

LITERATURE.

Supt.: Mrs Houlder.

This department, perhaps more than any other, suffers because of the war. Prices of almost all kinds of literature have gone up very considerably, as well as postage on parcels. There is also the difficulty of getting literature from Home, and in many cases months elapse before orders come to hand; but in spite of it all, the department has done well, and many of the small Unions exceptionally so. Reports have come in from Warkworth, Stratford, New Plymouth, Pahiataua, Wellington District, Wellington Central, Christchurch, Hawera, Feilding, Timaru, Lyttelton, New Brighton, Wanganui, Napier, Greytown, Oxford, Nelson, Cambridge, Gisborne, Palmerston North, all telling of literature bought and distributed. The railway boxes in many stations are kept filled with papers by our Union members.

Hospitals and Old People's Homes are well looked after, and specially this year have our soldiers and sailors been remembered. Several of our Unions have started libraries, and find it a very good method of circulating educational and other books that are more expensive than the majority care to buy.

Country Unions are specially urged to consider starting a library in connection with their Union, as a means of circulating temperance and purity principles amongst those who cannot get such easy access to public libraries as the city members.

Our Organiser, Miss Powell, has been a consistent supporter of this department, and has been the means of selling many books to the Unions where she has been visiting.

Mrs Cowie has also helped the department by putting books into it for sale. Many of our Unions have purchased literature during the year, but have sent in no report, and to some of these several parcels have been sent. One hundred and eighty parcels and letters have been sent out since April 30th, when the department was taken over.

Balance-Sheet from April 30th, 1917, to December 30th, 1917.

RECEIPTS.

Received from Mrs Dearlove	£8	7	8
Grant N.Z. Treasurer	0	7	6
From Sale Literature	15	12	7
Special from Sale "Defeat"	14	0	6
	£38	8	3

EXPENDITURE.

Printing	£7	6	8
Literature	11	2	0
Purchase "Defeat"	13	10	0
Postage	1	18	5
Postage "Defeat"	1	7	1
	£35	4	2

Balance in Hand	3	4	1
	£38	8	3

Balance-Sheet Purity Literature.

From Sale of Literature	£3	2	2
Expenditure	2	5	3

Balance	£0	16	11
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MILITARY CAMPS.

Supt.: Miss Helyer.

All Unions have taken an active part in obtaining 6 o'clock closing of hotel bars, which will be of untold benefit to Military Camps.

New Plymouth reports sending books to Military Camps

Palmerston North.—Magazines and temperance literature sent to Awapuni Camp at intervals during the year.

Wellington Central.—The Union's patriotic leaflet, "A Message For You," supplied to Y.M.C.A. Soldiers' Hostel, Boulcott Street. In consequence of a letter appearing in a local paper stating that spirits and other intoxicating drinks were supplied by the Y.M.C.A. to soldiers in the trenches, a letter was sent to the Dominion Secretary, drawing his attention to the statement, and asking for a denial or a verification of the same. In reply, a letter was received from Mr H. M. Smeeton, containing an emphatic denial of such a state of affairs.

Nelson reports sending New Testaments regularly to boys leaving for the Front.

Timaru.—Literature and pamphlets sent to Territorials.

Pahiataua reports "No work done."

Other Unions failed to report. From the few reports sent in, it is evident that Unions find this a very difficult department to work.

Suggestion.—That all Unions should endeavour to provide some evening form of entertainment for soldiers on leave. The closing of hotel bars in the evening hours seems to make this imperative.

That Convention should give a lead in this direction.

Y'S AND MEDAL CONTESTS.

Supt.: Mrs Griffin.

Five Unions reported, three of them being organised this year.

Auckland.—Membership, 150. Opened with a social, 300 guests present. Held a Bazaar upon a very large scale. Intend sending delegates to Convention. They raised £156.

Hawera.—Membership, 35. One social has been held.

Wanganui.—Membership, 43. Mesdames Hague, Smith, Napier, Miss Powell, Revs. Radford and Werren, have given addresses. Willard Day observed. Assisted with 6 o'clock closing petitions, and wrote to member urging him to support it. Assisted with doll stall at Annual Show. Six "White Ribbon" subscribers obtained. Old Men's Home visited. Nineteen new members for the year.

Aramoho.—Commenced four months ago with a membership of 12, since increased to 37. Six subscribers to "White Ribbon" secured. Cradle Roll of 11 names. Assisted with stall at the Show.

Palmerston N. and Port Chalmers have organised Y's this year.

Timaru has 12 young members in parent Union.

I have written for suitable literature for organising and equipping Y. and Medal Contests, and hope to be able to supply shortly.

Nelson assisted at the Sale of work, and trained the L.T.L., and with it gave a concert in aid of local organising work.

WORK AMONG SEAMEN.

Supt.: Mrs Nimmo.

Work among seamen is almost entirely restricted to the crews of over-sea vessels, which visit the larger ports of the Dominion, where there are well-equipped organisations specially devoted to this work. The crews of our local steamers have their homes at the ports most convenient to them. Available opportunities, however, have been seized, and with good results.

The work at Greymouth has been carried on with vigour, but owing to a strike among the crews of locally owned steamers, these vessels were for some time laid up, and the "Rest" closed. Advantage was taken of this for effecting repairs, and a complete renovation of the building, at a cost of £150. A Sale of Work has materially helped to pay this, leaving a small debt still standing.

Timaru reports few oversea vessels in port. The crews of visiting ships have eagerly availed themselves of the facilities for writing, reading, and games. Socials have been always given when the larger vessels have been in port. Warm expressions of appreciation and letters of thanks for the homely "Rest" and what was done for their welfare, have been received. During the year, 401 men made 1215 visits to the "Rest."

Napier has done specially good work during the year for the mine-sweepers and their dependents. In June and August cases were sent to London, containing 26 dozen articles, through the Wellington Naval Dependents' League. In October, in response to my appeal, a case of warm clothing was sent, valued at £52.

Pahiataua supplied 54 comfort bags and 54 needle books, equally divided between the Wellington and Lyttelton Societies.

Kaiapoi also supplied comfort bags to Lyttelton.

Wellington has co-operated with the local branch of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society, both by money contributions and assistance at the free Sunday teas. It may be stated here that since the closing of hotel bars at six o'clock there has been a most apparent improvement in the condition of sailors. The Society's "Rest" is much more largely attended in the evening, when tea and coffee is now provided free. As a further effect, the police have no trouble as formerly, men return to their ships sober, and are more efficient in work. Six o'clock closing of bars is in Wellington a distinct success, so far as sailors are concerned.

I made an appeal for warm clothing for our mine-sweepers and the crews of torpedoed ships. The response by our Unions and the public in goods