

tional Superintendent of Reform Work. And as we pay a tribute of affection to these departed ones, a new sorrow fills our hearts when we remember we have lost our revered leader of the Temperance forces, and one of the best loved men in New Zealand, Rev. Frank Isitt. We thank God for the memory of his leadership, and pray that the strong and sweet influence of these our departed fellow-workers may be upon our daily lives, inspiring us to be strong, and enabling us to push forward with consecrated purpose, and with dynamic spiritual power, the uplifting forces that alone can redeem humanity.

Our Own Work.

I am glad of this opportunity, to congratulate our Invercargill friends on their unanimous and inspiring decision to work for the complete annihilation of the liquor traffic. Let us emulate them! Why not at this Convention choose our slogan, "A dry New Zealand at next election"? There are giants in our way: an unsympathetic Government; the flower of our manhood bleeding, dying for their country; the many gaps in our forces; and the diverting of women's time and work into patriotic effort. Yes! I know it all, **but God reigneth**, and we are told that He it is Who shall fight for us, and through Him we shall do valiantly. Much has been said at previous Conventions about a One by One Campaign, but little done in this direction. I said before, I repeat again, if each sister would set herself to get one new member, our forces would be doubled in a year. We are indebted to Miss Powell, our Organiser, and Miss Weymouth for the new branches of our Union. Let every District Union make an effort to form a new branch this year. Concentrate on educating the people and creating enthusiasm by the distribution of leaflets. Surely we can do as our American sisters do—enclose leaflets in letters and papers, write constantly to the Press, put striking messages on tags and stickers, and attach them to parcels, letters, and put them anywhere where the people can see them. What a firing of ammunition this would mean. In every way possible let us put the truth before the people, and the truth will make them free. Let me give you a message from Miss Willard: "Dear Sisters, we must stand by each other in this struggle. Side by side, shoulder to shoulder, we must move forward with no break in the ranks, no aspersions, no careless, harsh, or cruel judgments, but the tenderest and most persistent endeavour to keep the unity of the spirit, if not of method, and, above all, the bond of peace. Let the criticising world see plainly that concord has the right of way in the W.C.T.U. In all the turmoil of these toilsome days let the law of kindness dwell upon our lips, and the spirit of a loving forbearance keep our hearts tender."

My own message is: "Little is much if God is in it." He will

never fail us, He will not forsake; His eternal Covenant He will never break. Resting on His promise, what have we to fear? God is all sufficient for the coming year.

"WHITE RIBBON" REPORT.

The year 1916 closed with 2215 subscribers, an increase of 93 for the year, and the balance-sheet shows a credit balance of £10 9s 9d. Owing to war conditions, paper and postage have increased in price, so that our year's increase is satisfactory.

Some Unions have gained many new subscribers; others have done comparatively little in this department. We would urge every Union to appoint an energetic agent, and do their best to increase the circulation of the "White Ribbon."

To Mrs Evans, our able Associate Editor, our earnest thanks are due for help so willingly given; and to Mr Lynneberg for auditing the accounts. To all those agents who have helped us through the year we give our hearty thanks.

NELLIE PERYMAN,

Editor and Business Manager,
"White Ribbon."

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The reports presented by the majority of the Unions last year are distinctly encouraging, showing, as they do, very solid evidence that the Women's Christian Temperance Union is making a steady advance in the Dominion, and that the members are realising more and more how much women can and should do to maintain a high standard of national life. No one could read the reports without being impressed by the wide and varied activities of the Unions.

As in 1915, the most important national undertaking was the campaign for 6 o'clock closing of liquor bars. The longer time at our disposal enabled a more thorough organisation of our forces; the Unions nobly responded, with the result that petitions bearing over 100,000 signatures were presented to Parliament. The petitions were supported by letters, telegrams, public meetings, deputations to Cabinet Ministers, and every other means that were available. Again our efforts were futile. The usual method known as "talking the question out" was resorted to, in order to prevent the matter being discussed by Parliament. In spite of this, however, some of the Temperance supporters in the House took advantage of the introduction of the War Regulations Bill to put forward various early closing proposals, but these were all defeated. The demand for the prohibition of "shouting" was more successful, for under the War Regulations this practice has been made illegal.

Other matters which called for a national effort were the demand for the appointment of women police and the protest rendered necessary by the Government's regulations for dealing with the social evil.

The war has continued to make great demands upon our members, and, with very few exceptions, the Unions report assistance given to every branch of Red Cross and other patriotic work; in all probability the few Unions which do not report work in this direction are doing their share, though not under the name of the Union.

Work among the young is, as in previous years, one of the most gratifying features of the reports. Loyal Temperance Legions are multiplying rapidly, but the movement is confined to the North Island; this is no doubt due to the fact that many of the Unions there have been able to take advantage of the services of Mrs Duxfield, to whose efforts we owe the existence of so many L.T.L. branches. In the South Island the Unions are not behind hand in efforts to train the young people in Temperance principles; quite a number report flourishing Bands of Hope.

One of the most interesting reports comes from the little Union at Tuatapere. While this Union has done its share of the usual work, its special effort for the year was of an unusual nature. Part of the annual report runs as follows:—"We have worked for 11 months to try and get a District Nurse. As there is a fast-growing population in the district, and our nearest medical aid is over 20 miles away, we thought, after reading in 'White Ribbon' 'Rules for District Nurses,' that a nurse was the greatest need of our district, and, if one with high ideals and Temperance sentiments could be induced to come, unlimited good might be the outcome. We called committee meetings, printed pamphlets, etc., and worked with Wallace Hospital Board, but so far, after many advertisements in the daily papers, have met with no success. Perhaps after the war is over nurses will be more plentiful, and then we may rejoice that our labour in this respect was not in vain." Before the report was sent, Mrs Harrison was able to add as a footnote: "Just received word that a District Nurse has been appointed. We are very thankful."

The number of Unions at the close of 1916 was 97—93 adult, and 4 "Y's." Papakura has lapsed owing to the removal from the district of some of the most active members, but, on the other hand, 10 new Unions have been formed, and Tauranga has been reorganised. The new Unions are Brightwater, Richmond, Wakefield and Whakapuaka, in the Nelson district; Marton, in Palmerston North; Te Kuiti, in Hamilton; Fitzroy and Uenui, in Taranaki; Kati Kati, in Auckland; and a "Y" Union at Wanganui. A number of the Unions report that new members were