Vol. 15.—No. 179

NAPIER, N.Z., MAY 18, 1910.

2s 6d Per Annum, Post Free Single Copy, 3d.

WHITE RIBBON DAY.

&S 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 we'll 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 wellestablished and thoroughly creditable organ, over fifteen years old, and with a constantly increasing circulation. 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

and later by Mrs Oldham. bottom of our success, and Miss larise further would be invidious.



MRS. COLE, New Zealand President.

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 teaand 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

during her long and faithful service, Powell, queen of canvassers, who drink. Among other factors which Mrs for months averaged a new sub- we consider vital is the marriage of W. S. Smith, too our cheerful and scriber per day. But indeed the the unfit. Although we are aware self-sacrificing Business Manager WHITE RIBBON has had many that this is not only a difficult quesfor so many years—is also at the friends and helpers, and to particu- tion to deal with, but also one of considerable delicacy, still we propose to call attention to a leading article in a recent number of the Medical Press dealing with State regulation of marriage, and to offer some comments concerning this allimportant question.

State Regulation of Marriage.

The writer in the Medical Press recognises that the State regulation of marriage is scarcely a feasible means of dealing with the question, at least for the present time. With this we agree, for we do not believe that public opinion in our country, as it exists to-day, would tolerate civil interference with the institution of marriage.

Prevention Better than Cure.

Dealing with this question, the writer says: "Of all the particular conditions that predispose to deterioration, none is apparently more obvious than that of marriages of persons unfitted to procreate offspring healthy in mind and body. The ancients, in some instances, and some of the Asiatic moderns, cut the Gordian knot by the destruction of unfit children, but that rough and ready method is, of course, inapplicable to our present more civilised views of the sacredness of human life. Prevention is better than cure in the case of defective children, as in many other mundane matters."

The Real Solution.

The last sentence that we have quoted puts the matter in the true light, and we firmly believe that prevention is the only practicable means of solving the problem. But the next question is, how can this desirable prevention be brought about? Through the education of the public, is the The vital importance of answer. this matter must be brought to the attention of our people generally, and the parents especially must be fully and thoroughly warned of the great dangers that lurk in this widespread evil. Dealing with this point, the writer says: "Indeed, it would be difficult to find any sound moral defence for parents who, knowing that they were affected, say, with syphilis, tubercolosis, or insanity, nevertheless entered into the bonds. of marriage, and brought children into the world handicapped with the inheritance of those serious and disabling maladies."

Breeding of a Good Animal.

Our farmers are very particular about breeding the best animals possible, and they give the subject most careful thought and consideration. As a result of this attention, they are able to breed the very best cattle and the best pigs that can be raised. Horse breeders are perhaps even more keen about raising only good animals. Finely-formed, healthy, sound horses, possessing the best marks of high breeding, are a source of honest pride to the stud farmer. But some one may say these are questions of pounds, shillings, and pence. Not wholly, for we believe that many of our farmers and stockraisers take a pleasure in breeding the finest and healthiest animals possible aside from the pecuniary reward that awaits them. But we do admit that the monetary consideration is to a large extent the guiding principle in such affairs.

Breeding Men.

But when it comes to the question of breeding sound, healthy men and women, it seems that all wholesome and reasonable questions as to proper and suitable mating of the husband and wife are thrown to the winds, and a sort of happy-go-lucky, hopefor-the-best policy controls the affair. Small wonder, then, that the result is an ever-increasing number of unfits and undesirables that are brought into the world every year, through no fault of their own, to lead a miserable existence from which only welcome death delivers them in the course of time.

Woeful Neglect.

Again we quote from the article kind would be regarded as culpable in the extreme if applied to the ordinary relations of life. The family, for instance, that would refuse to employ a consumptive or a weakminded servant, will take no pains to exclude an individual suffering aspects.'

Infectious Diseases.

We believe if the public were fully aware of the terrible diseases with which a husband sometimes infects his wife, or, less often, a wife infects her husband, and which oftentimes are passed on to the offspring, they would give the question of marriage far more serious attention than it has obtained in the past. Many invalid mothers to-day are suffering solely on account of an unwise marriage which ought never to have been permitted. They are quite innocent, and in the vast majority of cases, have not the faintest idea of the horrible diseases with which they may have become infected by the husband. Fortunately many of them never come to know the true cause of their terrible suffering.

Support of Defectives.

Although the dissemination of disease and the accompanying suffering and anguish are undoubtedly the most important considerations, nevertheless there is another side to the picture, and that is the interest of the State in these degenerates. Sooner or later the State is called upon to provide suitable homes for these physical andmental defectives, and to support them for life. Such support is bound to entail a large expense, and means a growing charge on the rates. We know at the present time that the increase of such defectives is out of all proproportion to the natural increase of the population. Every year the situation becomes worse and worse, and additional asylums of one kind and another must be provided.

The German Solution.

It seems that our friends in Germany are in advance of us with regard to this question, as indicated mentioned above: "Neglect of this by the following quotation:- "Our German neighbours, meanwhile, have suggested that all candidates for marriage should be subjected to a compulsory medical examination, the result of which should be communicated to those who contemplate entering into the marriage contract, from either of those undesirable and, it may be assumed, also to their taints from the family circle. To a friends, with advice as to the wisdom, great extent, the tendency in families or otherwise, of the proposed step. to let things drift as regards mar- It may be said of this plan, at any riage probably arises from the reti- rate, that it is a step in the right cence with which it is customary to direction, and that, were it adopted treat matters relating to the sexual in the United Kingdom, it would in side of life in its physiological all probability prevent a number of unsuitable marriages.

(To be Continued).

News of the Unions.

[The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.]

ONEHUNGA.

The "Cradle Roll" meeting was held in the Presbyterian Schoolroom on Tuesday, April 6th. Mrs Howes recited and Miss Watson addressed the meeting. A petition re Bible reading in schools has been circulated for signatures, and has been largely signed. This will be presented to the incoming School Committee of Onehunga. 80 signatures.

The monthly business meeting was held on 26th April. Mrs D. D. Scott, Vice-President, in the chair. A resolution re the repealing of the C.D. Acts, which every right-minded woman entreats the Premier to see crossed off the Statute Book of this fair Dominion. Also discussion re the proposed Temperance Exhibition and Fair, to be held in Auckland about Easter, 1911, to raise funds for No-License work. Two new members were proposed. We have to regret the death of one of the old members of the Union—Mrs Bostock. She indeed is at rest, "Not lost but gone on before." Votes of sympathy were passed to her family in their sad bereavement.

WHANGAREI

Reports that sewing meetings have been held for Sister Kenneth's work and local distress.

Several "Young People's Evenings" were given by the President.

The Old Men's Home visited.

By special effort the sum of £5 was sent to the Indian Mukti Mission.

NAPIER.

An "At Home" was given by Miss Greene, Flower Mission Superintendent, to the inmates of St. Margaret's Ward at the Hospital with the matron's consent. The nurses off duty were present, and some of the patients from the other wards also enjoyed the concert. Mrs Alexander, Misses Reeves, Pond, and Greene rendered musical selections. Rev. A. C. Lawry gave an address on the "Discipline of Pain." The sympathy shown and the helpful words spoken, will linger long in the memory of those present. The matron kindly lent the piano and crockery from the Nurses Home. Afternoon tea was handed round with the genial assistance of the nurses. Hearty votes of thanks were passed to the promoter, matron, nurses, performers, and the Rev. A. C. Lawry. Hopes were expressed of a similar function to be enjoyed at an early date.

STRATFORD.

The monthly meeting was held on 5th May in Primitive Methodist Church. Mrs Lilly, President, was in the chair. Mrs Allan Douglas, New Plymouth, was present, and gave an interesting account of the recent Convention at Invercargill. Correspondence from Mrs Jansen, Petone, New Zealand Superintendent Temperance Sunday, was read and

discussed, also leaflet "Put Up the Guard Line." Thanks to Mrs Douglas's kind assistance, a "Cradle Roll" was formed, of which Mrs McAlister was appointed Superintendent. Several cards for W.C.T.U. Maori work were distributed. A letter of sympathy was lately sent to Mr and Mrs Masters, whose daughter, Mrs Everiss, after a very short illness recently passed away. In our retiring Mayor and Mayoress we were fortunate in having staunch supporters of our work. It is now gratifying to announce that our Mayor-elect is Mr Masters, and so our Treasurer, Mrs Masters, will be Mayoress for the year.

WELLINGTON.

Our monthly meeting was held in the W.C.T.U. rooms, Constable street, on May 5th. Mrs Boxall, President, in the chair. Our Union is to be congratulated on the success of three of its members—Mesdames Boxall, Wright, and Miller—in obtaining seats on the School Committee. Our President has also been elected to a seat on the board of control of the Home for the Aged and Needy.

