

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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THE SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE.

You read the other evening that the Royal visitor whom we are expecting to welcome to our shores in a few weeks said in a speech at the Mansion House, London, recently: "Our duty is . . . to ensure that every man and woman in the country may enjoy the just privileges of their labours, and that every child born into the land may have a fair sporting chance."

Such words ought to insure for him a hearty welcome by the children of this Dominion, for it may be doubted if any Royal utterance has ever been more apt to the moment or more in keeping with the spirit of the times. It is with this "sporting chance" for the children that what I have to say is concerned.

THE FUTURE IS WITH THE CHILD.

Every day we hear it repeated that the future of the nation is with the children, and it follows that if the future of the nation is to be as fruitful and as glorious and as happy as it should be, the children must have the care and attention that their share in the making of that future demands. The child cannot be held responsible for the future unless care is taken to prepare him for the responsibility. If the political and social well-being of the nation is to be entrusted to him, it is imperative that he be trained to appreciate his political and social duties and privileges; if the industrial prosperity of the country is to depend on him, his industrial skill must be developed and his controlling will directed in right channels; if he is to live a full human life in amity and concord with his

fellows, he must be put in the way of understanding the conditions under which he may be full and free and harmonious, both for himself and others. This, it seems to me, is what is included in the phrase "a fair sporting chance"; and as, when thinking of children, the mind pictures first the home, and, next to that, the school, I have chosen as the subject of what I have to say, the part that it seems probable the school will play in the life of the young people of the future.

DANGEROUS TO PROPHECY.

It is rather a dangerous subject about which to prophesy, and I am quite ready to admit that some of my forecastings may be ruthlessly falsified by the march of events. The process that I am trying to picture has, however, definitely begun, and in different countries has made considerable progress in one direction or another. The world of the school has been enlarged by recent additions to its scope at least as much as the geographical world was enlarged by the discoveries of Columbus. The idea that a school was a poor, mean place where children went unwillingly to undergo a process of instruction for the purpose of making a living for themselves, and perhaps a fortune for their employers, has passed away, or very nearly so. The idea that is taking its place is that school is an institution where young people may live as citizens of childhood's world, and while there learn to live as citizens of the "grown-up" world to which they are looking forward. It is the corporate or joint home of the collective childhood of the community; and it is the growing appreciation of this home aspect of the

school that will to a large extent determine both the external features of the school and its surroundings and the internal nature of its work and the spirit of its doings.

A LARGER HOME.

Following up this idea, then, that the school will be but a larger home for a more extensive family, it is safe to predict that in all schools, as it is already in very many, the first consideration will be for the physical well-being of the pupils. Enlightened regard for the health and growth of the nation's future units will not permit them to spend their hours and days and years of study in anything but the most favourable surroundings. It is generally understood now, but it is not universally acknowledged in practice, that it is not good policy to have regard only to the mental side of education and to take no account of the physical basis on which the mental superstructure is reared. It is bad economy to make people mentally clever and at the same time render them physically feeble. Hence we shall soon see the day when the cramped and dingy, unattractive schoolroom will be condemned as a sin against the welfare of youth. It may seem to such an audience as this that this is a very old tale I am telling. So it is; but though we may be said to have seen the true light, we have not yet done much more than begin to follow it. There are very many school rooms in this country that are simply not fit for children to spend their young years in; and that fact is so weighty in its aspect on the lives of the young people that it affords sufficient excuse for any amount of repetition. The future, and I believe the near future,

will see the school as a young people's home, to which it will be a delight to go.

It will not only be attractive in itself, it will be placed in spacious and pleasant surroundings, so that its family of children may imbibe from their youth up the idea of cleanliness, of beauty, of order, and may thus, without any force but the force of daily contact, grow up to embody those qualities in their own lives. There are already towns, even in New Zealand, where the best building in the place is the school. In the future there will be more and more of such.

Around these schools there will be ample space for play. It must not be said in the future that the only schools that supply sufficient playing spaces are private schools, to which the children of well-to-do people may go on payment of high fees. A united people cannot be built up in that way. The schools of the people must be fit for all the people's children, and the playing space is one of the most essential features of the school.

INFLUENCE OF GAMES.

In the games is to be found the most powerful influence in the training of the character. It is in the play that the social habits, the community of feeling, the give-and-take that make up such a large part of life are most powerfully fostered, as well as the physical growth and vitality that are essential to the due performance of the tasks of life and the enjoyment of life itself.

WHAT WORK?

Taking for granted that we are to have schools roomy, cheerful, attractive, placed in suitable surroundings, what are we to suppose will be the nature of the work done in them? For what we generally understand as the primary school I cannot see that our programme of work can vary to any great extent in essentials from what it is now. There is nothing taught in our schools that ought not to be taught; there is nothing that can be omitted without very great loss. There will doubtless be variation in details, and in methods of dealing with the various subjects; but as to what we call the primary stage is merely a preparation in essentials for what is to come after, it does not seem likely that there will be any

very great change. There will, however, be a very great advance in the results produced, and this will arise from the fact that in the school of the future the classes will be very much smaller than we have been accustomed to. There is hardly any point on which greater stress should be laid than this. The smaller class is the key to the solution of some very pressing problems. I shall name only three. In the first place, it is only in a smaller class that it is possible to give any opportunity for the development of originality, and the play of the qualities of the individual. Large classes must of necessity be well drilled and strictly disciplined,—the small class allows for self-determination,—under limits, which is self-discipline, and the foundation of all real "character." In the smaller class there is opportunity for each different pupil to grow in his different way, to develop and enlarge his powers and faculties in the way most suited for them, instead of being compelled to repress and restrain them to make them fit the general mould.

STIMULUS TO EFFORT.

Following from this enlarged scope for individuality comes the consequent stimulus to individual effort. Given the freedom that allows the student to discover that he possesses some particular power, and has the right to develop it, then will be seen the keen delight with which he will follow up the vein of gold he has discovered in himself. His teacher, not weighed down by numbers, will be able to give him just that amount of stimulating attention that is needed to maintain his ardour and assist him over difficult places. The history of scores of the "men who have done things" shows just this happy condition of self-developing work guided and assisted by a teacher who really has an opportunity to teach instead of being compelled to apply more or less the methods of the drill-sergeant.

The third point I shall mention, as showing the advantage of the smaller class is that it will go far to reduce the numbers of "backward children." The smaller class will enable a real contact between teacher and pupil, and the result will be such a stimulating of the energies and mental activities of the pupils, as will not leave many of them in the class of backward children. It is impos-

of recent experiment). It is impossible to estimate the injury that has been done in the past, impossible to calculate the number of young people who have been discouraged and spoiled, owing to this evil of the large class. If this nation, or any nation, is determined not only to do its best for its young people, but in return to get the best out of them, it will attend to this matter of the large class. Young people are too valuable to be spoilt for want of proper teaching. They are being spoilt now by the hundred—to the great injury of the State and to their own great and lasting loss. The school of the future will have to do differently; and there is, as said before, every indication that a beginning has been made with the introduction of the new idea.

SCHOOL MEALS.

Before we leave this primary-school section of the subject, there is one other feature of this "home" aspect of the school that is worth passing mention. It is not a matter that means so much to us here in New Zealand as it does in other countries, but even here it will be worthy of consideration when more urgent needs have been attended to. I refer to the question of school meals. It has been found that to "educate" young children to any good purpose while they are ill-fed and feeble is largely a waste of effort. Hence the older countries have organised the school meal on a large scale; and the result has been such as to justify the expenditure many times over. The subject is not mentioned here to advocate its introduction in this country, but it is worth while considering whether or not, in the development of the school of the future, the provision of school meals may not become a feature of the partnership between school and home. It is not impossible to imagine even, that the school cookery room may in time become the communal kitchen that is apparently among the things that soon may be.

THE NEXT STAGE.

Having said so much about the primary section of the schools of the future, what shall we anticipate concerning the schools for the next stage of youthful development? Let us start from the assumption that there will be, as there must be, extended education for **all** the nation's young people. The school of the

future will not close its doors against somewhat more than half of its pupils because they have not been fortunate enough or clever enough to earn a free place or a proficiency certificate. The clever ones can look after themselves—or could if they were left to it—but in the course of our educational development it has come about that those who could take care of themselves are the only ones that have been taken care of, while the others, who needed more care, have been handed over to the tender mercies of the world to take their chance. We shall be very safe in forecasting that this attitude will be changed: it has been changed already in many countries, and we in New Zealand will have to look to our position if we not want to see ourselves falling into the ruck of nations which have little regard for the care of young people.

PERIOD OF CHANGE.

At about the time when the primary course ends, the young people have reached a stage of physical and mental growth when a wider range of selection of pursuit is necessary for them, and for many of them social conditions require that they should begin to earn something for their own support. Hence there has to be found some means or accommodation between the demands of education and employment. That is too complex a matter to be entered upon here, but it may not be out of place to think for a few moments of the kind of teaching that the later school, the senior school, will give. As has been hinted, there will be provision for variety. It is at this stage that the two-fold nature of education begins to assert itself, the education for the individual life, and the education for social and civic life. It is the former aspect of education that demands variety in the curriculum of studies. If each is to be allowed to develop the best that is in him the school must afford opportunities for following those lines of study which promise to be fruitful in results. Hence the school will provide not merely the literary education that is the distinguishing feature of what is generally called a secondary school, but will provide the means for development in other directions. There will be equipment for the study of science, there will be a workshop for those whose bent is in the use of their hands and the manipulation of material, there

will be an art and craft department; in suitable localities there will be opportunities for gardening and the study of agriculture that grows out of it. These will be among the means provided for giving individuality the scope it needs for its development; and their importance lies in the fact that they will be the chief assurance against the spoiling of young manhood and young womanhood by forcing it into uncongenial channels and producing the all-too-plentiful crop of misfits.

GENERAL COURSE FOR ALL.

