

UNION NEWS

Wellsford, February. Mrs C. W. Phillips presided over a good attendance, the meeting being an evening one. Mrs A. Gubb led devotions. Plans were made to hold the C.R. Party late in April—the March meeting to make the arrangements. Mrs Phillips appointed delegate to Palmerston North Convention. Remits discussed. Birthday sprays presented. One new member initiated and welcomed. Bring and Buy stall for local funds.—A silent tribute paid to the memory of the late Mrs Kasper.

Auckland District Executive, March. Mrs A. T. Richards presided and Mrs B. Christopher took devotions. Decided to send a donation to the N.C.W. for the Dr Doris Gordon Memorial Fund. Mrs Richards and Miss Appleby were appointed to represent the W.C.T.U. at the League of Mothers' Annual Church Service. Remits discussed and passed on to Dominion Convention. Mrs E. Prussing reported on the work at the Maori Girl Hostel, and a report on the last meeting of N.C.W. was given by Mrs F. W. Mountjoy.

Takaruna, March. Mrs Prussing, the President, presided and Mrs Cullen conducted devotions. Members stood as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mrs A. Kasper, M.B.E. To her memory, a portion was read from "Springs in the Valley," which she presented to our Union shortly before she died. Mrs Prussing to attend Dominion Conv. as delegate. Arrangements were made for speakers for future meetings, and also for work to be done this year.

Tauranga, February. Devotional address given by Miss Churchward and a report on meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous held in Tauranga was given by Mrs Christian. A long service badge presented to Mrs Johnson whose record of active service covered a period of over forty years.

March meeting with Mr W. F. Stock of the N.Z. Alliance as speaker whose subject was, "The Recent Poll; before and after". A sort of conspiracy of silence had covered the fact that the vote for prohibition was actually higher than at the previous poll and that there was a definite increase in the Maori prohibition vote. A new member was initiated. Decided to run the Picture Colouring Competition with the Sunday Schools to which "Boys and Girls" are sent regularly. Mrs Bulmer appointed Convention delegate. Very good business at Sales' Table.

New Plymouth. A happy luncheon replaced the proposed opening picnic for the 1958 year. The President welcomed members to the monthly meeting that followed. Devotions taken by Mrs Tuffery, a member of very long standing. Frances Willard was remembered. A church parade to be arranged. New Plymouth now an Incorporated Union. Donation sent for Burma's needs. Remits discussed ways of helping weak centres again discussed. Reports received from representatives to N.C.W., Brigham House for aged women, and Seamen's Rest, where, in 3 months, 1,397 seamen have enjoyed amenities, increasing numbers remaining whole evenings. Some come for quietness to pray and to seek Christian contact. Many dark skinned men appreciate it, because it is a "Jesus place". Ships' Officers show an interest.

Wellington District Executive, February. Miss V. Jackson presided. Karori was the hostess Union. Devotions were conducted by Mrs V. Grigg, who spoke on the theme of "Jesus the Light of the world". Silence was observed in remembrance of all members, including Mrs Munns, World Treasurer, who had passed away. Our Dominion Convention Fund now stands at £80. Market Day brought in £45. Donations from it given to Convention Fund £20, White Ribbon Fund £5, N.Z. Administrative Fund £5, Council for Christian Education, £1/1/0 Road Safety Council £1. Miss Jackson urged that money (not ditty bags, etc.) be sent to Seamen's Rests. Mrs Melvin, District delegate to Palmerston North. Miss Jackson conducted afternoon devotions. Mrs V. Grigg gave the N.Z. Alliance report. Convention remits considered.

Papanui, Feb. Mrs Coley presided over good attendance and Mrs Clark led devotions. Rev. Harris Whitfield of Methodist Church welcomed and gave a short talk on Drink Traffic as seen in N.Z. and Overseas. Report of very successful Christmas party taken to Mental Hospital patients.—Christmas cake, parcels, fruit and party food. Also a monthly visit to 10 patient.

Riccarton, March. Good attendance with Mrs Griffiths presiding and Mrs Matthews taking opening devotions. A greeting sent to Dominion Convention. Three Executive reports read. A presentation of flowers was made to Mrs G. Smith, who was leaving on a trip to London. Mrs Watson, a member, gave a very interesting talk on her trip through America and also brought a greeting from a London W.C.T.U.

Dunedin Central, February. Opening meeting conducted by Mrs Hiatt, the President. Devotions taken by Mrs Edwards, who gave a special message for the New Year's work. Solos beautifully rendered by Mesdames Bell, Smith and Chetwin, ably accompanied by Mrs Johnston as pianist. Mrs Dick

made an appeal for odds and ends of wool, scraps of coloured silk, etc., for use of patients in Mental Hospital.

