

**PRISON AND REFORM WORK.**

Dear Sisters,—Since my appointment to this department, I have been making enquiries and securing information relative to prison conditions, which might be helpful in securing some beneficial reforms.

This week, in Christchurch, I have been favoured by an interview with Mrs Cunningham, a well-known reform worker, whose experience is not only an extended one, but one with exceptional opportunities for ascertaining the actual conditions by personal visitation as a Government inspector, of various prisons in New Zealand, with a considerable opportunity also of visiting institutions of the kind in Great Britain.

Mrs Cunningham pointed out the desirability of having all women prisoners (fortunately, they are comparatively few) in **one central prison** for the Dominion. Then **lady doctors** could attend them. Also, **lady visitors** could be appointed as inspectors. At present the few lady official visitors have powers only of suggestion and recommendation.

At present, since the women prisoners are in different places, it is desirable that a lady inspector be appointed for both the North and South Islands respectively.

In Mrs Cunningham's opinion, such lady inspectors would be preferable, if **honorary**, rather than stipendiary, and for two reasons. First, that being honorary, the position would not be sought after by undesirable persons for the sake of the salary. Second, that an honorary inspector would not be so likely to pass over details which needed remedying, to make things smooth-sailing, so as to keep the position.

**Special qualifications** are needed, it is obvious. (A suggested honorarium, say of £25, to provide assistance in the home of lady undertaking the work, and also travelling expenses would be necessary.)

It is desirable, too, that in the case of women prisoners some technical instruction (in dressmaking, typewriting, etc.) should be given, that there should be a chance of a respectable livelihood on release from prison. The fact of learning something new is of a reformatory tendency also.

I hope to be able to give other suggestions later on, and in the meantime to leave these points to your consideration.

If your Union is favourable, the reform will be much advanced by your passing the following, or some such resolution, forwarding it promptly to Mr Herdman, M.P., Wellington, the Minister for Justice:—

Resolved: "That in the interests of reformatory work among the women prisoners of the Dominion, this Union of — wishes to bring before the Minister for Justice the desirability of arranging that all such prisoners be located in one **central women's**

**prison**, where **lady doctors** could be engaged to attend them; and that a **lady inspector**, with special powers, be authorised to visit all such women prisoners, whether in North or South Island, with a view to securing the interests of reformatory influence, and the advantage of society generally.

"Also, that technical instruction in cooking, dressmaking, typewriting, etc., be given, so that women criminals, on release, would have a fair chance of honest livelihood."

SISTER MOODY BELL,  
Supt. Prison Work.

**SERVICE.**

I came to minister,  
Our Saviour saith—  
Lord, till my latest breath,  
Let me not swerve  
From my resolve to serve.

Many the needs of man;  
Our soul needs most;  
Beset by Satan's host,  
If help is none  
We soon are overthrown.

O Christ! forbid that I  
Should idle stand,  
But serve at Thy command,  
Until the day  
Thou callest me away.

And when my feet at last  
Cross Jordan's ford,  
Grant me to serve Thee, Lord,  
With all Thy saints,  
With heart that never faints.

—E.S.B

S. Paul's Vicarage,  
Malvern, Melbourne,  
June 25, 1913.

**ASHBURTON**, 2nd Tuesday, Baring Square Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs W. K. Watson Willowby; Sec., Miss C. Thomas, 32 Havelock St. W.; Treas., Miss A. C. Watson, 84 Cameron St.; **WHITE RIBBON** Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

**BLenheim** District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m.: Pres., Mrs Litchfield, Livermere; Sec., Mrs D. Sinclair; Treas., Mrs Hay; **WHITE RIBBON** Supt., Mrs W. Parker.

**AUCKLAND** District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 3 p.m., Central Mission Hall. Albert St.; Executive meets 2.30; Pres., Mrs Pudney, Wallace St., Ponsonby; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Porapalier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, 399 Upper Queen St.; Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Pompalier Terr., Ponsonby; **WHITE RIBBON** Agent, Mrs Gouk, Wallace St., Ponsonby.

**CAMBRIDGE**, first Tuesday in month, in Victoria Hall, at 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. D. Shepherd; Sec., Mrs A. T. Watson; Treas., Mrs L. M. Morrin.

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT**, Rooms Corner Manchester and Worcester Streets.

**Also Tea and Rest Rooms.**

Second & Fourth Wednesdays, General Business 2.30 p.m., Educational 3.45 p.m.

President: Mrs McCombs, Fendalton. Cor. Sec.: Mrs Day, Milford St., St. Albans.

Rec. Sec.: Mrs I. Wilson, Barbour St., Linwood.

Treas.: Mrs Seed, 300 Hereford St., Christchurch.

**WHITE RIBBON** Supt.: Mrs Williams, 21 Philip St., Linwood.

**DANNEVIRKE**, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. F. Knight, Tahoraiti; Sec., Mrs Stokoe, Allardice St.; Treas., Miss Burdett, the Manse.

**DEVONPORT**, Last Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Veats, Lake Rd.; Sec., Mrs A. Little, 31 Church St.; Treas., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay.

**DUNEDIN** District, 1st Tuesday, Y.W.C.A. Rooms, Moray Place, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Peter Dick, Roslyn; Sec. & Cor. Sec., Miss Nicol, 16 William St.; Treas., Miss L. Neal, 9 Queen St.; Agent Writing Pads & **WHITE RIBBON**, Mrs J. Anderson, 32 Duke St.; Supt. Sailors' Rest, Mrs D. T. Pearson, corner Castle & Union Sts.; Press Supt., Mrs Don, Canongate.

**FIELDING**, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m., St. Paul's Hall; Pres., Mrs Frost, Denbigh St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Burnley, Glasgow Ter.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Anstice, Denbigh St.; Treas., Mrs Williamson, The Hill; **WHITE RIBBON** Agent, Mrs Burnley; Railway Box, Mrs Shearer; Cradle Roll, Mrs Barron, Hialcombe Rd.

**GISBORNE** District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs A. Graham, Kaiti; Sec., Mrs N. F. Walker, Fox St.; Treas., Mrs Goffe, Ormond Rd.; **WHITE RIBBON** Supt., Mrs J. Stewart.

**GREYMOUTH** District, 1st Wednesday, 3 p.m., Vestry Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs Gaskin; Sec., Mrs Hansen; Treas., Mrs Sweetman.

**HAMILTON** District, First Thursday, Wesleyan Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. M. Jones, Clandelands, Hamilton; Sec., Miss Henderson, "Brangan," Frankton Junction; Treas., Mrs Gaulton, Rostrever St., Hamilton.

**HASTINGS**, 2nd Wednesday, St. Andrew's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Boyle, Lyndon Rd.; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Ramsay, Wallis, Clapham, Barbour, and Martindale; Sec., Miss Ford, 206 Lyndon Rd.; Treas., Miss Ethel Nicholls, Riverslea Rd.; Supt. Maori Work, Miss McKeown; Purity and Evangelistic, Mesdames Clapham and Stewart; **WHITE RIBBON** Supt., Mrs Griffiths.