

News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

NELSON.

Monthly meeting February 8th. A good attendance of members, Miss Atkinson presiding. A letter was read from Misses Anna Gordon and Agnes Slack (in the "White Ribbon") with regard to the postponement of the Triennial World Convention. The appeal for increased support of the "White Ribbon" in the January number was also read, and it was resolved to order four dozen copies of the Convention number. Mrs W. Hockey was appointed Superintendent of the Cradle Roll, and a vote of thanks passed to Mrs Day, who has been doing the work of the department since the death of the last Superintendent. Mesdames Watson and Field were appointed delegates to the coming Convention, and Mrs Scanlon's motion and the election of N.Z. Officers voted upon. A resolution of sympathy was passed with Mrs Watson who had lost one of her sons at the Front. Greetings to the Union were received from Mrs Crump, late President.

A meeting was held at Richmond on the following day, February 9th; there were nine present, Miss Weymouth presiding. A resolution of deep sympathy with Mrs Watson in the loss of her son was passed by the members present. On the suggestion of Miss Weymouth, it was resolved that the Richmond members as a Union should take up Band of Hope work, the question to be considered at the next meeting. One new member joined. The monthly Intercessory Service has been continued through the holidays, though the attendance has been small.

PETONE.

February 1. Meeting held. A fair number present, Miss Kirk presiding. A vote of sympathy was passed to the family of the late Mrs Kirk who was a very ardent worker for the Society in past years. Mrs Burd was appointed delegate for the forthcoming Convention to be held at Wanganui in March.

February 16. A very pleasant At Home was held at the residence of Mrs Hope; Mrs Rouse, President, was in the chair. There were twenty present, including Mrs Peryman (Editor of the "White Ribbon"). Mrs Peryman and Mrs Battersby gave very interesting speeches. Recitations were given by Mrs Cole and Master D. Hope, which were very well received. There were also gramophone

selections, after which afternoon tea was handed round. A vote of thanks was accorded the hostesses (Mesdames Hope and Cole) for the pleasant afternoon provided.

GREYTOWN.

Feb. 23. The President (Mrs Whincop) in the chair, 8 members and 1 visitor being present. The "W.R." Agent received orders for one dozen extra Convention numbers. The following resolution sent to Hon. James Allen and local paper:—"In view of the fact that the physical and moral fitness of the soldiers are seriously impaired by the use of alcohol, the Women's Christian Temperance Union of Greytown urges the Minister of Defence to take steps to restrict the opportunities afforded to soldiers of obtaining intoxicating liquor, and in this connection it earnestly begs the Minister to prohibit the practice of 'Treating.'"

PONSONBY.

Union reassembled February 10th; a good attendance. With very great pleasure we welcomed our President, Dr. Florence Keller, who has just returned from a visit to America, where she has been very busy gaining information re children's hospitals. Her home-coming is very sad, Dr. P. M. Keller, her husband, having developed pneumonia on the homeward route. We sincerely hope he may soon be restored to health. Miss Henderson's circular received and adopted. The Hon. Minister of Defence, in reply to a previous resolution on the subject of "shouting," hoped the Union would use their personal influence to urge the men to abstain from the use of intoxicants. (While our Government license the sale thereof, strange anomaly!) The present N.Z. officers were nominated for another year. Postponed election of Union's officers then took place: Pres., Mrs J. H. Fountain; Sec., Mrs Geo. Plummer; Treas., Mrs M. A. Bailey.

TOKOMARU BAY.

Meeting took place on Tuesday, 15th February. For the greater convenience of members, it was arranged to meet the second Friday of each month. Resolved to send a telegram, in accordance with the New Zealand Secretary's suggestion, heartily endorsing proposed measures with regard to "treating." Resolved that this Branch do all possible to further the signing of the petition against treating sent out by the No-License League. A resolution of sympathy with Miss Woodhead, who has been seriously ill, was also passed.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL.

At the monthly meeting on Friday, 7th February, the following resolutions were passed:—"That this meeting desires to express its sincere sympathy with the family of the late Mrs Kirk in the recent loss of their mother,

who for many years took an active part in the work of the W.C.T.U." "That the Minister of Defence be earnestly requested to follow the example of the Home authorities and make it a penal offence for any person to pay for or give liquor to a soldier in uniform." Surprise and regret were expressed by members that so much evidence of excessive drinking among soldiers on leave was still apparent. Remits for the forthcoming Convention at Wanganui were discussed, Mrs McDonald being elected delegate.

KAIAPOI.

At a meeting of the above Union, held on 23rd February, the following resolution was carried unanimously:—"The members of the Kaiapoi District Women's Christian Temperance Union having the interests of our returned soldiers at heart, and realising that although the peril to our soldiers through drink was grave enough before they went away, it is now aggravated under the conditions in which they find themselves when they come back, we earnestly and urgently request the Minister of Defence to (1) immediately prohibit the practice of 'shouting' for soldiers by making it illegal, (2) to make it a penal offence for anyone to furnish liquor to soldiers in uniform, (3) to place all hotels near soldiers' convalescent camps out of bounds.

WANGANUI EAST.

Usual monthly meeting held February 25th, the President occupying the chair. Business in connection with forthcoming Convention was discussed. Mrs James was appointed delegate to represent Union at Convention. Arrangements in connection with essay for school children were left in the hands of Mrs Andrew. A discussion took place re "treating" soldiers, and in accordance with the wishes of our N.Z. Cor. Sec., Miss Henderson, the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this Wanganui East Branch of the W.C.T.U. views with deep concern the deplorable practice of 'shouting' for our wounded soldiers, as their recovery is greatly retarded; at the same time the foundation of much after-evil is laid, therefore we respectfully ask the Hon. J. Allen, Minister for Defence, to introduce legislation that will make the practice of 'shouting' or 'treating' soldiers illegal." The resolution was at once forwarded to the Hon. J. Allen. We are sorry to report our Secretary and Treasurer (Mrs Andrew) is laid aside through illness.

CHRISTCHURCH.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Christchurch W.C.T.U. was held on Wednesday, February 23rd, Mrs J. McCombs in the chair. It was unanimously resolved: "That in view of the fact that the physical and