GORE.

Our meeting was held on April 19th. Mrs Greenslade, Vice-President, presided. It was decided to hold our meetings every fourth Tuesday. After the necessary business had been done, a discussion took place with regard to forming a prayer meeting for missions, and it was decided that a portion of the time at each meeting be devoted to praying for missions. After a very pleasant afternoon the meeting closed with prayer.

OTAUTAU.

Our usual monthly meeting was held on April 14th. Two new members were enrolled raising our numbers up to 20. The chief subject of discussion was the working of the Band of Hope for the coming winter. It was decided to hold the meetings monthly instead of fortnightly, as had been done previously, thus working in with the Junior Rechabite Lodge which is being formed here, and which will hold its meetings also monthly. Other business was held over until next meeting owing to lack of time.

The Otautau branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union meets every second Thursday of the month, alternately in the Presbyterian Hall and the Methodist Church. The officers are—President, Mrs W. S. Baird, Otautau; Treasurer, Mrs J. Corkhill; Secretary, Mrs F. Crawford; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs J. Brown.

LOWER HUTT.

Mrs McCaw presided at the monthly meeting. We were glad to welcome into our Union one new member. Mrs Bannister undertook to look up some of the absent members. Also the Medal Contest will be under her superintendence. We are hoping that more interest will be evinced. Mrs McCaw was appointed Superintendent for Back Blocks. We were sorry there were not two ladies who could undertake nomination for the School Committee. A special invitation to all old members is extended.

KAIAPOL

gave an interesting account of the recent Convention at Invercargill. Correspondence from Mrs Jansen, Petone, New Zealand Superintendent Temperance Sunday, was read and with Mrs Sheppard on the death of her son

was passed, all members standing. A letter was read from the Waikari Union asking for some of our members to pay them a visit on 4th May; it was decided to do so. Mrs Ward read an interesting article on "Slum Life in London." It was decided to hold a social at our next meeting to welcome Mrs Mitchell, the N.Z. Recording Secretary. One new member was initiated.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Since February the thoughts of our members have been much taken up with the furnishing of a stall at the bazaar in aid of the funds for the new Temperance Hall.

At the March meeting the Delegate gave a report of Convention. Three members were

initiated.

In April all-round good reports were given by the Superintendents of our ten branches of work, showing them to be in a healthy state of progress. It was reported that the four dozen Convention number of White Ribbon had been sold during the month amongst the general public. The circular from the New Zealand Superintendent of Evangelistic Work was read and discussed.

We are now beginning to plan for District Convention. Will our auxiliary Unions be getting ready their papers to be read at it, also the questions for the Question Box.

BLENHEIM.

At our usual monthly meeting on the 3rd May, Mrs Litchfield, Vice-President, presided. We are very sorry that our President, who has been in very ill-health for some time past has been obliged to relinquish her duties for a while, but we trust that it will not be long before she is restored to health and can again take her place amongst us. A letter was read from Mrs Upton, New Zealand Superintendent of the Evangelistic Department, and it was decided that at our next meeting we appoint a local Superintendent.

A "Drawing-room" meeting was held at the

A "Drawing-room" meeting was held at the residence of Mrs McKenzie on March 23rd, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent by all present. A paper on the "Life of Miss Frances Willard" was read by one of the members and musical items were contributed.

NGAERE.

At the meeting held 3rd May one new member was initiated. The Superintendent of the Evangelistic Department reported twelve new names on the New Testament League; three chlidren in one family, ages 11 to 14, have promised to read a chapter from the Bible aloud each night, taking verses turn about. Several of the Union members handed in clothing and money, contributed and collected for cases of poverty and distress in Stratford and Eltham. These were passed on to Mrs H Phillips, with the request that she would undertake the superintendence of the Flower Mission Department in conjunction with the Evangelistic, with Mrs Walter Wickham and Mrs K. Tarrant as assistants. Also 10s. was voted from Union funds for this work.

Since the last monthly meeting of the Union our members have been working hard to get the Nelson system of Bible reading introduced into the Ngaere School, and evidence of the interest taken in the subject throughout the district is that other years 5 or 6 men have voted at the School Committee election, this year over 40 men and women voted. One of our members—Mrs Manly—was returned on

the Committee.

DUNEDIN.

At our meeting on May 3rd Mrs H. H Driver gave an excellent Bible reading on the "Life and Character of Daniel," pointing out his fitness mentally and physically to receive the God-sent vision. The business part was long, and for variety could hardly be equalied. It included congratulations to our President, Mrs Blair, on her election by the Hon. Geo. Fowlds to the position of Visitor to the Industrial School at Caversham; plans made for the Southland Temperance Convention to be held in Dunedin in June next; the arranging for a course of lectures to women and girls; the receiving of two new members; the advisability of arranging for a mass meeting of women during the Henry-Pott mission; congratulations to Mr Milligan, who has just been elected for the sixth time Mayor of Oamaru, and for the block women's vote that was given to him in honour of the strenuous work done by him for years past in the cause of No-License; a resolution, unanimously passed, protesting against the C.D. Act remaining on the Statute Book; correspondence received from kindred societies and discussed; the President requested to write a paper on "Temperance Education of Women and Children" for local council; concluding by a brief outline by Mrs Kirkland of the New Zealand President's annual address. An unusually long and well-attended meeting closed by singing of Doxology.

DUNEDIN Y's.

The usual monthly meeting was held in the Hanover street Schoolroom, April 7th. President occupied the chair. Reports were read by the Superintendents of the various departments, also a letter from Mr Hughes thanking the Y's for their ready assistance in connection with the recent Y.M.C.A. garden

On April 26th the Y's provided the entertainment at the Sailors' Rest. A most enjoyable time was spent, songs, recitations, trios, and quartettes being contributed by Y members, after which games were played.

TIMARU.

On April 9th a pleasant gathering was held on Caroline Bay for the mothers of our "Cradle Roll" babies. It was the first gathering of the kind we have held, and mothers and babies seemed to enjoy the outing very much.

During the month we have had the extreme pleasure of listening to our beloved Organiser, Miss Powell. She gave us her address on "Girls and Their Lovers," which was very much appreciated, and several names were added to our Y Union.

On Sunday afternoon a talk on "Purity" was listened to with much interest.

visits help to strengthen our ranks.

On April 26th the meeting took the form of our annual social. This was very largely attended by both old and young. Musical items were rendered, and our President, Mrs Rule, addressed the members. She briefly laid before them some of the women's work accomplished, and urged the members to attend more regularly and thus gain benefit and more interest in the Union. A very pleasant feature of the evening was a presentation to Miss Sibly, our esteemed Treasurer. We are proud to say Miss Sibly is not leaving our ranks, but is going to be made doubly strong by uniting herself to one who is a hearty and sympathetic Recording Secretary gave some information

helper in the temperance cause. Many kind / and appreciative words were spoken of Miss Sibly's long and faithful service. She has held office some 13 years, and has been a faithful Treasurer. In making the presentation of a silver spirit kettle, Mrs Rule stated that the gift in no way compensated for her work or measured our love to her, but it was to be just a small reminder of her useful service. Miss Sibly feelingly responded, and was supported by Mr Stead.

We cannot report having women elected to our School Committees, though several were nominated.

TIMARU Y's.

The monthly meeting was held May 2nd in our new room, which is a most suitable one for our meetings. Mrs Bardsley presided over a good attendance of members and visitors from the Mother Union. Final arrangements were made for the concert, the proceeds of which are to furnish our room. Great interest is being taken in our movement, and we are sure our Y Union will do good work. An interested gentleman has generously offered to pay half the rent of our room for six months.

AUCKLAND.

Our usual meeting was held in the Central Mission Hall April 13th, Mrs Dewar presided. A circular with reference to the School Committee elections and the Nelson system of Bible reading was read. Two members of our Union expressed their willingness to stand for nomination on the School Committee. report was read from the Whangarei branch of our Union showing good work had been done there; it came too late for the New Zealand Convention. The sum of £2 was denated from our funds to help in sending Delegates to the next No-License Convention to be held in Wellington in June. It was decided that we set apart one day during the year as "WHITE RIBBON Day." Two letters were received from Major Cossgrove, Chief Dominion Scout, re the work of the Girl Peace Scouts. A lady from the Tauranga Union was present at the meeting and gave a short interesting account of the work of the Union there.

