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Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

ANOTHER FLOOD.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—When a deputation of White Ribboners waited upon Sir Joseph Ward—the then Premier—some time ago, he said, “I recognise that your organisation is a power in the country,” and at the next session of Parliament the Acts against which we were protesting were repealed. The truth of Sir Joseph’s remarks is becoming increasingly apparent to the general public, with the result that our Unions—big and little—all over the country are being simply flooded with communications from all kinds of organisations and individuals asking them to pass resolutions or take action upon various lines.

Now I want to point out, particularly for the benefit of the smaller branches, that they are not obliged to bring before their Unions this ever-increasing mass of material. At the end of the Convention number of the “White Ribbon” (which, by the way, should be always at hand for reference, and laid upon the table at every meeting), will be found a list of N.Z. officers and superintendents of departments, and all communications from these should be carefully read and discussed. I find, however, in moving about among the Unions, that a vast deal of valuable time is being spent over outside questions, to the exclusion of weightier measures. There are just now three debatable questions which should not, in my opinion, be brought forward. Bible in Schools is one of our own departments, and as such merits attention. But it has had far, far more than its share, and the N.Z. Executive having publicly requested that it be now dropped, all loyal branches will accede to that request, leaving each member to act according to her convictions. Compulsory military training is another question upon which differing opinions—and very strong ones—are held; also the militant suffragettes. All the above are very important questions, but no good end can be served by discussing them at this juncture. We have, as a party, arrived at a crisis in our history, and it is imperative that we push the Democratic Vote Campaign to the utmost of our ability. Furthermore, in view of National Prohi-

bition, it is essential that we constantly educate our own members, and through them the general public, as to the latest medical opinions upon the use of alcohol in health and sickness, both by educational papers discussed in our meetings, and by circulating the very fine literature to be obtained from our Superintendent of Medical Temperance. But if we are to spend time over outside communications, these all-important ones will be shelved. Let the President and Secretary of each branch decide what shall be relegated to the wastepaper basket. Before closing, please allow me to ask local secretaries to search for any educational papers which may possibly have been forgotten. I sent out, months ago, a number of valuable papers, which have not been returned to me, and which are needed for further circulation.—Yours in the work,

MARY S. POWELL.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—I was sorry to see by letter in September “White Ribbon” that exception had been taken to a portion of my Cradle Roll letter. The paragraph, which read thus: “No child can be a member whose mother takes alcohol during the period of nursing, the alcohol being thus transmitted to the child. The environment of child life, from its earliest dawn, freed from alcohol, will give us in every country the ideal little White Ribboner, healthy, strong, and pure. This is foundation work for our White Ribbon army,” is taken, word for word, from our World’s W.C.T.U. hand-book, issued in 1910, revised in 1913.

The second part of the paragraph pictures the results when the first part is carried out. How else shall we get “the ideal little ‘White Ribboner’ health, strong, and pure”?

I think, dear Madam, your footnote puts the whole matter very plainly: “A mother who is giving her child alcohol in her milk cannot take the pledge that she is bringing her child up in temperance principles.”

Our organisation is a temperance one. A mother who takes alcohol during the period of nursing may be ignorant of the fact that she is thereby feeding her child with alcohol, but she will be apt to have such faith in alcohol as a medicine that she will use it as a remedy in all childish ailments.

One of the greatest delusions we have to fight at the present time is

the belief that alcohol is a necessary medicine in illness. That is why I recommend all Cradle Roll Superintendents to circulate the two medical temperance leaflets, “Alcohol and Nursing Mothers,” and “Alcohol and Children,” and all Unions to present each new member with a copy of “Safe Remedies in Illness.”

As our late beloved President said in her last Presidential address, “My people perish for lack of knowledge,” is as true to-day as in the past, and “educate, educate, educate” should be our watchword.

Our World’s Cradle Roll Superintendent has resigned owing to ill-health. A new Superintendent will be appointed at the World’s Convention. I will lay this question before her, and let my comrades know her reply as early as possible.

Thanking you for allowing me this opportunity.—I am, dear Madam, sincerely yours in the work,

CLARA M. NEAL,

N.Z. Supt. Cradle Roll Dept.
Pahiatua, October 6, 1913.

TRAVELLING.

The Dean of Canterbury, speaking recently, mentioned that he had heard that His Majesty made a rule never to travel on Sundays unless it was absolutely necessary. The Editor of the “Church Family Newspaper” wrote to Lord Stamfordham, the King’s private secretary, asking for a confirmation of the report, and received the following gratifying message:—

“Buckingham Palace, June 9th, 1913.—Dear Sir,—The answer to the question contained in your letter on the 7th inst., is in the affirmative.—Yours very faithfully,

“STAMFORDHAM.”

It will also be remembered that Canon Bickersteth Ottley, hon. secretary of the Imperial Sunday Alliance, received the following message from the King in July, 1910:—

“The King heartily sympathises with any movement toward securing to working people rest on Sunday.”

Taken from the “Outlook.”