

# The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

## Thought for the Month.

"As some rare perfume in a vase of clay,  
Pervades it, with a fragrance not its own,  
So when God dwellest in a mortal soul,  
All Heaven's own sweetness seems around it thrown."

—Harriet Beecher Stowe.

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## A Threat to the Nation's Vitality

### N.Z. Liquor Bill Too High

There are 3,566,840 letters in the English Bible. If you could pin five £1 notes on every letter in the Bible, you would have a display of the amount of money New Zealanders are spending every year on liquor—£1,500,000 went into the liquor bill for 1949. The physical change and the moral wastage resulting from this expenditure does not bear thinking about in a population of under two million people.

In the Christian Church, temperance is not just a matter of whether you or I should or should not drink a glass of beer. That is a matter both of us have to decide with a clear conscience before God.

The Christian Church, in so far as its ministers teach the Christian ethic, has a duty to take up an attitude towards and give a measure of guidance on any social issue, where the welfare or the destruction of human personalities is involved. The expenditure of huge sums on strong drink creates insoluble problems.

#### A Road Safety Campaign

A Road Safety Campaign, for example, is defeated before it starts if expenditure on liquor is rising. The past twelve months in our own country, have shown, once again, the inevitable linkage between accident, death and

material destruction on the roads, and indulgence in strong drink.

In New Zealand, when we are told that the normal expectation of life has risen to 63 years, as against about 25 years in China, we are loud in our praises of modern science, and its benefits. And yet, when scientists condemn the use of alcohol as a narcotic drug, and tell us that its last place is in the most delicate and perfect mechanism in the world—the human body—we go strangely silent and behave as if our wishful thinking was the truth. Putting alcohol into the body is "like pouring sand into a watch," was the blunt way Edison described the matter.

#### A Dangerous World

We are living in a very dangerous world. Some observers have said that New Zealanders are living in a fool's paradise. It is quite certain that the world in which we are living is one that is demanding everything we have, spiritually, physically, morally and intellectually, and New Zealand's present rate of expenditure on strong drink threatens to sap what vitality we, as a young nation possess.

—From "Temperance Sunday,"  
Address by Rev. A. Salmond,  
St. Andrew's, Levin.

## Heavy Social Drinkers Cause Most Trouble

Personally I am convinced that heavy social drinkers actually cause more trouble as a group—and this group numbers into the millions—than do the estimated threequarters of a million alcoholics. The reasons for this personal conviction are based on some 20 odd years' experience in psychiatry and of observing the social climate of "our times."

One need not go far for evidence. At any hotel bar or grill you may

see, at any dining hour, a number of well-dressed, presumably influential men, who, as the rounds pile up, become louder, more argumentative and expansive in movement. When calm judgment in business or profession is required, alcoholic states of mind are comparable to a cut-off in electricity at the peak hour of production.—Robert V. Seliger, M.D., Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md., in an address, "The Doctor Looks at Alcoholism."

## FRUIT JUICES, SOURCE OF ENERGY AND HEALTH

Dr. H. Muller, Director of the Clinic, "La Ligniere," at Gland, presented the following report to the 2nd International Congress of Producers of Fruit Juices, held at Zurich in June, 1950.

"The nutritive and hygienic value of fruit juices is contested by no one today. But it would be of the highest importance to recognise their value also as an aid to working capacity, replacing the alcoholic beverage employed today for this purpose, because alcohol can produce no favourable action on muscular work. The sugar substances contained in fruit juices, glucose in particular, represent, on the other hand, a source of energy par excellence. But, as an aid to work, it is advisable to dilute the fruit juices in order to reduce their glucose concentration to 7 or 9 per cent. of sugar. In this form, they are better thirst quenchers and are more easily digested. The substitution of fruit juices for alcoholic drinks during work would bring about a veritable revolution in favour of the output and well-being of the worker. His condition of life would be transformed, his economic situation improved, morbidity and mortality definitely decreased."

## OUR MIGHTY GOD

When hard upon this earthly house,  
The winds descend, and dark floods  
roll,

Beneath the thunder of their wrath  
Cringe not, nor be afraid, my soul!  
Above the battle and the flood,  
Above the roar of guns and wings,

He, the Lord God Omnipotent,  
Still reigns, the one great King of  
Kings.

His hand is on the helm that guides  
Each atom and each burning sun;  
All time and space are in His grasp;  
His word is life and law, in one;  
Fear not, nor doubt—though dark as  
death

The evil one, his challenge flings;  
The Lord, our God Omnipotent,  
Still reigns! For ever King of  
Kings!

—Jessie Wilmore Marton.