Accompanying these varied, and largely optional, courses of study, which will be designed chiefly for the benefit of the individual, there will be in all schools a certain definite course of study designed to equip the growing citizen for the bearing of his share in the social and civic duties that life in a free community demands of him. Among these it is safe to assume that literature will take the leading place. If language is the medium of the exchange of thought, literature is at once the supply of the material of thought and the stimulus to its use. In a wisely-graded and sympathetically applied course of literature, suited to the capacities of the classes, is to be found the finest possible kind of stimulus towards the appreciation of what is right and good in life; and in it, too, is the source of those standards of taste and judgment that will be of the greatest value as safeguards against the allurements of the pleasant vices that make such strong appeal to inexperienced youth.

With literature, and forming a part of it, will go history and geography—the history of our own and other peoples, the geography of the world we live in and of the peoples beside whom we live. There can be no security for our own liberties if we do not know by what steps we have attained to them; nor can there be an intelligent appreciation of our own position in the world unless we have some knowledge of the other peoples composing it.

RECREATION.

One other feature is of importance, in the senior schools no less than in the junior, and that has to do with recreation. Recreation is as necessary to the growth of a healthy, balanced personality as food and raiment. Apart from its physical value, it has immense importance in the growth of the social feelings, the interplay of

character on character. The recreations of the school will not be all of the athletic order. The social club will have a prominent place, the musical society, the debating society, and so on. All these will have their place and do their part in developing the qualities of young men and young women, and fitting them for the task ahead.

CO-EDUCATION.

If the school is to do this duty to the best advantage it will naturally be what is called "co-educational,"—that is, the sexes will not be separated. On the contrary, as they start life together and, at least normally, end life together, so they will go through their training for life together, and in the training learn to associate as fellow-citizens of equal standing in the commonwealth, each giving and taking freely those services to the community and to one another that make social life possible.

If this forecast of what the school of the future will be and will do is not altogether wide of the mark, it means that this country has to follow the example of other countries, and begin to take thought about the waste of the potentialities of its young life that is going on. "The only true wealth is life," said Ruskin; and if that is true, as indeed it must be, the best way to develop wealth is to develop life. Other countries see it, and are taking action accordingly. Switzerland spends one-third of its income on education; the State of California, I have been told, spends one-half. In England there are five times as many students receiving secondary education as there were before the war. All the universities in England are full to overflowing. Cambridge alone has over five thousand students. The United States have a nation-wide scheme of education extending, per means of continuation classes and other agencies, to the eighteenth year. It is clear that New Zealand has a good deal of lost ground to make up.

I cannot do better than close my remarks by asking what we are doing, or intend to do, about this most vital matter, and answering the question with a word from a recent speech by the English Minister for Education, Mr Fisher: "Depend upon it, that a good secondary school is one of the best institutions in which a town can invest its money."

THE HOME FOR CHRIST.

(By Gertrude Cockerell.)

How often is marriage spoken of in a light and frivolous manner, and the conversation before and after the marriage ceremony frivolous to a degree. But it is too solemn an occasion for curious eyes to gaze upon; unhallowed tongues make light of it. Marriage should be entered upon "reverently, discreetly, and in the fear of God."

Yet how often the only recognition of God, if then, is when hand is joined in hand by some minister of the Gospel, or God is asked to bless a union in which He has had no voice.

It may be that one of the contracting parties is a Christian, yet allows affection or convenience to have the casting vote; or he or she may enter upon married life careless or indifferent about the other's condition before God.

How many such to-day are in bitter sorrow over the disobedience to the command, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers" (2 Cor 6:14), or are suffering "leanness of soul" through following "their heart's desire" (Ps. 106:15).

But granting that the contracting parties are "married in the Lord," the new relation must be cherished and maintained in the Lord if they are to strengthen each other's hands in God, and be helpers, not hinderers, of each other's faith.

To maintain right relations with God, to whom they have been "reconciled through the blood of the Cross" (Col. 1:20), how important in face of the task and problems that family life present.

How can parents sustain right relations with their children save as they themselves are in right relation to God their Father? Do you, beloved parent, represent God in such fashion to your children that in early life their intelligent choice is to make father's and mother's God their own, and are found at "the place called Calvary?" Do we as parents and guardians of youth abide in Him our Risen Lord, and so in life and conduct ourselves "walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God"? (Col. 1:10).

How can we expect obedience from our children if we ourselves fail in obedience to Him Whose will is made

known to us in His Word? And how expect our children to have larger vision than our own if only too apparent that the things of time and sense are given first place in our lives? And what resource is left to the parent whose sole argument to enforce his will is brute force? And how many children are punished for the result rather than for the act of disobedience? What an outrage on the child's sense of justice; how blunting to its moral perceptions is such conduct. Little wonder if such a child regards life as a lottery, and makes of it a game of chance!

"A house divided against itself cannot stand." How true where children are concerned. How sharp their eyes to see the lack of unity, of harmony, of principle in their elders, and, alas! in many cases they learn to exploit these for their own purposes of self-will or gain.

And how careful we need to be not to foster pride in our children by our own false valuation of such externals as dress, appearance, appointments, or their marked ability in any given direction. How the unconscious charm of childhood has its bloom rubbed off by oft-repeated repetition of its baby prattle and its doings. How painful the spectacle of the self-conscious child who speaks and acts with his eyes upon his elders.

Who amongst us but has not felt a sense of shame and pain as some hapless child has been arraigned in our presence for some childish fault, or, worse still, disposition? Oh, parent or guardian of youth, may no harsh words or blow in presence of elders cause the blush of shame to mantle some young cheek or cause quivering nerves, like so many live wires, to cry out in protest.

When the Master "set a child in the midst" it was not as a shame-faced culprit for wrong-doing. He has no dock for children. Neither was it to make a display of childish charms or gifts. But he was set there as an object-lesson to his elders of humility.

And you to whom these lines are addressed. The charge committed to you of young life entails far more upon you than attention to mere bodily needs. When these are met and all the claims of time are met, there still remain the claims of God upon you as His guardians of your children. To fulfil these will surely mean the expenditure of time and thought directed

to these claims, alas! so often expended on outside interests. But to gain and keep the confidence of our children with regard to their safe conduct through time into eternity, is a task worthy of our best.

How few and precious the years that we can call our children our very own. Are we making the most and the best of the initial advantage that is ours before the child leaves the shelter of the home for the schoolroom, and rivals in all directions claim our children? The answer to the proposition, "How shall a young man cleanse his way?" is given by the Psalmist in these words, "By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word." Is that Word in us? "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord" (Gen. 18:19). Can God thus count on you?

THE LONG LINE.

Hoe your row, it's the only row for you,
From first flush of morn till the evening's dew,
There's never another your work can do
On that one line.

Murmur not, sigh not long not for rest,
That is the way to be happy and blest;
He does well, brother, who does just his best,
On the long line.

What! would you till in the green gardens near,
Old rows, fenced snugly, so soft and so clear?
Nay! up and at it! thou faint pioneer,
On the long line.

Sing while you labour, though weary the day,
Life is a song, though the skies may be grey;
Listening sad hearts shall be cheered on the way
Of that long line.

Never a rest when the work is begun,
Never a prize till the goal has been won;
Then God shall whisper, "Thou servant, well done,"
Seeing that line.

A SPIN TO BRIGHTON.

During the bright, sunny days a party of women folk arranged for an afternoon outing by motor, and chose as their destination the seaside township of Brighton. The ride occupied about two hours, and to each one of the party was crowded full of pleasant experiences.

The tang in the air made the quick movement through scenes exhilarating, and the picturesqueness of the district was a delight. It is a ride which combines both suburban and farm scenes, and has at the end of it a splendid run beside the Pacific breakers near the beach and cosy township. Sea coast, sky, pasture land, harvest field, homely garden, and again the sea; each in turn satisfy the onlooker. What a haven for over-wrought town-dwellers! To reach this secluded spot a run of three-quarters of an hour is needed, and to a visitor from other districts is full of interest. The road itself is one of the best, being high and dry, and containing historic spots, such as the old turn-pike gates, and the junction of the road to the quarry.

The first open glimpse of Brighton gives a peep of a length of picturesque beach, with the Pacific rollers, line after line, breaking in foam on the hard sand which runs back to the flanking sandhills. Along the whole straight line of the sea coast the road runs parallel for the greater part; on the sand the waves thunder, and rise with noble white crests, which catch the wind, and then merge into the bordering foam. The extreme end of the beach is the goal of the ride, and the centre of interest, for the township is some distance past all the intervening foreground of bridge, grazing land on the slopes of valley, harvest field, and sheltering belts of trees, and itself is sheltered by higher hills beyond the pretty varied knolls immediately surrounding it. To approach it one leaves the coast and turns to the right over a low bridge, when the whole of the panorama can be seen on mounting a hill and observing from this lovely point of vantage. White sands, and plenty of them, stretch along the bay and back to bordering sandhills, then on to massive headlands cut off sheer at the waters edge. Nearer at hand the slate grey rocks make odd shapes of pools, while gushing eddies of foamy tide water still show a lovely blue anywhere where there was space

enough to be quiet. A contrast to this tumultuous scene is the peaceful creek winding down to the beach between banks studded with native cabbage trees now in full bloom, and reflecting in its calm waters the outlines of the fishing boats drawn up in a cluster near the bridge. These looked very well kept and inviting. Rising up again on the right hand side is a high level harvest field, the grain in stook a brilliant yellow against the blue sea beyond. The foreground filled with harvest field,—white, winding road,—bridge over creek, which is bordered by small native shrubs,—further back the sea,—and overhead a sky of cloudless blue; all these make a satisfying picture.

To go back through the afternoon sunlight along the curving road was to pass through a panorama of country scenes where space was the uppermost impression on one's mind. To give the warm, human interest there was the harvest being gathered by industrious farmers, and the lines of telephone wires more thickly clustered when near to a township and on the further side of it. The very poles of the telephones seemed to stand out in sharper contrast than ever with the white of the insulators, as both had only that morning come out freshened from nature's cleansing process of soaking fog and wind, and with their glistening surfaces punctuated the miles of delightful drive.

