

NORTH CANTERBURY ADVANCES.

As an outcome of the division of the Canterbury Provincial Union into two districts, North and South, the N.C. D.U. held, under the presidency of Mrs T. E. Taylor, its first Executive meeting in the Christchurch rooms on February 20th, when Presidents and Secretaries of the following Unions answered the roll call:—Christchurch, Brighton, Kaiapoi, Lincoln, Oxford, Papanui, Rangiora, Sydenham, and Sumner.

After devotional exercises, Mrs Taylor explained that such a gathering over which she was presiding was really an innovation. Previously all preliminary work for the year's campaign had been arranged by the officers of the Union. This was largely owing to the scattered areas worked by the Canterbury District Union, but now that Canterbury was divided into North and South Districts, thus enabling greater concentration and more direct supervision and sympathetic encouragement, it had been deemed advisable to call together the Presidents of all the Unions, as they were ex-officio members of the District Union, so that they could take their part in all the plans for the greater efficiency of the individual Unions forming the united whole.

The gathering then resolved itself into a free heart to heart talk upon problems, perplexities, and knotty points that first one and then another desired help or enlightenment upon.

The average attendance at the monthly meetings, the allocation of funds, formation of Unions in new centres, Band of Hope work, the running of departments, were topics freely discussed.

Miss Henderson, as New Zealand Corresponding Secretary, being present by invitation, gave much valuable information, and made quite clear some vague and misty notions with regard to departments of work that by name sounded complex, but were capable of being simply run when properly understood.

Quite a number of Unions had fear thoughts about "Good Citizenship," but when Miss Henderson explained under such a heading came getting their women on School Committees, working for the introduction of Bible reading in schools, sending in press reports, of

fering prizes for Temperance essays, etc., many were relieved and happy to know this was the very work they had been busy about without realising themselves entitled to appoint a Superintendent of Good Citizenship.

One Union did not trouble about a Cradle Roll because each church and Sunday school in the district had such a Cradle Roll. But for that district and that President the W.C.T.U. Cradle Roll became glorified, and the cradle will be helped to rock to a temperance lullaby now that its quite plain how important is the Cradle Roll department, seeing it stresses the obligation of the mother to abstain from alcoholic beverages while nursing her child, while such an obligation is not required from a church or Sunday school Cradle Roll.

Only one resolution was passed by the Executive, and at once broadcasted through North Canterbury, to be put into immediate action by the persevering and self-sacrificing effort of every wholehearted W.C.T.U. member. This is the resolution:—

"That all Unions be invited to observe the week ending March 10th as a Membership Campaign Week, when every member undertakes to give a personal invitation to as many women as possible to link up with the local W.C.T.U."

Our Executive meeting made us acquainted with each other, and gave us a new understanding of the earnest endeavour of one and all to make good in her particular little corner of the Master's harvest field as she gleaned close by the reapers.

ALCOHOL AND MOTHERHOOD.

At a conference of women convened by the W.C.T.U. of Hobart, held in the Mayor's room, and presided over by the Mayoress, the following paper was read by Mrs Rowntree:—

Mrs Rowntree read a paper on "Alcohol in relation to Motherhood," in which she said, inter alia: "There are many kinds of material we find detrimental to our best building, and the worst of these is alcohol. There are various ways in which this may affect our

motherhood. Unfortunate indeed is the expectant mother who has to contend with a husband who is a drunkard. Just when she needs care, attention, and love most of all, perhaps, her supposed helpmeet comes home to abuse and ill-treat her. How, then, can she do well this wonderful bit of God's work? Instead of being tranquil in mind and well poised, she is full of foreboding—worry is her portion, dread her companion day and night. Some men are better tempered when drunk than at any other time, but, even so, the worst is left, for heredity remains. If a woman is sufficiently enlightened, she must look forward with the greatest anxiety to the consequent weakening, blighting, and deforming effects of this vice in her husband. If she herself is a victim of intoxicating drink she may personally suffer less at the time, for drink dulls the perceptions, but the effects on the unborn child are as bad or even worse than if her husband drinks. It is proven that an alcoholic mother makes an alcoholised child. The alcohol passes directly to the little forming body, weakening the tissues, injuring brain and nerves, and it may even become intoxicated. There may be actual deformity, or the child may be ushered into the world with a craving for alcohol. Drinking among women seems to be on the increase, and the expectant mother is perhaps the most liable; at any rate, it is a more deplorable thing for her than for others. At a time when the strongest is taxed utterly, and if she yields to this temptation she is weakening her own powers, not only physical, but moral and spiritual, and unfitting herself for the work God meant her to do."

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