

The White Ribbon

For God, and home, and humanity.

Thought for the Month.

"Ah! when shall all men's good
Be each man's rule, and Universal Peace
Lie like a shaft of light across the land?"

—Tennyson.

Vol. 18, No. 4.

WELLINGTON, MAY 1, 1946.

3/- Per Annum, Post Free.

PEACE MONTH

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MISS C. E. KIRK, Dominion President

In the retirement from the position of Dominion President of our much loved Mrs. Hiatt, after eleven years of devoted service and fine leadership, we realise that we have lost from our immediate, constant Union life, a contact which has been of very great value. We shall miss the wonderful "message" which was a feature of each month's "White Ribbon." In a way quite special to herself, Mrs. Hiatt touched the deeps of our spiritual life, and communicated to us something which had a unique quality. Our thanks go to her from all parts of the Dominion.

In her successor we have one whose qualities and abilities are notable indeed; but who, to quote from her own words, "shall never be able to write as Mrs. Hiatt did; and can only hope that no one is expecting it of me."

Well, why should she? How strange it would seem if another pen produced Mrs. Hiatt's words and thoughts. One of the pleasures of such an organisation is to know and appreciate the wonderful variety of splendid women who comprise it. If we want to understand why we are all different, we should read again what St. Paul so perfectly put into his immortal words in 1st Corinthians, chapters 12, vs. 1-11, and 14, vs. 7-11.

Whether we have heard the harp or the trumpet or the pipe, in the past, we do not attempt to say; but we do know that the new voice is that of another instrument; and that it must keep its own identity, or fail in its task. God be thanked for the years now past and also for those yet to be.

In Miss Kirk we are proud to welcome one whose service to the Temper-

service have been dedicated to the abolition of the Liquor Traffic. She became the youngest member of the first "Y" branch formed in Wellington.

She had some experience of teaching, especially in isolated parts. For several years she was on the staff of the Maori College at Otaki. It was during this period that the 1918 post-war epidemic took its direful way through New Zealand. To meet the extraordinary conditions which developed here as in other parts, Miss Kirk organised and ran an Emergency Hospital of thirty beds, with only voluntary help. This was something of an achievement in days before V.A. work had become a sort of side-line for the hundreds of young women whom we have seen in action during the war. It took courage, organising ability and executive energy and initiative to carry out such an undertaking.

For sixteen years Miss Kirk held the position of Secretary to the Society for the Protection of Women and Children, only relinquishing it about seven years ago. Still, there are many who come to her for help and advice in their difficulties; and her interest in their welfare has not diminished. Many value still a friendship which began through their finding a helper and advisor in their time of need.

In 1926, when women Justices were first appointed in New Zealand, Miss Kirk was among the first four women chosen for that office.

She takes a keen interest in the work of the National Council of Women, and had the honour of serving a term as their Dominion President. In 1934 she represented New Zealand at the N.C.W. Conference held in Melbourne, which was attended by women from many parts of the world.

However, the W.C.T.U. is, and always has been, the organisation whose aims and ideals appeal to her



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ance cause is almost life-long. Born in Auckland, she was taken while still in infancy to Wellington, where her home has since been.

At the age of fifteen she once helped a woman who was endeavouring to take her drunken husband home. From the time of this incident her interest and