On the right hand of the road coming home a plentiful store for storehouse and barn was ripening in the paddocks on the hillside, while on the left hand rich valley land stretched away in the sunset to winding course of the Kaikoura stream, and was tenanted by thriving cattle. Beyond this rose abruptly series after series of hills to a great height, all bathed in the golden beams of an autumn afternoon sun. Clear road through for many miles brought us happily along between hedges of hawthorn, on whose branches the hips and haws showed their brightest and freshened red. Scarlet berries on the yet green boughs of sweet briar made a splash of colour on the road side grass.

Past the picturesque Green Island Post Office at 4 o'clock the car ran, and took a load of thankful folk on their journey back to the ordinary ways of town life. The chauffeur's assurance that the harvest in the district we had just passed through was very good this season was welcome news, since it

would seem as if the likelihood of its sum total being diminished by the war was what one would naturally fear. Among the delightful scenes was one on the hillside where an ancient pear tree stood, heavily laden among its sheltering hedges. More often than not the farmers were busy in the fields, and reminded one of the untiring energy needed to gather in safely the store of precious increase. That the season had yielded plenty for man and beast was shown by the large strawstacks, some half built, and of impressive girth. The grain was possibly now thrashed, and awaiting its further voyage over the blue sea lying out to the horizon.

With thoughts and memories of the song "When the kye come hame," the party found their ride drawing to a close and the sights of the city gradually surrounding them. The slanting rays of the sun shone brightly on the panorama of valley scene on one hand and of populous city on the other, as the road running along the crest of the hill was traversed. The run of sixteen miles was done comfortably in an hour and a-half, and a contented and freshened party landed at their own door.

ANCHORED TO THE INFINITE.

(By Edwin Markham.)

The builder who first bridged
Niagara's gorge,
Before he swung his cable shore to
shore,
Sent out across the gulf his venturing
kite
Bearing a slender cord for unseen
hands
To grasp upon the further cliff and
draw
A greater cord, and then a greater
yet;
Till at the last across the chasm
swung
The cable—then the mighty bridge in
air!

So we may send our little amid
thought
Across the void, out to God's reaching
hands—
Send out our love and faith to tread
the deep—
Thought after thought until the little
cord
Has greated to a chain no chance
can break,
And—we are anchored to the infinite!

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PROHIBITION PARS.

DRINK DURING THE WAR.

It kept back guns and shells when our men were dying for them.

It kept back ships that were taking out vital supplies.

It kept men idle when the safety of the army depended upon them.

It seriously delayed the manufacture of explosives.

It stopped the sailing of reinforcements for hard pressed troops.

It has lured from our people £700,000,000 in these years of war; it draws 10s a week on an average from every home.

It destroyed five million tons of food while famine came on.

It used up hundreds of millions of cubic feet of shipping, and consumed millions of tons of coal.

It turned thousands of soldiers into moral and physical wrecks; it was the chief partner in the traffic of venereal disease.

It ruined thousands of homes of soldiers, tempted their women, and starved their little children.

It made trouble in the shipyards and workshops and docks.

It exploited the bad habit of the nation in the nation's bitter need; it grew rich beyond its dreams, and never lost a penny through the war.

ENGLAND DRY IN FIVE YEARS.

A noted English Baronet said: "I do not believe in Prohibition. I believe it is an invasion of personal rights; but I believe that we Englishmen must do the drinking we are going to do in the next four or five years. The economic pressure is going to drive us to Prohibition.

ALCOHOL A FUEL, NOT A BEVERAGE.

Henry Ford is reported to have said: "Let those who for years have been making alcohol as a beverage now learn better and cheaper means to make it as a fuel. If this is done it will be one of the most important results of the Prohibition laws. Alcohol is the greatest fuel in the

world, far better than gasoline or other commonly used fuels. Its only disadvantage at present is its high cost. That should be overcome, and I have no doubt it soon will be. Alcohol should readily be produced from almost any vegetable matter that will ferment. Entirely successful experiments have been made in producing it from hay. With cheap alcohol made from vegetables, the world would have a never failing supply of fuel for its machinery. I look to see, in a few years, great co-operative groups of farmers tilling their lands and harvesting their crops by machinery driven by fuel from their own farms. The fact is, and we all know it, that every organised association or society that stands for the well-being of the community, that stands for law and order, the elimination of waste, and for moral, social, and civic betterment, is strongly in favour of the passage of Prohibition legislation."

THE OLD STORY.

(By Carolyn Wells.)

My wife submits to my decrees,
Yet sometimes she will murmur,
"Honey,

I'd like—to have—a dollar—please."
I don't see what she wants of
money!

I pay the weekly household bills;
I must confess I think it's funny,
As I buy all her frocks and frills,
I don't see what she wants of
money!

I give her car-fare if it rains
(She likes to walk if it is sunny);
I pay her way on railroad trains—
I don't see what she wants of
money!

And yet she'll ask me for a dime,
With quivering lips and eyes all
runny;
I give it—but, at the same time,
I don't see what she wants of
money!

TEMPERANCE IN SCHOOLS.

Campaign depends upon telling the people the facts, and the proper time to begin education is in childhood, and the proper place the public school. It began in the schools of the State of Washington before temperance sentiment was strong, and the liquor interests laughed at them for attempting anything in the schools. At the first session of the Legislature following the admission of Washington to Statehood, this was adopted: "It shall be the duty of all teachers to endeavour to impress upon the minds of their pupils the principles of morality, truth, justice, temperance, and patriotism." It also provides that schools shall give instruction in "physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects on the human system of alcoholic stimulants and narcotics." Between the day of the adoption of these laws and the present day the State of Washington has successively adopted the Local Option and the State-wide Prohibition law, and has overwhelmingly defeated the attempt of the liquor interests to weaken the Prohibition law after its enactment. State-wide Prohibition was adopted at the general election of 1914 by a popular vote of 189,840 to 171,268. At the general election of 1916, after several months' trial of the State-wide law, a measure to permit the establishment of breweries and the sale of intoxicants of certain alcoholic content, was defeated by a vote of 245,399 to 98,843. During the present year (1919) the State Legislature unanimously voted its ratification of the Prohibition amendment to the Federal Constitution.

BOOT FACTORY VERSUS BREWERY.

Sir George White, M.P., of Norwich, compared the balance-sheet of the brewery with that of his own boot factory. The brewery net profits were four times as much as the wages they paid, while the boot factory paid five times as much in wages as he received in profits.

PLAYWORK FOR THE TIMES.**A HELP FOR MOTHERS.**

Many a hard-worked mother is longing to find some suitable occupation to keep the tinies busy, quiet, and happy, while the little ones are constantly asking, "What shall we do?"

A few simple devices are here given.

1. Draw outlines of large letters, figures, or designs on slate. Let the child lay split peas, rice grains, berries, or such like carefully upon the lines. Better still, use cardboards, which may be stencilled.

2. Use these outline cards by telling the children to prick holes at even distances carefully on the line.

3. Now let the child sew from hole to hole with bright wool or cotton.

4. Let the child mould the same outline in plasticine or dough.

5. Encourage him in the attempt to draw it on the slate.

6. Supply child with bundle of coloured sticks of varying lengths, to be sorted out into different colours and lengths. (Keep sticks for other uses.) Wooden matches, whole or part lengths, can be stained with ink, Condy's, etc.

7. Draw figure or design in straight lines (a box, a door, etc.), for child to copy, by laying the sticks in imitation on table.

8. Draw on slate or blackboard, long and short lines in chalk, for child to copy by placing sticks on table.

9. Give large leaves or some suitable object for child to trace round, prick holes, and sew with coloured wool.

10. Paste a picture on cardboard, cut into irregular shapes to make a puzzle for child to put together in place.

11. Coloured pumpkin seeds may be used to make designs on table.

12. Use these same seeds, or coloured matches, for lessons in numbers

With the destruction of the industries producing alcoholic stimulant, humanity would be thrown back into the dark ages, not merely into mediævalism, but into the ages not recorded by history, far behind the times of the ancient Egyptians, who were drinkers of wine and beer in large quantities. A non-alcoholic world would be a world of barbarians and savages.—"Brewers' Journal" for May.

WOMAN'S WORK.

Miss Rosa Rotherberg, aged 26, and a native of Rumania, has been appointed Assistant District Attorney of the Woman's Day Court in New York, and will have charge of the cases of women brought before the Court on the charge of disorderly conduct. This is the first time a woman has been appointed on the staff of the District Attorney of New York.

On May 20th, 1919, France gave to the women of France and Algeria all the electoral rights possessed by Frenchmen.

The Council of the Cambridge University Senate are to discuss the question as to whether women students should be admitted to membership of the University. A syndicate is to be appointed to consider the question and report before the end of the Easter term, 1920.

Women are now eligible for membership of the Geological Society.

By a majority of one, the women of Quebec Province have been refused by the Government the privilege of practising at the bar.

At the Rand banquet to welcome Generals Botha and Smuts, General Botha expressed the opinion that in view of the great services of womanhood in the war, it seemed to him that the men would be compelled to pass a law giving women the franchise. General Smuts in his speech to the citizens of Johannesburg, said that they could take it from him that the line of the greatest revolutions of the war was going to be the position of women in the future.

"I should like to see the names of the owners of some houses put upon them as the farmer has to put his name upon his carts."—Bishop of Woolwich.

PERSONAL.

We are pleased to note that Invercargill Y's are sending a guinea as a little love token to Miss Weymouth, who laboured so faithfully among our New Zealand Y Branches.

ALCOHOLISM.

