

God was with him in that unspeakable place. He had such a wonderful feeling of God's love and protecting presence around and about him, that he was sustained in his terrible ordeal until he was rescued. If only we could get near to God like that in our everyday life, how changed it would all be! But the realisation of His nearness seems to come only in times of great stress, when all our faculties are preternaturally sharpened. But perhaps, now He has come so close to us in our own time of trouble, we will be able to grow nearer and dearer to Him, and not lose touch as we did before."

"I think we have all had too sharp a lesson on our weakness and His strength for us ever to grow away from Him again, Ngairé. It is too precious a thing, once experienced, to be lightly relinquished, this sense of God's loving care. I can almost say I'm glad of the depression, for if we have lost much materially, we have gained more spiritually."

"Yes, we have grown in our knowledge of values—of money, of men, and of the Messiah."

HOME BREW.

The Temperance Army, of which we have the honour to be units, is not fighting hotelkeepers and brewers, who are as human, and often as humane, as the rest of us all, but the Drink Traffic, and not merely the Trade, but Alcohol Drinking in all its branches.

Before ever our mothers voted against it, they, and their mothers, and fathers too, fought against it by bringing up their children to be teetotallers, and even when the No-License sign-post is passed, if we are not firmly entrenched on that basis, we shall have lost the fight. Just now we are being assured by people who at least have interest enough to spend plenty of money in cabling, what they have promised us ever since a certain amendment to the U.S.A. laws was passed, that if that sign-post is hauled down, even temporarily, it means complete failure of our cause. Do we believe that? Do they? Not a bit of it. We know very well, and so do they, that the Drink Trade is going to spend the next few years busily increasing its respect for our side, and in learning to give way just as steadily as we keep on going forward by bringing up our children to be teetotallers.

But the U.S.A. is a long way overseas, even now, and we see it largely through cable lenses. Are we keeping our eyes open to the fight close around us?

According to a large proportion of our papers, we are not taking much notice of a very active arm that has been increasing widely here, close beside you, during the last few years, and just now is making a vigorous effort.

Who says so?

Probably your local paper. Certainly all that I see, that have women's pages, correspondents' columns, or similar departments. I was surprised first

by seeing mention in an impartial farming paper, "My husband having the prevailing Home Brew craze. . . ." Was the craze so prevalent that a paper of such good standing accepted it for granted? I looked through it, and in that issue were two requests for recipes for home brews, beer and wine; several answers to other similar requests, and separate thanks for another.

Surely it must be coincidence, especially in a paper above any suspicion of sympathy with the Trade, as this one. Yet look at the Home Hints column of your own local paper, and see if there are as many requests for any one other branch of recipe. I counted six different enquiries in one copy of a well-known daily, and the answers to two previous ones, and a separate reference to another, and it was not a special Home Brew number, quite an ordinary issue, or so I was told. Certainly, I do not often see that particular paper, but as certainly every number I have seen since then has several paragraphs on Home Brews.

Now no one thinks all these recipes are tried by every reader. All readers are not housekeepers, for one reason, nor are all housekeepers cooks eager for new recipes, any more than all are gardeners or knitters. But we may be sure each is sent by someone familiar with it, and also that no one bothers to write to a paper to ask for a thing she does not want.

So the chances are that the children in every home whence come those letters are being brought up accustomed to the use and taste of alcohol, in an insidious familiarity.

Think how strongly the enemy is entrenched behind those paragraphs! Hospitality, custom, housewifely pride, thrift, will all stand strongly for Home Brew, and be very difficult to combat.

An old friend, or perhaps a new one you are eager to know better, presses, "Just a glass of this; it can't possibly hurt the child; I made it myself. He's sure to like it," on a child probably without thinking of your attitude (certainly without knowing it if she has not been told, as wearing your badge would tell her!). Are you sure he knows enough to be able to refuse it without fear of hurting her feelings? Or will he take it for granted that what a friend offers him is beyond question? If you have never told him about it, possibly never realised yourself what this new recipe meant, will the child know what to do? Pray he, or she, may reject the temptation they do not recognise. And make sure, by explaining to-night, that alcohol is poison in any dose, in any form, and as certainly present in ever taste of home-brewed as in trade-brewed.

