

that so often the same delegates are chosen over and over again (as in my case) because the choice of them is left to the last meeting before the Convention, and most of us are too busy women to be able to make arrangements to leave home for even a short time without good notice.

A subject brought up for discussion, and largely urged by the President, was the gaining of honorary members, as not laid sufficient stress upon, in many Branches. As a local Treasurer, may I remark that honorary members often go a long way toward easing the Treasurer's duties?

At the farewell meeting in the evening, a stirring speech was given by Mr Grinstead, of the Church of Christ, working under the Alliance, a popular speaker, well at home in his theme. He was followed by Mr Horace Lindsay, of the Anglican Church, who approached his subject from a point of view necessarily somewhat new to a N.Z. audience in dealing with some of his experience gained during twelve years' work in Canada, following four in the wine-growing district of Southern France. Inglewood is unusually fortunate in having a speaker of such a decided gift stationed there.

The Waitara Union showed unbounded hospitality, and the Convention was attended by every aid to success, even to favourable weather. It is unnecessary to add that in the experienced hands of the Executive, all business was carried out thoroughly, without delay or hesitation, as was fitting what we believe to be the last Taranaki Convention before the triumphant election.

AN HONORARY MEMBER.

At a supper our Union was giving lately, to increase our funds, one of our oldest honorary members set a cheerful example to outsiders by paying over twice the amount asked, and refusing change.

"I belong to it," he said. "Haven't I got a right to give as much as I like? You can't say I haven't got a right to help in what you're doing."

After his years of maintaining that right, not one of us thought of opposing it. We only wish we had more of his kind claiming it, and are trying to increase our number of honorary members.

Can anyone tell us how to go about it?

Any suggestions gratefully received. How does your Union manage the matter.

WILLARD CHILDREN'S HOME.

ANNUAL REPORT, June 1924, TO
JUNE, 1925.

Finance.—In submitting my fifth Annual Report, I have much pleasure in stating that we have had another successful year financially. A grant of £250 from the Lizzie Rathbone (deceased) estate, Waipawa, and a further grant of £150 from the T. G. McCarthy Trustees, enabling us to pay off the remainder of the mortgage, so that now the property is unencumbered. We wish to record our gratitude to the above-named Trusts, also to the Commercial Travellers, Palmerston North, Amateur Operatic Society, the Borough Council, Palmerston North Drapers and Clothiers, Rugby Union, and the "Manawatu Standard," for donations received. Our annual subscription have not reached the usual sum this year, owing to so many removals from the district, but to the remaining subscribers we tender our warmest thanks. Also to the W.C.T.U. branches throughout the Dominion, for their valuable help and assistance, many parcels of clothing and money donations having been received. Our very best thanks are due to Mesdames Barnett and Collins and their band of willing helpers in the work of the sewing room, special thanks being tendered to Mrs (Dr.) Barnett for the organising of many jumble sales, these being a good source of great revenue.

Accommodation.—During the greater part of the year five vacancies occurred, which enabled us to deal with eight temporary cases, while the mothers were laid by through sickness. Eighteen children are now in the Home, nineteen being the full carrying capacity. The Board is still exercised in mind over the problem of better accommodation, and after four years' experience, we wish to build a more suitable Home, with up-to-date conveniences, etc., also to accommodate more children. So many pitiful appeals have to be declined through lack of accommodation. The present holding is too far from a school, and the Board's attention was drawn to the cutting up of the property into sections and disposing of it in that way, and building on Borough leases nearer a school. So far this has failed. The Board's attention is now directed to the accumulation of funds for the purpose of building, and we feel that with the

continued support of the Unions, and the growing sympathy of the public, that in the near future we will have the little ones and the staff more suitably housed, so that the arduous work may be carried on with the minimum of effort to everyone concerned.

Holidays.—The whole of the Christmas school holidays were spent at Foxton beach, which the children greatly enjoyed, and they came back much benefited by the change. With the exception of a few cases of measles, the health of the children has been good during the year, and we are deeply thankful that none of our children contracted infantile paralysis.

Staff.—Our Home is staffed with Matron Anderson as head, and Miss Pearce, assistant. The Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the splendid work put into the Home by these ladies, and feel that in days to come the children cannot but look back in gratefulness to the care and thought that has been spent on them. This year the Home lost in the death of Mr Joe Hall a very kind friend, and the Committee wish to place on record their appreciation of the very fine services rendered. Mr Hall gave of his best, and will be long remembered by the children and staff for his kindness.

We wish to take this opportunity of conveying our gratitude to Dr. Barnett for his very careful attention to the health of the children; also to Dr. Hooper for attention to their teeth. To the Picture Theatre proprietors and the Orient Lodge for entertainments; to private people, business men, and the public generally, for pleasant outings; to the Mayor and Mayoress, Mrs Cohen, Mrs Coombs, Mrs R. D. Knight, Girls' Sunshine Club, and numerous others, for Christmas comforts; to the Ford Motors and Miss Coombs for motoring the furniture and children to Foxton; and to the N.Z.I. Co. for spades and buckets; to Mr Holben, W. Cook and Sons, for firewood; to R. V. Mason, for coal; to Messrs Thwaites, Parker and Gray, also the Manawatu Meat Co., for donations of meat. We are greatly indebted to many for gifts of food, fruit, toys and clothing, and to the local Press for kindly publishing lists of gifts each month.

The Board's warmest thanks are due to Messrs Innes and Oakley, and M. H. Oram, legal advisers, to Messrs McLeavey and Balsillie for supervision of grounds and outside requirements; to Mr J. H. Stevens for financial advice;