On April 27th Mrs Dewar presided. A large pile of correspondence was read and dealt with. A letter was received from Warkworth stating that a Union had been formed there with a membership of fourteen. This was very welcome news. Delegates were appointed to represent our Union at the Auckland Province No-License Convention to be held on May 24th. An animated discussion took place re the recent School Committee elections with reference to the Nelson system of Bible Reading in Schools. We were very pleased to have Mrs Leask from Napier with us at our meeting. She gave a most interesting account of the work of the Union in Napier, and spoke of temperance work in England, where she had been recently visiting.

WARKWORTH.

The Union was formed by Mrs Jory, Methodist Parsonage, Mangawhare, Northern Wairoa The Secretary of the Union is Mrs B. Hamilton, The Grange, Warkworth.

FEILDING.

At our meeting three new young members were received and duly welcomed by the President. A report from the Dorcas Department was received telling of help given. The

regarding No-License. It was resolved to ask Mrs Cole, Dominion President, to hold a public meeting in Feilding shortly. Also, if possible, to arrange for "Cottage Meetings." month there is to be a Temperance Convention

GISBORNE.

The ordinary monthly meeting of our Union was held in March. There was a good attendance, and after the general business had been disposed of, Mrs Walker, our Delegate, gave a short outline of Convention and the general plan of work for the year. A great deal of interest was taken by members and many questions were asked and answered.

Later in the month Mrs A. Graham, our President, gave a garden party at her residence in Kaiti to Union members, their friends, and sympathisers, in commemoration of "Frances Willard Day," the celebration of which had been unavoidably postponed from February. Mrs Walker gave a most interesting account of the Convention held in Invercargill in February, speaking of the benefit and inspiration such a Convention is to the Delegates, and the many useful ideas and plans for future work that are gained there. She spoke very warmly of the kind hospitality of the Invercargill Union and the good organisation displayed, of the activity and strength of the Union there and the good work that they are doing in that town, and also spoke of the pleasure of being in a No-License district and of the good results apparent there. The Mayor, who was present, dwelt on the great benefit of such a Union as this amongst women and spoke of his sympathy with all forms of educational work. Rev. F. W. Chatterton alluded to the work of the Union as being valuable in that it recognised the need for legislative as well as educational reforms. He also said he was glad to see that the Bible in Schools was included in its departments, and appealed to parents present to help with their co-operation the voluntary Teachers' Association which was working in the Gisborne Schools.

A well-attended business meeting was held at St. Andrew's Schoolroom on April 13th, to discuss the resolution recently passed at the Doctors' Conference in Wellington re "The alarming prevalence and increase of syphilis and the necessity for legislative interference.' Several members present spoke strongly on the subject, and the following resolution was moved by Mrs Chatterton, and carried, "That a strong protest be made by this Union and demand that the Acts be at once removed from the Statute Book." The resolution to be forwarded to Mrs Cole and Mrs Webb, Superintendent of the Purity Department. A deputation, consisting of Mrs Graham and Mrs Walker, were authorised to interview the Premier, who would shortly be in this district, on the subject. A letter from the Householders League, Wellington, re the election of School Committees was read, and the importance of attending householders' meetings and trying to return women was emphasised. We are glad to be able to report in this connection that four women in this district have been put in-Two members of our Union, Mrs McLeod at Mangapapa and Mrs Walker for Gisborne Central, and also Mrs Scott, resident at Mangapapa, and Mrs Dawson Thomas, in Gisborne. A letter from Captain Blackburne was received enclosing the annual report of the Anti-Opium Association, held in Wellington. After discussion the following resolution was carried, "That a letter be sent from this

Union to the clergy of the various churches asking their help and co-operation in arousing interest in this matter." A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs Walker for her very comprehensive and interesting report on Convention, also to Mrs A. Graham for her hospitality on "Frances Willard Day," and to the Afternoon Tea Committee for their useful work throughout the year.

CHRISTCHURCH.

At the meeting held on 9th March it was resolved to support the candidature on the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board of the candidates nominated in favour of reform, three of these candidates being women. The Frances Willard memorial celebration was then held, a paper on "The Life and Work of Miss Willard," and some personal reminiscences of a meeting with her, being read. A proposal that the Union should endeavour to arrange for the publication of a Temperance Column in the daily papers once a week, was carried.

On the 23rd March, there was a very large attendance of members, arrangements having been made to conduct the first part of the meeting as a "Cradle Roll At Home." Morten, President of the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, gave an address on the work of the Society, which, she said, adopted as its motto, "It is not the will of our Heavenly Father that one of these little ones shall perish." She emphasised the necessity of pure air and sunshine to build up the strength and vitality of the infant, and laid stress on the importance of natural feeding. failing which, humanised milk should be used as the nearest substitute for the natural She condemned the use of collapsible perambulators, and of leather hoods on perambulators, and also pointed out the evils attending the use of so-called comforters. demonstration of the method of preparing humanised milk was then given by Plunket Nurse Hickson, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to both ladies. A discussion took place on the election of women to seats on School Committees. A letter was received from the Board of Education regarding temperance wall-sheets in public schools. Board stated that it could not see its way to incur the expense of providing the sheets, but would allow them to be hung in the schools under its control if the Union would provide A resolution was passed expressing satisfaction at the results of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board elections, at which five out of the seven reform candidates nominated had been elected, and especially congratulating the three women candidates upon having all secured election.

At the meeting held on the 13th April, a very interesting address on the subject of "Good Citizenship," with special reference to the election of women on School Committees, was given by Mrs Page, Superintendent. She pointed out that most of the deficiencies and evils which characterised our primary schools owed their perpetuation to the low elb to which citizenship, especially women's citizenship, had sunk, and that if the women of the Dominion would declare that the care of the children was theirs in the first place, and that their claims for the children in school and elsewhere must and shall be attended to, and if this claim were justified by devotion of time, trouble, and thought to the children outside as well as inside the home, then the environment of the children would very soon be different,

of the citizens of the future. There was in the community an amount of ill-health, of deficient development, of chronic mal-digestion, of increasing tooth trouble, and of undeveloped moral sense, that could be reduced immensely if taken up seriously by women, and it was the duty of women, even at the cost of some personal sacrifice, to take up work such as this, in which their services would be of such infinite benefit to the community. It was resolved to co-operate with the Canterbury Women's Institute in urging upon the meetings of householders the desirability of electing women as members of School Committees. A letter from Mrs Grossman in England, with regard to the treatment of the Suffragettes was read, and a committee was appointed to confer with the Women's Institute in order to frame a protest for transmission to the Imperial Government against the treatment accorded to the Suf-

At the meeting on the 27th April, reports of Superintendents of Departments were received, and a committee was set up to arrange for the commemoration of the silver jubilee of the Union. A paper on "Narcotics," by Miss L. M. Smith, Superintendent of Work in that Department, was read and discussed. pointed out that the use of tobacco had not only been noted by medical authorities as impairing both the bodily and mental powers of the users, but also that parents whose blood was saturated with tobacco, and whose brain and nervous systems were semi-narcotised by it, must transmit to their children the elements of distempered bodies and erratic minds, and and that no evils were so manifestly visited upon the third and fourth generations as those which arose from the use of tobacco.

WANGANUI.

On April 19th a special meeting was held in the afternoon in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, when Sister Nellie, Methodist Deaconess in the Taranaki district, gave an interesting account of her work amongst the Maoris. The President, Mrs Up'on, took the chair, and spoke a few words about the work done by our Union among the Maoris in Hawke's Bay and other places. Sister Nellie gave a thrilling account of her work and the difficulties she has to contend with, and spoke of the drink and eigarette fiends, what suffering and misery it was causing among these people. All present left determined to do more both by prayers and work to help to stem the evil traffic. A good collection was taken up for Maori work.

The usual meeting was held in St. Paul's classroom on May the 6th. Letters were read from the Superintendents of Temperance, Sunday, Evangelistic, and Legal and Parliamentary Departments. Also the "Cradle Roll" was discussed. We are hoping to start a "Cradle Roll" after our next meeting. A resolution was passed re C.D. Acts. It was decided to hold a "Drawing-room" meeting at Mrs J. Smith's residence on behalf of the Maori work on Thursday, May 12th. Two new members were received into the Union.

elsewhere must and shall be attended to, and if this claim were justified by devotion of time, trouble, and thought to the children outside as well as inside the home, then the environment of the children would very soon be different, and would produce its effect in the building up

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS.

Sabbath Observance.

My work for the year has been very varied. Early in the year I saw by the papers that there was a movement to increase the work in the Chief Post Office in Auckland, proposing to make up and deliver a mail on Sundays, so as to give business men the opportunity of answering letters a day earlier. I wrote to the Chief Postmaster, Auckland, also the Premier and Postmaster-General, protesting against this, and believe did some good.

