

NEWS FROM THE FRONT.

Mrs Williams, who has been campaigning in North Canterbury, writes:—"The cold and dark of Friday morning made "Blanket Bay" very alluring, and it took all the zeal I could muster to tumble out, and into a cold bath in time to catch the 7.40 a.m. tram on my way to Motenau. The ice was thick in the streets when we reached town . . . When I reached Scargill that railway station presented the appearance of a desolate waste. I waited for some time wondering in which direction I should strike in search of a link with humanity. At last a man drove up and collected me and bore me off to his home for lunch. I found from my hostess that the meeting arranged was unique in character. It was the afternoon for the Plunket meeting, and they graciously allowed me to speak upon Alcohol in its relation to Plunket work. At the close the President spoke beautifully and said she would like me to speak at other Plunket branches, and so we arranged for a visit to Waipara and Hawarden. At night I had a meeting in the manse. There were 14 present, men and women, and the interest was keen.

ESSAY COMPETITION.

Y's. ATTENTION!

A gentleman of Dunedin has offered £6 for Essay Competition. Three prizes, £3, £2, and £1.

Open to all girls in New Zealand under the age of twenty-one at time of writing.

Subject:—

If I were twenty-one, why I should vote for Prohibition.

Length of Essay:—

Not less than 500 words, written on one side of paper only.

Essays to be in not later than September 1st, 1925.

Prizes will be awarded, October 1st, 1925.

Three winning Essays will be printed in White Ribbon.

All Essays to be sent to Mrs G. Macartney, 27 Mailer Street, Mornington, Dunedin.

ALCOHOL AND LONGEVITY.

Does alcohol shorten life? A very pertinent question. Where shall we go for an answer. If we want an unbiassed answer, wholly based upon facts and observations, let us go to the Life Insurance Companies. Their tables are not based on sentiment, but on solid, hard business experience. For very many years a number of British life offices have insured total abstainers in a class by themselves, and so, these classes can be compared. Seven of the largest companies give their tabulated results of years of experience. In every case the mortality is heavier in the class of non-abstainers. And when the results of the seven companies are added together we find that for every 100 per cent. of deaths calculated upon, every life insured (that is for 100 per cent. in their general experience) the abstainers class under same conditions have 84 per cent of deaths and the non-abstainers 114 per cent. But taking the records for the two classes where abstainers have a mortality rate of 100 per cent. the non-abstainers under similar conditions have a mortality rate of 132 per cent. That is British experience. But in an investigation into 43 companies in the U.S.A., and Canada, who, during the time of the investigation carried on their books more than 90 per cent. of the insurance in these countries, the results were just as favourable to abstainers. These companies found that in the group of free daily users of alcohol, they had 11,323 lives, and these lives showed 698 deaths where only 374 were expected. The quite moderate daily users of alcohol number 30,700 and of these there were 1725 deaths where only 1460 were expected. This meant great financial loss to the companies. In the abstainers section the number of actual deaths is always less than the number of expected ones. And we must also bear in mind that the non-abstainers class only includes moderate drinkers. The practice adopted by insurance companies is to add 50 per cent extra for such dangerous occupations as the drink trade, even if classed A1. by the medical examiner. Many of largest companies will not issue barmen on these in "The Trade" and all companies exclude hard drinkers and drunkards.

The Abstainer and General Insurance Company, Ltd., showed by their returns that a teetotaler aged 30, is entitled to be assured as if he were a non-abstainer, aged 24. Thus a teetotaler at 30 has 6 years of vitality superior over the moderate drinker.

The Registrar General's statistics also make sensible people think. In his return for a ten year period, he shows that if the comparative mortality figure for all adult males is 1,000 an equal number of abstainers would have only 560 deaths, while an equal number of publicans would have 1642 deaths. Thus in large groups of men the publican death rate is 642 over the average while the abstainers death rate is 440 below the average. Ask yourself why?

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER.

NOTABLE DAYS.

Dear Sisters,

May I remind you that T. E. Taylor Day falls on July 27th., and ask you to make use of it in your Union. This day is now sometimes termed "Memorial Day," and special reference to the life and work of any of our pioneers known to you would be a desirable way of observing the day. We cannot fail to gain inspiration to effort by the recollection of the work of by-gone leaders, men and women, and lessons drawn from their experiences will help us greatly with our own.

Yours sincerely,

ALICE F. WEBB,

Superintendent.

DUNEDIN EXHIBITION.

W.C.T.U. CRECHE.

It will be of interest to the Unions that the Directors of the New Zealand and South Seas International Exhibition, have acceded to the request of the Dunedin Union to provide a suitable building, with necessary fittings, in which the Union is to run a Creche during the term of the Exhibition. The Creche Committee of the Union are making arrangements as to furniture, and the provision of an adequate staff.

It is a great opportunity to show that W.C.T.U. means practical help to the community in general, and not merely the pushing of personal views on one question only.