

SPECIALS.

NELSON DISTRICT.

During July the Nelson District has been favoured with a visit from Mrs Peryman, the editor of the "White Ribbon." She arrived in Nelson on Friday, July 16th, and after a short District Executive meeting, was welcomed by the Nelson Union at an afternoon social in the Methodist Hall. There was a good attendance of members and friends, several of whom became new subscribers to the "White Ribbon." On Saturday Mrs Peryman went out to Richmond, preaching at the Methodist Church on Sunday morning, and on Monday she returned to Nelson for a Home meeting at the residence of Mrs T. A. Field, The Rocks. Tuesday, she went back to meet the Richmond Union in the afternoon, and addressed a young people's gathering in the evening and on Wednesday went on to meet the Wakefield Union. Thursday there was another Home meeting in town at Mrs Every's, and in the evening Mrs Peryman met the Nelson Y.P. Union at a social gathering. Friday the Union in Motueka was visited, both an afternoon and evening meeting being held. On Saturday Mrs Peryman returned to Nelson so as to speak at a Bible Class Rally on Sunday afternoon, arranged by the Bible Class leaders of the various churches. Monday was wet, but several members of the Nelson Union accompanied Mrs Peryman in a visit to the Union at Wakapuaka, the most scattered part of the District.

All the meetings were fairly well attended, considering the prevailing "flu," and the result should be a wider knowledge of the scope of the Union's work, greater interest in its aims and objects, and an increased list of subscribers to its own paper, the "White Ribbon."

THANKSGIVING BANQUET.

A function of unusual interest was held in the W.C.T.U. rooms at 35 Constable Street on the evening of Thursday, the 15th of July, for the purpose of celebrating the extinction of the debt on the property. It took the form of a banquet, to which from 80 to 100 guests sat down. As the South Wellington Union is at present, since the death of Mrs J. Wright, without a President, the chair was taken by one of the Vice-Presidents, Mrs Evans, supported on the right by Rev. A. N. Scotter, Mrs Adjutant Glover, Mr Boxall, and Mrs Pin-

fold, and on the left by Hon. C. M. Luke, Miss Kirk, and Miss Boxall, and Rev. W. Shirer. The proceedings were opened with the singing of the White Ribbon hymn, "All Round the World," and after ample justice had been done to the good things on the well and beautifully arranged tables, a short programme of toasts, speeches, and music was gone through. When the usual loyal toast had been honoured, Mrs Pinfold proposed the Dominion W.C.T.U., saying that as home is not home without the mother, so the local Branches could not carry on but for the care and attention of the Dominion Union. A fitting response was made by Mrs Mowlem, after which Miss Boxall read the story of the rise of the Newtown Girls' Association and the purchase of the building in which for so many years its work was carried on. This was given by Mrs Wright shortly before she passed away, and as far as possible was in the very words used by her. Immediately at the close of the reading the Doxology was sung, and Rev. A. N. Scotter engaged in prayer, expressing gratitude for God's guidance and blessing in the past, and invoking help for still better work in the future. Mr C. M. Luke then proposed the health of the Girls' Association, dwelling on the beautiful character and splendid devotion of the early Committee, particularly mentioning the late Mrs Wright and the late Mrs Boxall. A feeling response was made by Mr Boxall and the health of the retiring Treasurer, Rev. W. Shirer, was proposed by the Chairwoman. It was a wonderful record, for which all were deeply thankful, that the same Treasurer had acted the whole time, from October, 1899, till July, 1926, and a high tribute was paid to him for his care of the funds and his sympathetic support of the Committee in its care for and improvement of the property. In his reply, he voiced his great interest in the work the Association had accomplished, his pleasure at having at last paid off the final instalment of the mortgage, and his appreciation of the band of noble women for whom he had acted. Mrs Glover then proposed the toast of the sister Union, Wellington Central, in a few words of encouragement to future work, saying it was needed just as much now as in the past, but it could be done still, as before, under the inspiration of Christ. Miss Kirk replied, referring to the hallowed memories that clustered round

the room through the lives and work of the leaders who were no longer here. The last toast was proposed to "Our Hostesses" by Rev. A. N. Scotter, and replied to by Mrs Evans who thanked all who had done so much to ensure the success of the function, Mesdames McLellan, Keene, Bott, and Patience, and Miss E. Boxall, who had contributed so charming a programme of music and recitation, and the members of the Executive, who had carried out the necessary arrangements with so much energy and enthusiasm.

AN ECHO OF THE PAST.

Dear Madam Editor,—

I am at present visiting Kaiapoi, and last week had the pleasure of addressing a meeting in the new Rest Room.

There will be few—a very few now—"old identities" like myself who will remember meeting at a Dominion Convention the late Mrs Soulbey, for many years the very capable Secretary of the Kaiapoi Union. Mrs Soulbey passed to higher service in 1912, but Mr Soulbey still lives in the old home. The old gentleman, at the age of ninety-two, lives alone, does his own house-work, and greets one always with a bright smile. Quite recently he was heard to say he "enjoys every moment of life." He is in full possession of all his faculties, and it was touching to see his pleasure in my visit this morning and in recalling the days long gone.—I am, etc.,

MARY S. POWELL.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following donations have been received since the date of last report:

New Zealand Fund.

White Ribbon Day collections: Greytown 14s 2d, Lower Hutt and Petone (combined meeting) 10s, Riccarton 9s, Whangarei 7s 1d, Foxton 2s.

Organizing Fund.

Hamilton £3.

Maori Fund.

Wellington Central £1.

E. L. R. Bendely,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland, 10th August, 1926.