

## WOMEN'S

**Christian Temperance Union**

OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885.

**"For God, and Home, and Humanity."**

PRESIDENT:

MRS T. E. TAYLOR, 63 Dyer's Pass  
Road, Cashmere, Christchurch.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

MRS HIETT, 11 Duke Street, Dunedin.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

MRS W. A. EVANS, M.A., 62 Nevay  
Road, Miramar, Wellington.  
Phone 25-780.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

MISS HENDERSON, B.A., 9 Straven  
Street, Riccarton, Christchurch.

TREASURER:

MRS BENDLEY, 17 Aratonga Avenue,  
One Tree Hill, Auckland.

ORGANISER:

MISS BRADSHAW and MISS McLAY.

Official Organ:

**"THE WHITE RIBBON."**

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Foxton.

Telephone 131.

Associate Editor: Mrs Judson.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,  
Robinson St., Foxton. Telephone 131.**TAKE NOTICE, DELEGATES.**Will all Delegates requiring hospital-  
ity during Convention, send names to—

MRS OLLIVER,

Homai, Manurewa,

Auckland,

as early as possible.

**The White Ribbon.****"For God, and Home, and Humanity."**

Wellington, February 18, 1927.

**DRUNK, IN CHARGE OF A CAR.**

Many years ago this Union was awake to the danger of mixing "Booze and Gasoline." As long ago as 1917, a deputation from Convention waited upon Mr Massey, and asked that all drivers of trains, trams, engines and motor cars, also all pilots should be total abstainers. The opinion of a leading Medical authority was quoted, viz., "If a man takes only one tablespoonful of brandy he is drunk to the extent of a tablespoon, until nature had

'eliminated the poison from his system.'"

But our Union was too far in advance of public opinion, and nothing was done. But to-day, every user of our highways is alive to the menace of the alcoholised motor driver, and it is not only women who are crying out for sober men to drive the traffic in our city streets and country highways. Mr Henry Ford pointed out that mankind must either give up alcohol, or modern industry and the motor car.

Our own magistrates, tired of the number of cases coming before them, threaten to impose heavier penalties on the next offender. Perhaps that next offender is not as glaring a case as those who have preceded him.

Now a Supreme Court Judge, has cancelled a driver's license, and debarred him from ever holding one again. This is the first instance of a life disability to hold a license. But something will have to be done to render our highways safer for the travelling public. The toll of human lives is exceptionally heavy. We have a ghastly list of accidents day by day, and very rarely does it happen that the evidence proves neither driver to have had a drink. Even one reads of 4 or 5 or even more drinks admitted, but of course "he was not drunk."

Now there is a little machine, almost a toy, on which is wound a length of tape with figures of different colours irregularly arranged. The tape rotates rapidly, and as it passes an open space of an inch or two, the person to be tested has to mark all the figures of one colour, say red. There is very little time to think. It always happens that the smallest dose of alcohol increases the number of wrong figures marked. There are other instruments for scientifically testing a man's re-action time, but all give the same result. Alcohol increases the time between the seeing of an object and registering it on a machine. Alcohol in small doses, makes the brain slower to re-act, and just that second of time lost means the difference between safety and destruction. During last month a motor salesman was prohibited from driving for six months, as well as fined. "He was not really under the influence, only four drinks," so said his counsel, and urged that the man be dealt

leniently with because driving cars was his livelihood, and nothing previously against his character. But the Magistrate said, "It is not a question of character, but of public safety. There can be no leniency in these cases." Just so, "Safety First" every time.

Another case in which the Magistrate stated that accused was not drunk in an ordinary sense, but was under the influence of liquor, and not fit to drive a car. Fined and prohibited from driving a car until March 31st.

Another motorist admitted two "spots" at Eltham on his way home. He crashed into another car standing off the road at Midhurst, and collided with another car at Tariwi. He wished to fight the driver of the first car. His wife was a wise woman, and refused to travel with him after the first collision. "Drunk," no, of course not! Disqualified for driving for 12 months.

Another case was of a business man 60 years of age, who drove down a main town street on his wrong side. He had only had four drinks, and it was not the quantity but the quality of the liquor which was to blame.

In view of these developments and the probable increase of traffic in the near future, did not our last Auckland Convention show foresight follow up this request by asking that person be a pledged abstainer before he is let loose on our highways in charge of a high-powered car? And, should not this Auckland Convention follow up this request by asking that the safety of the travelling public, including pedestrians, be placed by Government before the dividers of the brewers. Our highways are now red with the blood of murdered innocents, "butchered to swell the liquor seller's coffers."

Irene was being shown off by her mother. "We are very proud of our little girl," said her mother to the visitor. "We are going to send her to school in the autumn, where she will learn, oh, such a lot, and be a bright and intelligent child." "But I don't want to be bright and intelligent," said Irene. "I want to be just like mummy!"