

News of the Union.

Write in ink; on one side of paper. Don't send newspaper reports. Don't send reports 2 months old; they only go in waste paper basket.

BLENHEIM.—Feb. 4. Splendid attendance; Mrs. Smith presiding. Mrs. Jackson read very interesting essays on "Alcohol and the Human Body," written by pupils of Borough School. A "Frances Willard" Afternoon is to be held at Mrs. Prussing's home on Tuesday, 18th inst. A Jumble Stall is to be held in the town at an early date to raise funds. Arrangements were made for Cradle Roll Picnic. The fact of there being now 290 names on the roll, speaks volumes for the efforts and energy of Mrs. Braddock. Decided to leave a "White Ribbon" in the new Plunket Ladies' Rest Room each month, in addition to the one left in Public Reading-room.

CHRISTCHURCH.—Annual Meeting; Miss Henderson presided. A vote of sympathy was passed with the relatives of the late Bishop Cleary, who had been a staunch Temperance supporter. Letter of sympathy to be written, also to the Misses Earnshaw and Annie May in their continued ill-health, also thanks to be sent to Miss Earnshaw for the gift of the tablecloth used by her for many years when one of the Dominion Organisers. The resignation of Miss W. W. Lovell-Smith as Superintendent of Back-Blocks Department was received with regret, and a vote of thanks was passed for the splendid work done for so many years in connection with this Department. The Annual Report was read by the Secretary, which showed satisfactory progress and work in a number of Departments. A financial statement was submitted by the Treasurer. Election of officers resulted in all the retiring officers being re-elected.

COLLINGWOOD.—Jan 31. Five present. Decided to advertise in "White Ribbon." Decided to give prizes for the best two essays to be written by children of local district schools, also to send papers, etc., to Back-Blocks. On 16th January we held a Social, and cleared three pounds nine shillings to help with various things.

DUNEDIN.—Feb. 4. Mrs. Hiett presiding. Miss Powell reported on a visit to Mr. Locke, Child Welfare Officer, in connection with a case of neglected children. Mr. Locke thanked the deputation, and said he felt quite sure that a great improvement would follow, owing to the publicity given to the matter. Decided to close balance-sheet in January instead of December, if this is possible. Miss Macandrew was appointed "White Ribbon" Agent Assistant. Mrs. Hiett gave a most earnest appeal for service in the interests of children, quoting from Dr. Hyslop on the effects of alcohol on the unborn child. Dr. Hyslop says, "We see so many evidences of degeneration as the result of alcoholism in parents, that I am of the opinion that, just as the habitual drunkard is put into prison and deprived of his liberty, so the existence of the alcoholic habit should be a bar to matrimony." Mrs. Hiett was thanked.

FAIRLIE.—Annual Meeting; Mrs. Wilcox in the chair. Officers elected:—Pres., Mrs. Barwood; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Sangster; Treas., Mrs. Hammond; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Sangster; "W.R." Agent, Mrs. Barwood. One new member enrolled. Fifteen subscribers to "White Ribbon." Bring and Buy £3 18s 3d, and to be continued during the coming year. Bricks sold, £1 2s. for Million Shilling Fund.

FEILDING.—Feb. 6. Opened the year's work with an attendance of twelve; President in chair. As a result of a letter from the Dominion Superintendent of the Birthday League, it was decided to form a branch of the League here, with Mrs. Reeve as Superintendent. Mrs. Camplin was appointed Superintendent of the Scientific Fact Department. One new member.

LEVIN.—Annual Meeting; Mrs. Cummins presided; good attendance. Reported that good work had been done during the year. The balance-sheet showed a good credit balance, through the effort that had been

put forward during the year. Officers elected:—Pres., Mrs. Cummins; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Sorensen; Rec. Sec., Mrs. C. Sims; Cor. Sec., Mrs. Young, pro. tem.; Treas., Mrs. Kennerly; Supt. of Membership Department, Mrs. Sorensen; Supt. of Young People, Mrs. Young.