Last October I wrote to the City Council, Christchurch, thanking them for their action re Sunday concerts, assuring them of our sympathy and gratification at the firm stand they had taken in the interest of Sabbath Observance.

Petone.—Protested against the bands parading the streets on Sundays during the hours of Sunday School or Divine Service. When their appeal to the band conductors failed appealed to the Mayor on the ground that it drew away the children's attention, and spoiled the attendance at Sunday School. This won the day, and the bands are now not allowed to parade on Sunday.

During the year an attempt has been made at Timaru to open the tea rooms at Caroline Bay for refreshments on Sundays. Petitions were presented to the Municipal Council. Legal advice was taken from two different firms. In each case the advice given was that it would be an illegal act.

I have been delighted and very much cheered by the action of the Presbyterian Church in this work. They are very progressive and recommend "that if practicable the Committee take such united action as they deem fit, along with other Christian bodies, to secure some amendment of the Sabbath Law." They also wish to issue wall sheets suitable for placing on the walls of our schools and other public rooms. I think we might help in this by distributing the sheets. We, being undenominational, could do so, where a Church could not.

Last January I went to Timaru to attend, as a visitor, the Primitive Methodist Conference. One of the Delegates asked me if I were going to wait on Conference re Sabbath Observance. He thought it would be a good opportunity, especially as the subject was coming before them. I interviewed the Timaru officers of our Union and we agreed to form a deputation and wait upon the Conference, consisting of Mesdames Rule, Bardsley, Trott, and myself.

We were well received, and later resolu-

tions were passed.

illegal to do anything necessitating the hiring of conveyances for any excursion on which passengers pay, we shall go a long way to stop the Sunday pienies which are so prevalent.

Some people say they see no harm in using the tram on Sundays, that the tram employees have their day of rest. But I hold that no other day is equal to

Sunday.

Waimate distributes Sunday literature and takes care of little children whilst the mothers attend Church services.

I attribute the lack of Sabbath Observance to one thing—INDIFFERENCE. There is great indifference on the part of the young people of this Dominion towards all things which would make for their good. Decisive steps should be taken to stop Sunday holiday parties, Sunday trains, trams, etc. I believe that to keep holy the Sabbath Day is incumbent on all Christians, and if this commandment is broken evil will be the result.

> CLARA LILL, N.Z. Superintendent.

Books.

Books are not made for libraries, but libraries for books. They are not made to be owned in sets, but to be read by sentences. They are not meant to become the mural decoration of a rich man's home, a luxury of the eternal life; but they are meant to be serviceable to the inner life of rich and poor alike.

Many books have been destined to pass an idle hour and then die forgotten. Some books have been destined to fill leisure to the full with beauty, and they live while they are enjoyed; but a few books there are that death cannot kill-they are perennial in their repeated resurrections and everlasting in their influence, for these few express ideals that encourage the germination of the spirit in soil long fallow.

Suppose that a certain great book is read only by one great man in each century? Is he alone the gainer by his perusal of it? Will he not, becaue of it, rise to greater achievement and more abundantly benefit his times? Will not the thoughts expressed in it filter through his mind into the minds of those with whom he has human relations? they not gain dignity by contact with whatever of insight and nobility he has gained from that book?

Wise folk distrust all books beneath their own status of nobility, attainment,

and power, and love those with a stern challenge, those that are stimulating and If an Act could be passed making it helpful in their several vocations, those that inspire the darkest hours, and those that are not inconsistent with ardour and joy. They do not rejoice in the possession of any good book unless they are willing to share it; or, failing this, they do their best to radiate its light.

-Marguerite Ogden Bigelow.

S. A. Knopf, M.D., New York, Honorary Vice-President of the British Congress on Tuberculosis, says: "Alcohol has never cured and never will cure tuberculosis. It will either prevent or retard recovery. It is like a two-edged weapon; on one side it poisons the system, and on the other side it ruins the stom ch and thus prevents this organ from properly digesting the necessary

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List of Literature now in Stock.

LEAFLETS

New Leaflet, 'Food for the Baby,' 2s per 100 Sabbath Observance, by Rev A. Doull, M.A., 10d per 100

No License leaflets, assorted 8d per 100 Poison Laid (Narcotic), 6d per 100

Maori Leaflet, by Dr Pomare, 1s 4d per 100 What is the W.C.T.U., 8d per 100

Effects of Tobacco on Physical development, 8d

Leaflets for Letters, with pretty Children's Pictures in packets, assorted, 50 for 6d

White Ribbon Hymnal, 2s each Confidential talks to Young Women, one copy only, 3s 6d One of God's Lamplighters, 1s each

One of Australia's daughters, 2s each Power of Womanhood, Miss Ellice Hopkins, 1s Do Everything, Miss F. Willard, 1s 9d

Angel Isafrel, 9d each

Frances Willard Pledge Books, a limited number just received. 1s each

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Small W.C.T.U. Cards, 4d per doz Large, with handsome Blue and Gold Border, 9d per doz

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Woman's Christian Temperance Union, by Mrs Webb, 9d doz

Who Did Sin, by Lady Henry Somerset, 1s 4d

The Battle for the Bible, pamphlet, 1s 3d doz Doctors and Drinking, 1d each

Drink and Crime, 1d each

Temperance Reform, by Dean Farrar, 2d each

The New Constitution, 2d each Safe Remedies in Illness, 9d doz

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THE WHITE RIBBON.

Editor - - Mrs Oldham, France Rd., Napier Associate Editor -Mrs Low, M.A. Miss Harrison, France Rd, Napier Business Manager

The Mhite Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1910.

KING EDWARD VII. "Edward the Peacemaker."

Born November 9th, 1841; Crowned August 9th, 1901; Died May 6th, 1910.

"The Chief has fallen! so the troop To-day rides slowly; Sad heads bend low-broad shoulders droop Where Death lies holy; And there are tears in weary eyes, As rain from winter's weeping skies, Where every sobbing south wind sighs A requiem lowly.

MORE than nine years ago the British nation was mourning the loss of its beloved Queen-Victoria the Good. To-day, all hearts are sad because of the lamentable blow that has fallen so suddenly—the King's death-knitting the whole civilised world together in bonds of sympathy and grief. We think of the words spoken by him on ascending the throne: "So long as I have "breath in my body I will strive to "promote the best interests of my "people;" and of the faithfulness with which this promise has been kept. It is a matter for thanksgiving how earnestly he strove, and how wonderfully he succeeded, in preserving the peace of the nations of the world. Our hearts are with the stricken one-the widowed Queenand we pray that the God of all consolation will be her Comfort and stay.

The open heart always finds the open heart.

KING GEORGE V.

Born at Marlborough House, June 3rd, 1865.

HIS Majesty, during the early part of his life, was educated for a career in the Navy, but the death of his brother placed him in the position of Heir Apparent. His marriage to the Princess of Teck took place on July 6th, 1893. Their Royal Highnesses have six children-five boys and one girl. Their visit to New Zealand as the Duke and Duchess of York will be well remembered. His Majesty, who was privileged to be the close companion and confidant of his royal father, will have a difficult task to fill the position so efficiently held by his well-beloved grandmother and greatly-lamented father. He will be helped by the united prayers of the nation-at-large, by the graces and gifts of his beloved wife, and also by the unvarying tact and endearing goodness of the Queen Mother. GOD BLESS THE KING.

A cablegram of sympathy was sent to Queen Alexandra, from the New Zealand President, on behalf the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and the following gracious acknowledgement has been received: "Queen Alexandra thanks the "W.C.T.U. for its kind sympathy "in her sorrow."

Our Illustration.

The face on our front page this month is too well known to need any introduction on our part. It is now more than four years since Mrs Cole, of Christchurch, was elected to the honoured position of New Zealand President of the W.C.T.U. Those who have sat under her wise rule at the last four Conventions well know how magnicently she fills the responsible role.

By the following extract from a current issue of the Australian others besides New Zealanders ap- brought two or three personal friends of

preciate her worth :- "The lady President who honoured us by her presence at our triennial Convention in Sydney, the fine, fascinating and gifted Mrs Cole, whom we may term a live coal, for she is instinct with life, and left behind fragrant memories cherished in many hearts."

To show our loyalty to her, we can so work in our different departments, by obtaining new members, taking new pledges, succouring the tempted and tried, promoting and securing wiser and purer laws, that this shall be the most successful year our New Zealand Union has known.

Hints for White Ribbon Day.

Sister Moody-Bell writes: "With regard to increasing circulation of WHITE RIBBON, and thus developing our work, I suggest that New Zealand branches adopt an English method. Each branch secures several extra copies monthly, sends a copy free, with a courteous note from the secretary, to various local influential persons drawing their attention to the paper or any special part of it. Copies are also placed in all railway stations, waiting rooms, public libraries, and hospitals. This is work that every small local branch can

ORGANISER'S MONTHLY REPORT.

