

that has been used by her comrade as held in loving trust by her; not only to be cared for, but to be used for the work that both have done so much to accomplish.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL COUNCIL.—A recent number of the *Woman's Journal*, Boston, acknowledges receipt of the printed minutes and proceedings of the last annual meeting of the N.Z. Women's National Council. It expresses great sympathy with the progressive ideals set forth in the papers read, and remarks that the N.Z. women are striving for the same things that representative American women are anxious to obtain. It publishes Mrs Sievwright's paper on "Women's Disabilities" in full, eulogising the spirit of the paper.

ANOTHER FRIENDLY CRITIC.—The *Australian Herald* (a monthly paper, published in Melbourne by the Rev. Charles Strong, D.D.), devotes some space in its September issue to a notice of the printed proceedings of the last annual meeting of the Council. After setting forth the objects of the Council, and giving a list of the subjects discussed and papers read, it says:—"Women in New Zealand seem to be very much alive. Their example, we hope, will stir up the more sluggish Victorians, who are too much inclined to hug their chair, or apathetically smile." Under the heading of "Parents' column," an abstract of the paper on "Parental responsibility" read by Mrs Tasker, before the Council, appears. All this is encouraging, and would help us in New Zealand immensely, if every woman who reads this paragraph would ask herself, in all earnestness, "Am I as much alive as I ought to be?"

KAIAPOI COFFEE ROOMS.—With the proceeds from the sale of work recently held by the Union at Kaiapoi, the coffee rooms have been re-roofed and decorated afresh, and it has been arranged that the re-opening shall take place on Thursday, October 25th, at 3 p.m. The opening ceremony will be performed by Richard Evans, Esq. The undisposed-of goods from the former sale will be offered to purchasers during the afternoon and evening, and refreshments will be provided. An attractive programme is arranged for the evening, and it is hoped that as many members of the neighbouring

Unions as find it possible, will attend. The admission will be 6d.

THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.—Through the courtesy of Commissioner General Peck and the active interest of Mrs Potter Palmer, Mrs May Wright Sewall, President of the International Council, had the privilege of offering a room in the United States Pavilion at the Paris Exhibition to be used as headquarters by the International Council. An Executive meeting was held, at which Mrs Sewall presided, and representatives were present from various countries. The reports showed conclusively that the Council idea is spreading, the N.C. of Italy making formal application for affiliation with the International. Greece, Russia, and Austria are also organising. Further information concerning this meeting will be published in a future issue.



IN PARLIAMENT.

The most remarkable feature of Parliamentary proceedings during the month has been the sudden decision to include the Cook Islands within the boundaries of the colony. Whatever views may be held as to the wisdom of this decision, there can be no doubt as to its importance.

There has been the usual "slaughter of the innocents," many Bills that contain needed reforms being dropped or discharged. Among them are the Young Persons Protection, Shop Assistants, Absolute Majority Vote, Lunatic Asylums Board of Enquiry, Elective Executive, Totalisator Abolition. It is somewhat amazing that members who, at their election, declare that they are in favour of these measures, should agree to see them shelved without a protest. There is no reason why the sessions should come to a close until the public business is completed. The

New Licensing Bill

passed its first reading amid strong protests, as Government refused to disclose its provisions. The Bill has since been printed and circulated, and seems to be in the direction of destroying Local Option. The licensing districts of the colony are nine in number, and the boundaries are those of the old provinces. A Referendum is to be taken on the question as to whether the licenses shall be for six or three years.

Licensing matters in the King Country are to remain as at present until a Royal Commission has reported thereon.

The Premier has introduced an Opium Prohibition Bill.

The Legislative Council and the House of Representatives are not in accord with regard to some of the clauses of the

Public Health Bill.

The Press reports do not make clear the provisions of this Bill with regard to vaccination. It appears, however, that vaccination is made compulsory, but, apparently as a concession to conscientious objectors, persons are not to be doubly fined for the same offence.

The Testators' Family Estate Bill has been passed by the Upper House.

The Industrial Schools Bill

is occupying the attention of the Lower Chamber, and there is a strong feeling that the children should not be allowed to be committed to other than State schools.

W.C.T.U. Annual Convention.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The ninth Annual Convention of the W.C.T.U. of Western Australia was opened on August 20th at the Leisure Hour Clubrooms, Hay-street, Perth. It was the largest yet held in the colony, and was opened under circumstances never enjoyed before, as, since their last annual meeting, the enfranchisement of the women of their colony had become an accomplished fact.

Mrs Clark, the Corresponding Secretary, read her report, which was most encouraging, and, considering the membership for the whole colony is only 419, exclusive of honorary members, it is remarkable what the Union has accomplished. Preventive, Rescue and Legislative work has been vigorously carried on, and several Y Unions have been formed. The respect in which the Union is held is evidenced by the fact that several columns in the daily papers are devoted to the reports of their Convention proceedings; two lengthy leaders, on the whole favourable to the aims of the Union, being published in one paper at least during their sessions.

A deputation of twenty ladies waited upon Sir John Forrest, the Premier, to urge—(1) the provision of an Inebriates' Retreat; (2) that the age of