

HERE, THERE, AND EVERYWHERE

INDECENT.

A case of indecent literature, tried recently in Auckland, caused much interest. A bookseller exposed for sale a book, "Droll Stories." The Magistrate stated that the translator's prologue to the book says it is "spiced to the palate of the illustrious and very precious toppers and drinkers," and added Mr Wyvern Wilson, "I think that is a mild criticism. I am of opinion that the book is indecent, and in certain passages quite obscene. The tendency of the tales told is to glorify immorality and licentiousness, and to hold purity and virtue up to ridicule. I think the sale and circulation of such a book is calculated to prejudice good morals." Mr Wilson said he was asked to dismiss the case because the author had a place in French literature, and the book should be available to students of French literature at New Zealand Universities. But, in his opinion, students would derive greater benefit if they read it in French and not in an English translation. He believed the book was not presented as a standard work for the use of students, but as a book of general entertainment. He fined the bookseller £5 1s, with 10/- costs.

The Napier District has had two tragedies, in both of which alcohol played a part. In the first case a rejected suitor had a drink and then watched to see who would take the girl home. He struck her companion a blow upon the chin. The blow was not sufficient to cause death, but in falling the deceased struck the footpath. The brain was lacerated and death followed. The young man stood his trial for manslaughter.

The second tragedy was a motor accident. A car overturned and two children were killed. The father who was driving was accused of being intoxicated in charge of a car and of being responsible for the death of his children. And so the tragedy goes on. Not drunk! Oh, no! but sufficiently under the influence of the narcotic drug alcohol to be unable to control their tempers or to be capable of driving a car.

EAST LONDON.

A fine address on the above subject was given to the Sumner Union by Miss Kilner, lately returned from visiting that area.

As a White Ribboner she noted the state of the liquor traffic while she travelled. On board ship the young people were to the fore in their indulgence of cocktails together with the older passengers. She instanced the loss of the "Morra Castle" in American waters, in which the passengers could not be saved because they could not realise their danger after a night of gaiety and drinking.

In England there was no liquor legislation to compare with that of N.Z.

Hotels were open at all hours and on Sunday, and children hung round waiting for their elders inside. Certainly the attempt to establish Creches within hotels had not eventuated, but there was little check on the wholesale drinking, especially in the slum areas. And here living conditions were deplorable, whole families herded in one room; and even in cases where the County Councils were carrying out building schemes the lower classes were slow to adopt sanitation. Families used the bath to store wood or coal, or even to house rabbits, while the family went unwashed. Her party saw the great changes wrought by the Mission to the dockers, where gradually the members had been trained to grasp the possibilities of better living and cleanliness. 800 members belonged to one mission started by Oxford graduates—self-managed, self-supporting—with activities of sport and games and study and practical technical groups, and with its Church in which a short service was held each night after supper and on Sundays. Far reaching and wholesome had been the effect on the lives of these dock workers.

Miss Kilner declared that liquor was becoming unpopular. Consumption of liquor had fallen from 84 million gallons per year to 28 million gallons in the 20 years: no wonder Sir Edgar Sanders gets anxious. Young people seek efficiency and drink other things. On the Continent she found it next to impossible to get water to drink and tea almost impossible; light beer and wines were to be bought: a lemon squash in Paris would cost 1/9, no tea shops to be seen. Everywhere drunkenness was hardly seen, in spite of their slow advance in temperance legislation.

SPECIALS.

GARDEN PARTY (GERALDINE).

Very successful Garden Party at Mr and Mrs Scott's on Saturday, 9th February. Between 25 and 30 children present, with their mothers. Miss McKeown, Mrs McKenzie, Mrs Grierson, and Miss L. Coursey entertained them. Mrs Gilmour, a White Ribboner from Allora, Queensland, was welcomed. Miss Scott was in charge of ground scallywag, and Mrs McDonald for clock golf competition. Afternoon tea conducted by Mesdames South, Prattley and Boucherway. A Bring and Buy table was in the hands of Mesdames Fyfe and Broad, and did good business. Many thanks due to Mr and Mrs C. McKenzie for the use of bus for transport, also to Mr and Mrs Scott for the use of their grounds, and a special vote to Miss Scott for the part she played as hostess. Several children were added to the Cradle Roll.

KARORI CRADLE ROLL PARTY.

March 5. Mrs. Wood welcomed the large gathering of mothers and little ones assembled in the Methodist School-room and expressed appreciation as to the numbers present.

"When He Cometh" was sung as an opening hymn, followed by Scripture reading. Miss Crimp gave a very interesting talk to the mothers.

The programme given by Miss Olive Clarke's Kindergarten pupils was greatly enjoyed. A number of older girls gave a playette, "The story of the Willow Pattern."

Mrs. Grigg, Cradle Roll Superintendent, and members had a busy time serving tea to the mothers. The little ones were seated around long tables.

Votes of thanks and the singing of the Doxology brought a very happy afternoon to a close.

TEMUKA CRADLE ROLL GATHERING.

Jan. 31st.—Annual Cradle Roll gathering at the home of Mrs. Elder. Between 60 and 70 mothers and children present. The Rev. Brooks gave an interesting talk. Solos by Captain Parker and Mrs. Bambridge; recitations by Mrs. Douglas and Mrs. Smith were enjoyed by all. One small Cradle Roll member was baptised. Afternoon tea and each child given a fancy paper hat and a bag of sweets and nuts. Games and races enjoyed by all the children until late in the afternoon. Hearty vote of thanks passed to Mrs. Elder for the use of her grounds.

CRADLE ROLL PICNIC.—OAMARU.

Ideal weather prevailed for the annual picnic held in the Gardens by the Oamaru branch of the W.C.T.U. for the children of the Cradle Roll. There are 100 children on the roll, which is conducted by Mesdames P. L. Brown and D. Simpson. The children spent a very enjoyable time, various games being played amid sylvan surroundings.

Mrs. Adjutant Duggan, in addressing the women, said it was a strange fact that mothers, though moulders of the world, got so little credit. It was President Lincoln who said, "All I am and hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." This had been the experience of many successful people. A woman's influence was beyond estimate and only God's power could make a woman the best mother. There were evils in the world that needed fighting, and it was a fine thing that women had banded themselves together to make things easier for the children coming on. Every day children entered upon life disabled, blinded and maimed because parents had stumbled. It was an arresting fact that fathers and mothers who could cause children to have some weakness or defect which might be passed on as far as the fourth generation and a mother who saw only human possibilities in her child were not worthy. The spiritual was of paramount importance. As the drink trade waited for the men and women of the present so it was waiting for the children to grow up. For those who claimed no responsibility in stamping out this evil of strong drink the attitude of Christ was very definite. It was He who said, "But who shall offend one of these little ones