

ment that I want to repeat it, and insist upon it, and to ask you if you do not think it worth while to embody it in the scheme of practical work of the Society.

First of all, then, in order to ensure the provision of counter attractions to public-houses, I think that we Temperance reformers ought to be active citizens. It cannot now be claimed for our women that they have no voice in municipal affairs, because the recent extension of the franchise is wide enough to take in most, if not all, of us. We can make our influence felt, if we will, at every local election in the colony; and in this way we can ensure that the management of our cities and towns will materially help in our work of Temperance reform. Let me try to indicate how it can be made to help. We want to make the homes of our people attractive enough to rival the public-house. We need, then, in the first place, as much open space about all the houses as can be procured. That is physiologically necessary for the strengthening of both mind and body of the dwellers in the towns. And, besides, we want room for gardens everywhere, for they afford not only pleasure to the sight, and so add to the comfort of home, but they serve to occupy the leisure time of the fathers and sons, who might be tempted, if unoccupied, to stroll to the nearest street corner to meet companions and friends, and so on, perhaps, to have a drink together. Therefore, we Temperance reformers must be warm supporters of all "Greater Wellington," "Greater Christchurch" schemes. We must endeavour to extend the benefits of city life as far as possible outside, in order that the surplus folk from the crowded city streets may be induced to move a little further out, where they may live in cottages with gardens, and grow their own fruit and vegetables and flowers, and have homes that look cheerful as they come back to them from work, and welcome them with a bright and smiling exterior. The smoke-grimed, close packed houses of some of our streets are, I am inclined to think, a direct incentive to intemperance. So we must induce as many as possible of our working people to live out in the suburbs. For this we shall want ready means of access to our ideal cottages. Not everyone can possess a bicycle, and if they could we should still want trams for the women with babies, and the halt and weak and old. So we shall have to advocate most earnestly every practicable and sound scheme for the extension of the tramway service in all directions to our suburban homes. And, of course, we want the cottages well lit, and supplied with water. So we shall have to advocate the establishment or extension and proper maintenance of a water supply, and apply our minds to the solution of the difficult problem whether the city can supply electric light better and more cheaply than private companies. For all these things add materially to the comfort and pleasure of home, and we want to make the suburban homes the pleasantest places in the world for their occupants. If I could I would lay on steam-drying apparatus in winter time to every home, too, and compel the owners of houses, by municipal regulation, to build-in washing tubs and coppers and fit up wringing machines.

Seriously, however, the relation of the municipality to the home is so close that we can only ensure really comfortable homes for our

people by active participation in municipal work.

Then we want healthy, educative occupation for the leisure hours and holidays of our people. In this colony the bulk of the working population have sixteen hours a day for eating, sleeping, and recreation. At the least that should allow of four hours for recreation. And besides this, there are Sundays and the weekly half-holidays, and the innumerable stray holidays throughout the year. We must help to provide for them. For this purpose we want public halls, with occasional entertainments of a bright and attractive kind—music, and dancing, and recitals, and dramatic performances: anything that is bright and healthy. And these entertainments must be cheap. They need not necessarily be free, for people will gladly pay a small price for entertainment. I remember that the six-penny popular concerts in Christchurch used to be thronged, until they degenerated, and the quality of the music was no longer an attraction. But the quality of our municipal entertainments will never be allowed to deteriorate. And they will not be so frequent or so wanting in variety as to lose their power to attract. And they will be given chiefly in the winter time, when the evenings cannot be spent in the garden or in the parks. And the hall in which they are given must be bright and warm and beautiful, for the people we want to help are fond of warmth and beauty as any of us. Then there should be reading rooms equally bright and attractive, with magazines and papers and books; and gymnasiums where the chief condition of instruction is regular attendance.

In the summer time we shall need plenty of parks and open spaces, and on fine holidays music will be provided in these places. Then we shall do all we can to promote horticulture. For the latter purpose it will be desirable for temperance reformers to stimulate the beautifying societies and horticultural societies, and promote their work in every possible way; for gardening is one of the best of occupations for the temperance reformer to encourage. It is absorbing, both of time and interest, and it is reproductive in every sense. Every garden, well kept, helps to make the city more beautiful, and pleasanter to live in, and every plant or flower, well grown, stimulates the gardener to grow another. And then, too, emulation plays a great part in the gardener's success. Who does not know the effect, when one owns a garden, of seeing a peculiarly beautiful flower in someone else's garden? We want one like it forthwith. And most of us have noticed, I expect, how, when one garden in a short street is particularly well kept and bright, all the other gardens smarten up almost insensibly. No gardener likes to see his next door neighbour making a better show than he. So we must endeavour to stimulate the gardening fever by promoting flower and vegetable shows, for children as well as their elders, and cottage garden competitions. What an effect it would have upon the digestions of our people if they all grew their own vegetables! And, as I suspect indigestion to be a not unfruitful source of intemperance, what an effect it would have upon the cause of temperance reform! The idea of indigestion, and the part it plays in the creation of drunkards, brings me to another, and almost more important phase of my subject, the necessity for training our housewives.

Every girl child is a possible housewife; and amongst the people who are not rich, that almost invariably means that she must, at some time or other, become the cook of the family. Judging by our performances so far, one would imagine that we believed that the art of cooking was a gift that came by nature, or else that indigestion was a thing unknown to us. Unfortunately, one does not know by instinct how to cook, and indigestion is rife amongst us. Now I feel persuaded, and the more I think of it, the more assured I feel, that almost always when a man begins to feel, without having it suggested to him, that he wants a "drink," a stimulant or reviver of some kind, it is because he feels an uncomfortable, oppressed, or unsatisfied feeling inside. We all know the kind of feeling—incipient indigestion. There should be no such feelings for active workers in between meals if the food taken then is sufficient in quantity and of good quality and well cooked. I am not imputing any blame to the housewives. Cooking is an art that does not come by nature. And very few of them are properly taught. We must endeavour to find a way to teach them, and it should not be hard to do. In most of our towns it has been begun, and we Temperance advocates should do our best to help the work. I believe that in one year, taking two or three hours a week, a girl could be taught enough to prevent her ruining her own or anyone else's digestion thereafter by her cooking. If possible, I should keep this work separate from school work, because it will be entered into by the girls with more enthusiasm and zest if it is put before them as a recreation rather than as a regular school subject.

But cooking is not the only accomplishment a housewife needs. She wants some small training in ordinary housework and laundry work. I am almost inclined to think that if you teach her cleanliness and order, that is enough. But very few of the women in our poorer homes seem to know how much quicker work can be done if it is done regularly and in a proper orderly manner. Disorder is the prime cause of trouble in a mis-managed home. I know how scornfully many women would answer me if I said so to them. But if they tried it persistently, and made their children practise it from the beginning, they would find that some degree of orderly method made the work twice as light. I know the children do cry, and the chimney sometimes does smoke, and so the dinner has to be got with a rush, and is spoiled thereby. But if the children are properly tended, washed and fed regularly, they cry much less; and the chimney doesn't smoke so much if the flues are regularly cleaned, and father isn't half so cross if the dinner is a little worse on one day in the week, provided he has it nicely served the other six. So we want to train our children, boys as well as girls, to a sense of order. The ordinary school work should help in this, and the cooking lesson would be an even greater help. But we can all of us assist, too, by training our own children, for by this example they will undoubtedly stimulate all the children they come in contact with. And wherever there are not cooking classes, we should help in establishing them, and with them we should try to establish classes for other household work. Manual classes of all other kinds will help, too, for they will all assist in the material improvement of the home, in additions to its comfort and beauty. The boy who can do a little carpentering, and is encouraged to indulge his