

**WOMEN'S**  
**Christian Temperance Union**  
**Of New Zealand.**

Organised 1885.

For God and Home and Humanity."

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**The White Ribbon.**

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, FEB. 18, 1919.

**ON THE BEAT WITH THE LADY  
COP."**

(An article from the "New York  
Tribune.")

The policewoman is not a passing  
fad; she is not an experiment, she is  
not even a war measure; she is simply  
the logical solution of one of our  
greatest problems, the proper care and  
protection of our women and girls,

and she has come to stay. She stands  
before you as a permanent and an ex-  
tremely important addition to the met-  
ropolitan police force, and she de-  
mands your respect and co-operation.  
There were eight or ten of her sit-  
ting around a long table, each busily  
writing a report of her work of the  
previous day. Nice, motherly, middle-  
aged women they were for the most  
part, with the exception of two who  
had the appearance of successful  
stenographers. They were all well  
dressed, in clothes that were decidedly  
feminine, and there was nothing about  
them that suggested in any way that  
they were guardians of the law.  
There are seventeen of these lady cops  
working under the direct supervision  
of our woman Deputy Commissioner,  
Mrs Ellen O'Grady. They are almost  
without exception women who have  
had long experience in the same sort  
of work. A goodly number have  
served as police matrons, and the  
others have done detective work and  
investigation of different kinds for the  
department.

"The work of these women is con-  
fined almost entirely to the protection  
of women and girls. They believe  
that an ounce of prevention is worth  
a year in a reformatory, and so for  
the most part they leave the punish-  
ment of offences to the men of the  
force and devote all their energies to  
the work of protection and prevention.  
And it is a really remarkable work  
that they are doing.

"Every morning the seventeen wo-  
men who compose Commissioner  
O'Grady's present squad assemble in  
the Deputy Commissioner's office for  
an hour's instruction by their chief.  
Plans are discussed and questions  
answered, and in this way the Deputy  
Commissioner keeps in close touch  
with the work which the women are  
doing. She knows the details of all  
the cases on which they are working,  
and she often interviews the wrong-  
doers herself. If a girl is reported as  
in need of employment, the Commis-  
sioner finds her a position; if marri-  
age is indicated she arranges for this.  
She furnishes food and clothing and  
arranges temporary loans where there  
is need for such help.

"Through the courtesy of Commis-  
sioner O'Grady I accompanied one of  
her police-women one evening last  
week as she made her rounds of the  
parks.

"While these policewomen are the  
legal protectors of women and girls of  
all ages, it is the younger girls, girls  
from fourteen to sixteen years of age,  
to whom they are devoting the great-  
est care and attention. It is the most  
vital problem for the moment and one  
which it is extremely difficult to han-  
dle, for the heads of these susceptible  
young women have become completely  
turned by the glamour of khaki and  
blue serge, and it is extremely diffi-  
cult to differentiate between the inno-  
cent and the harmful friendships of  
these young girls and their soldier and  
sailor friends, and the situation often  
requires very tactful handling.

"So many have asked the question,  
'Just what does the policewoman do  
when she finds one of these girls in  
the park?' She begins her peregrina-  
tions in the early evening, sauntering  
slowly through the more secluded por-  
tions of the park, where a more timid  
woman would not dare to go alone,  
but the policewoman is apparently  
fearless. She is unarmed, and her  
badge is usually in her handbag; her  
only weapon is a police whistle. As  
she walks along she keeps a sharp  
look-out on either side. There may  
be a black mass just ahead that looks  
like a rock in the distance, but as she  
reaches it it moves and separates into  
two masses silhouetted against the  
sky; a soldier and a girl. The police-  
woman speaks to the girl in a pleas-  
ant tone.

"'Good evening, my dear,' she says  
'Isn't it late for you to be out here  
in this lonely spot? I am a police-  
woman, and it is my business to take  
care of young girls. I would like to  
talk to you for a minute.'

"The girl is usually very amen-  
able, and the policewoman takes her  
out of the hearing of the young man  
and asks her questions of all sorts, her  
age, her occupation, family condi-  
tions, etc., and then she comes to the  
subject of the young man, and after  
finding out all the particulars concern-  
ing their acquaintance, if the girl is  
young she accompanies her to her  
home and she has a conference with  
the mother. She is always careful not  
to speak of the girls' shortcomings be-  
fore the father or brothers, for this  
might cause a family explosion. From  
this time on that girl is watched over  
and protected by the policewoman. If  
she is out of employment, work is  
found for her. Her name is given to  
the Big Sisters of the creed to which