

Roll Call a text of Scripture. Pledge and Temperance Fact. Mental Hospital report given by Mrs. Hawker. Arrangements made for Union to be represented at Convention. Members to send produce to Y.W.C.A. Fair on March 8th, when W.C.T.U. is to be in charge of Produce Stall. Cradle Roll party arranged.

Sydenham: Mrs. Filer, President, presided over Feb. and March meetings. Syllabus arranged for the year. Donation made to the Maori Hostel. Discussion held on the amount of drinking going on among young women and the inroads being made in the life of the young people.

North Brighton, Feb.: Miss Noonan presided and spoke on the coming year. Two babies placed on the Cradle Roll and service read by Mrs. Pepperell. Two new members. Reports on party and sale received. Superintendents of departments appointed.

New Brighton, Mar. 6: Mrs. Edmond presided and Miss Armstrong led Devotions. Pledge re-affirmed and Temperance Fact given. Mrs. Mitchell thanked members for help in the sale of Health Stamps from October to February. Paper on Frances Willard read by President. "Bring and Buy" for Maori Hostel. One new member received.

Woolston, Feb. 20: Mrs. Ramsey in the chair. Devotions led by Mrs. Spiers. Cradle Roll and Band of Hope picnic arranged. Benediction.

SOUTH CANTERBURY DISTRICT

Timaru, Feb. 26: Opening meeting for the year held in Sailors' Rest, Mrs. T. E. Holdgate presiding. Short business meeting followed by social hour. Letter read re Bible in Schools question. Miss Tooley to be our representative at Convention. One new member initiated. Mrs. Woodward reported busy month at the "Rest"; also a shortage of books and magazines.

Waimate: Opening meeting well attended. Mrs. Duckett, President, in the chair. Temperance Fact given and Pledge re-affirmed. The retiring Treasurer, Mrs. Simpson, was given a presentation and a beautiful shoulder spray was pinned on her shoulder by the President in token of gratitude for her eighteen years of service. All other officers were re-elected at the annual meeting. Miss S. Hayman taking the vacant office. The speaker, Mrs. Major Ingerson, was heartily welcomed and spoke on the maternity work of the Salvation Army, being warmly thanked at the close. Closing Prayer.

OTAGO DISTRICT.

South Dunedin, fourth Thursday: Mrs. Rippen presided; Devotions, Mrs. Smith. Correspondence from Miss Henderson, J.P. and Mrs. Toomer, both exhaustively discussed. President referred to Dr. Hunter's part in No-License Movement (Alliance). An accident suffered by Miss F. Bruce, which has caused serious trouble, referred to and wholehearted sympathy of members expressed. President referred to Maori work, and showed that the Hostel undertaken by Auckland was distinct as regards funds from the Organiser's work among Maoris. It was hoped that all branches would support either or both of these funds. Regarding the expense incurred by delegates attending Dominion Convention, the President suggested a pooling fund whereby stronger Unions could help smaller ones, every branch contributing its quota. A musical programme was given. Members of the Mornington Union were welcomed, their President, Mrs. Peeling, responding.

Oamaru, Feb. 10: President in the chair. Plans made for Cradle Roll and Band of Hope picnic. Sympathy to Miss R. Day in her illness.

Kaikorai, Feb. 25: Mrs. Flett presided. Arrangements for several special functions. Miss Dobson elected as delegate to Dominion Convention.

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT.

South Invercargill: The first meeting for the year was held as a picnic at Oreti Beach, when about twenty-five members of the South Union and a few from North Invercargill were present. A first bus was filled to overflowing and a second was requisitioned. Lunch was taken in the shelter shed after Grace had been sung. An address was listened to, Mrs. Jones being the speaker, and her subject "Joshua." The gathering then broke up into parties and enjoyed the pleasures of the beach as they chose, until the buses returned for them.

ADDRESS BY MISS EDMED

"The Responsibility of the Liquor Traffic for Road Accidents, Crime and Disease"

In a concise, but very full statement on the above subject, Miss Edmed "talked" her address, preferring this to reading it. She was heard with the closest attention.

Speaking of road accidents, Miss Edmed was very careful to avoid any exaggeration of the position, giving a most conservative estimate of the proportion of accidents due to alcoholic indulgence. Her conclusion, however, was that even one life lost, or one body maimed by avoidable accident, was one too many. Accidents were bound to occur, through circumstances in which no one was to blame, but these caused by drink should never occur. She showed how the sight and judgment of the driver were so affected by the smallest amount of alcohol as to make the driver a danger to himself and others.

Quoting from Lord Chief Justice Alveston, who had forty years experience at the bar, and ten as Judge, the speaker said that 90% of crime was caused by drink, or nine out of every ten cases. One violation of the law leads to others, as was seen in cases over and over again. Miss Edmed gave details as they were published by the Alliance in election literature, and the picture was very dark.

Regarding disease, certain forms had been shown to be practically incurable if the patient were alcoholic in his habits. Among these, tuberculosis was prominent and also all throat and chest troubles. The dangerous effect on the nervous system was illustrated by reference to a test carried out among men in a shooting competition. The contestants abstained entirely for one month before the tests were made. The average of bull's-eyes in the first tests were 26 and 23. In the evening, after half a wine glass of brandy, the average was three. Another test was carried out in a "mistakes" experiment. For the total test the average was one hundred mistakes; but after two-fifths of a pint of beer, the average was two hundred and thirteen. The men affected were all certain they were doing much better after their drink, but their self-satisfaction would not be considered warranted except by those who themselves had blunted their perceptions by drinking.

In the case of venereal disease, it was shown that drink made any permanent cure practically impossible. Even after treatment and temporary cure, the patient who drank would become infected again through his utter lack of self-control. Insanity follows in many instances. The unbelievable thing is that people should still vote in favour of keeping this evil thing in our midst. Some who would vote against it are afraid because of what they have heard about U.S.A., not realising that they have not heard the whole truth, and that they have been given a misleading account of what prohibition really did in America.

CONVENTION REMITS

Space will not permit of our reprinting the text of Convention remits, but they will be found on page six of the February issue of the "White Ribbon." They are referred to here under their numbers only, and the decisions regarding them are briefly shown.

- 1.
- 2.—Amendment passed: That investigation be made re distribution of dried fruit to wine-makers; such investigation to be made by W.C.T.U. officers.
- 3.—Carried.
- 4.—Withdrawn as being too late.
- 5.—Withdrawn.
- 6.
- 7.—Amendment carried: "That districts be recommended to urge their Unions to look after their scattered members.
- 8.—Deleted.
- 9.—Lost.
- 10.—Deleted.
- 11.—Carried.
- 12.—Lost.
- 13.—Carried.
- 14.—Carried.
- 15.—Left in the hands of the editor.
- 16.—Withdrawn.
- 17.—Special information to be obtained.
- 18.—Withdrawn as covered.
- 19, 20, 21.

A resumé of information re "Shock" treatment will appear in our next issue.

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