

the matter is finally settled. A largely attended indignation meeting was held at Newtown on the evening of March 4th, when resolutions were passed condemnatory of the decision which declared the Newtown Poll null and void, and urging an alteration of the law.

Mr Walker Interviewed.

The Rev E. Walker, the prominent prohibition organiser, on being interviewed on the licensing position at Newtown, said he considered the action of the trade would result in the winning for No-license of many thousands of votes. Conditions accepted by defeated Parliamentary candidates should not upset licensing polls, and such an overwhelming declared majority as three-fifths should be a protection against uncertainty as to the merely possible but unknown effect of irregularities. As the poll had been declared void it would be unlawful to grant licenses on or after June to sell liquor until a valid poll had been taken. The poll would require authorisation by Parliament, and should be confined to those who lawfully voted at the last poll. A universal provision of this kind, made retrospective, was the only remedy for the new conditions which had arisen. A short Act could be passed immediately on the early assembling of Parliament, including a provision for electing a Licensing Committee thereafter if necessary, beside remedying electoral anomalies and providing for a universal re-count. The demand would be repealed, for provisions had already been endorsed by the Lower, but rejected by the Upper House, including colonial option, abolishing bottle licenses and including clubs under local option.—*Press Association.*

Half-a-crown a year will procure you a copy of the WHITE RIBBON, posted direct, and you will thus be kept in touch with a large section of the thoughtful women of the colony.

Our Illustration.

We had intended that a lengthy notice of some of the work of Mrs Mary de Renzy Newton, whose portrait appears on our front page, should find place in this issue. Unfortunately, from some unknown cause, the copy is not to hand. For the present we can only say that among workers in New Zealand there have been none more devoted than Mrs Newton.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ANNUAL CONVENTION. Before the present issue of the WHITE RIBBON is distributed, Convention will have closed, and, in all probability, most of the delegates will have left, or will be about leaving, Dunedin for their respective homes. If the meetings will have proved as helpful and inspiring as we now predict, then the outcome cannot fail to give a tremendous impetus to our work.

MISS BALGARNIE.—Miss Balgarnie visited Christchurch for two days last month, and then travelled south. She intended spending a few days in the Ashburton district, after which she purposed visiting the cold lakes. Miss Balgarnie has been touring through New Zealand since the elections, and has seen a good deal of our lovely scenery.

MRS CLARKE.—Mrs Clarke left our shores on Feb. 5 for Hobart. She will attend the Tasmanian State Convention in Launceston during the second week in March, and later will continue her journey to Melbourne, where she expects to stay until after the Triennial Australasian Convention.

WORLD'S W.C.T.U.—A large number of British White Ribboners have undertaken to attend the Geneva Convention.

AUSTRALASIAN W.C.T.U. TRIENNIAL CONVENTION.—The notice of the proposed gathering is on another page of this issue. The WHITE RIBBON wishes the members a happy and useful meeting. Mrs Nicholls, President, sends a warm invitation to any N. Z. members who can attend as fraternal delegates.

A HAPPY SUGGESTION.—"One in-

terested" writes to say:—"Could not the Unions subscribe for extra copies of the WHITE RIBBON, and post them to the mayors and civic dignitaries of their respective towns and boroughs?" We think the idea a capital one, and pass it on to our members.

"BUT I SAY UNTO YOU."—Recently a story came over from India of a man guilty of murder being handed over to the relatives of his victim, who forgave him and let him go free. In England, last week, we had a case of a man who pleaded guilty and was set free by Mr Justice Darling to make arrangements for compensating the widow of the man whose death he had caused.—*Black and White*, Dec. 27, 1902.

BOOKS RECEIVED.—*Baby's Firsts*, *Almost a Man*, *Almost a Woman*, and *Teaching Truth*, all by Mary Wood Allen, M.D., 1s; *The House We Live In* (profusely illustrated), by Vesta J. Farnsworth, 4/6. The Echo Publishing Company, Limited, Melbourne. Can also be obtained at the Sanitarium Office, Cathedral Square, Christchurch. A review of these most helpful and interesting books has been prepared, but is held over for a future issue. In the meantime we can strongly recommend them to all who are interested in the education of our girls and boys.

TRAINING SHIP.—The erection of the detention yard at Burnham emphasises the urgent necessity for a training ship, so that boys who prove themselves not amenable to ordinary treatment may be placed under discipline but at the same time surrounded by such conditions as shall, in some measure at least, satisfy that craving for adventure and excitement which is so powerful for weal or woe in the life of many a lad.

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN VICTORIA.—We regret to note that the Victorian Legislative Council, in dealing with the Reform Bill, has struck out the proposal to extend the franchise to women.

UNION OF THE CHURCHES.—The overtures towards union made by the Presbyterians of New Zealand to the Wesleyan Conference recently in session in Christchurch cannot be regarded as other than a uniting of the