

Unions will set about relieving those responsible for the production of the WHITE RIBBON, of any worry of a financial nature.

Crowded Out.

Last year we were obliged to omit several reports of Unions from the Convention number, and publish them in the following issue. In consequence some of our friends felt injured, and remonstrated indignantly. This year we have decided to print all the reports of Unions, but cannot, although small type has been used, and four extra pages added, find room for all the Departmental Reports. Those left out, and which will be published next month, are: — Unfermented Wine, Literature, Relief Work, Influencing the Press, Mother's Meetings, Legal and Parliamentary. We trust that the Superintendents of those Departments will judge us more leniently than did some of those friends last year.

DISTRICT UNIONS.

AUCKLAND.

During Mrs Harrison Lee's Mission 194 new pledges were taken. 27 ordinary meetings, open to the public, have been held, and since September Open Air meetings have been held at the Fire Bell, Queen and Grey Streets. These have been superintended by our energetic President, assisted by members and friends, who gave addresses and distributed literature. Six classes for Bible instruction are held in three schools—Ponsonby, Richmond, and Bayfield. They are conducted by four young ladies and prizes are given by the Union. One class for juvenile work has been effectively managed by Miss Hewson, thirty little ones attending Saturday afternoons and receiving instruction in needlework and the principles of Temperance. Social purity meetings have been held and suitable literature judiciously distributed. The Literature department has been very active and has distributed literature in boxes at Railway stations, on tables in waiting rooms, in trains, in the Kiosk at the Exhibition, at the close of religious and temperance meetings, as well as from house to house. Several parcels have also been sent out to country districts. A Home meeting was held at Ponsonby, Miss Hughes giving a capital address. Our meetings are always advertised and reported. Legal and Parliamentary work has been attended to during the year, also educational work. The Kiosk at the Exhibition brought us in the sum of £31. On Election

day a refreshment booth was opened opposite the polling booth by members living in Ponsonby.

DEVONPORT.—Twenty-nine members. Eight ordinary and eight public meetings. Literature regularly distributed from house to house and in boats. Mrs Harrison Lee's visit was a decided spur to our Union. In connection with No License work, we felt the need of assistance on many business and legal points. We therefore took steps toward the formation of a League, thereby gaining the help of our gentleman friends. It was with regret that, in September last, we said good-bye to our President, Mrs Malcolm.

HAMILTON.—Thirty-two members. Sixteen ordinary meetings. Literature widely distributed. Hospital visited and flowers and texts given to patients. We are also trying to persuade the storekeepers to stock Unfermented Wine.

ONEHUNGA.—Twenty-four members. Twelve ordinary meetings. Good work done and Literature freely distributed.

WAIHI.—Fortnightly meetings. Twelve members. Several public meetings, assisted by Prohibition and Temperance leagues. Also a Temperance tea meeting, when Mr Dewdney, of Thames, gave a very stirring address. Revs L. M. and F. Isitt also gave lectures. Distribution of literature from house to house.

GISBORNE.

Our membership has increased from 31 to 51 which is largely due to Mrs Harrison Lee's visit. The great work of the year has been the establishment of Coffee, Free Reading, and Recreation Rooms. The Union divided the town into districts and thoroughly canvassed for the Local Option Poll. A large amount of literature was distributed. Special Bible-readings on the "Duties of Citizens," and "Our Responsibilities as Women," and kindred subjects were held, while several members read papers of an educational nature.

NAPIER.

Napier reports an increase of 18 members. Home meetings have been successfully held under Mrs Leask's superintendence. The Hospital has been regularly visited. During Mrs Harrison Lee's visit a packed meeting of Women was held in the Theatre under the auspices of the Union. In July Mrs Troy organised a Young People's Temperance Union in Tacadale, with a membership of 30. These helped to distribute literature before the Election. Napier was thoroughly canvassed and just before the Election a monster procession of children went through the streets, winding up with a public meeting, and a show of banners made by the children. Prizes for the best banners were given by the Union.

ORMONDVILLE.—It is not found possible to hold regular meetings in Ormondville, as the few members are widely scattered, but the President, Mrs Wills, and the Secretary, Miss Patterson, do what they can in visiting and distributing literature.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

New Plymouth has been actively engaged during the year. By permission of the Minister of Justice one member visits the female prisoners in the Gaol, and has helped three women when released. A maternity bag circulates, and the Superintendent of this department has had pleasure in giving a dainty

suit of short clothes to each baby. Railway work has been carried on, two dozen copies of *On the Line*, given by the generosity of Mr S. B. White, and Mrs Copeland, have been circulated among Railway men. (This paper is the official journal of the United Kingdom Railway Temperance Union, and can be procured from 4, The Sanctuary, Westminster, London, S.W.) A box for literature is placed at the Station. Rescue work is also done. A great deal of hard work was done before the Local Option Poll. Literature was "sown knee-deep."

WAITARA.—Waitara supplies literature to Sailor's Rest, and invites frequenters to Sunday services, and has a box at the Railway Station. It also circulates a maternity bag, and supplies clothing to poor families. It fought successfully for 10 o'clock license, and has distributed thousands of leaflets in adjoining districts.

TARIKI.—Work is taken up in the Evangelistic, Hygiene and Food Reform, Literature and Relief Departments.

MIDHURST.—This Union is in a very flourishing condition. The membership has increased from 32 to 56, being now the 6th in point of membership. The real strength of this Union is the number of praying women in its ranks. Fortnightly meetings have been held in the bye-roads. During the year we have had every Temperance speaker available, and have had some splendid meetings.

STRATFORD.—Stratford, with 47 members, takes 42 numbers of the WHITE RIBBON. Work is done in a number of departments.

PUNGAREHU—has held no meetings during the year, and collected no fees, but a new Secretary has been appointed (the former one having left the district) and it is hoped that the Union will do good work in the future.

NGAIRE—has sent no report.

WANGANUI.

Hospital visited, leaflets given to patients. A special effort during the year was a meeting for Women, addressed by members and friends, of the Union on the following subjects:—"The Mother the Maker of the Nation," "The Need for the Co-operation of Women in all efforts for the Uplifting of the Race," "Illegitimacy." Mrs Harrison Lee's six days' mission was highly satisfactory. Juvenile work is taken up and classes held every Saturday afternoon. Twenty-eight garments have been made and taken home during the year, besides a patchwork quilt which is doing good service in a needy home. Bible reading and prayer are never omitted at these meetings. A large quantity of literature has been distributed and our meetings reported in the local paper, and WHITE RIBBON. Poor and needy families have been helped with clothing. A maternity bag has been provided and has proved of great value.

TURAKINA.—Four public meetings have been held, addressed by Miss Kirk and Rev. N. J. Comrie. A Loyal Temperance Legion, with twenty-five members, is successfully worked, assistance being given by Mr N. McDonald. Scientific Temperance instruction is given. Meetings are reported in local paper.

HAWERA.

Our chief work has been the distribution of literature. The Electoral campaign organizers having formed Liberator leagues for women, no pledge required of members, it was found necessary to give up our monthly meetings for some months and to work up for the Election