On Friday, 8th April, I arrived in Timaru, and the same evening gave a talk to the girls. Next day I had the pleasure of joining the "Cradle Roll" picnic at Caroline Bay-an ideal spot for the little ones, who had a good time playing on the sands.

On the Sunday afternoon I gave a second talk to the girls, and on Monday had intended to keep a long-ago promise to Winchmore, but, in consequence of

my letter going astray, the meeting was not announced and nothing could be done, so I went through to Kaiapoi and gave a talk to the girls there. Having two days to spare I ran over to Lyttelton and Waikare and met the friends, mak-

ing arrangements for visiting them later. The following Monday I met the Christchurch Y's and gave them an account of my Hawke's Bay Maori

campaign. A number of the senior. members attended, as well as a good White Ribbon Signal we see that company of Y's, and the advertisement

strange cat who appeared from somewhere and, during the progress of the meeting, caught two or three mice, triumphantly conveying her squeaking prey out from under the curtain to exhibit it to the audience.

Waikare was reached on the Tuesday, and the following night a temperance meeting was held in the Church, the most conspicuous feature of which was the display of timber. The following afternoon Rev. R. Wood drove me out to Horsley Downs, where we had a very fine meeting of women deeply interested in the story of the W.C.T.U. It was thought inadvisable to form a branch there but one or two women belong to The latter has been Waikare Union. somewhat quiescent of late, but after a number of visits had been paid we held a meeting and had the pleasure of initiating six new members.

The membership of the Lyttelton branch has for some years stood at fifteen or sixteen, and a few first-class workers have "kept the ball rolling."

On Monday, 25th, a fine audience gathered in the Presbyterian Church to hear "Girls and Their Lovers," and after a few days' visiting we held an afternoon meeting, when eight women joined and I hear four more are to do so at the next meeting. Both Lyttelton and Waikare arranged to work the "Cradle Roll" and Savings Bank Departments.

I had now come to the Thursday and nothing arranged for next week. Letters written weeks before had not been replied to, and I had to wire, at an expenditure of over five shillings, to remedy the

omission.

On Tuesday, May 3rd, I arrived in Shannon, being met at the station by Sister Moody-Bell, who is doing good work there in charge of the little P.M.

The next day we visited Levin and consulted with the friends as to future

A suggestion had been made as to visiting Manakau, so I spent a few hours there, but could do no more.

Miss Powell has now a supply of enamelled badges similar to those formerly sold at a shilling, only mounted in gilt. These are sold at threepence, but, if prepaid, will be sent to the Unions at two shillings a dozen and a penny postage. The badges are entirely satisfactory, except that when constantly taken out and in, the pin is apt to come

my own. We had a good time and a it back and pinch the little discs on each number of Maori collecting cards were side. The idea is not that each member The proceedings were en- should buy one, but three or four, keeplivened by the hunting proclivities of a ing one in each coat and one for light blouses, then they will never be without our sweet little symbol of purity and helpfulness. Of course, it is understood that the badge must not be sold or given to non-members.

> Miss Powell's address:-Until May 27th, c o Rev. A. Doull, M.A., Otahuhu, Auckland; till June 2nd, c/o Mrs Scanlen, Tuakau, Waikato; then co N.Z. Alliance, Willis Street, Wellington.

> Note. — The Address of the Superintendent of the Department of Peace and Arbitration now is: "MRS GRIFFIN, 98 Ellice Street, Te Aro, Wellington."

Obituary.

Called to Higher Service.

A well-known and beloved worker has heard the Call, and has left the work below to join in the higher service above.

Miss Patterson, of Ormondville, who has been in very delicate health for some years, passed away on Friday, 13th May.

Mrs Canon Webb and Miss Alice will have the sincerest sympathy of a large number of W.C.T.U. friends.

Kind Words from Over the Sea.

"We have received from the Secretary of the W.C.T.U. of New Zealand, three beautiful literary and artistic productions, evidently the work of great skill and resthetic tastes, designed to worthily commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the Union in that Dominion. There is first of all the White Ribbon, their worthy paper. The frontispiece is adorned with a photo group, clearly brought out, of members who attended the Jubilee Convention at Invercargill. This March issue is the Silver Jubilee Convention number, and it contains a full report of the remarkable Convention. addresses, splendid reports, names of persons of note, financial statements, balance-sheets, etc., etc. The paper, the printer's work, the lady editor's skill, and indeed the whole get up of the issue are beyond all praise.

beauty. But a commemorative Souvenir, issued by the Executive, surpasses anything we have seen. Great credit is due to somebody for the wisdom displayed in the bright design and arrangement of its contents. It contains a host of photographs, finished off in the artist's best styte, of distinguished ladies, and many of the W.C.T.U. leaders of the cause in New Zealand.

Added to those life-like photos is a vast number of names of notable women and men, with rare and unique mottos and favourite poetic quotations attached. Among the number this State bulks largely.

The Souvenir is printed on beautiful art paper, in the best possible style. The whole of the three productions must have cost a large sum of money and

much skill and time as well. Well done, New Zealand! Remote as you are from many parts of this world, where the W.C.T.U. flag floats, you have set an example worthy of imitation, which may be emulated but never surpassed."

-N.S.W. White Ribbon Signal.

Official Connespondence.

11 Stoneyhurst-street, Christchurch.

DEAR SISTERS,

So far I have received very few replies from the Unions written to, on behalf of the organising fund.

Every Union knows the need there is for this work to be done, and reports tell us of the stimulus and help received from Miss Powell's visits.

It is to be hoped an appeal for loyal assistance will not be in vain.

Donations have been received from:

	£	s.	d.
Mr and Mrs Squires	 5	0	0
Mrs Glendinning	 1	0	0
Mrs Oldham	 1	0	0
Otautau Union	 1	0	0

Yours in the work,

Mrs.) NELLIE BENDELY, N.Z. Treasurer, Organising Fund.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS.—THE CAMPAIGN AT HOME.

An Appeal to Mr Asquith.

Representatives from the New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance Union In addition to the White Ribbon, the and the Canterbury Women's Institute, "Agenda" prepared for the Convention's recently met at Christchurch, when it out, when all that is necessary is to put work was decidedly a thing of ornate was agreed to forward to the Right

Honourable H. H. Asquith, Prime Minister, the following letter authorised by the Union and the Institute: -

To the Right Honourable H. H. As-

quith, Premier of England.

Sir,-There are human exigencies, fundamental necessities, which sweep away all barriers of time, place and circumstance between the meanest subject and the highest tribunal of the land. Mindful, therefore, of our responsibilities as members of the British Empire, we, representative women electors of New Zealand, feel constrained to address the Premier of England on a subject of vital import to the race. The basic British principle of the right of free petition has been violated, and the results of that violation have been such as to leave an indelible stain on the British Government.

It is with deep horror and indignation that the women of New Zealand at last apprehend the extent and significance of the barbarities inflicted on English women in prison for the suffrage cause. We learn with shame that women convicted and unconvicted, women whose offences were wholly rooted in political principles, and in many cases merely technical, have been treated with a coarseness and cruelty surpassed only in the dungeons of Russia. We learn that resistance to penal conditions deemed to be unjust has been met with blows, insult and barbarous violence. We learn that women, driven by these conditions to the extreme protest of self-starvation, have been subjected by Ministerial orders to a dangerous, nauseating and hideously painful process ostensibly inflicted to preserve life. our opinion such treatment is in reality an art of despicable persecution. learn that women were, in the first place, reluctantly driven to breaches of the law by their utter failure to obtain satisfaction by constitutional forms of appeal. We learn, in fact, that the consideration theoretically promised to all his Majesty's subjects is not extended to women, who are thus shown to be on the footing of serfs in the eyes of his Majesty's Govern-These judicial outrages were inflicted on earnest women of spotless character, not by autocratic tyranny in a semi-savage country, but in the heart of the most enlightened Empire in the world, under the most progressive Government that perhaps ever held office in England. Can anyone fail to draw the obvious inference? Nowhere on earth can the interests of women be safeguarded where Parliament is not as fully responsible to women as to men.

As women we are pleased, as British subjects we are humiliated, to know that these cruelties have not gone unregarded

many parts of the world. Nowhere, however, should abhorrence of the atrocities be deeper than in New Zealand, the first country to grant its women the franchise -New Zealand, where the benefits of the equal vote have been enjoyed for seventeen years of peace, prosperity and honour. Nowhere is Imperial patriotism warmer than in New Zealand. Nowhere is the honour of Britain held more dear than in New Zealand. Nowhere, therefore, has sympathy with the general humanitarian work accomplished or proposed by your Government, been more cordial and sincere than in New Zealand. Consequently, in no other part of the Empire should there be more amazement at the cruel and illogical attitude of your Government towards women, for what body of electors would more readily forward humanitarian legislation than enfranchised women?

