

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF W.C.T.U.

(Paper by Mrs Macalister, at Napier Union.)

When the praying bands of saintly women in Hillboro', Ohio, America, first went forth, their one thought and purpose was to try to stem the tide of intemperance which they saw was working such havoc amongst those around them. They saw that the saloons were ruining the young manhood of their country and their mother hearts were torn with grief. Their one cry was "Brothers, we beg of you not to drink and not to sell." But the liquor traffic is so interwoven with politics, with science and with all necessary reforms, that if we are to follow the enemies of those we love we must take up "the do everything" policy; for this reason, that though everything is not in the Temperance reform, the Temperance reform should be in everything, for every question of practical philanthropy or reform has its temperance aspect.

People are much more enlightened now in regard to the evils of alcohol than they were 50 or 60 years ago, and yet the drink bill in Britain and in New Zealand grows bigger every year, and thousands and tens of thousands are continually being destroyed by this enemy to both body and soul.

More than any other Society ever formed, the W.C.T.U. is the exponent of what is best in this latter day civilisation. Its scope is the broadest, its aims are the kindest, its history is the most heroic. Women of all nationalities and creeds can here meet on common ground for the uplifting of humanity, and each one can find something to do for which she is specially fitted.

There are 24 different departments of work taken up by the New Zealand W.C.T.U., and each of these departments of work has a special Superintendent, who, at the end of the year, gathers in reports from each branch of the Union and reports to Convention. I will just mention some of these departments. The first one on the list is Evangelistic Work, and the word explains itself, and is as it should be placed first, for we are a Women's Christian Temperance Union, and everything we can do to further the Kingdom of Our Lord comes under this heading, namely,

meetings for prayer, visiting the sick and aged, singing hymns at the hospitals, distributing good literature, etc., etc.

Then we have purity and rescue work. The purity leaflets and little books which can be obtained from the Purity Superintendent, are invaluable for those wishing to impart the necessary and proper information. Let each one of us see to it that the boys and girls we can influence or whose parents we can influence, shall not leave their homes to go out into the world utterly unwarned and unarmed against the temptations to evil which they will meet on every side.

Home meetings, Educational meetings, Sabbath Observance, Maori Work, Work Amongst Young People, which means Band of Hope or Loyal Temperance Legions, are the names of some more of our departments of work. Scientific Temperance Instruction, another of our branches of work is of extreme importance. Our New Zealand President at the last Convention, stated, "that the neglect of this teaching has been largely responsible for the deplorable increase in the drinking habit among young people of both sexes to-day."

Then we have Social and Moral Hygiene. This department seeks to teach the benefits to be received from wholesome and nutritious food, pure air, and pure water, sensible clothing, etc., and we do well to give heed to these things. In sea-port towns we have work amongst seamen.

All of our Unions take up the work more or less of Anti-Gambling, Peace and Arbitration, and Legal and Parliamentary watchfulness. The liquor traffic and gambling are safe-guarded by the law, and have to be followed into Parliament where the laws are made. How many of us have got into personal touch with our own member and let him know that we are looking to him to work for the elimination of the third issue and the provision of a two-issue ballot paper at next election.

The membership of the Women's Christian Temperance Union in New Zealand totals nearly 8,000, and there is a Women's Christian Temperance Union in nearly every country of this world. It is expected that each member will wear the badge—the little bow of white, and remember at each noontide to ask God's blessing upon

our Union whose motto is For God and Home and every land, and whose founder was the beloved Frances Willard.

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE.

Dear Mrs Editor,

Will you allow me space to send a New Year's greeting to the comrades of my organizing years? I read with keen interest the reports from the various Unions in the White Ribbon month by month, and how my heart thrills as I see the familiar names and say to myself, "Still at work." Many have folded their hands and gone home, their work done, but I say "thank God" for those still in the fight, and for the many little country branches which I organised, and which still hold the fort bravely, as well as for those promoted comrades representing the N.Z.W.C.T.U. before the great white throne. May we all rejoice together in 1928, over a country freed from the curse of the liquor traffic, is the prayer of

Your comrade,
MARY S. POWELL.

THE GAME.

When the game seems lost and you
want to quit,
And you're sticking just by your nerve
and grit,
And you can't see an earthly chance
to win,
And you're weary and jaded and nearly
"all in,"
Don't ever quit as you want to do,
But keep your heart till the game is
through,
Till the last hard minute is past and
gone—
Fight on!

—Points.

Why are sheep the most dissipated creatures in the world?

Because they gambol in their youth, spend most of their days on the turf, the best of them are black-legs, and they are sure to be fleeced at last.