

President's Message

Dear Friends,

How long is it since you "set your name down" as an active soldier in the fight against this terrible evil of beverage alcohol? Some set their names down so long ago that the ink is now faint but, thank God, their faith is still strong although they cannot work now as hard as they used to do. What about those who set their names down more recently? Am I doing all I can? Are you doing all you can? Do we realise how dreadful a danger this thing is in the pathway of the children? Only last week a little girl of 13½ years of age, hopelessly drunk, was found and tended by a kindly woman on one of our railway stations. What of those who gave alcohol to the child? What about those professing Christians who shirked their responsibility in getting rid of the liquor traffic so that such a thing is possible? Are you and I 100 per cent. blameless?

You will see by our paper that Mrs. H. Cecil Heath has been appointed World Secretary. Will you pray especially for her as she enters into the work carried on for so long by Mrs. Slack-Saunders? Will you also pray constantly for the best success of the World Convention to be held in New Jersey next June?

You will be very glad to know that at least three of our Unions which have been having a very difficult time, are now seeing the dawn of brighter days, Otorohanga, Foxton and Petone. Give them your sympathetic interest.

There is a fine supply of new literature at Headquarters. If you do not know about it write to Mrs. Ross for particulars.

Did you ever hear it said that women talk a great deal? Of course, they do, they know so much that is worth talking about, and talking is one good way of educating people; therefore, let us use our ability to talk and so educate the folks we meet so that they, too, will fully realise their responsibility in regard to this degrading traffic. Pray as never before, then talk along the road to victory.

"Work shall be prayer, if all be wrought

As Thou wouldst have it done;
And prayer by Thee inspired and taught,

Itself with work be one."
With loving greetings,

Yours in the King's business,
C. E. KIRK.



An inquisitive old lady was asking a sailor about his experience in the Navy.

"What rank did you hold?" she asked him.

"Ship's optician, lady," was the reply.

"Ship's optician? I never knew there was such a rank in the Navy. Of what did your duties consist?"

"Scraping the eyes out of potatoes, ma'am."

In Memoriam

Miss Mary S. Powell, Dunedin

Miss Mary Powell, in her home at St. Clair, Dunedin, passed away on March 8th, 1946, at the ripe age of ninety years.

She lived her life victoriously and finished her course with joyful anticipation of meeting her Saviour, Whom she loved and served from her youth.

Her work in the W.C.T.U. commenced in Invercargill in 1885, when she joined the Union at its formation by Mrs. Mary Clement Leavitt. She gave unstinted and courageous service from that time till the last few years, when she was confined to her home, but her interest was always in the work, and her cheerful, bright personality brought gladness to her friends. For fifteen years she was National Organiser, and travelled by foot and by cycle over rough roads, before the days of bitumen. When unable to cycle, she travelled by foot rather than miss some lonely homestead, and organised many Unions, which are a monument to her zeal for temperance and her untiring energy. When a loved comrade passed away Miss Powell said: "When I am called Home, let there be no tears, but rather rejoice, for I will be at Home with my Lord." Her niece, Miss Winifred Powell, tended her aunt with deep devotion.

As a member for over twenty years of Dunedin Central Union, Miss Powell was beloved for her bright, cheerful manner and deeply sympathetic nature. Among the many offices she filled was that of Dominion Corresponding Secretary, which she held for some years. She is the last of the foundation members of the first Union to be formed in New Zealand.—J. Hiatt, Dunedin.

Mrs. Joanna Martin, Cambridge Union

After a long life of service as a member of the Methodist Church, and as a foundation member of the W.C.T.U. in Australia, continuing during the 45 years of her life in New Zealand, Mrs. A. W. Martin, of the Cambridge Union, has passed to her reward at the age of 87 years.

Mrs. Martin was born at Bendigo, and was the only girl in a family of nine. She was married in 1884, and after living in Sydney and Queensland, came with her husband to New Zealand at the end of 1901. They lived at Avondale for nearly twenty years, and the first Methodist service to be held there took place in the Martin home. In 1920, the family removed to Cambridge, where the home has remained ever since.

Mrs. Martin was a Sunday School teacher for about thirty years. She was

president of the Cambridge Union for nearly twenty years. She attended Convention always and was present at the 1945 District Convention held at Hamilton. She was a fine reciter, and gave very good items whenever she was called upon. Her keen interest in the work never abated, and she will be greatly missed. Our sympathy goes out to her daughter, who lived with her.

Miss A. E. Watson, Ashburton Union

Ashburton Union mourns the loss of Miss A. E. Watson, who was for nineteen years their "White Ribbon" superintendent.

She was one of their most loyal and devoted members, and until sickness prevented her, carried on the work so dear to her heart, as in God's sight.

She was faithful unto death, and now has received her crown of life. She was well respected and loved, and will be sadly missed.

"The Master has sent, and garnered her in

Ripe, and ready, His cherished grain;
Golden indeed her life's setting sun,
Blessed art thou, thy work well done."

—I. M. Harwood.



CORRESPONDENCE. ABOUT READING.

Dear Fellow-workers,

I read in the May number of the "White Ribbon" a column headed "About Books."

Now, the best-educated people are usually the most useful in the W.C.T.U. meetings. I am particularly mindful of the Misses Edger, Mrs. Bennett, Mrs. Fred Kasper, and Mrs. W. Hamilton, of Warkworth.

These people could be trusted to give a short, unprejudiced opinion of any subject in well-chosen language.

For public women, the habit of reading is essential; for tired women, it is rest. To the young woman, it gives a certain largeness of viewpoint.

All our members have ideas, but they are held back because they do not know the conditions in other countries, and they know very little about how to improve matters.

Look at our Maori friends. Every little start they make encourages them. They, like ourselves, carry books from libraries. For, as Francis Bacon said nearly four hundred years ago, "Reading maketh a full man."

CAROLINE THOMPSON,
Whangarei.