

## THE WHITE RIBBON.

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# The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1910.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF WOMEN.

WHEN we look around on the multitude of women of leisure we think of the need there is for a prophet to be sent to tell them of the woe awaiting those who shirk their responsibilities. The persistent cry of to-day is, for help from women of intellect, character, and culture, to stem the torrent of evil overflowing our country. How can women—Mothers—be aroused? Will improvement in temperance and morality come to our children without instruction? Will matters be helped by sitting down and bewailing the sins and misdoings of the rising generation? We say NO! The way—the only way—is to take every opportunity to put Christian women by the side of Christian men in all positions of influence, on public bodies and committees. We have the opportunity with us now to elect our School Committees. Let us see to it that at our householders' meetings, to be held everywhere this month, we are there to see the right people put in the right place. A School Committee's power is still limited, but the Committee can say, as far as the law will allow, under what conditions our children's education shall be pursued. Education Boards are elected by the votes of School Committees, and with these the decision rests what shall be taught to our children by text books and object lessons. School life in many cases decides the future career of our coming citizens, and the highest moral teaching must be given. Heathy and strictly sanitary surroundings are essential. It is the plain duty of all women to see to these things, and untold trouble will arise if they evade it.

## HOSPITAL & CHARITABLE AID BOARDS

VERY hearty congratulations are due to those Unions who worked hard and were successful in using the new legislative power of election.

Christchurch (never lax in a good cause) have three women empowered to sit, Nelson two, Wellington one, Timaru one. We hope to hear of others likewise.

Dr. Valentine himself took a recent opportunity of speaking of the need there is that women should be elected to these positions, and it is to be hoped that at the next election greater preparation shall have been made to ensure their return.

## ENGLISH SUFFRAGISTS.

MUCH light has been thrown recently on the work of the Suffragist movement. We have been regaled too long with garbled and incomplete references served up to us in cables, which are now proved to be flatly controverted by fact. Had we space in this issue we would like to give an extract of statements made in an excellent article appearing in a recent number of the *Canterbury Times*. An easy way to help our struggling sisters to get the citizen's right is to use our influence with all our friends in our letters sent Home, to show the advantages derived from Women's Franchise here, and the utter failure of the oppositionists to find any disadvantages.

## ERRATA.

In the first sentence of the "New Reformatory Prison" article in last issue the word "better" should have been printed "little." The words should read "seemingly little result."

In the Department of "Peace and Arbitration" please enter "Mrs. Griffin, Hamilton Road, Kilbirnie, Wellington," as New Zealand Superintendent.

Readers will notice that this issue of the WHITE RIBBON is increased by four pages, due to the large amount of Convention matter held over from last month.

The Subscription for this paper is 2/6 per annum, posted to any address,

## MISS POWELL'S PRESENTATION.

DEAR SISTERS,

Please accept my very hearty thanks for the handsome gift received from you during the Convention, the munificence of which quite overwhelmed me. It would never have occurred to me that any services of mine—so imperfect as I have always felt them to be—would be worth any acknowledgement, much less so extensive a one. The work has always been to me a labour of love and I am now, as always, in the interests of the work, yours to command,

MARY S. POWELL.

## OBITUARY.

We regret to learn of the sad family bereavement sustained by Mrs. J. W. Henderson, the superintendent of the Maori work of the W.C.T.U. Mrs. Henderson, as delegate from the Waikato branch of the W.C.T.U., had been to the recent Invercargill Convention, and was on her return journey to her home at Hamilton, due to arrive by the Wellington express early on Sunday morning, the 27th February. On Saturday, the 26th of February, her husband, Mr. J. W. Henderson, when returning from business about 1 o'clock, was seized with heart failure, and expired with painful suddenness within a short distance from his home. Mrs. Henderson's home-coming was an exceedingly sad one, and has evoked universal sympathy from friends far and wide. The deceased gentleman was held in the highest esteem by a large circle of friends.

In accordance with the special request made at the Invercargill Convention a photograph of our Editor appears on the front page of this issue. For two years MRS. OLDHAM has acted in the dual capacity of Editor and Business Manager, but, finding it too severe a strain, the last Convention appointed her daughter, MISS HARRISON, to assist her as Business Manager.

## Echoes of the Convention.

Heard in Invercargill: A gentleman, who read religiously through all the daily reports. "What clever women you must have in the Union."

Another: "I had no idea you had such a broad platform. I thought it was only temperance."

At the first meeting held in Invercargill after the Convention members bore