

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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WHITE RIBBON DAY.

AS Superintendent of our new Department of Notable Days, may I urge all Unions to consider how great a factor in stimulating interest and enthusiasm in our work the celebration of these Days may be made—for instance, White Ribbon Day, June 15th. There is really no achievement of the W.C.T.U. in this country of which we have more reason to be proud. Sixteen or seventeen years ago, when Mrs Venables, of Christchurch, used to urge upon Convention our need of a paper, to exhibit styles and sizes, and to demonstrate to our doubtful and timorous understandings that the thing *could* be made a brilliant success, financially as well as in every other way,—many of us were very slow to be convinced. But she persevered, and it is mainly owing to her patient, cheerful persistence that we have now a well-established and thoroughly creditable organ, over fifteen years old, and with a constantly increasing circulation. Our greatly-valued Mrs Sheppard was the first Editor, with, I think, Miss Powell as proxy during the early months; and the very high level set by these gifted women has always been fully maintained by Miss Smith during her long and faithful service, and later by Mrs Oldham. Mrs W. S. Smith, too—our cheerful and self-sacrificing Business Manager for so many years—is also at the bottom of our success, and Miss



MRS. COLE, New Zealand President.

Powell, queen of canvassers, who for months averaged a new subscriber per day. But indeed the WHITE RIBBON has had many friends and helpers, and to particularise further would be invidious.

But still we have not helpers enough! It seems almost impossible, but it is true, that some of our own members do not take our paper. Let us for our first "Day" think of some plan to get them interested! Could we have an "At Home"—a simple, jolly afternoon tea—and personally invite all members and friends; have some sort of competition—entrance fee, say 3d—first prize a year's subscription to WHITE RIBBON, second prize half-year's subscription. Then spend the proceeds in sending the paper for three months to the non-subscribing members, and, if funds hold out, to friends who *ought* to take it. Then towards the end of the three months, see that all these recipients are visited in the interests of the paper, and it's all Lombard street to a China orange that not one per cent of them will refuse to become subscribers.

M. A. JOHNSON WRIGHT,
N.Z. Supt. Notable Days.

MARRIAGE OF THE UNFIT.

THE deterioration of our race which so many thoughtful and influential people believe is going on at the present time, cannot be ascribed to merely one or two factors such as the prevalent use of strong drink. Among other factors which we consider vital is the marriage of the unfit. Although we are aware that this is not only a difficult question to deal with, but also one of considerable delicacy, still we pro-