

Mrs. Agnes Slack-Saunders

In the passing of Mrs. Agnes Slack-Saunders, an epoch has been marked in the annals of the World W.C.T.U. As World Secretary for over fifty years, she was one of the group of splendid women whose names will live as long as there is a Temperance worker left. As one of Miss Willard's earliest fellow-workers, she held a special place in the heart and mind of the army of seekers after the freeing of the nations from the slavery of the drink traffic. But, what of the personality of this woman? Was there anything outstanding about her in herself, or was it just that she had the necessary knowledge and ability for the positions she occupied?

There is no doubt that Mrs. Slack-Saunders had unique gifts of character, upbringing, education and environment. Born at Ripley, Derbyshire, into a home rich in the tradition of the finest type of Methodism, every opportunity for the development of natural mental and spiritual powers was present. The early consecration of her life to the service of God led her into paths of usefulness in her own neighbourhood, and for the Wesleyan Church. She edited for many years the Sunday School magazine, and prepared the teaching notes for the lessons. Her sturdy commonsense, always finding its expression in gracious, pleasant ways, soon showed her that by far the greatest force for evil in the world was the Drink Traffic. The story of the gradual concentration of her powers on the fight for the overturn of this enemy of all good is very interesting, and should be read by all W.C.T.U. members.

A gifted musician, and yet a clear thinker; a woman who dressed beautifully and who looked beautiful, but whose position in society meant only what it could do for her great work; a magnificent organiser, a convincing and even brilliant speaker; educated, travelled, and filled with Christian zeal, her place in the temple of fame was secured many years ago. It was not that she had to wait for the end before she was acclaimed as one of the great leaders of our movement for

Miss Willard recognised her value, and claimed for her world office.

A wonderful organising work was carried out by her, which took her into Africa, Asia, Australia, and America. Experiences during these periods of travel make delightful reading. Wherever she went, she won the affection and high regard of her hearers, and her work is still remembered with pleasure and admiration.



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Her marriage late in life to Mr. Charles Saunders brought her a time of quiet, domestic happiness which was only too soon broken into by the war. Her house at Golders Green was bombed and she shared in the sufferings of so many in the London area. Her letters were cheery even then; for she was not of the army of self-pitiers. The news of her death has come; and we would join with all those who have done homage to her memory, realising that work such as hers will never die, and pray that we may raise up others of her grand type to carry on our task.

SOME TEMPERANCE FACTS

The following was included in an address given by Mr. Lopdell at the Lower Hutt Union's March meeting: "5,000 houses could have been built with what it had cost in sugar for beer in the last year. Wherever Prohibition had been in force, very considerable decreases in crime had been noted; and when liquor had been introduced, crime increased fourfold."

REMARKABLE, BUT TRUE

Given at Palmerston North, April 2nd:

If the pendulum of a clock were moved in the slow direction one thousandth part of a second, in a week's time it would cause a man to be ten minutes late for his train. One thou-

andth part of a second seems a small amount; yet as the days go by it makes a difference.

The effect of a small amount of alcohol may be so slight as to be unnoticed for one day, but when taken habitually it gradually slows down a person's working capacity.

Moral: Beware of the small amount.

Given at Auckland's April Meeting:

Taken from the "Herald," April 9th. That sixteen Scotch distilleries which normally produced 60,000 gallons weekly will be closed down this month owing to grain shortage, and will not reopen till the Minister of Food, Sir Ben Smith, increases the quota for whisky distilling.

PEACE DEPARTMENT

The following is from the departmental report prepared by Mrs. Mackie, Dominion Superintendent, which was not in time to be included in the Report Book (Editor).

PEACE REPORT

Since my last report to you major hostilities have been ended by the military victory of the "United Nations," and we should give our heartfelt thanks that over most of the world men are no longer engaged in killing one another.

Our organisation has given us much scope for peace work, and many unions have reported on the part they have undertaken in this great cause. Many have begun each meeting with special prayers for peace; others have responded to the roll call with a Biblical text touching on peace. "Home meetings" have been called with a speaker who has made this subject an all-important one. Interesting questions at such gatherings prove of great value to speaker and members alike.

Then again, papers have been prepared and sent out to unions requesting them. Study groups have also proved an important factor. I understand that peace plays have been prepared and presented. I congratulate those who have taken so much trouble in this way as there is no doubt that plays, by appealing to both eyes and ears, present the message we wish to convey in an effective way. As your peace superintendent I have always willingly attended meetings when asked, and if not able to be at two meetings the same day, I have sent good speakers out to the unions. It has been a great help to me to have suitable men and women who have so ably assisted me during the Peace Month (May).

Books have been willingly loaned at all times and our Linwood Peace Library has been very widely used, books having been loaned to young men's societies, and to Scouts and Bible class members. We have been told that these books have proved very useful and educational.

May I suggest we join all organisations working in the interests of universal peace?

I must thank all members who have so ably co-operated with me in my work, for without this it would have been impossible for me to carry on. Many of our women have helped by sending food to the starving millions. Others have had sewing circles in their homes, and in this way we have been able to send cases of beautifully made clothes to the little children in Europe, who through no fault of their own have been made homeless during this tragic war.

"The drunken driver is not the greatest menace on the road. The driver who has had "a few" drinks will take chances he would never take without alcohol."—*"The Voice,"* Oct., 1945.