang on the walls; ferns and flowers grace the tables; and on the opening day our banner proclaimed the fact that the W.C.T.U. held a corner in one of the most public buildings in town. At the opposite end from the entrance a door leads into a toilet-room, which is also furnished with the most refined taste. Clean towels, soap, sponges, brushes, combs, pins, needles, thimbles, scissors, cottons, buttons, and tapes, are provided by the Committee free of charge. Of course there are contribution boxes in the rooms, and the expenses are met by the contents, as a rule. The Council have generously installed an electric radiator to warm and brighten the room on dull days, and helped with the furnishing to the extent of £10. In his opening address the Mayor spoke words of praise of the ladies who would care for the room, and asked a generous support from

the public. On the opening day the Council also granted the Union the free use of the former reading-room for an afternoon tea-room, the returns from which augmented the funds for furnishing. The Mayor and Mayoress and Councillors and their wives were our invited guests to tea, and on leaving, Mr. Tisch (the Mayor) gave the Committee £1, to show his personal sympathy with us in our work.

That the rest-room is a great comfort to tired mothers with children, and indeed to all who visit it, cannot be questioned; but what it is to us in our work, our alert Secretary, who makes it a means to an end, only can tell.

NAPIER DISTRICT CONVENTION.

The first session was held in St. Paul's Schoolroom on Wednesday morning, August 5th, at 10.30. Mrs. Oldham, who occupied the chair, opened the meeting with prayer, followed by Mrs. H. Lee reading a passage of scripture. The president welcomed the visitors from Waipukurau, Waipawa and Hastings. Addressing the meeting, she explained the definite work that had been done by the union in the past.

Several superintendents of departments gave their reports, to which the president spoke.

The Maori work was discussed, and correspondence was read from Miss Barton, the New Zealand superintendent.

Miss Stirling spoke of her work amongst her people. She argued that the Government ought to take steps to have the girls taught the love of home and the beautifying of it. If a house could be procured, with a capable lady in charge, dressmaking could be carried on and housekeeping properly taught. Miss Stirling also made mention of the fact that her heart was sore to see her country women, especially in Hastings, so much under the influence of drink. In Paki Paki 12 Maori women had become converted, and were anxious to take their stand for temperance. At Moteo and Tangoio, too, the work was increasing. In Wairoa they were anxious to form a union amongst themselves. A petition signed by about 4000 natives, asking for local option had been presented to the Premier during the Maori Congress recently held in Wellington.