

**A N.Z. W.C.T.U. PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER.**—Says the *Englishwoman's Review*:—"At the final examination (for medical degree), held in connection with the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, held in Edinburgh, there were 87 candidates, and 37 passed the examination and were admitted L.R.C.P., S.E., L.F.P., and S.G. Among these was one woman, Helen Stephen Baird, Otago, N.Z." We believe that Dr. Baird is the daughter of Mrs Baird, the president of the Invercargill Union.

**A PROGRESSIVE CHURCH.**—One of the Christchurch Suburban Churches—the Lincoln Road Baptist Church—has set an example most worthy of imitation. A room has been erected at the rear of the church for the social enjoyment of the men of the district. Books, papers, and games are to be provided, and it is hoped the room will become the evening rendezvous of both old and young.

**AN AID TO TEMPERANCE.**—The establishment in city, suburb and country district, of such rooms as the foregoing would, we feel sure, aid much in promoting the cause of Temperance. The providing of suitable places for social intercourse and enjoyment must go hand in hand with the attempt to close the public houses. It is little use to try to close one door till another is opened. We are glad to note that the Bluff union is bravely attempting the work, and commend their effort to the notice and help of our readers.

**MR BLACKBURNE'S MOTION.**—We need scarcely say it is with the deepest satisfaction that we draw attention to the resolution, moved by Mr Blackburne at the meeting of St. Saviour's Guild, re the registration of so-called illegitimate children in the father's name.

**DOMESTIC HELPS.**—We are glad to note from the report of the C.W. Institute that that society intends making an attempt to deal with the important and perplexing question of Domestic Helps. It is quite certain that hand in hand with stated hours of labour and rate of pay must go certified efficiency.

**AN INVITATION.**—Writing to Mrs

Sheppard, Miss Janes, Secretary of the National Union of Women Workers of Great Britain and Ireland, says,—"An idea has occurred to me of a simple sort—to be 'At home' on the first Tuesday in each month to 'International Workers.' If any of your N.Z. ladies are coming over, I hope you will give them introductions to me." The address given by Miss Janes, is 9 Southampton street, High Holborn, W.C.

### The Licensing Committee In Christchurch.

The supineness which made the last election of the Christchurch Licensing Committee a "walk over" for the liquor party must have been painfully brought home to the electors on considering the work of that Committee, when it sat on June 3rd. Forty-two licenses for the city were granted without discussion; two hotels reported by the Inspector as having rough bars, and being centres of disturbance, frequented by criminals and prostitutes, were subjected to discussion, after which one was granted a license; the claim of the other (owned by a brewing firm, by the way) was adjourned, but the license has since been granted.

The bias of the Committee was plainly shown in its reception of Mr H. G. Ell, M.H.R., who presented a petition, signed by 746 citizens, praying that the hour of closing should be altered to 10 p.m. Though it was shown that almost all passenger trains reach Christchurch long before 10 o'clock, and that the majority of decent theatre-goers return at once to their homes for supper, and though the inspector deposed that the change to 10 o'clock would make the work of the police much easier, the Committee held to its first resolution, and after dismissing the representations of M.H.R., inspector of police, the seven hundred and forty-six petitioners, their own solitary temperance colleague, Mr Blackburne, as well as Commissioner Tunbridge's report, with exceeding scant ceremony, they at once granted closing at 11 p.m., and every minor concession applied for by the trade.

We cannot but feel a pang of envy on contrasting this wholesale hand-over to the liquor party in Christchurch with the vigorous action of the

Licensing Committee now sitting in Dunedin. Dunedin carried reduction last November, and saw to it that a committee pledged to do the will of the people was returned later on. The final results of its deliberations are not out at this time, but the general effect up to date of writing may be best judged by these extracts from an editorial in the *Otago Daily Times*:—

"With the bald pronouncement made by the Dunedin Licensing Committee, the era of No License may be said to have fairly commenced, for, *inter alia*, the committee announces that it has no intention to require or encourage the further expenditure of capital on hotel properties, which already seems to foreshadow the sweeping away of all licenses in the near future. . . . It is safe to say that the Dunedin Licensing Committee's manifesto will be viewed with favour by the large majority of the public. It was elected upon certain pledges, chief amongst which were the full 25 per cent reduction allowed by the Act, and the insisting upon 10 o'clock closing; and in order to arrive at the wisest and best decision, the members of the Committee have personally inspected all the hotels within their licensing district. Of the seven hotels whose licenses have already been refused, five were situated in out-lying districts, which seems to indicate the determination of the Committee to make the prohibition area as extensive as possible, and to confine the licensed houses within certain well defined limits. There are still six licenses to be refused, and other things being equal, the Committee would seem to have agreed to give preference to those licensees who will give an undertaking to confine the public sale of liquor to only one bar, and who set their face against the employment of such inducements to drinking as free counter lunches and barmaids."

This is a plain official statement of plain hard facts, but it is good reading; and we trust that three years hence Christchurch may be on a similar line of action.

J. McK.

Some say alcohol gives heat. If so, why do travellers in the Arctic regions, who take drink, succumb to the cold, while total abstainers remain unharmed?

Some say alcohol is good in hot countries. If so, why did Stanley refuse it to his men during his forced march across Africa in search of Emin Pasha?