We can have no doubt as to the final issue of the struggle. And we submit that it will be to the lasting credit of your Government to vindicate the honour of Parliament by righting in the only manner possible the wrong which has been done. - We are, etc.,

FANNY COLE, President New Zealand Women's Christian Temperance

Margaret Foster, President Canterbury Women's Institute.

Morkers.

Women on School Committees.

Gisborne-Mesdames McLeod, Walker, Scott, and Dawson Thomas.

Napier-Mesdames Oldham and In-

Wellington-Mesdames Boxall, Miller ann Wright.

Tariki-Mrs Jemison (also elected Sec-

Ngaere-Mrs Manly.

Christchurch—Also returned some lady members.

A Distinguished Member of the W.C.T.U. of India.

H.H. the Rani Sahiba of Wadhwan has thrown herself heartily into Temperance work. She is a woman of commanding intellect, and of high and noble ambitions for her loved country of India. At a notable meeting held in her palace at Waltair, standing on a platform in her drawing-room, which was brilliantly illuminated by silver candelabra, and wearing the W.C.T.U. badge, she welcomed Mrs Hallowes, the National Prebut have provoked remonstrance from sident, in an excellent speech in English.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED To May 8th, 1910.

To May, 1908-Mrs A. Smith, Whangarei, 1/-. To June, 1909-Mrs Mitchell, Ocean Beach,

To December, 1909-Mrs Anderson, Riverton,

To April, 1910-Mrs Grigg, Christchurch, 5/ -. To June, 1910-Mrs Burrell, Palmerston North; Miss Wilson, Auckland, each 2/6. Mesdames Forbes, Sawyer's Bay; French, Auckland: Spence, Palmerston North; Griffln, Wellington, each 5/-. Mrs Cresswell, Christchurch, 7/6. Mesdames Anderson, Sanson; Salter and Wallis, Christchurch, each 10/-.

To September, 1910-Miss Ensom, Los An-

To November, 1910-Mrs Jory, Northern Wairoa, 2/6

To December, 1910-Mrs Wicks, Christchurch,

To February, 1911—Mesdames Scott and Watson, Onehunga; Bayes, Auckland; Bur-

gess, and Miss A. Smith, Naseby, each 2/6.
To March, 1911—Mesdames Powell, Port Chalmers; Bannister. Lower Hutt; Blyth, Christchurch; Woolford, Wanganui; Leyland, Auckla 1, each 2 6.

To June, 1911-Mrs Mossman, Marton, 7/6. To July, 1911-Mesdames Bardsley, Timaru; Wilson and Astbury, Palmerston, each 2'6.

To September, 1911-Mrs Bourne, Timaru,

Will subscribers kindly note that all moneys (unless paid to local agents) should be sent to Miss Harrison, Business Manager, France Road, Napier.

Papers returned, marked "Gone, no address" -Mrs Bendall, Inglewood, Taranaki : Mrs E. J. Nuiman, 36, Arthur Street, Ponsonby, Auckland. Anyone knowing new or correct addresses will oblige by forwarding same to Business Manager.

At the World's Convention in Glasgow on June 3rd, will be held an all-day service of prayer and praise; prayer for the outpouring of God's spirit on the Convention, and praise for the wonderful victories which are everywhere calling forth thanksgiving to God.

Can You Tell?

Australian boys might ask similar questions to the following from an American boy :-

"Say pa!"

"What do you want, my son?"

"Are you going to vote against the saloons ?"

"No, I certainly am not!"

"Why aren't you going to vote against the saloons?"

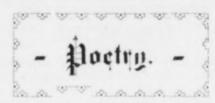
"Because there is just as much drink sold in dry cities as in wet."

"Say, pa!"

"Now, what do you want, you pest?"

"If that's so, why do the liquor men work so hard for wet cities?"

"Oh, get out, will you? I'm busy."



"The Man Behind the Gun.

(Novel campaign verses read by Duane N. Griffin, of Hartford, Conn., at the 1910 banquet of Connecticut Prohibitionists.)

What man is this who doth command, The fame and praise of every land; Whose name is great in all the earth, Whose character, of princely worth, Whose triumphs are so often sung, Whose deeds are told by every tongue, Because he bravely fought and won, Yea! keeps the foe still on the run? It is the man behind the gun.

What party this we all admire. Which fills our souls with holy fire, Which cares not for the praise of men, But seeks alone the right, and then, Unshaken by the power of self, It standeth firm, as truth itself, Until its end it shall attain, Whose worth the world shall yet proclaim?

Yea! Prohibition is its name!

What party will outlaw the trade In alcoholic drinks, which made Our land so desolate and sad, Which ruined homes and drove men mad, And still doth thrive in spite of all We've done to slap King Alcohol; What party shall this greatness claim, And thus all others put to shame? Yea! Prohibition is its name!

What party will this law enforce? The one behind the law, of course! So Prohibition may obtain In fact, and not alone in name: Nay, follow up its work, until It stamps out every other ill, That naught of legal wrong remain; What party win this greatest fame? Yea! Prohibition is its name!

We Live Longer than our Forefathers.

After bemoaning the needless waste of life that is going on in civilised lands, the editor of Good Health says: "It is interesting and satisfactory to note that where there is a marked improvement in both personal and public hygiene, life has been gradually lengthening during the last few hundred years. seems good reason to believe that in Europe alone, the average length of life has nearly doubled during the past 350 years, and has now reached about forty years. In Sweden the average length of life is fifty years."

A FATEFUL NEW YEAR.

Mrs. M. F. Howard, Chinton, Iowa.)

Four beautiful girls were chatting eagerly over their dessert in Judge Carroll's elegant dining room. Edith, you would not serve wine, real wine!" exclaimed one of them, a lovely blonde, whose colour, like the delicate tinting of a shell, came and went in her fair face with every shade of feeling.

"Don't be fussy, Grace," quickly replied another, a perfect contrast in looks and manner, and evidently Grace's sister, from the freedom with which she chided her whenever their opinions differed. " For my part, I should like to see a real New Year's reception, wine and all, such as we do not have the opportunity to see

in our little village."

"Of course, Betty, and that is why we planned to receive this year. The custom is going out, so that we had concluded to omit it, until we knew that you were coming." This from a graceful girl of twenty, Judge Carroll's special pet, Winnie, whose brown eyes were full of fun and frolic. "It would be a shame to deprive the young man of the privilege of meeting our lovely quests, wouldn't it, mamma?

"Quite shameful," agreed Mrs Carroll, languidly, "but don't branch out too heavily in the matter of wines. Public opinion is changing so, and really the affair gets vulgar toward the end, don't

you think so?"

Pretty Edith shrugged her shoulders expressively. "You are thinking of Tom Carlton's behaviour last year. Yes, decidedly vulgar, I must say, but he will not come this year, I am sure of that. Win and I have cut him dead since then." And a vindictive little spark in her eye indicated a sincere pleasure in the opera-

The details of the menu were eagerly entered into, and Grace listened with an interest which was only abated when the wines were mentioned; but, as a guest,

she made no further protest.

The two guests were the daughters of a widowed sister of Mrs Carroll's. Elizabeth, commonly called Betty, was the more wilful, decided character of the two, but Grace, though she said little, had a quiet force of character which was little suspected from her less demonstrative exterior. To-day in her secret heart there was a firm determination not to touch the wine herself or to offer it to any young man at the coming function.

The temperance teaching of the schools had sunk deep into her heart, and too, she had seen the evil effects of wine drinking in the lives of others about her,

wifully blind, and of a nature to be so intoxicated with society that she would bow to any of its behests, a willing slave, while Winnie and Edith would tolerate any whim or excess of fashion so long as it did not merge into the vulgar, the one fatal word in their vocabulary. Drunken men were vulgar, but polite drinking quite the thing, and their temperance education had gone no farther.

Mrs Carroll's Christmas gift to her nicces had been two beautiful party dresses, and on New Year's day the quartette presented a vision of beauty as they received their guests. The rooms were abloom with flowers, and cut glass and silver sparkled on the tables, whereon were spread most inviting refresh-

The guests began to arrive, and the scene was one of brilliant hospitality for the rest of the afternoon, and conversation for the most part was purely conventional. There were exceptions, however, and several young men lingered beyond the bounds of formal call. Among these was a young physician, whose dark eyes rested on Grace with an admiration which he took no pains to conceal, as they went out to the refreshment room together.

