

Will those members who have charge of petition forms please make a special note of this.

THE "WHITE RIBBON."—During the discussion on our official organ, the Business Manager asked that 600 new subscribers might be gained, which, she said, would put the paper on a sound financial footing. Many present guaranteed new subscribers, but nothing approaching the number asked for. Convention recommended that the larger Unions should advertise their days and hours of meeting, also the names of their officers, in the WHITE RIBBON, at the rate of £1 per annum (the advertisement to appear each month), the smaller Unions to advertise more briefly at 10s. per annum. It was suggested, also, that steps should be taken by members to get the proprietors of Temperance Hotels and Coffee Palaces to advertise in the WHITE RIBBON. This would not only help financially, but would be useful to Temperance workers when travelling. It will, of course, be understood that only those hotels and boarding-houses which can be recommended for cleanliness and comfort should be asked to advertise. It is sincerely to be hoped that all members will do their very best to adopt these suggestions, and so assist in making their paper a success in every way.

A NOTE OF SADNESS.—While Convention was sitting the sad tidings reached us that Mrs. Wood, wife of the Rev. Mr. Wood, and President of the Masterton W.C.T.U., had passed away. A resolution that a letter of sympathy should be sent to Mr. Wood by the Secretary was carried by a silent vote, the members standing. An "In Memoriam" paragraph is to be found below.

In Memoriam.

It is with feelings of the greatest sorrow that we have to record the tidings of the death of Mrs Wood, of Masterton. Mrs Wood was the wife of the Rev. R. Wood of that town, and President of the local Union.

Our dear friend and co-worker was connected with the Union as an active member from its initiation, and by that "ornament of a meek and quiet spirit" which was ever manifested in her life, endeared herself to all. The gap made in the Masterton Union cannot be easily filled, and the members will miss her counsel for a long time to come. At the last monthly meeting, held on April 2nd, the business was suspended, and the time devoted to expressing sorrow at the loss of the President, and sym-

pathy with Mr Wood in his great bereavement. A number of our departed sister's admirers attended the meeting, thus by their presence testifying to their appreciation of her good and faithful work.

Welcome to Convention.

The Vivian Street Baptist Sunday Schoolroom, Wellington, presented a bright and festive appearance on the afternoon of March 20, when a welcome was given to the officers and delegates who had come from various parts of the Colony to attend Convention. All that thoughtful, loving, and artistic fingers could do to beautify the Schoolroom was done; the floral decorations being really beautiful, and a gladsome sight to both Convention members and visitors. The New Zealand W.C.T.U. flag was in evidence, which, with festoons of "The Ribbon White" proclaimed the nature of the occasion.

The day was not one of the most sunny, yet in spite of the threatening clouds, a goodly number assembled to greet the W.C.T.U. workers.

Mrs Kirk, President of the inviting Union, took the chair, and among others, Mrs Schnackenberg, our New Zealand President, and Mrs Barnett, Vice-President of the Wellington Union, took their seats on the platform. Mrs Kirk, in a graceful and telling speech, welcomed those present, expressing a hope that the coming week would be both pleasant and useful. She thought that our membership should be trebled, and if each member did her part that result would be easily accomplished. Like Lord Kitchener, the Union wanted Contingents in New Zealand, not wearers of khaki, but of the White Ribbon. Every woman should feel her responsibility. She welcomed among them that day a number of the "lords of creation," including the Mayor of Wellington, who was a life-long abstainer, and a living proof that total abstinence was no disadvantage to a man in the way of physical as well as mental power.

The Mayor (Mr J. G. W. Aitken), in expressing pleasure at being present, said his life-long abstinence was due to his mother's teaching, which had carried him safely through many temptations. He hoped that the Convention would impart to the temperance cause an impetus that would be felt from Russell to the Bluff. He referred feelingly to the death of the Queen and considered that her successful reign was proof to the world that woman was capable of taking any position offered her. In connection with the war, he deplored the fact that the development of Militarism had been accompanied by an outburst of drinking, and derided the courage that had to be sustained by beer.

Mr A. R. Atkinson, M. H. R., said that in a democracy, the temperance cause, to be successful, must not only have merit, but also votes behind it. Their object should be moral suasion, and votes duly registered at the ballot box.

Dr Newman, in an interesting address, said that he had noted several proofs of the decline of the drinking habit, and this was due to temperance organisation. Reformers should never be discouraged by checks. The temperance party should unite more closely than ever before if it expected to win.

The Rev C. Dallaston quoted Professor Drummond in saying that every atom could act upon every other atom in the universe, but it could only do so by acting upon the atom next it. That was a text for temperance workers.

The Rev F. W. Isitt said that at the beginning of the new Century, Prohibition was in a better position than it had ever been. The chief danger was the mistaken idea of State control. There was nothing in the reproach that Prohibition had failed in the King Country, because any spirit merchant could send his whole stock into the King Country whenever he liked. If men and women would only think he would be confident of success, and he rejoiced that English statesmen had become alarmed at the extent of the drink evil confronting them.

Mrs Schnackenberg paid a loving tribute to Frances Willard, and said that the New Zealand Unions, numbering 2000 members, were trying to bring in the Kingdom of Christ.

Miss Barnett, Corresponding Secretary, felt sure that their meetings would realise their expectations of profit and enjoyment, and thanked the Wellington friends for their warm and courteous reception.

ABSTRACTS

Of the Annual Reports of District and Local Unions.

PRESENTED TO CONVENTION, MARCH, 1901.

AUCKLAND.

The membership shows a decrease owing to the transference of many members to the newly formed Ponsonby Union. In co-operation with the Prohibition League the Union successfully worked for the election of temperance members of the Licensing committee, and to combat the proposal to keep public houses open till a later hour. It was resolved to canvass for signatures to the petition for the removal of Women's Disabilities. Resolutions were forwarded to the Premier and the Auckland M.H.Rs re the Disabilities Bill, the Licensing in the King Country, Provincial Option, and extension of hours for closing public houses. A petition for the repeal of the C.D. Act was sent to both Houses of Parliament. Social purity literature was sent to the Clergy, to Grand Jurors, and the City Council. The Charitable Aid and Hospital Boards were written to re special wards for the treatment of women in certain diseases, and in conjunction with two other Women's Societies a deputation was appointed to wait on those bodies and the Hospital Medical Staff. The staff was opposed to the plan. The attention of the City Council was called to the prevalence of juvenile depravity and the Council was asked to frame a by-law on the lines of a Curfew regulation. The suggestion was favourably received and the matter is now being dealt with by the Councils' By-Law Committee.

The attention of the Proprietors of the "Herald" was called to improper portions of a story appearing in that paper. A courteous reply was received to the effect that the impropriety had not been noticed, and an assurance was given that more care would be taken in the future.

Papers on Social Purity, written by Mesdames Hughes and Daldy, were read before the Union.

A box at the Railway Station has been supplied with literature. A large amount of