

the interview. It would dwindle down to an uninteresting autobiography, as I couldn't very well give you an outline of my experiences on entering practice. You can understand, then, how I would have to confine myself to platitudes. . . . You may think that all this is Pharisaical on my part. There is nothing I like to read better than interviews with folk of note, but as I don't consider myself in this category, I dread the interviewer's dissecting pen." As I read her letter, however, the desire to make the acquaintance at least of Dr. Cruickshank grew upon me, and in response to her telegram, "Sorry to decline 'interview,' otherwise glad to see you," I journeyed to Waimate, confident that if I got no "copy" for our paper I should be amply rewarded by speaking face to face with a woman who, whatever her ability, had not lost the charm of modesty.

I need scarcely say that I was not disappointed. The few hours I spent with Dr. Cruickshank were bright and full of interest. Although she adhered to her refusal to be regularly interviewed, I was successful in gaining her consent to the printing of her portrait, with a few explanatory notes in our paper. One pleasing fact that was specially dwelt upon by Dr. Cruickshank was the absence of anything like hostility to women practitioners among the medical men of the colony. "Both in my student and professional life," said Dr. Cruickshank, "I have met with nothing but kindness, courtesy, and help from my teachers and brother practitioners, and I hope that I may never give them cause to treat me otherwise."—K.W.S

## NEWS OF THE UNIONS

[We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

### Blenheim.

At our annual meeting all the officers were re-elected, and two new members were enrolled. Miss Kirk spent a fortnight in this district, lecturing to fairly good houses. On the day of her arrival the members of the Union and her friends spent a pleasant social hour with her at the Good Templars' Hall.

### Colyton.

At a meeting held on March 8, arrangements were made for sending a parcel of goods to the needy in South Africa, and the President read to us the booklet, "A Safe Castle." On the 22nd a large gathering assembled at the house of Mrs Wilson, when it was decided to send a contribution towards the presentation to be made to our N.Z. Recording Secretary on her approaching marriage. It was also decided to spend £1 on books for library. The meeting then took the form of a "Farewell" to our President, Mrs Pudney, who is leaving for England.

### Gisborne.

At the annual meeting the Secretary's report showed that during the year twenty new members had joined us, partly as a result of Mrs Harrison Lee's Mission. A Coffee-room, combined with Free Reading and Recreation Room, has been opened, filling the much felt need of a place, other than a hotel, where working men can spend their leisure hours. The Reading-room is well patronised, but the opening expenses have been heavy, and we are relying on our members to gather in the necessary funds. Last year's officers were unanimously re-elected, and our Secretary, Miss Morice, was appointed as delegate to Convention.

### Hamilton.

Our late Secretary, Mrs Merrington, having resigned, owing to pressure of business, thanks were accorded her for the earnest and able discharge of her duties. Mrs T. Maunder has been asked to take the vacated office. We are trying to procure a copy of the Constitution for each of our thirty members. Literature is still being widely distributed, and is much appreciated. Owing to the many claims on our members' time our meetings are now held monthly instead of fortnightly.

### Napier.

A memorial meeting for the late Miss Willard was held in St. Paul's school-room on February 9. The chair was taken by the Rev Mr Asher, who also gave a short eulogistic address. The Rev Mr Parsonson followed, and spoke of the example and stimulus afforded by such a noble career. Music, vocal and instrumental, added to the interest of the gathering.

### Winton.

On February 7th Mrs Baird gave a very interesting address on "Hereditry,"

but as a number were disappointed at not being present she has promised to speak on the same subject at our next meeting, which is to be held at the Manse. A copy of "The Life of Miss Willard" has been procured for the use of the members.

### Woolston.

At the annual meeting of our newly formed Union, much satisfaction was expressed with the financial position. An interesting chat over the various workers' experiences followed. A W.C.T.U. picnic, held at Sumner, was attended by almost forty persons and proved most enjoyable.

### Wellington.

On March 1st the Union welcomed our delegate (Mrs Boxall) on her return from Convention, but it was arranged to abridge the report and hold a social evening the first Thursday in April, in the Newton Girls' Association rooms. In reference to the rooms it is cause for thankfulness that on March 14 we expect to conclude the payment of first mortgage. That being accomplished, we shall have a sum of £40 to raise in repayment to friends who kindly lent us that sum without interest. After that is paid we shall have £450 at 5 per cent. to pay, but rent of cottage will pay the interest on this, so we may devote our energies to reducing main debt. We feel encouraged by past success to hope for speedy release from all debts. The classes held in the rooms are doing good work, and fully justify our venture. We are regretting the loss of one of our members, Mrs John Fulton; she has lived in the cottage and taken great interest in the girls, who are much attached to her.

### Leeston

Held their fourth anniversary on March 29, in the Public Hall, which was arranged as a drawing-room. The stage was beautifully decorated with pot plants, toi-toi, raupo flax, evergreens, and national flags. Miss Willard's photograph occupied a prominent place, draped with yellow and white, and the American flag. On the platform were the officers of the Union, and Revs Leonard Isitt, W. Grant, and C. Griffin, and Ensign Dixon. Pianoforte solos by the Misses Osborne and Miss Ada Barnett were played while the friends gathered. After a hymn, Ensign Dixon engaged in prayer. The President welcomed all friends, and the Secretary read an encouraging report of the year's work, and was followed by our Treasurer, whose report showed a small credit balance. Our worthy