

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—Some years ago I was staying in a fair-sized New Zealand town, practically a stranger there. An address was announced to be given to ladies by one of your workers. I asked a neighbour, the mother of two bright little girls, if she would go. We went. The weather was pleasant. In the church a fine number of young girls were present. Youth, beauty, freshness, suggested itself. The address was earnest and practical, and who shall estimate the results of that afternoon's work. Instruction was given about life in connection with sex; the power of influence that girls have, warnings of the perils that may beset their feet, and pointing, I believe, to the Saviour, who would enable them to use their powers for good. I have thought, even from a financial point of view, the value to the town would be very great, for they who help the young women of their town to be pure, strong, and true are surely helping material prosperity. This could not fail to affect the young men, for enlightened, virtuous womanhood would make itself felt in influence upon their brothers, as well as upon future husbands and others. A prominent N.Z. physician, in strong and clear language, when speaking of the awful effects of those deadly diseases which are associated with impurity of life, stated: "We talk glibly about filling the cradles, but what is the use of filling the cradles only to empty them again. Teach so that the cradles will be filled by healthy children. Better one cradle occupied by a healthy child than six cradles filled by diseased and dying children." Dr. Browning states that 14 per cent. of the children who come to the out-patients' department of the hospital are there through congenital syphilis, so we can safely say that 14 per cent. of all unhealthy children are unhealthy because their parents have contracted syphilis before their birth. Dr. Kale Fraser and Dr. Watson examined cases of mental deficiency and epilepsy in young people, and syphilis infection was shown to be associated with 57 per cent. of these cases. Then again, over 50 per cent. of the children suffer from nervous troubles, and these are caused by this dread disease. Syphilis affects other organs besides the nervous system." Other important matters were touched upon, and in closing he spoke of the need of education of the young. "By proper education of the young of both sexes as they emerge from boyhood and girlhood into young adult life, many of the diseases at present prevalent would soon be relics of the past. Instead of spending millions in treat-

ing the actual disease, only thousands would be needed for education. Up to the present we have been working on wrong lines. We have shirked our responsibilities, and left our young to wander in the mire, and only when they have become hopelessly bogged have we grudgingly given to them the helping hand." These quotations prove that even from a financial point of view the thing was worth while.

The mother of the two little girls enjoyed and appreciated the meeting, and we had a pleasant walk home. In dealing with some of these problems, an illustration comes to my mind that I once used for a Bible Class: "The sunlight falls on dark and unhealthy places, but is it contaminated?" So in moral work the presence of the Sun of Righteousness preserves His people in the most difficult places, whereas without this aid contaminating influences might get to work, like milk placed in an impure atmosphere sets up fermentation in itself. May I touch upon two aspects of the case in connection with the moral education of the young? The one is where the Christian parent or teacher earnestly seeks to win his or her children for the Saviour, and seeks their conversion, but neglects to give instruction on this important question. I remember a mother, herself a Sunday school teacher, when spoken to on this point, expressed this view, "Get the children converted." Now, as they get older, if not before, and go out into the world they will probably have to face all kinds of talk on this very avoided subject. Foul talk, impure suggestions, told that license is necessary for their health, and this persistently, say at a navvies' camp, or the bush whare, or the work shop or boarding-house where men gather. True, the grace of God can keep a person under any circumstances; but God's Word has been given as a light to show the way, as a chart to direct, and what right have Christian parents and teachers to withhold this teaching and pass it over as though it had not been given in the Book of Truth? It is not safe to ignore the existence of these evils. The ostrich with its head in the sand does not see the danger, but that does not procure safety, but rather gives the hunter opportunity. So neglect gives depraved people the opportunity to corrupt the minds, and even initiate into vice. The young fellow in the camp may be told he does not know what life is; he had better go back and be tied to his mother's apron strings. Two young fellows were together, the one a young Christian worker, though quite a lad, and the other one of the depraved class, and the latter was indulging in bad talk, when one older gave definite warning and instruction, probably from Scripture, science, and experience of sufferers. This same young man had given wise instruction in another place, and on one occasion was told by a bright young fellow: "I am

one of your boys. When I was a growing lad, and just at the parting of the ways, ready to be influenced one way or the other, you influenced me in the right direction," words to that effect. And I should like to say here a word of encouragement to those who have so nobly worked in connection with the W.C.T.U. and others. Giving instruction to those under their care, or it may be the giving of a little book or paper, what beautiful harvest may even now be resulting, and reproducing itself. If you can only help one, some mother's heart may be left unbroken for her son. One more instance from life. A young fellow going out into the bush country, meeting bad companions, and one gave him this advice: "You do not need to buy presents, etc., for girls, and waste money; just ruin her, and she will be glad to marry you." And, alas! the advice was followed, and his own and the lives of others so sadly blighted. Moral education should commence very young to be effective.

The other aspect of the case is, where moral instruction is given without the foundation of Christianity. An outward good life, and blameless. But if we want safety for time and eternity, we must build upon the Rock Christ Jesus. Our Saviour's illustration applies. Luke 6:48: "He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock; and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it; for it was founded upon a rock."

And the Holy Spirit is promised to those who ask. The Lord Jesus, who died to save us from sin and hell, who came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly, is able to guard and guide all life's journey through.

"Jesus Saviour, pilot me
Over life's tempest'ous sea,
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
Chart and compass come from Thee:
Jesus Saviour pilot me!"

I am, etc.,
FREDRICA.

UNFERMENTED WINE.

Mrs Gaskin sends the following:— I am securing further information, as desired by Convention, as to the brands of unfermented wine which can be safely used, not only for the Communion, but as a tonic (with special nourishment) for the invalid and those needing extra strength-giving beverages.

C. GASKIN,
Cobden, Greymouth.

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