She had met him before, since coming to the city, and had formed a most favorable opinion of him, which was heightened by observing that he took no wine. One of his companions (he had come in with a party of young men) was not so abstemious, however, and drank several glasses of champagne with a relish which revealed much.

"I see you do not join in the convivial features of the day." said Dr Watson, as Grace nibbled at a slice of cake and turned down her glass, The two were sitting in a retired corner of the dining

"No, I could not and retain my selfrespect," replied Grace, lifting her eyes

"Yet it is quite the style among ladies, and it makes it doubly hard for us poor mortal men to refuse such charming hospitality," he replied.

"I should never forgive myself if I offered it to you or to any other young man who afterward came to harm."

"Then you consider yourself your brother's keeper?"

"Yes, if you choose to call it that. I certainly could not place a stumbling block in his way and hold myself innocent if he fell."

"I wish that more young women felt as you do," he replied earnestly, as he glauced at another group where wine and she hated it. Betty, however, was was being served lavishly. Betty, with

ET the "ARGYLE" do your Sewing. There's no need to spoil your eyesight and injure your health doing work a Machine was meant to do. Don't do it. Let the "ARGYLE" SEWING MACHINE do it for you. It runs easy because it has ball-bearings throughout, and is so simple a child can understand it. "Argyle" Hand Machine, £3 10s; "Argyle" Treadle, £6 10s; "Argyle" Automatic Drop-head Treadle, £7. Call and Let us tell you more about them, or write and enquire about our Free Trial offer.

BEATH & CO., Ltd., Christchurch.

shining eyes, was the centre, and her gay laugh jarred on her sister's ear, for one of the party was evidently refusing the glass which she was urging upon him.

"A sad experience opened my eyes to the evils of even the most moderate drinking," continued Dr Watson, a look of pain coming over his expressive face, "and I have been a total abstainer since. I should not have been making New Year's calls to-day but for the hope of keeping Tom Grey from excess, but what can I do when lovely girls urge the wine upon him? To tell the truth, this is the first home we have entered where the wine has been so lavishly, so beautifully and temptingly served."

"They do not think, Dr Watson-they have never seen the dark side of the question. Do not blame them too much,' Grace said earnestly, then flushed deeply, remembering that she was speaking of her own sister and her cousins.

(To be Continued)



Are All the Children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling, And storm-clouds gather in the threatening

The lowing cattle seek a friendly shelter; The bird hies to her nest :

The thunder crashes! wilder grows the tempest And darkness settles o'er the fearful din : Come, shut the door and gather round the hearth-

stone Are all the children in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling.

When gilded sin doth walk about the streets. For, "at the last it biteth like a serpent!

Poisoned are stolen sweets. O mother, guard the feet of inexperience, Too prone to wander in the paths of sin! O, shut the door of love against temptation? Are all the childen in?

Are all the children in? The night is falling; The night of death is hastening on apace; The Lord is calling, "Enter thou thy chamber, And tarry there apace.

And when He comes, the King in all His glory, Who died the shameful death our hearts to win, O, may the gates of Heaven shut about us, With all the children in!

-Elizabeth Rosser.

A PLEDGE,

Taken by workers in Southern California schools, from one thousand children :-"I promise not to say, do, or listen to anything I cannot tell my mother." This is one of the most practical pledges for young children to take, for it asks of them that which they really can understand and do.

Thrift and Economy.

"Waste not, want not," is a maxim that should be instilled into the mind of every man, woman, and child. never too early nor too late to study the subject of thrift and economy. I have heard it said that the application of the above maxim tends to induce meanness. Now this is not the case. Meanness and thrift are not exactly the same thing. You know some people have a funny little way of looking at this matter, and what they describe as intense meanness in their friends, they joyfully call economy in themselves. In order to practise the theory of waste not want not, and at the same time to steer clear of the vice of meanness, it is perhaps safest to make a rule of personal thrift and economy that cannot touch or interfere with our charity and generosity towards others. If this is done, thrift will never degenerate into niggardliness. The housewife has, of course, many opportunities for exercising the virtues of economy. In the cooking department, in the store cupboard, and in the selection of foods she has a daily call to either waste or good management. In this country, even amongst vegetarians, there is a terrible waste of nourishing food. It is amazing that those who live mainly upon a diet of vegetables, fruits, and cereals, are so careless in the choice and treatment of these valuable things. In many cases it is, I know, a matter of ignorance, but this cannot, of course, be made a reasonable excuse, because we have all had opportunities, surely, of learning how to cook a potato, for instance. A potato is always best cooked in its skin, either steamed or baked, but never boiled. No vegetable, if we would retain its nourishing qualities and its flavour, should ever be boiled. If this means of cooking is resorted to, the easily as if it had been scalded.

water in which any particular vegetable has been boiled should be saved and made the basis of a soup for the next day .- Exchange.

Recipes.

Haricot Bean Soup.—Press well-cooked beans through a colander. Flavour with grated onion and celery, salt to suit taste. Boil up once; thin with milk, and reheat. This soup should be quite thick.

Split Pea Soup.—One pint split peas, one carrot, one turnip, one or two sticks of celery, one onion, and a little finelyminced fresh mint. Wash and clean the potherbs, chop fine, cover with cold water, salt to taste, and slowly simmer for two hours. Add vegetables to the peas, which have been cooked until perfectly smooth. Add butter about size of a walnut. Thin with water to desired consistency.

Bean Paste.-Mash with a fork one cup of well-cooked haricot beans. Add salt to taste, a little grated nutmeg, one quarter teaspoonful grated onion, small teaspoonful lemon juice, and a little butter or cream. If the beans are thoroughly dry, the mixture will have the consistency of paste. Nice eaten on bread and butter.

Bean Sausages .- The above, without the lemon juice, and one-third cup fine breadcrumbs, and a little powdered mixed herbs added, Roll in egg and breadcrumbs, and bake to a golden brown.

Bean Sausage Rolls.—As for bean sausages. Roll in pastry and bake.

RICE FRITTERS.—Ingredients : One teacupful of rice, a little chopped parsley, three eggs, salt and pepper to taste. Method: Put rice in one pint of boiling water; place in a jar in oven, and add water till rice is thoroughly soft and will not absorb mere (all the water must be absorbed or the fritters will break in frying), stir unbeaten eggs thorougly into warm rice; add parsley and seasoning; melt a little butter in frying-pan; drop in mixture a tablespoonful at a time; place on hot dish, and keep warm till all are fried. Serve very hot.

To peel tomatoes without using hot water, rub the tomato with the back of the knife, and the skin will peel off as

Women's Christian Temperance Union of New Zealand.

"FOR GOD, AND HOME, AND HUMANITY," President:

Mrs Cole, Cashmere Hills, Christchurch

Vice-President-at-Large

Mrs A R Atkinson, Arbury, Wadestown, Wellington

Recording Secretary :

MRS MITCHELL, Methodist Parsonage, Kaiapoi

Corresponding Secretary MRS PERYMAN, Willowby, Ashburton

Mrs McCombs, Fendalton road, Fendalton, Christehureh.

CHRISTCHURCH, WCTU

Rooms, Corner Manchester and Warcester Streets

Also TEA & REST ROOMS.

M EETINGS Second and Fourth Wednesdays, General Business 2.30 p.m., Educational 3.45 p.m.

President-Mrs Cole, Cashmere Hills

Corres Sec-Mrs Day, Bligh's Rd, Papanui Recor Sec-Mrs J Bendely, 11 Stoneyhurst-st Treasurer-Mrs Seed, Hereford Street

White Ribbon Agent Mrs Williams, 25 Philip Street, Linwood

KAIAPOI W C T U COFFEE ROOMS

OPEN Daily. Union meets second and last Wednesday, 3 p.m. Pres.-Mrs F. Harrison; Sec. and Agent for White Ribbon-Mrs Soulby; Assis. Sec - Miss Blackwell, "The Willows;" Treas-Mrs T G Blackwell

HAMILTON WCTU

MEETS on the First Thursday of the month in "The Willard Girls' Club," at 3 pm President—Mrs Thornton Horne; Cor. Sec, Miss Houghton; Recording Sec, Miss Ford; Treasurer, Mrs Mason

NAPIER WCTU

THE Union meets on 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday in St Paul's Schoolroom at 3 p.m. Pres-Mrs Leask, 254 Hastings-st; Recording Sec Miss Shepherd, Clive Square; Corresponding Sec, Mrs Kerr, France-rd; Treas-Mrs Dearlove, Lincoln Road; Legal and Parliamentary-Mrs Dodds; Home Meetings-Mrs Ching, Carlyle-st; Press & Backblocks, Mrs Israel: Literature-Mrs Wellard ; Purity, Mrs Oldham ; White Ribbon Agent-Mrs Freeman, Shakespeare Road

