

MADAME PRESIDENT.

The branch to which I belong has during the last two years been handicapped badly by its need of a good local President, who would be on the spot, know local affairs, and easily keep in touch with what is going on around the headquarters of her branch. Several capable members having their hands full with other organisations, it has had to fall back on a visiting member from another branch, or on a stranger temporarily near at hand. Neither expedient can be satisfactory, and to be even partially successful entails greater stress on the substitute than it would on a local, who would do the work better. Please do not jump up here saying, "The women ought to try to do the job before criticising anyone else who does her best," for I can claim charity as the second expedient.

The beginning of nearly every branch is that two or three women, united by their eagerness, gather together several others. The work is then divided between them, according to each one's ability at the time. Please note "at the time." Our object is not political propaganda, nor money-raising, nor pleasant social afternoons. It is evangelistic, that is, message-carrying, educational.

And the first people we have to educate is ourselves. We want to have every member able to take an officer's share, not if, but when necessary. The original leaders shift, or die, or grow old. If there are no capable successors at hand the branch weakens, finally lapses. If the leaders' work has been done properly, they will be followed regularly, in their varied positions, by the newer members, who will proceed consistently to make their branch, and all others to which they go, steadily stronger in faith and works.

To do this, see to it all the time, that every member has her active share, thereby strengthening her interest and making the meetings more interesting, but don't let her hold on to it too long. If a member is particularly efficient that does not mean she should be permanent secretary and treasurer, and press reporter and White Ribbon agent and recruiting superintendent. If she is, the chances are that when she leaves there won't be anyone else really good enough even to order proper funeral services for the branch, and it will just fade away.

Instead of asking for that, let the already capable members deny themselves the pleasure of fulfilling several positions, and see to it that all newer members are trained to take them in rotation. It is not nearly as easy to do that as to do the jobs oneself, but it is what pays best. Take, for instance, the press reports. Have a Press Superintendent who doesn't write and send in the reports herself, just because she always has done and does it so well, but sees that the helpers she arranges send, each one in turn, to the White Ribbon, to the local press, to any other available paper to which a special item

is of interest. It can't be done successfully "just any old way." It must be done in regular order, each taking her turn at each part methodically, consulting with the others to see that their reports agree, so that one will not omit the point stressed by another. (The sub-editor will do that, if required.) In this department, too, one assistant should be on the watch for published items of interest to the branch, and have them ready to be brought forward at the meetings. It may be something that will prove important to the Empire, as Princess Marina's abstinence from intoxicants. This will have more effect in the social life of which her position makes her a leader than any delivery by doctor or philosopher. Or it may be the arrival of a stranger, whose welcome should be arranged at once, to enlist her sympathies if possible.

Don't leave all such details to the president. If she is a good president she will see to it that the work is divided. That is her job. If each of those amateur reporters becomes a capable one, as she will with practice, presently she will feel quite confident in taking the secretary's place at a pinch, or part of the routine, and then carrying on as president.

KATHERINE MERCER.



Dear Comrades,—

As the year advances and leaders in our ranks are called Home, I feel that we who are left to carry on the work should be much in prayer. We are reminded in this in Is. 62:6, "Ye that are the Lord's remembrancers, keep not silence but give Him no rest till He establish and till He make (Jerusalem) our land a praise in the earth." The absorbing thought that must be in every true Christian's mind is: Are we going to win through in this great struggle against the liquor traffic?

The close of this year will declare it. The time is hastening on. The days

are growing fewer in which we can help to win through.

When polling day is past, shall we be able to say, or rather will the Lord Jesus say to us, "She hath done what she could"? What are we doing? Are you on the roll? Are your friends there too? Are you using your influence always by word and example to lead others to vote right? Have you reiterated again and again the necessity to use the vote for God, Home and Righteousness?

Maybe you are doing all these things, but are you wielding the greatest weapon of all? Are you, are we, praying, "Ye that are the Lord's remembrancers, intercessors (intercessors on behalf of others), keep not silence, and give Him no rest, till He establish and till He make N.Z. a praise on the earth."

I am glad that the W.C.T.U. stands in the forefront for the destruction of that which destroys men and women, body and soul, but let us pray—pray in tremendous earnest for the abolition of this fearful traffic.

When we have been face to face with one who is in the grip of strong drink, his fruitless struggle to liberate himself, to gain his freedom, then we know that there is only one power that can set him free, the power of our Lord Jesus Christ; and we, by prayer, can put into operation that power. The drink traffic is mighty, but God hath chosen the weak things to confound the mighty, and if we pray with faith we will see the slaves set free, we will rejoice in a glorious victory. We are the Lord's remembrancers. And in answer to the believing prayer of N.Z. White Ribboners this mountain will be removed as Jesus promised and will be cast into the depth of the sea.

Have faith in God. Pray without ceasing. If we pray we will work with renewed zest.

Yours for victory,

JESSIE HIETT.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

SCHOOL OF METHODS—May 13.

"Public Speaking." This included voice culture, correct breathing, gesture and pronunciation, and proved very helpful. Mrs. Kasper presided at the District Executive. 28 present. The following arrangements were made:—

1. Commencement of Temperance work among the women of the Maori Orakei Settlement.
2. Temperance Stall at Winter Show.
3. Peace Day Meeting on Monday, 27th May.
4. Coming visit of Mrs. Moffat Clow, of North Ireland.
5. The Auckland district as a corporate body will affiliate with the League of Nations Union.

The following remits were endorsed:—

1. That the lady attendant be restored to the express train.
2. That all loaves of bread be wrapped in paper before delivery.