LINWOOD.—Jan. 28. Mrs. Richards presided. Motions of sympathy to Mesdames Armstrong and Turner and Miss Snell in their recent bereavement. Reports were read by the Secretary and Treasurer, and work for the ensuring year was discussed. Superintendents of all Departments were re-elected.

NAPIER.—Feb. Presided over by Mrs. Hull, our newly-elected President. Mrs. Brocklehurst moved a vote of appreciation and assurance of goodwill, which was carried by acclamation. Greetings and message from Mrs. Speight, District President: Go forward, God first all the time, neighbours next, self last. Motions of sympathy passed in silence to the relatives of the late Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Dorsett and Mrs. May. Mrs. Hull appointed delegate to Convention. A paper dealing with three stages in Miss Willard's life was read. Mrs. Hull asked for suggestion for better methods for the working of the Union as a whole. Mrs. Mens also made an appeal for new subscribers to the "White Ribbon." One new member.

NEW PLYMOUTH.—Jan. Miss Drew, President, in the chair. A letter of thanks from Willard Home for a parcel of clothing sent. Reports from the Seamen's Rest that 1,202 visits from sailors had been made during the month. A good attendance was urged at an Executive Convention, to be held in February at Stratford. Willard Day to be celebrated at the end of February. The amount of £11 7s. had been sent on for Headquarters Fund. Miss Drew spoke forcibly on "Woman's work among all Nations of the World"—she said reports from Scandinavia, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and even rebellious Mexico, show how legislation is being framed to vote Alcohol, as a beverage, "out of the running." Address much appreciated.

PAPANUI.—Annual Meeting; Mrs. Simpson presided over a fair attendance. The Secretary and Treasurer read very satisfactory reports of the year's work. Hearty vote of thanks to Rev. A. Peters for judging the Temperance Essays from the local schools, and also for auditing the Treasurer's books. Election of officers resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs. Simpson; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Hopper, Carr and Smith; Rec. Sec., Mrs. Wright; Treas., Mrs. Bond; "W.R." Supt., Mrs. Elliott; Flower and Philanthropic Supt., Mrs. Kruse; Ways and Means, Mrs. W. Cullough; Organist, Mrs. Hayton; Press Reporter, Mrs. Tillman; Cradle Roll Supt., Mrs. Watson; Notable Days, Mrs. Barnes; Scientific Temperance, Mrs. Hopper; Evangelistic, Mrs. Smith; Back-Blocks Supt., Mrs. Smith; Social Committee, Mesdames Kruse, Hayton and Barnes.

PONSONBY.—Jan. 16. Miss Read presided over a large gathering of members and friends. A farewell address was given by Mrs. Lee-Cowie, who is going to assist in the Victorian Prohibition Campaign. Miss Read presented her with a small gift as a token of love and esteem from the members, and wished her every success in the work she was undertaking. Two new members. A duet by Miss Kent Johnston and Miss Pyle.

STRATFORD.—Jan. The District President, Mrs. Phillips, led the devotions, and spoke of the great unused power of concerted prayer. Mrs. Clarke, the newly-appointed President, in her opening address, said: "That we each had within ourselves an immense God-given force, which is seldom used wisely, but which, if we cared to cultivate it, we would find it was the power by which we could move mountains of sin and sorrow, and make the world a pure and peaceful place." She referred to the power of unspoken thought, and asked all members to try to hold a clear vision of a purified and perfected Dominion, "for without vision the people perish." Decided to start a Clothes Box to relieve needy cases, also to prepare a Maternity Bag, to be lent to mothers needing help. The monthly Tea for Hospital patients was arranged for. On February 19th, the mothers, with the child-

ren of the Little "White Ribboners" Department, are to be entertained.

