

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

ITS OBJECT.

The primary intention of school was to train the mind. Experience has taught us to widen our view and to view and to realise that true education means a harmonious development of mind and body. The child must be given opportunity to realise himself to the best purpose. The progress of a nation may be measured by its increasing devotion to the welfare of its children. We know that many children never attain their maximum of well-being and efficiency. Nature has provided a handicap for them, or the conditions of their daily life have cramped and hindered their development.

Physical defects—often curable, but unrecognised or neglected—squalid home surroundings, parental poverty, or inefficiency, are frequently fetters for the growing child. In New Zealand we have unusual advantages. We have a young country of exceptional fertility and climate. Its original settlers were of the best type—physically strong, mentally alert, and full of initiative. It should be possible for their descendants to maintain this high standard.

With regard to schools and other edifices we are still building. Hence we have an opportunity to build well.

There is no doubt that in New Zealand we find a majority of healthy, happy children of good physique. There is equally no doubt that we find a large number held back by physical weakness and lack of opportunity. We know that much of this misery is preventable. Good hygienic environment is imperative. The removal of bodily defects where possible is likewise necessary. It is the aim of medical inspection of schools to prevent much educational waste by helping each child to realise his physical and mental best. The essential work of school medical officers may be roughly summarised as follows:—

(a) The routine physical examination of school children and the notification to parents of defects found which require proper treatment. The medical inspectors instruct teachers, and, where possible, address parents upon matters relating to the welfare of the children.

(b) The study of factors influencing the life and health of the school child,

and the suggestion of preventive or remedial measures for those which are harmful. This includes general hygiene, as the supervision of school buildings and the provision of healthy surroundings for the school child. It should also include the devising of means to bring medical and dental aid and special educational methods within the reach of the individual child.

A. G. PATERSON,
Medical Inspector of Schools.
Wellington.

TO MY NEW ZEALAND SISTERS.

Look up! my sisters, look afar,
And see the rising sun,
Your boys are safer at the war
When duty's to be done.

Safer by far (if 'tis their part
Out to the war to go),
Than leave undone, with hand and heart,
What's there for them to do.

They've climbed the hill of duty true
With cheerful hearts and strong,
They want to win the war for you,
And hope it won't be long.

How strong and brave our boys look,
too,
In khaki uniform;
Now, mothers, you be brave and true,

And put your armour on.
The armour safe, of sweet content,
Whate'er God's will may be,
His hand has planned the trial sent,
To prove both them and thee.

Think not alone of the physical frame,
That is so dear to thee;
But think of God's eternal plan—
—What it holds, for them, and thee.

As yonder sun proclaims, that night
Has faded quite away,
So in the war we get a sight
Of peace that comes to stay.

Then, lift your heart with cheerful prayer,
For God alone can see
His purpose, working through the war,
For kings and queens and thee.
—A Maori Girl.

Ruckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m. W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lorne St.); Pres., Mrs. Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss J. Dewar, Pompallier Terrace; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Nelson, 78 Esplanade Road, Mt. Eden.

Avondale, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m., Brown Street Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Stevens; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Nesbitt and Mrs Martin; Rec. Sec., Miss B. Gittos; Cor. Sec., Mrs Proctor; Treas., Mrs Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs Morgan; Organist Mrs Douthwaite.

Auckland, Y's.—Last Monday at 7.45 p.m. in W.C.T.U. Headquarters. Pres., Miss Alice Parkinson; Vice-Presidents, Misses I. Cook, and O. Scott; Supt., Mrs Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; Rec. Sec., Miss Hazel Patterson; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Bottrill, 31 Arthur St., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss D. Stubbs, Shoal Bay Rd., Devonport; "W.R." Supt., Miss I. Sussex.

Ashburton, 1st Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., in Baring Square Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs W. T. Lill; Cor. Sec., Mrs C. Holland; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevarza, 169 Peter Street; Treas., Mrs W. J. Brown, Walnut Av.; "W.R." Supt., Miss Kutterick, Wakanui.

Avondale Y's, 3rd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m. in Ante-room, Town Hall. Pres. Miss Elsie Stevens, Vice-Pres. Misses Ada Adams, Lilla Russel & Rowley Rec. Sec., Miss G. Wright; Cor. Sec., Miss L. Morey Treas. Miss A. Douthwaite; W.R. Supt. Miss R. Thomas; Y. Supt; Mrs Pirrett, Market Rd., Epsom.

Blenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Pres Mrs A. J. Litchfield, Livermere; Sec. Mrs H. S. Horn Springlands, Blenheim; Treas., Mrs Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; W.R. Agent, Mrs W. Parker, Grove Rd.

Cambridge, 1st Tuesday, in month in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs A. T. Watson; Sec. Mrs Clark, Methodist Parsonage; Treas., Miss Clark, Hall Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs W. Hogan; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. T. Watson.

Christchurch W.C.T.U. Rooms, 217 Manchester St., opp. His Majesty's Theatre. Second and fourth Wednesday; Pres., Mrs T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs R. Day, Milford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Bealey St.; Treas., Mrs Patterson, 316 Worcester St., Linwood; Asst. Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lea, Manchester St.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Drinnan, 11, Brown St., St Albans.

Dannevirke, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. F. Knight, Tahoraiti; Sec., Mrs Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett, The Manse.

Dunedin District, 1st Tuesday, No-license Rooms, Moray Place, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hiatt, 72, Heriot Row; Cor. Sec., and Press Cor., Mrs Macartney, 156, Eglinton Road, Mornington; Rec. Sec., Nurse Williamson; Supt. WHITE RIBBON, Mrs Anderson, 82, Duke St; Treas., Mrs Young, Bishops court, Roslyn.

Devonport, Second Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Barr, Victoria Rd., Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Budd, Elliot, Sheppard, George and Young; Sec., Mrs Burnett, Jubilee Av.; Treas., and Supt. W.R., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Lilliwail.

Fitzroy, last Friday, 2.30 p.m., Methodist Church Pres., Mrs A. Hayward, 834, Devon Street, Fitzroy; Sec. Mrs L. Gray, 638, Devon Street East New Plymouth; Treas., Miss Tolme, Chilman St., Fitzroy; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Kibby, Clemow St., Fitzroy.

Feilding, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m., St Paul's Hall; Pres., Miss Moore, c/o Mr. W. H. Bain, Feilding; Rec. Sec., Miss Jordan, c/o Mr H. Feild; Cor. Sec., Mrs C. J. Thompson, Denbigh Street; Treas., Mrs Williamson, The Hill; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Burnley; Railway Box, Mrs Shearer.

Gisborne District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs Goffe, Ormond Rd.; Sec., Mrs F. S. Malcolm, Gladstone Rd.; Treas., Mrs F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.

Greymouth District, last Tuesday at 3 p.m. in Sailor's Rest Hall; Pres., Mrs Gaskin; Sec. Mrs Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs Sweetman, White Ribbon Agent, Mrs T. Brown; Cradle Roll and Band of Hope, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Perry.

Greytown, Last Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. in Presbyterian Sunday School. President, Mrs Whincop, Gasworks; Secretary, also W.R. Agent, pro tem., Mrs Banks, Humphreys St.; Treas., Mrs Boucher, Humphreys St.; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Quin and A. Haigh.

Hamilton District, first Thursday, Wesley Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. T. Horne, Clifton Road; Sec., Mrs W. H. Paul, Clandelands; Treas., Mrs E. J. Davey, London Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Gaulton, Rostrevor Street