Drunkenness is only a part of the poisonous action of alcohol, and often only a small part. It may even be entirely absent, as in the moderate drinker who does not take enough at a time to cause drunkenness, and yet may become an "alcoholic." An examination of his blood would often show a sufficient amount of alcohol circulating in it to do some damage to his cells. And after a time, longer or shorter, according to the amount he drinks and his power of resistance, the damage begins to show by various signs, which the doctors have learned to recognise. They may be seen first as changes in the blood vessels, in the liver, kidneys, or heart, according to the weakest place in the individual drinker; or the indication may come as an attack of delirium tremens after an injury that a normal person would recover from without complications.

The intent of prohibition legislation is not simply to prevent a few hundred thousand cases of drunkenness annually; it is to abolish alcoholism. "Union Signal."

VAUDEVILLE SEES THE LIGHT.

For years the Anti-Saloon League has been a great joke for vaudeville artistes. In comic song and puns and coarse jests they have harpooned the dry cause. But light is breaking in "vodeville" circles, as the following dialogue would indicate, pulled off in McVickers' Theatre, Chicago:—

"You don't mean to say you've sworn off on regular booze?"

"Yes, sir; I've sworn off."

"What induced you to climb on the water waggon?"

"Watching the liquor dealers' parade last week."

"Tell me about it."

"First came a lot of swell dressed men on horseback."

"Who were they?"

"Those were wholesale liquor dealers. Then came another lot of swell dressed men riding in automobiles."

"Who were they?"

"They were retail liquor dealers. Then came a lot of poor, homeless, tattered bums on foot."

"Who were they?"

"They were the consumers."

—"American Issue."

**WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.**

Organised 1885

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,
Port Chalmers.

(Telephone No. 1).

The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, MARCH 18, 1919.

**THE EMPIRE CITY WELCOMES
CONVENTION.**

On Wednesday evening Wellington accorded a Civic Reception to the 1920 W.C.T.U. Convention. The Mayor was absent, having gone with the Parliamentary party to Samoa, but Councillor Frost, acting-Mayor, spoke very kindly words of welcome and appreciation of the work of the Union; then as he had to leave to attend another meeting, Mrs Luke, the Mayoress, took the chair and conducted the proceedings. Mrs Johnson Wright welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Wellington Unions, Rev. Dr. Pinfold on behalf of the South Wellington Ministers' Association, expressed their pleasure at seeing Convention assemble in Wellington, and hoped the sessions would be helpful and inspiring.

Mrs Pearson, on behalf of the Y.W.C.A., welcomed her fellow-White

Ribboners. She had just returned from a tour through U.S.A., and said that in her first day back in New Zealand she saw more intoxicated men than in all her weeks of travel in America. She also said that everywhere in the States she was told that the W.C.T.U. had had the greatest part in the campaign for National Prohibition, and she was glad to welcome delegates from this great organisation to Wellington.

Mr Faulkner welcomed us in the name of the Y.M.C.A., while that veteran temperance worker, Mr Fathers, voiced them a warm welcome from the Rechabites.

Miss Coad, President of the Wellington Branch of Women's National Council, said that she was glad to welcome Convention. The W.C.T.U., besides their own special work, co-operated with all other societies. Whenever you started to work for any reform, you could depend upon the support of the W.C.T.U.

Major Daubney in a few well-chosen words voiced the welcome of the Salvation Army, and said that no organisation knew better the evil effects of the drink trade.

Rev. Dawson told the meeting that the N.Z. Alliance accorded a hearty welcome to the Convention.

A musical and elocutionary programme of very high merit was rendered. Mesdames Phillips, Sloane, Miss Britain, Messrs Phipps and Hood delighted the audience with songs, and Mr V. Evans recited "Matri Delictissimae," and as an encore "Taffy was a Welshman."

Mr Crabb returned thanks on behalf of visiting delegates, and invited all the audience to visit business meetings of Convention.

Votes of thanks to Chair, performers, and speakers were given, and God Save the King brought the evening to a close.

**FROM THE ILLINOIS WATCH
TOWER.**

"Had the nations of the world had principles of temperance emblazoned upon their statute books, and compulsory temperance education training been their ideal, instead of compulsory military training, the world would be wrapped in peace to-day, instead of being flooded with the blood of the world's best citizenship."

Mrs A. F. Seligman,

A BALLAD OF CHIVALRY.

By Ella W. Wilson.

(From the "New Southern Citizen.")

The hearse has passed, the mourners,
too—Elizabeth Ann is dead.
She is sleeping in the graveyard now;
the final word is said;

She has scrubbed and washed her
final day, and all her work is through.

They mourn her most sincerely, and
her age was fifty-two.

She brought up seven children as a
mother good and true.

She tended them in sickness as a
good wife ought to do;

She began the day unrested, and she
went to bed half dead,

"She is quite a model woman," her
loving husband said.

She cleaned and swept and dusted,
canned fruit and salted meat;

For sixteen hours a day she proved a
household drudge complete;

She helped him when he butchered,
and she helped him when they hayed,

And she made the clothes and mended
them, and in the kitchen stayed.

Sometimes her burdens grieved her
and worried her awhile,

So then he told her not to mind, to
meet life with a smile;

And he carefully protected her, in his
favour you will note.

Though he let her work her heart out,
he never let her vote.

Her oldest son was drinking when the
Local Option came;

She did not have to bear the toil of
registering her name;

She did not bear the trouble, from her
fireside forced to roam,

To cast a vote on License, and thus
break up her home.

She had to gather kindling, she had to
bring in wood,

She had to rick the apples and do
everything she could—

But chivalry protected her, the men
were proud to note;

They kept one labour from her—she
never had to vote.

She had an education, she had good
common-sense;

She had capacity to live, and affec-
tions most intense;

She saw the loafers voting, and she
asked to have her say,

But they told her she was far too weak
to share election day.

They have finished up Elizabeth Ann,
from suffrage guarded well;

A younger wife will take her place,
and in her household dwell;

She is dead and gone to heaven at the
age of fifty-two.

Though they never let her ballot lest
she have too much to do.

W.C.T.U. HEADQUARTERS IN JAPAN.

A young Baptist missionary writes as follows:—

The Japanese W.C.T.U. building is most attractive, a pretty, comfortable, home-like looking place of the Japanese type which, with its sliding white paper doors and walls can always be made to look artistic. Pretty rugs and hangings and comfortable chairs made things lovely. The White Ribboners served delicious "eats," and then the wife of the foreign head of the Woman's Christian College of Tokyo gave a little talk regarding the history and work of the W.C.T.U. in Japan. I intend to become a member of the organisation. Although temperance work is its main line of activity, of course it has branched out into other avenues of endeavour. For instance, it maintains a Rescue Home, a huge plant of many buildings. This institution is doing a mighty work.—"Union Signal."

CHILE TAKES ACTION AGAINST JOHN BARLEYCORN.

Great alarm has been aroused among the thinking people of Chile by the disclosures of the medical examinations of the conscripts who present themselves for military service. The rapid degeneration of the race is noted, and they are casting about for remedial measures. Vice and drunkenness are the greatest factors, the latter being recognised as in a great measure responsible for the former.

The Minister for the Interior has issued a decree which will abolish drunkenness in the saltpetre and mining lands. These lands belong to the Government, and the introduction of alcohol to these districts, or within five kilometres of a mining district, will annul the concession under which the minerals are extracted.

"This tiny knot of ribbon

Sweet sign of inward grace,
Means all that God and woman

Can do for the human race;
Then let it shine, dear women,

Our beautiful ribbon white,

For you cannot know, as you come and
go,

What soul may need its light."

THE GOAL OF INDIA—PROHIBITION.

"The Times," of India is one of the most important newspapers in the whole British Empire. It is highly significant of the turn which opinion is taking, that it should use the following radical expressions:

"What should be the goal that every civilised state marks out for itself towards the liquor question? We have not the slightest hesitation in saying that it should be the complete and absolute Prohibition of the sale of alcohol. There is, it seems to use no half way house in this matter. . . . In India we have to insist that the goal which the State deliberately sets itself is the absolute Prohibition of the sale of alcohol as a beverage, fully recognising that the goal is very distant, but that our immediate policy shall be framed to its ultimate attainment. The struggle for life in the future will be so intense that there will be no place in the world for societies sodden with alcohol, and its accompaniments — lunacy, disease, crime."—"Record of Christian Work."

The New York Life Insurance Company is said to be the largest organisation of its kind. The figures of this company show that among its policy holders in Germany during the four years of war, from August 1, 1914, to July 31, 1918, the mortality rate, including deaths on the battlefield, was 12 per cent. less for the war period of four years than eleven years of peace immediately preceding. "It is probable," says the company's chief actuary, commenting on these few remarkable figures, "that this has been the result of restrictions in diet, limitation in the consumption of alcoholic beverages, and a large amount of exercise, which the Germans of middle life, the bulk of our insured, have had to stand." And in calling the attention of its agents and policy-holders to these striking facts, the Company well remarks that they "point a way to longer life for the average man, to wit: restricted diet, total abstinence from alcoholic drinks, proper exercise."

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

Masterton Union, £4.

SOME SUMMER "DONT'S."

(By the Baby.)

Don't swaddle me with clothes that make me perspire. A band, shirt, napkin, and rompers are about what I need for hot weather.

Don't forget to give me a ten-minute sponge-bath once or twice on hot days.

Don't forget my two-hour daily nap out-doors in a shady place. Mosquito-netting will save me from flies and insects during this nap.

Don't coax me to take food that I do not want.

Don't expose me to the tortures that follow letting me experiment with food that I pick up myself. Your judgment is better than mine in this matter.

Don't feed me more than four times a day. More than this gives me pain.

Don't forget always to give me a drink of cool, boiled water between meals; I need plenty.

Don't try to check any diarrhoea I may have with patent medicines or remedies suggested by our neighbours, relatives or friends. Ask my friend, the doctor.

Don't bluff me with a pacifier; I want a good-looking mouth when I grow up.

AND

If you want me to keep well and happy during my second summer, I've just got to have **Clean Air, clean clothing, and clean food.**

LABOUR V. LIQUOR.

