

ton and Mrs Toneycliffe as Treasurers. Mrs Leavitt held a three weeks' mission, during which time she addressed a number of meetings, and got in touch with the clergy of the various denominations. Mrs A. C. Newton went on the public platform for the first time at the inaugural meeting of the W.C.T.U. Mrs L'acke had a great deal of enthusiasm and "go"—a very capable President. The office-bearers and many of the workers were exceptionally fine women of keen intellect, refinement and great courage. All worked well together, each esteeming other better than herself. They were appreciative of each other's gifts. The cause was put first. Personalities and trivialities were, for the most part, not permitted to interfere with its progress. Under the able leadership of Mrs K. W. Shepard the Union worked strenuously for women's franchise. She placed most importance upon the equality of women, but wanted the vote for all purposes. Men and women were to work together in all departments. It was largely due to the work of the W.C.T.U. that woman's franchise was gained in New Zealand. Mrs Newton was more interested in helping to gain women's franchise as a weapon to fight the liquor traffic with. Mrs May, a very charming woman, was particularly interested in the Social Hygiene Department. Mrs Beath, wife of the well-known draper in Christchurch, was a very keen worker in the Union. Miss Jane Roberts was a worker with wonderful originality. She was passionately fond of children, and in her profession as a public school teacher she saw so much suffering and poverty among the children owing to the drinking habits of their parents, that she counted no cost too great in fighting the liquor trade for their sakes.

The Christchurch Union worked Prison Gate Mission, Anti Gambling, Social Hygiene and Purity Departments very vigorously. A refreshment booth was provided by Union at Canterbury A. and P. Show, at which literature was distributed. Every bit of educational work done by the Union met with much opposition, and indignation at what was scoffingly called "advanced thought."

Mrs D. Renzie Newton represented New Zealand at the World's W.C.T.U. Convention, held in Geneva in the early days, and her daughter, Lady Rutherford, represented Canada at that Conference. Lady Rutherford, a keen Pro-

hibitionist, at the first dinner party she gave in England to which many distinguished guests were invited, wrote her expected guests that no wine would be served at her dinner table. The guests all came, and greatly admired the courage of their young hostess. Several years later when Sir Ernest and Lady Rutherford were entertained by the King of Sweden wine was not served at the Royal table.

Invercargill had already established a Union, but their President, Mrs Brown, wanted it brought under the Constitution of the N.Z. Union, which Mrs Leavitt went down and accomplished.

Port Chalmers was organised also in 1885, with Mrs Johnson as President. She is still President, thus holding the Dominion record for length of service as President.



MRS COSTALL,
Wellington's second President.

Mrs Leavitt was unable to organise in Wellington. The Editor of the White Ribbon has a vivid memory of Mrs Leavitt's Wellington visit. Our Editor, then a girl in her early teens, accompanied her grandmother to Mrs Leavitt's meeting. Grannie was most anxious to hear the brave woman who had dared to come so many thousand miles to plant the White Ribbon in New Zealand. The meeting was in the old Arcade in Manners Street, and was very poorly attended, only the two or three front forms being occupied.

Later in the same year, Mrs Dudley Ward started the Wellington Branch,



MRS. G. BENNETT,
Wellington's third President.

the first officers being: President, Mrs Robt. Hunter; Secretary, Mrs J. Plimmer; Treasurer, Mrs Baker. The second year Mrs Costall was President, and her daughter, now Mrs Port, of Wellington Central, was Treasurer. Mrs Geo Bennett was the second President. Mrs Bennett belonged to a noted temperance family, was a sister of the late Mr John Harding, of Waipukurau. She landed in Wellington in 1848, and lived there for 43 years. Her grandson, Mr Robt.



MRS JOHNSTON WRIGHT,
Wellington.