Balclutha, March with Mrs Gill presiding. Routine business taken after devotions. Several interesting articles read from the "Challenge", and also newspaper cuttings re the liquor traffic.

Auckland District Executive, 31st March. Mrs A. T. Richards presided and Miss Appleby led devotions. The resignation of Mrs Richards as the District President was received, owing to the fact of her election as Dominion President. Miss E. M. Appleby was appointed Acting District President until the District Convention in October. Miss Appleby and Mrs F. W. Mountjoy were appointed delegates to N.C.W. for the coming year. Mrs Prussing reported on the Maori Girls' Hostel work and Mrs Mountjoy on the N.C.W. meeting. Mrs Richards gave a most concise report of the Dominion Convention.

Morning Tea—A delightful morning tea was given in honour of Mrs Richard's retirement from the Presidency, and to extend a welcome to Miss Appleby as Acting President. The President of the Auckland Union, Mrs J. W. Long presided and welcomed about sixty ladies. An eulogistic item was given by Miss Campbell. Mrs Long, in a few well chosen words, spoke of the work accomplished by Mrs Richards in her 6 years of office, and on behalf of the Executive, Mrs Mountjoy presented her with the gift of a book. Many others paid tribute to Mrs Richard's work. Mrs Mountjoy also presented Miss Appleby with a gift of flowers and welcomed her. Both ladies suitably replied to these words and tokens of appreciation. Morning tea was served by Mrs Prussing and her helpers.

Epsom-Green Lane, April. Mrs Eccersall extended a special welcome to the Misses A. and C. McLay who have joined our Union. Members stood as a tribute to the late Mrs J. Gray. A season of prayer was held. Mrs Blackburn was warmly thanked for her interesting and concise report of Dominion Convention. A brief initiation service was held and Mrs L. Marcroft was welcomed as a member, all joining in singing the Temperance Doxology.

Remuera, April. Mrs Kelsey presided. Mrs Mackey read the Scripture reading and members engaged in prayer. Mrs Kelsey gave a very fine report of Dominion Convention. Temperance Fact: B. W. Richardson, M.D., says: "After 3 years of the most careful examination and several testings, the conclusion I have come to is this, that alcohol is an agent as potent for evil as it is powerless for good. It begins by destroying and ends by destruction."

Cambridge, February. Mrs F. Parry led devotions and presided. An article on Frances Willard was read by Mrs Kemsley. Remits for Dominion Convention were discussed and rulings given to the delegate, Mrs A. Burt. The programme for the year was finalised. Closed with prayer session. Collection for World Missionary Fund.

March meeting. Devotions led by Mrs A. Burt, who used the order of service with which Convention was opened and also gave highlights from the Church services and devotions at Convention—after routine business, Mrs Burt gave a comprehensive report of Convention.

Tauranga, April. The devotions included the Responsive Reading, part of the Memorial Convention service. Mrs Bulmer reported on Convention and newspaper cuttings were read. A report was given on the Bubble Fountain placed by the local W.C.T.U. in Memorial Park and the plaque which is being prepared for unveiling—the short appropriate verse having been composed by the president, Mrs Christian. The necessity for a Seamen's Rest in the growing port of Tauranga is being seriously considered by members. The monthly study on alcohol was "The effect of alcohol on the brain". It was decided to enter a suitable table for W.C.T.U. publicity in the Table Setting Competition, being run by the Plunket Society for their funds.

New Plymouth. The President presided and after devotions visitors from several places were welcomed. We were especially pleased to welcome Mrs Lane once again. Aged and sick members were remembered. A Church Parade was arranged for in April. 333 seamen visited the Seamen's Rest in three weeks. The Rest is to be painted, etc. Mrs Atkins, our President, received congratulations on becoming Dominion Recording Secretary. Mrs Cole gave a full and interesting report of the recent Convention. The President reported on remits.

North Canterbury District Executive. Mrs Griffiths presided and Mrs E. R. Clark conducted devotions. Remits for the Convention were discussed. A School of Method plan was submitted on the teaching of the value of temperance. Miss E. Gainsford reported on the Council of Christian Education.

Spreydon, Mrs L. H. Woodcock presided. A new member, Mrs Dedrich was welcomed to our meeting. The speaker, Mrs Buggy, gave a good report on the recent Convention in Palmerston North and was thanked by the President. Our meetings are all opened with devotions and prayer for our work, and closed with God's blessing.