

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## WOMEN TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Next to the mother in the home, no person comes into closer touch with the child than the teacher. The more perfect the understanding, the closer the co-operation between these two, the greater the advantage to the child. The Women Teacher's Association has just celebrated its 25th birthday, and has issued a retrospect of its work under the name of

### "Our First Quarter Century."

A brief sketch of this work should prove of great interest to all our readers.

Many of our Women Teachers are White Ribboners, and have aided us materially in our efforts to make our Dominion a safer place for the children. It will be to our common interest if our White Ribboners know some of the problems confronting our women teachers, and, understanding the need, can give intelligent help and co-operation.

In 1883, the New Zealand Educational Institute started, and from small beginning grew to a powerful body. But it failed to secure justice for its women teachers, and early in this century they felt the need of banding themselves together.



MISS EMILY A. CHAPLIN, B.A.,  
President, N.Z.W.T.A. 1917, 1918, 1919.  
Hon. Secretary, 1920, 1921.  
Hon. Treasurer, 1922.

Women, who realised that child culture was essentially their job; who knew that high educational authority had pronounced them the "teaching sex;" who were conscious that their work was always equal to and often superior to their male colleagues; such women could not but resent the calm assumption of superiority by male teachers. These reserved all the best paid positions for themselves, and after being 20 years in existence, the New Zealand Educational Institute had failed to secure "equal pay for equal work." In at least one Board's regulations, after setting forth full scale of salaries, a footnote conveyed this information: "In every instance the salary of a female teacher shall be 2-3rds that of a male teacher of equal standing."

Canterbury led the way, and formed the first Association of Women Teachers in 1901, with Miss Henderson, B.A., our much-loved Dominion Corresponding Secretary as their President. This Association was formed "to secure a proper recognition of women's work."

Wellington next organised with the avowed object "of improving the status of women teachers."