At the last meeting of the Labour Council of New South Wales, held on January 15th, the following motion was carried:—

"That in view of the antagonism shown by the Brewers' Association towards members of Unionism, and after considering the misery and degradation caused by the liquor trade, this Council pledges itself to use every means in its power to assist in the elimination of the industry from the social system. And, further, that the foregoing resolution be forwarded to all affiliated and unaffiliated Unions, requesting their co-operation."

It is the intention of the Council to take the matter up with all Unions, in order that the question of the abolition of liquor may be made a live one. tion of liquor may be made a live one.

FRAGRANT THOUGHTS.

"It is the glory of Christianity that declines to recognise the existence of necessary evils; and that, however deeply seated an evil may be, however firmly rooted in national habits and customs, yet let it once be granted that it is an evil, and Christianity never ceases to lift up its voice against it, and declare there is no necessity for its continuance."—The Bishop of Gloucester.

"How fragrant you are this morning," said the gravel walk to a sprig of myrtle. "Yes," said the myrtle, "I have been trodden upon and bruised, and it has brought forth all my sweetness." "But," said the gravel walk, "I, too, am trodden on every day, and I only grow sadder." Which shall it be with you and me, beloved: "The Almighty hath dealt verily bitterly with me" or "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him"? Our choice will either make us or unmake us.

Oh, do not pray for easy lives! Pray to be better men! Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks! Then the doing of your work shall be a miracle. But you shall be a miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself, at the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.—Phillips Brooks.

Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year. No man has learned anything rightly unless he knows that every day is Doomsday.—Emerson.

WHY AMERICA WENT DRY.

"Lloyd's Newspaper" of March 2nd says:—"Many people over here are at a loss to understand how the American people can have consented to have passed their self-denying ordinance and 'gone dry.' But this is because they do not appreciate the difference that exists between English and American drinking customs. Over here, a man who enters a public-house for a drink suffers no social stigma. The man who goes into a saloon in an ordinary American town I am not alluding to big cities like New York or Chicago—finds himself socially ostracised. He is regarded as much the same light as would be a man over here who was seen to enter a house of ill-fame."

THE AWAKENING IN PORTO RICO.

Porto Rico is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world, having about 360 people to the square mile. The birth rate greatly exceeds the death rate, though 45 per cent. of the babies die under two years of age. The public school system is very good, and there are several municipal hospitals, which are well managed. A set of very immoral pictures was staged there, and the President of the local W.C.T.U. commenced investigations. She called a meeting of her Union, which Colonel Shanton addressed, and a Woman's Police Reserve Corps was formed. The Colonel said many cases of White Slave Traffic were turned down for want of evidence, and asked the women to aid him in securing it. The Colonel, who was Chief of the Police, aided them in every way, and their slogan is "Enlist—Clean Up Your Town." Very good work is being done, and many victims of vice rescued.—"Union Signal," October, 1918.

THE TYRANNY OF STYLE—THE CONSEQUENT CRAMPING OF SOUL.

"How long, O Lord, how long?"

Speaking of hobbles and skirts, will women submit tamely to the arbitrary rulings of styles, which are coming as per usual from France and New York. This spring, the ridiculousness of this tyranny is just a bit more apparent, because we have two of these rulings, each of which claims to be the correct thing. In skirts, New York says they must be long and hobble. Paris says they must be short, and not too tight. What is to be the result? One may expect the slaves of fashion to now divide themselves into the Shorts and Longs. Nay, there may even be a Moderationist Party, known as the Betweens; but when, oh when are we to have the party that will say to the makers of fashions, "We are not apes, we are women, and we desire to make and to wear our own styles of clothing?" Do we hear the Raven croak that never will this thing be, or is there a Bluebird of Promise which says that in the year 2500 or thereabouts women will shed the yoke of style and free themselves once and for all from the tyranny of fashion?—Exchange.

THE W.C.T.U. IN CHINA.

In 1890, the W.C.T.U. was organised in China, and Mrs. Farnham, of Shanghai, was elected President. The following year it was reported that eight Unions almost entirely of natives had been organised, and work in nine departments initiated; that the Polyglot Petition was being circulated, and scientific temperance instruction had been introduced in many schools. The interest grew and work among the young was actively carried on, the missionaries assisting by translating songs, and temperance literature into the Chinese language. Dr. Mary Stone (Shi Ma Lei) is now the leader of the Chinese White Ribboners. Mrs. Mei Ren Yin, a gifted Chinese widow, educated in America, was secured as organiser. She recently addressed 3,000 soldiers encamped in the city of Kiukiang, and organised among them a band of total abstainers, with General Wu, military governor of the province, as leader. She spoke before a city council, telling them of the threatened invasion of China by the brewers, and pleading for an official uprising to prevent it. Time and again her words were greeted with splendid applause. Only a few months ago, Mrs. Mei returned from a ten day's campaign trip in the South of Kiang Si Province, and at the capital city of Nan Chang (one million population) she was invited by the governor to give an address in his official residence, and there made a strong and eloquent plea for National Prohibition, which was enthusiastically received. Before leaving the city she had secured the names of a thousand prominent men and women, who pledged themselves to total abstinence.

PREVENTIBLE ILL-HEALTH.

It is said that of every nine men examined by the Recruiting Medical Board of England, three were fit for service, two were more or less unfit, and four represented wreckage of one kind or another, some of it hopeless, most of it preventible. This means that a very large proportion of ill-health is due either to ignorance of the laws of health or the failure, from some reason or other, to practise them, hence the great need of intelligent and continuous health propaganda.

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FAREWELL FROM MRS EVA WHEELER.

Dear White Ribbon Comrades of New Zealand,—

As I am about to leave the shores of your beautiful country—the most wonderful, new, little nation on earth—I avail myself of this opportunity to express a few of the thoughts thronging for utterance.

With real joy I recall the greetings received by wire before the pleasure of meeting any of you, the enthusiastic and cordial reception tendered me by the splendid ladies of Wellington. Long shall I remember the capable leaders, Mrs Atkinson, Mrs Wright, Mrs Helyer (my hostess), and many others there; also the faithful ones at Invercargill, and at Dunedin the wonderful opportunity for meeting your National Executive at "tea," with Mrs Don and Mrs Cowie, two world leaders (and they will be so recognised at the World's Convention), and your most efficient Editor. Indeed, each one at that festive board left an impress upon me for good. Later it was a benefit to know your wonderfully efficient Corresponding Secretary and L.T.L. Secretary and many others.

Other pictures hanging on memory's walls are a unique reception at Dunedin presided over by the Mayoress, the meetings at Christchurch, and the beautiful silk flag of New Zealand presented to me by the Canterbury ladies; receptions, At Homes, and teas at Palmerston North, Napier, and a dozen other cities; a garden party, reception, and farewell reception at Auckland, with the capable Mrs Cook leading. Did not space forbid I should mention each remembrance gift and souvenir and the donor. Again I say "thank you" for it all. I congratulate you upon the splendid fight for prohibition you have made, and in every

place I am I shall state that no prohibition army could have done better considering the handicaps under which you so valiantly laboured. How could it be otherwise, surrounded as you are by all the beauty the Creator has provided so abundantly to inspire and encourage.

We will leave you rich in memory pictures of sea, mountain, harbour, lake, cave, foliage, and Rotorua; but the dearest picture is of its people. You have taken me into your hearts and homes as a sister, and I can never fail to be grateful to the W.C.T.U. of New Zealand for making it all possible. I wish you might visit the U.S.A. and enjoy as much and be as much benefited as I have been by my sojourn with you.

To-morrow we sail for Australia, where I am dated for at least six months. May God's choicest blessing richly rest upon you and your service for Him, and may you speedily reach victory.—Sincerely,

EVA C. WHEELER.

AUSTRALIA'S FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

Mr Bowser, Chief Secretary, in reply to a deputation of members of the Association to Combat Social Evil, stated that "since 1914 the increase in the cost of the neglected children's department was £40,000 a year, which indicated the sense of responsibility with which some fathers were endowed." He was endeavouring to get hold of a number of these fellows. It was costing money, and it would cost more. He was having one fellow followed as far as New Zealand.

Mr W. A. Green, who had charge of the Neglected Children's Department in New South Wales, stated that "60 to 70 per cent. of the deserted children had drunken parents—one or both."

EXTRACT FROM AN EXCHANGE.

They were standing talking as they awaited the arrival of the wedding party at the church door.

"Ah, well, say what you like, there is an awful risk in it. Now, I've had three husbands."

"Three! My dear Tabitha, did you say three husbands? I didn't think the law allowed it."

"Oh, not all at once, my dear; my first husband—ah! but he was a good man—wiping her eyes—as different as light from dark to the husband I've got now. Why, many a time I've just been going out, and he said to me: "Tabitha," he said, "your hair is just any way; come back, and I'll do it for you," and sure enough I'd just sit down and he'd do it, good as any woman 'ud do it. Then there was my second husband; why, he never noticed how your hair was done, or your dress either, for that matter. Just how the meals were done, that was all that troubled him. But there, the whole three of them was strong in the nerve. Now, this young soldier what's going to be married to-day, they do say as how he's got no nerve at all since he came home from the war, shocked all away with the shells, I suppose, and I always will say that a man's nerves should be the strongest part of him, when he takes on to be married; and I did hear she's not going to have a veil or nothing fanciful like, kind of military, p'raps. My! I had a beauty the first time—veil, I mean, not husband, none of them was what you'd call beauties—but the second I didn't, and the third time I just said to my husband that was to be: 'I've been down to the minister every time before, so you can just ask him to come to me for this ceremony,' and so he did, and we was married quite quiet like, but here they come."

News of the Unions.

The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 5th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

PETONE.

