

only having a little to drink at each. Soon their judgment is impaired and they are not aware that they are acting boisterously, and doing and saying things that, in their saner minds, they would scorn to do or say.

At a well-attended Association meeting, I was at recently, an hotel proprietor (a school committee member), speaking to a remit before the meeting, which had nothing whatever to do with drinking or temperance, said, "We should do away with it, just as we should do away with the drunkards and heavy drinkers in my line and educate a new lot of younger drinkers." That just shows the opinion of those who encourage and sell drink. The drunkard is no longer wanted. Who knows which of the young drinkers will become a drunkard?

A dispatch from Lausanne says "The Ministry of Public Health of Belgium has subsidised the National Committee against alcoholism, which is undertaking a systematic campaign against the growing consumption of alcoholic beverages, including in particular that of strong beer. Posters are being used in railway stations and youth centres, and a temperance day is being observed in all primary schools under the patronage of the Ministry of Public Instruction. A syllabus has been prepared and published in Flemish and also in French to facilitate the teaching of temperance lessons by teachers. Maurice Milliet, Professor of Hygiene at the University of Brussels, has been made president of the committee."

The "Star" of 13th April has an interesting piece of news. Quoting from a resolution appearing in the youth organisation paper "Miada Fronta" they said "Nearly half the pupils in Czech secondary schools have signed a pledge never to smoke or drink alcohol. People who succumb to drink have no place in our Socialistic Society."

The Shetland Islands went dry some time ago during a local option campaign and remain dry. In a population of 26,000 there is almost no unemployment, no crime at all, and five policemen to look after 800 square miles.

Last year, 1949, the drink bill for New Zealand was £17,683,962, or £9/10/0 per head of the population. I doubt if there is ever a newspaper printed in New Zealand without reference to some crime or accident that has been caused through the consumption of strong drink.

A long article appeared in the "Evening Post" of the 22nd of July written by an "Evening Post" reporter, on Alcoholics Anonymous. It is really one of the finest advertisements for Temperance I have ever read in any newspaper.

Extracts from the article read:—

"The Alcoholics Leader in New Zealand said his organisation wished to serve New Zealand Alcoholics—those persons with a craving for alcohol. He outlines his definition of an alcoholic:—

1. A man who drinks when he has decided not to or who has good reason not to.

2. A man who drinks alone.
3. A man who has "extras" between those served to others.
4. A man who, after a party or a day's drinking requires more before he can function properly."

The reporter stated that the value of Alcoholics Anonymous has been recognised by Mr. J. H. Luxford, S.M., who stated "that sending men to the 'Island' had been a matter of segregation, and this alone did not have great success in effecting a cure."

Included in the article is mention of Alcoholics Anonymous Comics which are acclaimed in the United States where they use comic strips as advertising mediums for soap and toothpaste, and even motor-cars. A comic strip has now been developed to show the value of the work being done by Alcoholics Anonymous.

Published in 600 newspapers throughout the United States, the comic strip, in serial instalments, shows a seemingly hopeless drunkard winning a long fight to redeem himself through the aid of Alcoholics Anonymous.

The comic was drawn by Leslie Turner, creator of the American "comic strip hero," Captain Easy, whose adventures are followed by literally millions.

We women have a great responsibility. We must not grow weary in the fight, but endeavour, through persistent efforts and witness, to uphold our banner for God, Home and Humanity, and make this fair land of ours a better place to live in, for the coming generation.

"As labourers in Thy vineyard,
Send us out, Christ, to be,
Content to bear the burden
Of weary days for Thee.
We ask no other wages,
When Thou shalt call us home,
But to have shared Thy travail
And see Thy Kingdom come."
(Regret address curtailed through lack of space.—Ed.)

NORTHLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Northland District Convention, held at Whangarei, in the Methodist Church Hall, on September 5th, was attended by delegates from Whangarei, Dargaville, Pukehuia and Maungakarama.

Mrs. Green, District President, conducted the opening devotional exercises and Mrs. Lawrence led the Noon-tide Hour. Mrs. Roberts took the devotions for the afternoon session. In her Presidential Address, Mrs. Green gave present-day facts on world affairs and on the new Licensing Laws in New Zealand. At the Service of Remembrance, tributes were paid to the memory of our departed sisters, Mrs. Lee Cowie, Miss Edmed of Dargaville, Mrs. Dreadon and Mrs. Wright, of Whangarei, and Mrs. Clow, of Russell.

Reports

The Corso Supt. reported that 100 garments had been forwarded during the year.

Dargaville and Whangarei reported on the visit of Mrs. Toomer, Dominion Vice-President.

Reports revealed that, although much work was being done, no youth work, with the exception of the Cradle Roll Department, was being carried out.

A 20 years' service badge was presented to the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Moorhead, Jun., of Dargaville.

The election of Officers resulted as follows:—

President: Mrs. Green; Vice-President, Mrs. Lane; Corres. Sec.: Mrs. Moorhead, Jun.; Record. Sec.: Mrs. Jolly; Treasurer: Mrs. Taylor.

SOUTH AUCKLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Annual District Convention was held in Hamilton on September 7th, with the President, Miss A. M. McLay, in the chair. Rev. H. Matthews, B.A., who conducted the opening devotions, took as his theme, "Christian Witness," from I Peter, 1:13. The speaker emphasised the fact that we can only influence others by what we are and do ourselves.

The word Christian, as associated with "Temperance Union," gave the group all the power necessary as its source came from God Himself.

The Roll Call was answered by delegates from Hamilton, Cambridge, Fencourt, Te Awamutu, Otorohanga, Te Kuiti Maori, Te Kuiti Pakeha, Opotiki, Hangatiki and Tauranga, a total of 42 being present.

Reports showed much activity and novel means taken in emphasising the work. Te Kuiti Maori reported 16 new members. Tauranga prepared 60 children for the Temperance examinations, and co-operation was given by the College Headmaster, and Primary School Headmaster. Opotiki has its flourishing Band of Hope, now 25 years old. It is a highlight in social events and advertises and reports in local papers.

Hamilton held its 50-year Jubilee celebration.

Otorohanga pays for advertisements on Railway Station, and other unions maintain a high standard, especially in youth work.

The Annual District report showed 313 members, 396 White Ribbon subscribers and 800 Cradle Roll members. Miss McLay, in reviewing the work said that, though the position was satisfactory, much yet remained to be done to intensify the Five Fold Plan of Work.

An invitation to hold the next Convention at Tauranga was accepted.

Noon tide devotions were conducted by Mrs. Bensley, of Tauranga, and the afternoon session was opened by Mrs. Kemsley, of Cambridge.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—

President, Miss A. McLay; Vice-President, Mrs. Christian; Secretary, Mrs. Lewis, Treasurer, Mrs. Clark; Dist. Cradle Roll Supt., Miss G. Clark; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs. Lewis.