HASTINGS W C T U

UNION meets 2nd Wednesday in month in St Andrew's Hall 3 p.m. Pres—Mrs Doubleday, Vice-Pres.—Mesdames Tinsley, Ramsay, Boyle, and Venables, ; Sec.—Mrs Walker, Willow Park Road; Treas—Mrs T. J. Thompson; White RIBBON Agent-Mrs Griffiths

REEFTON WCTU

THE Union meets on the 2nd Wednesday in the month, in the Wesleyan Parsonage, Shiel St. Pres -Mrs McClymont, Black's Point; Treas.—Mrs Humphreys; Sec.—Mrs R Assist. Sec.—Mrs Jas, Lawn; Vice-Pres. -Mrs Watson; White Ribbon Reporter-Mrs Humphries

ASHBURTON WOTU

THE Union meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month in the Baring Square Schoolroom President, Mrs W T Lill, Willowby; Sec, Miss C Thomas; Treas Mrs Kingston; RIBBON Agent, Miss Butterick, Wakanui WHITE

BLENHEIM WCTU

THE Union meets on the 1st Tuesday in the month at 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Rose, Kegworth; Sec.—Miss S. Rogers; Treas.—
Mrs Hay; White Ribbon Agent — Mrs W WAITARA UNION meets Last Wednesday, in Methodist Schoolroom, at 3 p.m. Pres, Mrs Cleave; Sec, Miss Lena Bayly; Treasurer, Mrs Isaac Elliott; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Herbert Joll

PALMERSTON NORTH

UNION Meets First Friday, in Baptist Church, at 3 pm Pres, Mrs Mowlem, Church-st East; Secretary, Mrs F. MacDonald, Baptist Manse: Treasurer, Mrs Laybourne, Ferguson-st East; White Ribbon Agent & Badges, Miss Baker

NEW PLYMOUTH W C T I

THE Union meets the last Wednesday in the month in Baptist Church, at 3 p.m. Pres., Alan Doulags, Courtenay Street; Cor See, Miss Ambury, Gover st; Treas., Miss Sadler, Courtney st ; White Ribbon Agent, Miss Taunt, Victoria Road

GENERAL Meeting in the Central Mission Hall, Albert Street, 2nd and 4th Wednesday, 3 p.m. Executive meets 2.30 Pres.—Mrs Dewar, Pompalier Terrace, Ponsonby

Treas.—Mrs Hughes, Mount Eden

WHITE RIBBON Agent-Mrs R M Wallis, Mount Eden Road

Recording Sec-Miss Evans, c/o Y M C A Corresponding Sec-Miss L N Dewar, Pompalier Terrace, Ponsonby

WELLINGTON W C T U Pres. - Mrs Boxall, 23 Constable Street. Sec.—Mrs J Hayes, 137 Owen-st, Wellington South, Treas-Mrs Honlder, 108 Wallace street; White Ris-gon Agent—Mrs Amos, Colombo Street. Union meets first Thursday in each month, in Girls'

Association Rooms, at 3 p.m. Girls' Association Rooms, Constable Street, Newtown. Evening classes and socials. All

girls invited

DUNEDIN WCTU

GENERAL Meeting held in the Y W C A Rooms, Moray Place, 1st Tuesday in the month, at 3 p.m. President—Mrs Blair, 26a Main South Road; Secretary—Miss Simson, King-st, Roslyn; Cor Sec, Mrs Peter Dick, York Place; Treas—Mrs W Evans, Queen-st, White Ribbon Agent-Mrs H Hutton, Maori Hill: Agent Writing Pads-Mrs Heatley, 3, Granville Terrace, Belleknowes; Supt Sailors' Rest, Mrs Pearson, Castle-st

INVERCARGILL WCTU

GENERAL Meeting held on the 1st Tuesday of every month in Allen's Hall, Kelvin St., at 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Baird, Spey Street; Secretary — Mrs John McKenzie, Northend; Treas.-Mrs Small, Gladstone; WHITE RIBBON Agent-Mrs James Hunter, Don street

DEVONPORT W C T U

THE Union meets on the last Wednesday in the month in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, at 3 p.m. President, Mrs Griffiths, Victoria Road; Sec, Mrs Veats, Lake road; Treas, Mrs Butler, Domain st, Devonport.

FEILDING WCTU

THE Union meets on 1st Thursday in the month, at 2.30 p.m., in Presbyterian School Room. Pres—Miss Sorley, Kimbolton-rd; Cor Sec—Mrs J C Thompson, Denbigh-st, Rec Sec— Mrs P W Jones; Treas—Mrs A L Frest; White RIBBON Agent-Mrs Burnley; Railway Box, Mrs Shearer

PETONE WCTU

THE Union meets in the Church of Christ, Sydney-st, on 1st Tuesday in month, 3 p m. Pres, Mrs G Rowse; Vice-Pres, Mrs Huggins; Sec.—Mrs G D McEwen; Treas.—Mrs D B Howe; White Ribbon Agent—Mrs Austen; Literature—Mrs Corner; Visitor—Miss Dillon

MASTERTON WCTU

MEETS on the First Tuesday in each month in Knox Hall at 3 p.m. Pres. Mrs Devenport Knox Hall at 3 p.m. Pres, Mrs Devonport, Sec, Mrs D'Ews, South road; Treas, Mrs Millar; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Rigg.

TIMARU W C T U. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month at 7.30 p.m. in the Sullors' Rest. President, Mrs Rule; Sec., Miss Avison; Assistant-Sec. Miss Smith; Treas , Miss Sibly ; White Ribbon Reporter, Mrs W. J. Bardsley.

RANGIORA W CT U

THE Union meets on the last Friday of the month in the ante-room of the Institute Hall at 2.30 pm. Pres —Mrs R. Darling; Vice-Pres, Mesdames Wetherell, P. Keir, and Steele; Sec, Miss Newton; Assistant Sec, MrsHadecke; Treas, Mrs T. Withers.

WANGANUI W C T U

THE Union meets in the St Paul's Classroom on the 1st & 3rd Friday in every month. Pres., Mrs Upton; Sec., Miss Tucker, 73, Campbell Street; Treas., Mrs Siddells; White Ribbon Agent, Miss Brechin

NELSON WCTU

THE Union meets in the Methodist Schoolroom on the 2nd Tuesday in the month, at 3 p.m. Pres, Miss Atkinson, "Fairfield;" Sec, Mrs. Knapp, Alfred-st; Treas, Mrs Grove

TARIKI W C T U

THE Union meets in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, on the 3rd Wednesday in the month President—Mrs Coutts, Tariki Secretary—Mrs Eason, Tariki Treasurer - Mrs J Therkleson, Tariki

GREYMOUTH W C T U

M EETS 1st Wednesday in the month at 3 p.m. in the Vestry of the Methodist Church. Pres. Mrs Gaskin; Treas., Mrs Sweetman; Sec., Mrs Hansen

LOWER HUTT WCTU

7 HE Union meets on the last Tuesday in the month, in WCTU Hall, Queen's Road, 3 p m President, Mrs McCaw; Vice-Pres, Mesdames Strand (sen) and Jansen; Secretary, Mrs Jansen; Treas, Mrs Routley, Trentham; Supt Literature, Mrs Lee; Supt Bible Reading in Schools and Narcotics, Mrs Reade; Supt Flower Work, Mrs Kavanagh; Supt Medal Contest, Mrs Shepherd; Press Work, Mrs Jansen; White Ribbon Agent Mrs Ledbrook

YTTELTON W C T U meets in the Methodist Schoolroom on 1st, 3rd, and 5th Wednesdays in the month. Pres .- Mrs Whitby : Sec. -Mrs Bromley ; Treas. -- Mrs Clark

GISBORNE W C T U

UNION meets 2nd Thursday in the month in the Presbyterian Schoolroom at 3.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs A Graham, Kaiti; Sec., Mrs N F Walker, Fox Street : Treas, Mrs Goffe, Ormond rd: White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Akroyd

LEVIN WCTU

THE Union meets on the 1st Wednesday in the month, at 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Jas Prouse, Queen street; Sec., Mrs Gibson, Winchester street; Treas., Mrs Ransom, Kent street.

WAIPAWA W C T U meets on 3rd Thursday in the month at 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Bibby; Vice-Pres.—Mesdames Cowx & McLean; Sec-Mrs Wilson; Treas—Mrs H. McLean; WHITE RIBBON Agent—Miss Barnett

Printed for the W.C.T.U. of N.Z. by BALL & CO., Emerson-st., Napier-May 18, 1910.