Feb. 18. Enjoyable "At Home" at Mrs McEwan's (Mayoress). Rev. Walker (St. Augustine's) and Ensign Watkin gave addresses, the latter taking our motto, "For God, Home, and Humanity," as the basis of his address. Songs and recitations were contributed by members. The hostess, Mrs Jones, Fitzherbert Street, provided a dainty afternoon tea. Two new members were initiated.

March 2. Good attendance. Mr Carey, representing No-License League, attended, and the members present promised to support the candidates selected by the League for the Licensing Committee, and to work in their interests. Resolved that we nominate lady members for the School Committee. A delegate was appointed for Convention. Arrangements were made for the afternoon tea for Convention Garden Party.

HENDERSON.

Feb. Our meeting was opened by the President (Mrs Attwood) with praise and prayer, and the afternoon was then spent in a social to entertain Cradle Roll mothers. We had a very happy time, and considering the weather, there was a good number present. Our Superintendent reported 85 babies on roll.

OXFORD.

Jan. 28—President in the chair. After discussion, decided to adopt Syllabus of Work, and to have 100 copies printed for distribution. Decided that in addition to the money prize, the winners in the temperance essay competition be presented with a printed certificate. Decided to write to Mrs Early expressing thanks and appreciation of her help, and to wish her happiness and prosperity. Rev. W. Ready, of Kaiapoi, gave an enjoyable address, and received a vote of thanks.

Feb. 25. Frances Willard Day celebrated. President in the chair. A resolution was passed expressing sympathy with Mrs H. Campbell in the illness of her husband. Decided to ask Mrs Munn to act as delegate at the Dominion Conference. Decided to cater for the A. and P. Show, and to hold a special meeting early in March to make arrangements. Mrs Lewis, Superintendent of Notable Days, read an interesting sketch of Miss Willard's life and work, and received a vote of thanks. One new member was initiated.

TAKAPUNA.

Feb. 12. A successful Cradle Roll picnic held in the Public Park, Milford. About 100, including mothers, babies, and friends, assembled under the trees on the banks of Lake Pupuke. Prayer was offered, and "All Round the World" was sung. Revs. Radford, Albert, and Woolloxall gave short addresses. Some little girls sang "The Old, Old Story," and Mrs Fulljames, our President, recited, and spoke on the "Story and its Answer." Afternoon tea followed. A photograph was taken.

March 4. Mrs Fulljames presided. She spoke on our new year's motto, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths." Mrs Bayes also spoke a few words upon the same subject. Fifteen present. Officers were re-elected, and several new ones chosen. A letter was read from a lady urging merciful treatment of animals to be taught in schools for our Union to consider. Two new members were initiated.

INVERCARGILL DISTRICT.

March 3. Mrs Lillicrap (President) in the chair. Letters from Y's and South Branches conveying thanks and appreciation for donation received, to enable them to send delegates to Convention. An interesting article on "Women War Workers and Immigration," was read by Miss Birso, who also gave a report of a meeting of temperance workers, who met the Rev. John Dawson with a view to future plans. A motion was passed asking the Southland Hospital and Charitable Aid Board to place a literature box in front of Hospital. Members would be willing to distribute same to patients. Decided to assist by giving a stall at a bazaar in aid of Victoria Home, to be held in May.

A letter was sent to Miss Earnshaw for collecting W.R. subs., and gaining 8 new members. £1 donated to Invercargill South Essay Competition Fund.

HASTINGS.

Feb. 12. Mrs Fawcett presided. Fair attendance, but influenza rife in the district, so many absent. Mrs Lovell-Smith appointed Press Superintendent. Arrangements made for commemorating Frances Willard Day on February 26th, notices to be sent to absent members. Mrs Spurdle appointed delegate for Convention.

Feb. 26. Drawing-room meeting. Mrs Fawcett presided. Only a fair attendance, but some new friends, to whom a welcome was extended. Report of Rest Room read by Mrs Paul, showing an increase in the monetary takings. Musical items were given, and a short account of Frances Willard's life read by Mrs Lovell-Smith. Afternoon tea was handed round. Miss Bessie Mitchell was appointed White Ribbon agent, vice Mrs Martindale, who has left Hastings. Mrs Gloyn was reappointed "Y" Superintendent.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

Feb. 18. Farewell afternoon to Mrs Eva Wheeler. Mrs Cook presided, and presented Mrs Wheeler with a beautiful bouquet. A large attendance; solos, and afternoon tea. Mrs Wheeler gave an inspiring address on W.C.T.U. work in America. Miss Little received a presentation, and regret was expressed at her departure to Wellington. Two new members. "God be with you till we meet again" was sung, and brought a pleasant afternoon to a close.

Feb. 25. Willard Day. Meeting in headquarters. Mrs Cook presided. Mrs Hutchinson, a White Ribboner from Melbourne, was welcomed, and gave the greetings from her Union. Instructions re voting on notices of motion were given to the delegates to Convention. A short sketch of the life of Frances Willard was read by Mrs H. Brown. A solo by Miss Clark. A collection for the World's Missionary Fund.

NELSON.

Feb. 10. Small attendance. Mrs Watson in chair. Devotions conducted by Mrs Kirby. Mesdames Watson and Field elected as delegates to Convention; alternate delegates, Mesdames Kirby and Hill.

Feb. 17. Welcome social to President, Miss Atkinson, who has returned after an absence of three years. Welcome speeches by Mesdames Watson, Field, Hill, Brown, Carlyle, White, Holdaway, and Cropp. Mr Pettit welcomed the President on behalf of other temperance organisations. Bouquet of flowers presented by Master Cyril Brown. Miss Atkinson replied, thanking those present for welcome, and gave a brief account of some of her experiences while in Europe. Votes of sympathy passed to Mesdames Gubb, McMorland, and Hampton on the death of their husbands. Meeting closed with Benediction.

TIMARU.

Mrs Norrie presided. Arranged to hold the postponed Cradle Roll picnic at the Park on Saturday, March 6th, Nurse Cameron (Plunket nurse) to give an address for mothers. Mrs Nimmo sent £5 to be used for the seamen visiting the Sailors' Rest. Mrs Nimmo also asked that names of men who might need help, and are visiting Wellington, be sent to her. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Nimmo. Mr Woodward's report of work at the Sailors' Rest showed a quiet month. A tea was given to visiting seamen on Sunday last. Mrs Trott will represent us at the Convention. Report of District Convention sent by Mrs Clay was read.

WANGANUI DISTRICT.

Feb. 5. First meeting for 1920; a fair attendance. Our new President, who has just returned from a trip to England, was welcomed, and briefly

Storyteller.

COMRADES EVER.

CHAPTER VII.

Swiftly had passed the years, and once more Gipsy Lewis sat in her summer house and gazed upon the lovely garden, the broad landscape, and rolling seascape spread out before her. It was just six years since death had claimed her loved ones, and her mind was reviewing those years. They had been neither idle nor unfruitful. She had bravely borne her cross, faced her lonely future, and in earnest work for others had found quiet happiness for herself. The friendship and esteem of her colleagues, the trust and loyalty of her departmental staff, and the deep love of the people she had won. At the next election her seat had been uncontested, none caring to risk certain defeat. One other constituency had elected a woman as member, and between her and Gipsy was a warm friendship and an earnest partnership. A step sounded on the path, and Will joined his mother.

The promise of his youth had been fulfilled, and he was as fine a specimen of young manhood as one would meet in a day's march. After receiving the M.D. of the N.Z. University, he had gone to England for further study, and had won golden opinions as a promising young scientist. He had returned to New Zealand with his mother, who had been representing New Zealand at an Imperial Conference in London. "Come along for a stroll, Mum; I believe you've got quite fat and lazy while I was away. Rouse up, and let's have a tramp."

Off they went for one of the rambles which they loved, and as they strolled over the hills they talked of intimate personal matters, including Will's future work. Dr. Leslie, a surgeon of the first rank, had offered him a partnership, which his mother wished him to accept, as it would leave him much free time for research work. The doctor was a personal friend of hers, and it was not his fault that a closer tie did not unite them. But when he had made his wish known, Gipsy shrank with such horror from the proposal that the doctor hastily exclaimed, "You don't surely think that second marriages are wrong?"

"No," she replied, "not wrong, but for me impossible. The tie that bound Ted and me is just as close even

though he has passed within the veil. I never doubt that both he and Bonnie Jean are near me. Don't spoil our friendship, please, by ever alluding to this again."

"I will not," and he kept his word. Mrs Lewis was troubled about her boy. Shortly after their return he became fascinated by Miss Lloyd, a society beauty, several years older than himself. His mother knew her to be vain and frivolous, with no depth of character, and quite incapable of being the companion of her intellectual son. Too wise to interfere she could only watch and pray for her boy.

The beauty alternately flattered and snubbed him.

One afternoon he called to see her, and the maid directed him to the garden. Passing down the path he heard voices on the other side of the hedge.

"Grace, what are you going to do with young Lewis," a voice enquired, and Miss Lloyd replied.

"It might be a good idea to marry him, if nothing better presents itself. If so, I'd mighty quick cut the string that ties him to his mother's apron."

Quietly Will stole away. He was no fool, and though the lady had attracted him, she had never stirred the depths of his nature. He went for a long tramp, and did much quiet thinking. Late that evening he sought his mother in her quiet room. In a few words he told her what he had overheard. She saw the boy was hurt, but that the wound was not a mortal one. "Well, dear, suppose you go with Mr Strong and his party for a tour of the southern lakes. Go to Mother Nature for healing."

Will took his mother's advice, went to the lakes, and so completely forgot the lady, that hearing upon his return the announcement of her engagement to a wealthy widower, he felt no pang.

(To be continued.)

The late Sir Victor Horsley wrote from Mesopotamia: "The directors of military operations are practically all whisky drinkers, and therefore wish the soldiers to drink too. Out here, in this torrid climate, they actually still issue rum instead of food and sterile water, and, as a result, we now have cholera, dysentery, and diarrhoea to contend with. Our gross failures and stupidities are, in my opinion, due to the whisky affecting the intellectual organs and clearness of our leaders."

Auckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lorne St.); Pres., Mrs Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs Perrett, 14 St. Benedict St.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Dowling, 19 Sumner Street, Ponsonby.

Aramoho, 2nd Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Presbyterian Church, Pres., Mrs Gilmour; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hall; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hallam; Treas., Mrs Sudderby; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Howard.

Avondale, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m., Brown Street Methodist Church, Pres., Mrs Stevens; Rec. Sec., Miss B. Gittos; Cor. Sec., Mrs Proctor; Treas., Mrs Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs Morgan.

Auckland, Y's.—Last Monday at 7.45 p.m. in W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Pres., Miss I. Sussex; Vice-Presidents, Misses I. Cook, and O. Scott; Supt., Mrs Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; Rec. Secretary, Miss L. Street; Cor. Secretary, Miss M. Bottrill, 31 Arthur St., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss D. Stubbs, Shoal Bay Rd., Devonport; "W.R." Supt., Miss Budd.

Ashburton, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Victoria Hall, Pres., Mrs W. T. Lill, Willowby; Cor. Sec., Mrs J. Thompson, Wakanui Rd.; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevurza, 169 Peter St.; Treas., Mrs W. J. Brown, Moore Street E.; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

Avondale Y's, 2nd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m. in Road Board Room, Blake Street. Pres. Miss Elsie Stevens, Vice-Pres. Misses Ada Adams, Lilla Russel & Rowley; Rec. Sec., Miss G. Wright; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Cottrill, New Windsor Rd., Avondale; Treas. Miss M. McCarthy, Station Rd.; W.R. Supt. Miss R. Thomas; Y. Supt. Mrs Pirrett, Market Rd., Epsom.

Blenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. in Wesley Hall, Pres. Mrs Richards, The Mause, Picton; Sec. Miss E. L. Jackson, Springlands; Treas., Mrs T. Pike, Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Madames Brewer, Wright, Wass and Fowler. "W.R." Agent; Mrs Parker, 77 Grove Road.

Cambridge, 1st Tuesday, in month in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.; Pres. Mrs A. T. Watson; Sec. Mrs G. Beer; Treas., Mrs C. H. Bycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs W. Egan; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. T. Watson.

Christchurch W.C.T.U. Rooms, 247 Manchester St., opp. His Majesty's Theatre. Second and fourth Wednesday. Prayer Meeting, on the third Wednesday. Pres., Mrs T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs R. Day, Millford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Bealey St.; Treas., Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith, Box 114; Assistant-Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lea, Manchester St.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Day, Millford St., St. Albans.

Dannevirke, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 8 p.m. Pres., Mrs Richards; Rec. Sec., Mrs McPhee, Princes St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett.

Dunedin District, 1st Tuesday, N.O. license Rooms Moray Place, 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hiatt, 264, George Row; Cor. Sec. and Press Cor., Mrs Chisholm, Rec. Sec., Nurse Williamson; Supt. White Ribbon, Mrs Anderson, 82, Duke St.; Treas., Mrs Young, Bishopscourt, Roslyn.

Devonport, Second Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Barr, Victoria Rd.; Vice-Presidents, Madames Budd, Elliot, Sheppard, George and Young, Sec., Mrs Burnett, Jubilee Av.; Treas., and Supt. W.R., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Lillwall.

Eden, 3rd Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Methodist Schoolroom, Dominion Rd. Pres., Miss Wilson, Wilford Rd., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Mrs Scanlan, 2 Mars Avenue, Edendale N.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Fowles, 270 Belmoral Rd., Edendale N.; Treas., Mrs Cartwright, Huia Villa, Dominion Rd.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Hudson, Richmond Rd., Mt. Eden.

Fellings, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., St Paul's Hall, Pres., Mrs Barton, "Brabourne," Monmouth St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Clara Neal, Manchester St.; Rec. Sec. Miss R. Mayo, "Nga-Kuri-Nui"; Treas., Miss Svendsen, East St.; "W.R." Agent, Miss Svendsen; Press, Mrs Reeve; Evangelistic, Mrs Emerson; Cradle Roll, Mrs Mai; L.T.L., Miss Thompson.

Greymouth District, Business only last Tuesday. Prayer Meeting second Tuesday in Sailor's Rest Hall; Pres. Mrs Gaskin; Sec., Mrs Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs A. Parkinson, Tararua St.; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs V. Brown; Vice-Presidents, Sister Moody Bell and Mrs Parkinson.

Greytown, last Tuesday, 2 1/2 p.m., Presbyterian Sunday School, Pres., Mrs Boucher, Humphries St.; Vice-Pres., Mrs Whinoop; Sec., Miss Gobbs, Main Street; Treas., Mrs A. M. Haigh, Humphries St.; Supt. Home Meetings, Mrs Whinney.

Gisborne District, last Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs Goffe, Ormond Rd.; Sec., Miss W. J. Rosie, 256 Stout Street; Treas., Mrs F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.

Hamilton District, first Thursday, Wesley Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. T. Horne, Clifton Road; Sec., Mrs W. H. Paul, Clandeklands; Treas., Mrs E. J. Davey, London Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Gaulton, Rosstrevor Street

Hamilton East—3rd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. in Methodist Hall. Pres., Mrs Gillies, Nixon St; Sec., Mrs Ogilvie, Firth St; Treas., Mrs Jack, McFarlane St; Cradle Roll, Mrs Mears; W.R. Agent, Mrs Dey

Hastings, 2nd and 4th Thursday, Methodist Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Fawcett, Louie Street.; Vice-Pres., Mrs Boyle, Mrs Burr; Mrs Moore; Sec., Mrs Gloyd, Cork Street; Treas., Mrs Spurdle, Gordon Rd.; "W.R." Agent, Miss Bessie Mitchell.

Henderson, 3rd Wednesday, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, alternately, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Atwood; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Wright and Miss Duncan; Secretary, Mrs McKay, Great North Rd.; Treas., Mrs W. Williams, Gt. North Rd.; W.R. Agent, Miss K. Duncan.

Invercargill District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m. in Y.M.C.A. rooms; Pres., Mrs F. Lillierap, 75 Earn St; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Baird, Hunter and Miss Biss; Rec. Sec., Mrs Rowland Lewis; Asst. Treas., Mrs A. Dewe; Cor. Sec., Mrs Parsonson, Gladstone; Treas., Mrs F. Blakie; "W.R." Agent, Mrs F. Lillierap, Earn St.

Invercargill South. Meets every second Tuesday, in Methodist Schoolroom, Ythan Street, at 2.45 p.m. Pres. Mrs Pasley, Centre St. Gorge-town; Rec. Sec., Mrs Carrett, 195 Ness St.; Vice Pres. Mesdames Smart, Morris and Fairbairn; W.R. Agent, Mrs Pate; Treasurer, Mrs Aitken; Cor. Sec., Mrs Parkin, Bowmont Street

Kaipoi W.C.T.U. Assembly Rooms. Union meets last Wednesday in the month, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Brighting; Sec., Miss Blackwell, "The Willows"; Treas., Mrs T. G. Blackwell; W.R. Supt., Mrs Ward.

Kati-Kati, 2nd Wednesdays, 2 p.m., in Public Hall. Pres., Mrs Baines, Vice-Pres., Mrs J. Hume, Treas., Mrs Woolford, Sec., Mrs Jack Hume, W.R. Sp. Miss McCutchan, Cradle Roll, Misses Dickey and Andrews, Organist, Mrs N. Johnston.

Lower Hutt, first Tuesday, Church of Christ, Queen St., at 2.45 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Ballantyne, Belmont Rd.; Sec., Mrs R. Aldersley, Brunswick St; Treas., Mrs Baigent, Kings Rd; Cradle Roll, Mrs Heyes, Brunswick St.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Mrs W. Knight, Knights Rd.

Lytelton, 1st Wednesday, Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs Wilson; Sec., Mrs Bromley; Treas., Mrs Clark; "W.R." Agent, Miss Elsie Clark, "Waratah," W. Lytelton.

Leigh, last Thursday, Leigh Hall, 2 p.m. Pres., Mrs R. Matheson; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames C. Wyatt and D. Matheson; Sec., Mrs Gozar; Treas., Miss E. Matheson; Cradle Roll, Miss J. Wyatt; W.R. Agent, Mrs R. Matheson; Press, Mrs J. Torkington.

Manala, 2nd Friday, Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs J. J. Patterson; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Odell and Smith; Sec., Mrs C. Hansen; Treas., Mrs Aitken; W.R. Agent, Miss Patterson; Cradle Roll, Mrs Sandford, Kaupokonui.

Masterton, 1st Tuesday, Knox Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Rutter; Rec. Sec., Mrs Devonport; Cor. Sec., Miss Wingate; Treas., Mrs Sutherland; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Real.

Matakana, 3rd Thursday, Presbyterian Church, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Witten, Tawharanui; Vice-Pres., Mrs W. Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs E. Roke; Treas., & Rec. Sec., Mrs Melville; Cradle Roll, Mrs Eyton; "W.R." Agent, Mrs A. Roke.

Morrinsville, meets 2nd Thursday in Methodist Vestry. Pres., Mrs Richards, The Manse, Allen St.; Sec., Miss Willis, "Carrishbrooke," Allen St.; Treas., Mrs A. T. Scrivener, Moorehouse Street, W.R. Agent, Mrs Johnstone, Hamilton Road.

New Brighton, 3rd Thursday in Methodist Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Hall, 36 Wainui St., New Brighton; Secretary, Mrs Nicholas, 64, Brooke St., Bexley; Treas., Mrs Gibson, Union Street; Evangelistic Supt., Mrs Walker, Union Street, N.B.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Whitley, Nelson St., N.B.

