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 Road, Riccarton, Christchurch.
TREASURER:
MISS M. B. LOVELL-SMITH, Box 528, Christchurch.
ORGANISERS:
MISS BRADSHAW.
MISS A. M. McLAY, 28a Brentwood Avenue, Mt. Eden, Auckland.
Y ORGANISER:
MISS C. M. McLAY, 28a Brentwood Avenue, Mt. Eden, Auckland.
Official Organ:
"THE WHITE RIBBON."
Editor: Mrs Peryman, Earp Street, Johnsonville.
Associate Editor: Mrs Judson, 63 Williamson Street, Epsom, Auckland.
Business Manager: Mrs Peryman, Earp Street, Johnsonville.

The White Ribbon.
"For God, and Home, and Humanity."
WELLINGTON, MARCH 18, 1929.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

The following address is by Mrs Denton Leech, J.P., Hon. Secretary Dominion Council League of Nations Union. It was given at a meeting of the Dunedin Central Union:—

Madame President and Members of the W.C.T.U.,—

It is a great honour to address such a body of women—no idle phrase—for I feel it is a very great privilege to meet such a valiant body as you have shown yourselves to be. You have fought so courageously—so sturdily for a principle and a reform, that you are convinced is true and righteous.

Lately you met with a set-back, but not disheartened, you at once set out to re-organise your forces and to devise new tactics. That spells success.

Though you have not reached your goal, you have made great advances:—(1) The habits of the people have changed; (2) Public opinion has definitely sided with temperance; (3) Arguments have taken the place of scoffing. You note that alcohol has become an international question in relation to health; to the welfare of children; to the safeguarding of backward people. In the international work of the League of Nations, it has been found impossible to ignore the baneful influence of alcohol in those three large departments of its work: the Health Commission, race hygiene; the Welfare of Children; the Mandates Commission.

In the near future support will come from men-folk and from the Bench—the drunken motorist is a different proposition from the drunken driver of a horse-drawn vehicle—the faithful animal usually took his drunken master safely home. Some of us would like to have less class-distinction in the decision of the Bench in these cases. The advent of commercial aviation means strict abstention from alcohol—the slightest delay in mental reaction at a critical moment—a slight confusion of mind—spells disaster to the aviator and possible death from crashing his machine.

The W.C.T.U. lesson of courageous perseverance must be applied in relation to World Peace and the abolition of war. Patience, remembering that there are 56 nations having varied and complex forms of Government are engaged in reforming themselves, and only ten years have elapsed since they commenced, reminding ourselves that New Zealand possesses the most direct and simplest form of democratic government, yet, even so, some 18 or 20 years pass before a reform is achieved.

In 1920, the high hopes of the people and the ideals of the League of Nations seemed about to be quickly realised—expectation vaulted beyond the realms of practical politics. We are to-day faced by the same international suspicion—distrust—jealousy—willingness to believe the worst of other nations and to impute ulterior motives, just the qualities that threaten the peace of the world.

So, taking a lesson from you, I ask you to look back with me and measure the progress that has been made toward outlawing war, and therefrom to find courage and hope.

In 1919 the Allied Powers laid down the principle that the race in armaments must never again take place; the various nations should agree on a limitation beginning with the defeated enemy Powers. When the German Envoy, horror-struck at the terms of the Peace Treaty, and the destruction of their great military power, refused to sign, a letter was addressed to them, signed by the French Prime Minister, on behalf of the Allies: **"That Germany's disarmament was but a prelude to general reduction and limitation for all nations as the most fruitful prevention of war."** Article 8. Since that date, successive steps have been taken by the Great Powers to find a method of putting that principle into practice—firstly, the Covenant, 1920, Article 10, which outlaws aggressive war, followed by other schemes. For who was to judge aggressive war? . . . no nation would acknowledge such an aim. Some years passed . . . each successive Assembly brought discussion, and after many abortive attempts the Geneva Protocal was propounded in 1924. This was accepted by France and some smaller nations, but Great Britain felt the responsibilities too heavy and too vague for application to the far-flung British Empire. Nevertheless, good came of it, for the problem was clarified into the three terms—Security—followed by Arbitration leading to Disarmament.

You will recall the dramatic episode of international history, when the British Prime Minister and the Premier of France travelled together to Geneva and enunciated these three conditions—Security—Arbitration—Disarmament.

In the following year, 1925, came the Locarno Pact—to follow on Germany's admission to the League. There were two powerful groups of nations—Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and France; Germany, Belgium, France, Great Britain, and Italy. By the latter, the present frontier line between France and Germany was assured—even a neutral zone proposed—the Rhineland was to be evacuated earlier than 1935. Each country knew that