It is not the trade label that makes the poison. Home-brewed, offered by your friends, is often more dangerous, because more insidious. Be sure your child and his friends understand there is only one safe rule: Taste not, touch not, handle not, for any alcoholic drink. Teach him yourself, now.

KATHERINE MERCER.

News of the Union.

Reports MUST

1. Reach the Editor by 8th of month.
2. Be written in ink, on one side of the paper only.
3. Be short and to the point.

ASHBURTON.—Feb. 7. Mrs Aitkenhead presided. Large attendance. Sympathy to be sent to sick and bereaved members. Mrs Aitkenhead and Miss Watson delegates to Dominion Convention. Arrangements made for annual effort on March 7th. Rev. Irwin gave a most helpful and inspiring address. Mrs Robinson thanked the speaker, and spoke of his removal to Hawera, and presented him with buttonhole, also bouquet for Mrs Irwin. Warm welcome extended to Mrs C. S. Matthews, of Palmerston North, who contributed a much enjoyed solo. Tea and social hour. Collection for World's Missionary Fund.

ARATAPU-TE KOPURU.—12 present. Mrs Godfrey presided. Mrs Taylor read extracts from Frances Willard's book, "Do Everything," and from "Mighty Moments," by Rev. Lionel Fletcher. Mesdames Taylor and Wordsworth served afternoon tea.

BALCLUTHA.—Feb. 21. Mrs. Clark presided. Arranged to give the Band of Hope children a tea on 10th March. Mrs. Clarke delegate to Convention. Letter read from Mr. McSkimming (our member for Clutha) in answer to letter of protest against the £8,000 loan on Masonic Hotel, Napier, heartily agreeing with members protest against the loan.

BIRKENHEAD.—March 2nd. Mrs. Brocklehurst gave a very helpful talk on Mark VI. 31. "Come ye apart and rest awhile." Willard Day was kept by prayer. We agreed to all the remits except the first which is nil.

BROOKLYN.—Feb. 28. Mrs. Brewer in the chair. Good attendance and visitors welcomed. Sympathy with the relatives of our late member Mrs. Young was carried, all standing. Mesdames Brewer, Pickering and Isaacs to attend District Executive meeting. Solo by Miss Turner much appreciated. Mrs. Webster read a paper on "Alcohol and Athletics." Remits to Annual Convention were read and discussed freely by all the members. Mrs. Brewer (Delegate to National Council of Women) reported on a recent meeting, where remits for their fourth coming Convention were dealt with. Lieut. Tyler spoke on "What we are doing," dealing with the Social Service work of the Salvation Army, and was listened to with the closest attention, and accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Dainty tea served by the Presbyterian Ladies.

BELFAST.—Feb. Mrs. McLean in the chair. Decided to hold this year's meeting in the Methodist Church. Mrs. Rogers gave a report of the N.C. monthly Executive. A paper on the life of Frances Willard was read. The treasurer's resignation received.

COLLINGWOOD.—Feb. 24. Seven present. Winter garments to be knitted for Willard Home. Trying to form Guide Company for girls. Day of meeting changed to suit country members. Mrs Hill read paper on "Life of Frances Willard." Afternoon tea.

CARTERTON.—March 1. Good attendance. Mrs Tyler in chair. Pledge repeated. Bring and buy afternoon to be given by Mrs Butler, second Wednesday in April. An article from Mrs E. B. Taylor, Dominion President, was read by Mrs Shirley. Mrs Tyler then gave us a brief outline of the amount of work done by the W.C.T.U. all over the world, which proved very interesting.

DARGAVILLE.—Feb. 14th. At the home of Mrs. Noble. Fair attendance. Mrs. N. O. White presided. Discussion on plans of work for the coming year. "Willard Day" observed. Mrs. Simmons read a very interesting paper on the "Life and Work of Frances Willard." Pledge repeated and afternoon tea served by Mrs. and Miss Noble.

DUNEDIN CENTRAL.—Feb. 7. Fair attendance. Miss Powell presided. Motion of sympathy to Mrs Hiett in her illness, and hopes expressed for her speedy recovery. Sympathy extended to a bereaved member. Satisfactory financial statement presented by