

PIONEER WHITE RIBBONERS.

MISS ROBERTS.

I first met Miss Roberts in the Christchurch Prohibition League which she had joined soon after it was started. Always a teetotaler, she had conceived a deep hatred for the traffic which caused so much suffering to children; for she was a teacher and had seen much of the deadly effects of the trade in the lives of the children she taught. As soon as she heard that there was a way of dealing with this traffic she joined up, and it was not long before she resigned her post as teacher and took employment as organiser for the New Zealand Alliance, a task that needed extraordinary courage and an unlimited capacity for self-sacrifice. In those days the cause was one of the most unpopular the world has ever known, and its advocates had to face not merely utter ignorance but bitter and venomous opposition. But Jane Roberts was a woman of deep convictions. No need for her to pray, "Lord, give me a strong heart." Once she was convinced that a thing was right she was prepared to follow, no matter where her decision led her. In paying a tribute to her memory, the late L. M. Isitt said of her, "Regardless of opposition, she continued in what she deemed to be right with a quiet, unflinching persistence that was an example to us all. She was one of those rare workers who seemed independent of success."

As a thinker and writer she was clear, logical and forceful and she did yeoman service for our cause by her letters to the newspapers. Indeed the editor of one paper paid her what he evidently considered a high compliment by saying that she wrote "like a man."

As a friend she was the soul of loyalty and devotion, ever ready to serve those she loved and to support them in any emergency. The memory of her friendship is one of the highlights of my life.

She joined the Christchurch Branch of the W.C.T.U. in its earliest years and proved herself a leader amongst women. It is not possible to estimate just what we "White Ribboners" owe to Jane Roberts, but we do know that she infused us with a spirit of courage and daring for the right; ready ever, to challenge an injustice or to right a wrong.

Some of our older members will remember her in Conventions and can hear her voice proclaiming with no uncertain sound, "We emphatically protest." Hers was indeed a "warrior spirit", "ever in the van of effort for the uplift of humanity," and no finer tribute can be paid than that paid by Mrs. Don at the Memorial Service in July, 1923. "Her motto could be expressed in the words of Abraham Lincoln, 'I am not bound to win but bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed but bound to live up to the right!'"

C. HENDERSON.

MRS. A. R. ATKINSON.

Mrs. Atkinson was, from her early youth, always known as one who could be trusted with a secret, be trusted to pray for anyone whom she knew to be in trouble, give wise advice and share a joke.

She was a good linguist and had an unusual ability to think clearly and quickly. The late Judge Adams told her mother that he had never met a better judicial mind in either man or woman.

As Miss L. M. Kirk she was leader of the first Y Union formed in Wellington. If her sympathy was aroused more quickly for one kind of suffering than another it was for the victims of the liquor traffic, for the drunkard and those dependent upon him. Many who heard her lecture nearly 40 years ago still speak of her logical, strong, yet sympathetic handling of this subject—how earnest yet how kind. She always made the best of things. On one of her lecturing tours she wrote home telling in a very amusing fashion of having borrowed a barrow and a hammer from the publican to tack up the notice of her meeting on the blacksmith's door. When asked how she got the blacksmith, who was a noted drunkard in the district, to let her put the notice on his door, she said: "Oh! Well I just talked to him and told him what a nice door he had and we talked about our mothers and when I told him what my lecture was about and how grieved both our mothers were about the drink traffic and that for their sakes I was sure he would like to help, he said it would not do for him to help put it up, but that he was going to tea and wouldn't take down nothing he found up when he came back." He signed the pledge that night, much to the disgust of the publican, who also attended the meeting.

In those days there were no motor cars, nor telephones to speak of, and much of her travelling was done by horse and gig. She was very fond of animals and many were the racy stories she told of the different kinds of horses she had had—some very fine—others kindly but slow, so slow that they seemed to be limiting their steps to six inches in length.

In the early days of the fight she spoke in the Opera House after Church one Sunday evening and was most amused because the next day's "Post" after criticising the other speakers rather adversely, said they "would say nothing about the other speaker, but they hoped the young person would be less misguided in the future."

To a W.C.T.U. Convention nothing need be said of her work for the Union. It was the work dearest to her heart and her pledge "to death or victory" was faithfully carried out.

One of her outstanding characteristics was a serenity which often brought comfort to those with whom she came

Superintendents' Letters.

Dear Sisters,—

The months are quickly passing and are all unions doing their utmost to extend our work?

Home meetings are one of the best avenues by which we can make our work known and gain new members. This being poll year it is most important that each member should gain new members. Everyone can help by inviting to her home, her friends and neighbours who are not linked up with our union and interesting them in our work.

I hope everyone read the suggestions given by Kiwa Reka in last month's White Ribbon. If unable to arrange for a short temperance talk or facts afternoon as suggested, a short paper may be obtained by applying to Miss J. C. Smythe, 14 Arun Street, Oamaru.

May God bless every effort made to extend our work and guide us in all our work for the extension of His Kingdom.

Yours in White Ribbon Bonds,
VERA R. KENNERLEY,
Dom. Supt. for Home Meetings.

Dear Fellow Members,—

You will have heard that it was decided at Convention, to work a new department, "Temperance in the Sunday Schools."

We know that the education of the young is most urgent and our Dominion Officers feel that a great amount of educational work in temperance could be done through the Sunday Schools. During the next few weeks your Union will receive a circular letter, in which suggestions are offered for ways of working this department.

I would earnestly ask for your prayers, and practical co-operation in this most practical work. I trust you will make it a special feature in your active work department.

Yours in Service,
M. WAITI FYFE,
Superintendent for Temperance in
Sunday School.

STOP THIS COLOSSAL WASTE.

A very fine booklet written by Viscount Snowden showing economic waste of the Liquor Traffic. It has a Foreword by Lloyd George. This booklet is in our Department and for 3d., members can get a copy. Be sure and get this booklet AND READ IT.

in contact. One woman said, "I was kneeling in Church in great distress about my daughter. I was praying, but seemed to be getting no comfort. Then someone knelt beside me and I felt as if an angel's presence had brought me some comfort. When I rose from my knees I found my angel was Mrs. Atkinson."

Throughout her life her one desire was to help and comfort. Her prayer, "Oh that I may at least help someone unto the Kingdom of my Lord."