Kapier District, 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday, in St. Paul's Presbyterian Schoolroom, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs G. W. Venables, Ashridge Rd; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Dodds and Findlay; Sec., Mrs Foote, Macdonald St.; Treas., Mrs Grayling, Wellesley Road; Evangelistic, Mrs Dodds; Hospital Visitors, Mesdames J. Walker and W. Findlay; Cradle Roll, Mrs Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs Mens.

Ngaruawahia, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. Presbyterian Church; President, Mrs Bycroft; Vice-Pres., Mrs Vincent; Sec., Mrs J. S. Colhoun; Treas., Mrs C. Rogers; Supt. Cradle Roll and W. R., Mrs Nicholson

New Plymouth District, last Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Good Templar Lodgeroom; Pres., Mrs Auld, Massey Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs Griffin, Gilbert Street; Rec. Sec., Mrs Dixon, Carrington, Vogel-town; Treas., and W.R. Agent, Miss Taunt, Victoria Rd.

Normanby, Second Wednesday, 2 p.m., Social Hall; Pres., Mrs Scott, Rural Delivery, Hawera; Vice-Pres., Mrs Bayan and Mrs Clement; Secretary, Mrs Chapman; Treasurer, Mrs Linnand; Cradle Roll, Miss Clement; White Ribbon, Mrs Gane.

Norsewood, 3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Spleight; Vice-Pres., Mrs Gatman; Sec., Mrs A. E. Olsen, "Willow Park"; Treas., Mrs S. Frederickson; "W.R." Agent, Miss Olsen, "Willow Park"; Cradle Roll, Mrs Gatman; Evangelistic, Mrs Todd; Home Meetings, Mrs Jensen.

North East Valley, fourth Thursday, 2.45 p.m. Young Men's Institute. Pres., Mrs Peart, 4, Pine Hill Ter.; Sec., Miss M. Begg, 45, Selwyn Rd.; Treas., Mrs Sanders, 48, Frame St.; W.R. Supt., Mrs Wright, 78, Main Road.

Nelson District, 2nd Tuesday, Methodist School Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Miss Atkinson, Fairfield; Cor. Sec., Mrs Edmonds, Tory St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hartford, Hampden St. W.; Treas., Mrs A. Brown, Collingwood Street; "W.R." Agent, Mrs G. White, St. Vincent Street.

Ormondville, 2nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.m. in the Wesleyan Church. Pres., Miss Alice Webb; Vice-Pres., Mrs Small; Sec., Mrs Wilson; Treas., Mrs T. Fothergill; "White Ribbon" Agent, Mrs Newling.

Opoitiki, 2nd Friday, St. John's Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Jas Thompson; Sec., Mrs J. Gordon, Treas., Mrs Holtman; "W.R." Mrs Francis; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Pearson.

Oxford, last Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Coronation Hall; Pres., Mrs G. Ryde, Cooper's Creek; Sec., Mrs R. Comyns; Treas., Miss Caverhill; "W.R." Mrs D. Hawke; Cradle Roll, Mrs Gainsford, Sr., and Mrs Roy; Evangelistic, Mrs R. Osborne; Flower Mission, Mrs Foot; Home Meetings, Mrs Jim Clark; Notable Days, Mrs Lewis.

Pakiri, 1st Saturday, Pakiri Hall, 2 p.m. Pres., Mrs Rennie; Vice Pres., Mrs Salt; Sec., Mrs Gozar; Treas., Miss Dyer; W.R. Agent, Mrs Witton

Palmerston N District, 1st & 3rd Friday, St. Andrew's Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Crabb, 128 College St. W.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hills, 64, Cuba St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hodder, Allan St.; Treas., Mrs Hodder, Allan St.; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Holbrook, 41 Waldegrave St.

Palmerston N., Y's.—Pres., Miss Lorna Hodder; Cor. Sec., Miss Aline Rowlands, 21 Victoria Street; Rec. Sec., Miss Winnie Crabb, 128 College Street; Treas., Miss Maud Randall; White Ribbon Supt., Miss Cassie Bruce

Petone, 1st Tuesday, Church of Christ, Sydney St., 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Murgatroyd, 34 Britannia St.; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Corner, McPherson, and Collins; Rec. Sec., Mrs Burd, 27 Cuba St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Phillips, 6 Heretaunga St., Treas., and White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Johnston, 19 Britannia St

Picton, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. Presbyterian Church. Pres. Mrs Arthur, Broadway; Vice Pres. Mesdames Smith and Miller; Sec. & Treas. Mrs Wilkes, York St.; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Dry, Wai-kana; W.R. Agent, Mrs Jacques, York St; President Band of Hope, Rev. G. K. Stowell

Ponsonby, 2nd Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Church of Christ Schoolroom, Ponsonby Rd. Acting-President, Mrs C. R. Vickers, Millais Street; Vice Pres., Mrs A. Thorne; Sec., Mrs Plummer, Coronation Rd. Epsom; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Plummer; Treas., Mrs T. Walker, Rose Rd.

Papatoetoe, Methodist Hall, last Tuesday in month, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Porter; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Leonard; Sec., Mrs J. Bryant; Treas., Mrs Hallberry; W.R. Agent, Mrs Daisley.

Rakaia meets on the 2nd Thursday in the month in the Methodist Church, Anglican S.S., and the Presbyterian S.S. alternately; Mrs Boag, Pres.; Mrs Judkins, Treas.; Mrs Hopwood Sec.

Richmond (Nelson), 2nd Wednesday, 3 p.m., Baptist Church. Pres., Mrs L. Sutton, Upper Queen Street; Vice pres. Mesdames Hunt, Field and Price; Sec., Mrs Cropp, Salisbury Rd.; Treas., Mrs Burrough, Hill St; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. Fittall, Salisbury Rd.

Sawyer's Bay, 2nd Wednesday in Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Allen; Sec., Mrs Wallis; Treasurer, Mrs Findlay; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Perry; Supt Home Meetings, Mrs Horn.

Shellfield, 1st Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Road House Office; Pres., Mrs McHraith, Annet; Sec., Mrs Pettit, Kirwee; Treas., Mrs W. Kennedy, Annet.

Stratford, 4th Wednesday, 3 p.m., Methodist Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Phillips, Brecon Road; Vice-Pres., Mrs Madril and Mrs Foster; Sec., Mrs Fenwick, Cloton Road; Treas., Miss Everiss, Juliet Street; W.R. Supt., Mrs McMillan.

Takapuna, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Takapuna Methodist, and Milford Baptist, alternately. Pres., Mrs Fulljames, East Coast Rd; Vice Pres., Mrs Veats, Hurstmore Rd; Sec., Miss Hushbrook, Kitchener Rd; Treas., Mrs Penning, East Coast Rd.

Tauranga, Meets in Wesley Hall, on third Wednesday, at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs F. N. Christian, 6th Ave. W.; Sec., Mrs Weston, 3rd Ave.; Cor. Sec., Secretary, Mrs Petchell; Treasurer, Mrs J. B. Chappell, Cameron Rd.; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. Christensen, 5th Ave.; Cradle Roll, Mrs A. Christensen, 5th Avenue.

Timaru District, last Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., Sailor's Rest. Pres., Mrs Norrie; Sec., Miss M. Avison, Victoria St.; Treas., Mrs Cave, Raymond St.; Cradle Roll, Mrs King, Bank Street; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Trott, Cane Street.

Waimate, 2nd Wednesday, in Knox Church Hall, at 3 o'clock; President, Mrs G. Dash, Naylor St.; Sec., Mrs U. Smith, Edward Street; Treasurer, Mrs S. J. Hitchens, "Te Rangitiki," Mill Rd.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs G. H. Graham, Rhodes St.

Waipawa, 4th Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.; Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs H. McGean, Waverley St; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Poston, Dott and Robertson; Sec., Mrs James Bibby, Fose St.; Treas., Miss Johnson, Rose St.; W.R. Supt., Mrs S. Bott.

Wanganui East meets second Thursday at 2.30 p.m. in Anglican Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Duxfield; "Okoiia," Wanganui E.; Vice Pres., Mesdames Blair, and McLeod; Sec. and Treas., Mrs Andrew, Mackay St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Dowsett, Nixon St.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Melvin, Young St.

Wanganui Dist., 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m. Trinity Church Parlour. Pres., Mrs Emmett, Spier Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs Upton, 165 Victoria Ave.; Rec. Sec., Mrs McKenzie, 98, Liverpool St.; Treas., Mrs Heatley, Carlton Avenue, Gonville; "W.R." Supt., Mrs J. Grant, 137 Glasgow Street.

Winchmore, 2nd Wednesday alternately at Greenstreet and Winchmore. Pres., Mrs Robinson; Sec., Miss McKay; Treas., Miss Prooble; Vice-President, Mrs Mollroy; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Glassey.

Wellington District, 1st Thursday, 2.45 p.m., Rooms, Constable St.; Pres., Mrs Wright, 127 Constable St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Webb, 37 Hall Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs Moody, 4 Waiton Road, Hataitai; Treas., Mrs Boxall, 40 Pirie St.; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Webb, Hall St. Y Branch, Rooms, alternate Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Wellington Central, 3rd Friday, 3 p.m., Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Willis St.; Pres., Mrs A. B. Atkinson, Wadestown; Acting Pres., Mrs McDonald, 8 Huia Rd., Hataitai; Cor. Sec., Miss Helyer, Tonks Grove; Rec. Sec., Mrs Clark; Treas., Mrs Helyer, Oriental Bay; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Port, Austin Street.

Waipukurau, 2nd Friday, St. Andrew's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hopkirk; Vice-Pres., Mrs Harding, Nurse Murphy; Sec., Mrs Reid; W.R. Supt., Mrs Bungay; Treas., Mrs Robinson; Evangelistic, Mrs Stace.

Woodville, meets last Tuesday, at 2.30 p.m. in Forrester's Hall. Pres., Mrs Shearman, Ormond Street; Vice-Pres., Mrs T. Jackson; Sec., Mrs H. Mills, Gorge Road; Treas., Miss Fastier; Cradle Roll, Mrs Forrest; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Thompson, Fox St.