

## 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.)

### NELSON.

Jan. 14, Miss Atkinson presiding. A vote of sympathy was accorded Mrs. Thompson, one of our oldest members, on the death of her daughter, Mrs. Hansen, of Invercargill. Two new members were initiated. A letter was read from the Rev. Mr. Baumber, who kindly acted as judge in the competition for prizes offered by the Union to the pupils of the public schools for the best essays on "The Effect of Alcohol on the Human Body." Mr. Baumber stated in his letter that the essays written by the girls were in every way better than those of the boys. He also recommended that a similar competition be held next year, as he considered that the knowledge thus gained would be of great help in keeping young people from the formation of a habit which so often proves disastrous. A paper was then read by Mrs. C. Y. Fell, member of the Hospital and Charitable Aid Board, who has recently returned from Europe, giving an account of the Forced Labour Colony at Witzwell, Switzerland, "for the regeneration of loafers and sturdy vagabonds by means of hard work in the open air." The paper was a most interesting one, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Fell. The following resolution was passed at its conclusion:—"This meeting respectfully begs the Government to found some State Farm or Colony on Swiss lines, where wastrels, confirmed drunkards, and other 'work shy' individuals could be sent; and to legislate empowering Magistrates to commit these loafers to such an institution, where they would cease to spread the contagion of idleness, and possibly learn to be useful citizens." The members of the Union are working hard in arranging for the coming Convention, which they hope will prove a great success.

### ASHBURTON.

Dec. Our President presided over a good attendance. Mrs. W. T. Lill and Mrs. W. K. Watson were appointed delegates to the Convention to be held in March. During the afternoon Mrs. T. Young, who is leaving Ashburton for the North Island, was presented with a handsome silver-mounted fruit bowl. In making the

presentation, the President referred to the many good qualities of the recipient, and wished her health and happiness in her new home in the North. Mrs. Young very feelingly responded. Opportunity was also taken to present little Miss Merle Harrison, a life member, with a W.C.T.U. bow. Refreshments were handed round, and the meeting terminated.

### LYTTELTON.

Dec. 19. The annual Christmas Tree and Entertainment given by the members of the Lyttelton W.C.T.U. was held at the Maori Pah, Rapaki. Musical items were given by the children and by musical friends from Lyttelton. The children and young people received gifts from the Tree with great enthusiasm. Before separating, the children were reminded of their pledge, and urged to keep it.

### KAIAPOI.

Jan. 29. The twenty-third Anniversary social was held on the above date. There was a large attendance of members and friends. Miss Roberts, of Christchurch, gave a resume of Olive Schriener's book, "Women and Labour." Musical items were given by Mesdames Withers and G. Oram and Misses A. Court and Blakeley. Three new members were initiated.

Jan. 24. Mrs. G. Ellen was elected manager of the Coffee Rooms, relieving Mrs. Harrison. Mrs. Brighting was elected delegate to Convention. Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Brighting were elected Absentee and Sick Visitors. Several members volunteered to help the No-License League in canvassing and distributing their new paper. It was decided to invite Mrs. Cunningham to give her lecture on "Gambling" at an early date.

### TIMARU "Y's."

Jan 3, in Arcade Room, Mrs. Butcher presiding. Decided not to send delegate to Convention this year. Our President read Mrs. Mitchell's and Mrs. Lill's letters from January "White Ribbon." Pleased to welcome new member. Decided to have a "Pay-up Social" in May.

### MASTERTON.

Feb. 4, in Knox Hall, Mrs. Devonport (President) presiding over a very good attendance. The following Vice-Presidents were appointed:—Mesdames Hoskings, Falla, Redman, Swinerd, and Miss Roberts. Mrs. G. Morris was elected as Supt. of the Cradle Roll, and Mrs. Russell as "White Ribbon" Supt. The Sec. was asked to write a letter of sympathy to Miss Powell, who has been laid aside through an accident; and also to Mrs. Beale, our Supt. of Home Meetings, on account of her

husband's continued illness. The meeting was closed by the President pronouncing the Benediction.

### TIMARU.

Feb. 6, monthly meeting held in the Arcade Room, Mrs. Rule presiding. A good deal of business was got through. It was decided to hold the members' annual social at the Sailors' Rest, the Cradle Roll picnic to be held at the Park. Mesdames Rule, Frott, and Howard will address the mothers. Mrs. Gardsley will represent us at the coming Convention at Nelson. Mr. Iliad's report was read, showing a quiet month, 72 sailors making 152 visits. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs. Ellis, Cambridge, for comfort bags, also to the Winchmore Union for same.

### NGAIRE.

Feb. 4, in the Church, Mrs. Moisson (President) presiding. Good number present. Decided to celebrate Frances Willard Day by holding a picnic. Three new members were initiated.

### WANGANUI.

The first meeting of the year, held in St. Paul's Hall, Mrs. Smith presiding. It was agreed to hold a Garden Party in honour of Frances Willard Day, at the residence of Mr. Forbes. Two new members from Dunedin were welcomed. The Superintendents of departments were elected. Mrs. Siddells was elected to represent the Union at Nelson.

### OXFORD.

Dec. 14, in Town Hall. The Congress of Nations was repeated to good audience, and substantial sum realised.

Dec. 26. Undertook the refreshment booths at the sports.

Jan. 29, in Coronation Hall, Mrs. Gainsford presided, and gave a short address on "Living Up to Our Profession." Treasurer presented the balance-sheet of Sports Refreshment Booths, which showed a credit balance of £13. It was decided to give £1 to the Organising Fund and £1 to the Maori Organising Fund. Also decided that our President represent us at Convention, and that a letter of protest be sent to the Oxford A. and P. Association anent the granting of a publicans' booth at the coming Show. The Treasurer announced receipt of a donation of £1 for the supply of literature for distribution, by a member who believed in this method of helping on the work. The "White Ribbon" was recommended, but it was left to the donor to decide the choice of literature. Three new members were enrolled. Secretary wished now to report the donation of half a guinea