TAURANGA.—February. At Mrs. A. Ferguson's; good attendance of members, the chief business being the farewelling of our much-loved President, who is removing to Napier. The talk over the tea-cups was both sad and cheerful, with a few remarks from our President to brace us up for what might lie before us in the future. A dainty bouquet was presented by Mrs. Foxcroft, and a handsome tea cloth, a gift from the members, was given by Mrs. Tobin. A duet was sung by Mrs. Christian and Mrs. Castles, everyone then joining in singing "God be with You," and the meeting closed with prayer.

TIMARU.—Feb. 4. Good attendance. Committees formed for Convention arrangements. Decided to ask Rev. A. J. H. Dow, B.D., to preach Convention sermon at Trinity Church—evening service—and to accept Temuka's invitation for Convention to be their guests on Saturday afternoon, March 22nd. The holiday season had been a very busy one at the Rest. Musical Afternoon held in December for Headquarters Fund, realised £3 5s. Convention will most likely be held in Trinity Hall, Barnard Street.

LATE BRANCH REPORTS.

ASHBURTON.—Feb. 4. Frances Willard Day; Mrs. Grigg occupied the chair. Votes of sympathy were passed with the following in their recent bereavements:—Mr. W. J. and Mrs. Baker, Mrs. J. Copeland and Mrs. G. D. Verco, also with Mrs. W. T. Lill in her prolonged illness. A cordial welcome was extended to Mrs. W. G. Gallagher, Ealing, and Mrs. F. Silcock, Fairton, who were present. Final arrangements were made to hold a special effort on March 7th. The further sum of £2 5s. was handed in to M.S. Fund. Miss A. Watson was appointed delegate, and Mrs. G. Holmes substitute, to Dominion Convention. The President, by request, brought before the meeting the recent decision of the N.Z. Plunket Society, to endow a Chair of Obstetrics in connection with the Medical College, Dunedin, and bespoke the hearty support and co-operation of the Union in such a worthy cause. A collection was taken up in aid of World's Missionary Funds.

GREY LYNN.—Annual Meeting; Mrs. Williams presided over a fair attendance of members. Reports of the year's work by the Secretary and Treasurer. Then Mrs. Williams gave us a nice talk, and also explained our duties as officers. The election of officers for the ensuring year resulted as follows:—Pres., Mrs. Hawky; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Hobday and Mrs. Lorking; Sec., Mrs. Cox; Treas., Mrs. Lewis; "W.R." Agent, Mrs. Watson; Cradle Roll, Mrs. Harper; Home Meetings, Mrs. Hiscock; Evangelistic Supt., Mrs. Scaft; Notable Days Supt.—to vote one next meeting.

PAHIATUA.—Feb. 6. Mrs. H. Paterson in the chair; fifteen members and friends present. Mrs. Johnson reported the credit balance for 1929 was £6 10s 7d. Mrs. Paterson spoke eulogistically of the work of Miss Edmed for the Union, and expressed regret at her departure for Dargaville. The following were appointed as a Committee to take charge of the Band of Hope:—Mrs. Paterson, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Pickering and Miss Ross. Mrs. Paterson read an interesting paper on "Frances Willard." The collection amounted to 13s 3d. Mrs. Paterson delegate to Convention.

SYDENHAM.—Feb. 6. Mrs. Gilmour presided; large attendance. The syllabus for the year approved of. Mrs. Gilmour spoke a few words on the Franchise. Mrs. Perritt, Dominion Superintendent for Anti-Gambling, gave a short address on this subject, and was heartily thanked. Mrs. Gilmour delegate for Convention. Mrs. Windsor gave a recitation, and afternoon tea was served.

TEMUKA.—Feb. 7. Mrs. Blakemore, our new President, in the chair, and read us a short, impressive paper, saying we were starting on a new year, and to work and pray, not thinking our work was not worth while, as each one possessed jewels, and by doing each one's little in sympathy and love, we were using God's jewels more precious than any diamonds. Decided to offer afternoon tea from our Union to the Convention, Mrs. Blakemore being appointed