

We shut him (or her) up for a few weeks or months, as the case may be, without any special treatment to endeavour to combat the disease, and then let him loose, in his still abnormal condition, upon society, to bring darkness and desolation into many a life, many a home, and, saddest of all, to transmit his own depraved tendencies to a third and a fourth generation.

Those Petitions.

We have received enquiries *re* the Petitions for the Removal of Women's Disabilities. When are they to be sent in? To whom are they to be sent? We can give no information on the subject. We understand that Mrs Sheppard sent in her resignation as superintendent of the Legal and Parliamentary department to our New Zealand President some two months since, and no notification has reached us of a fresh appointment having been made. Pending the appointment, the matter is of course at a standstill, save that those in possession of petition forms may see that they are filled with signatures, and ready for use as soon as the superintendent's name is announced. The session of Parliament is close at hand, and if the pledge made at Convention is to be carried out, work in its behalf should now be in full operation.

Removal of Disabilities.

The matter of the Removal of Women's Disabilities is, we understand, this year receiving special attention not only from the N.Z. W.C.T. Union, but also from the National Council of the Women of N.Z. (to which, of course, the Union is affiliated), and a question of practical importance has arisen. Shall we draw up a Bill asking for the removal of all disabilities, or shall we specialise—take one disability only

and work for its removal? The latter course is, we believe, by many thought to be the wiser, and the suggested disability is the exclusion of women from seats in Parliament.

The executive of the National Council is, we understand, in correspondence with Mr McNab on the subject, and it is probable that he will be asked to take charge of such a Bill. Mr McNab, it will be remembered, has already proved the successful pilot of two Bills which largely affect women, the one equalising the conditions of divorce, and the "Testator's Family Maintenance," and should he take charge of a Removal of Disability Bill, we have every confidence of its safe passage.

Our Illustration.

We have much pleasure in presenting our readers with the portrait of Mrs Page, President of the Canterbury Women's Institute. Mrs Page's portrait will be welcomed by many readers not only for the sake of the lady herself, but also because she is the daughter of one of New Zealand's old and upright politicians, Mr Alfred Saunders, who was a staunch advocate of both woman suffrage and temperance. Mrs Page takes a warm and active interest in the welfare of the children of the State, and the successful meeting on their behalf chronicled in our last issue owed much to her guidance. Speaking of matters of special import to women, Mrs Page expressed the opinion that the most pressing need was the removal of all disabilities from women, and of these disabilities she believes that that debarring woman from being elected to a seat in Parliament should be first attacked. It is but the logical sequence to the granting of the franchise. Prohibition Mrs Page firmly believes in. Not that she imagines it will prove a panacea for all ills, but

"it will at least give the boys and girls a chance." Looking at the two fine little boys playing in the room one feels that their mother intends them to have every chance that lies in her power to give to develop into men of the best stamp, morally, mentally, and physically. "They have never had a dose of medicine," says Mrs Page, when speaking of a childish ailment. "The water or 'natural' treatment is always my remedy." Much of an interesting conversation might be recorded, but, mindful of the exhortation, "If my portrait appears in the WHITE RIBBON please don't say much about me," we lay down the pen.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

BEYOND THE VEIL. — Okaiawa mourns the loss of its Vice President, Mrs Gilling. "Her heart and soul," says a friend, "was in Temperance work." When so many display apathy we can ill spare enthusiasts, and we sincerely sympathise both with the Okaiawa union and the members of the bereaved family.

DEPARTURE OF MRS SHEPPARD. — The members of the W.C.T.U. throughout New Zealand will hear with regret that Mrs Sheppard purposes leaving for England some time in July, for a stay of indefinite length. The members of the Christchurch union and C. W. Institute are arranging a farewell social, to be held on the afternoon of July 8th.

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION. — Writing from Melbourne, just before sailing for Geneva, Mrs Kirkland says, "It (the Convention) was a good gathering from all parts of the Commonwealth. And a grand lot of women they are. They mean work. I have enjoyed meeting with them very much. All of them were delighted to have representatives from 'happy New Zealand,' as some of them say. The White Ribbon sisters have been most kind and attentive to their New Zealand guest." We are indebted to Mrs Kirkland for copies of the "Argus," from which our report is culled.