

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
OF NEW ZEALAND.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, JULY 18, 1921.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Our Business Manager sends hearty congratulations to Miss Rita Finlayson, the energetic "White Ribbon" Agent for the Invercargill Y's, upon passing the half-century. Invercargill Y's now have 55 subscribers to "White Ribbon," a record to be proud of. They send in a monthly report, and have never sent less than three new subs. Wake up, Y's, and help to circulate our paper among your friends who don't belong to us.

Also, we congratulate N.E. Valley Union upon appointing two of its young

members, Misses Hancock and Mildred Prattley, as its "White Ribbon" agents. With their first report they send four new subs. Give the girls something to do to help win a "dry Dominion," and they'll do it.

THE HEALING POWER.

The work of our dark-skinned brother Ratana has directed general attention to the subject of healing disease and physical infirmities. Even so conservative a body as the Anglican Synod has passed a sympathetic and appreciative resolution in regard to his work. Several of the ministers spoke from a personal knowledge of the wonderful results achieved by faith and prayer.

Paul enquired of his critics, "Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you that God should raise the dead?" And we may well enquire, "Why incredible that God should heal the sick?"

The Saviour commanded His disciples to heal, the early Church possessed the power. We never read that it was taken from the Church, but to its shame, we confess that the Church lost the power because they failed to fulfil its conditions. "This kind cometh not out but by prayer and fasting." The Master spent long nights upon the mountain tops in communion with God. He spent 40 days in such close spiritual communion that He rose above the needs of the flesh, and fasted for the whole time. And if He had need of prayer to restore power to His physical frame, how much more need have we?

When the Church devoted herself to material gain and she lost her grip upon the unseen realities, then wealth accumulated, and faith and power decayed. How the old saint touched unerringly this weak spot when, as the Pope, after showing him the treasures of the Vatican, remarked: "The day has gone when the Church had to say, 'Silver and gold have I none,'" he nobly replied, "Yes, and gone too are the days when the Church could say to the sick, 'Arise, take up thy bed and walk!'"

For a time a century ago the Church followed the lead of the scientist, and drifted towards materialism. Now the pendulum is swinging the other way,

and the reverent Scientist is following (or is he leading?) the Church back to the spiritual. All over the world men of science, as well as men of religion, are eagerly waiting and expecting they know not what. "On the eve of the fourth dimension," they say, and the young Varsity student remarked, "Our Professors talk about the Fourth Dimension, but don't seem to know much about it." The earnest student of the Bible is looking forward to the fulfilment of the vision seen by St. John on the island of Patmos. He saw, not people ascending to a heavenly city, but the heavenly city descending to earth, a city without a hospital, without a gaol, a city where no tears are shed. Strangest of all, a city without a church. Why? Because every home, every meeting place, every Council Chamber, every office, every factory, was a place of worship, and in every heart an altar was raised to the God they knew so well and trusted so fully.

The Jews have a tradition that God prepared the tables of the law, and then waited 2000 years before a prepared man, Moses, was found to receive them. Is it fanciful for us to believe that the heavenly city is waiting to descend upon a prepared people? How to prepare? The best preparation is to dwell much in the secret place. "He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God." To bring this heaven to earth, every word, every wish, every thought should be peaceful and loving.

The Scientist tells us that the human brain is the most powerful dynamo in existence. Let it never send out an angry, an uncharitable, or a little thought, but send out wave after wave of loving energy, of peace and goodwill to all men. In prayer we come into touch with our God, and place ourselves where He can use us to carry healing and help to others. When God's people take Him at His word, and believe His promises, we shall not hear of miracles of healing; they will just be ordinary, every day occurrences.

"Sis, won't be able to see you to-night, Mr Jones," said her little brother. "She's had a terrible accident."

"Is that so? What happened?"

"All her hair got burned up."

"Good heavens! Was she burned?"

"No, she wasn't there. She don't know about it yet."