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NEW ZEALAND UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Several preliminary bouts in connection with the New Zealand inter-University boxing tournament were decided in the Victoria College gymnasium on Saturday afternoon before a large audience. The boxing was up to the best amateur standard and provided some very interesting and willing contests. In the welter-weight the local man, Scott, outclassed the Auckland, Mason, and at the conclusion of the third round was adjudged the winner on points. Scott forced the pace from the outset, and his win was a popular and well-deserved one. The two heavyweight encounters were fast and even. In the first bout McKegg (Otago) was given the verdict against Richmond, of Canterbury, and thoroughly merited it. In the first two rounds the honours were slightly in his favour, and in the last he had his opponent on the ropes several times and narrowly missed knocking him out, the referee finally stopping the bout and giving the only decision possible. Richmond boxed gamely, and only in the third round was the tide turned against him. In the last contest of the day M'Rae, a local man, defeated the Auckland Heron on points. This proved to be a willing encounter, and although giving away 11lb in weight the Wellington representative by his quickness and forcefulness secured the verdict. Mr J. Murphy officiated as referee, and his decisions gave every satisfaction. The following are the results:—

Welterweight.—R. R. Scott (10st 7½lb) Victoria University College, defeated W. F. T. K. Mason (10st 6½lb) on points.

Heavyweight.—A. McKegg (11st 3lb) (Otago University), defeated N. M. Richmond (11st 2lb) (Canterbury College), A. D. M'Rae (11st 10lb) (Victoria College), defeated Heron (12st 5lb) (Auckland University College) on points.

The finals of the University championships 10 bouts in all) were decided in the Town Hall.

HASTINGS, April 1.

Articles have been signed for a return boxing match between J. Clabby and T. Uren for a purse of £550, including expenses. The match will take place at Hastings on April 28.

Of Interest to Women.

THE PROBLEM OF DOMESTIC LABOUR.

(Continued from April 1.)

Do we succeed then in having the work done satisfactorily and cheerfully in our homes? In some homes, yes; but only in a minority if we look closely into the matter. There are doubtless numbers of houses kept as well as they can be kept, by energetic and capable women, not hampered by ill-health, but even in these, improvements might be effected and the standard of efficiency in maintained only at a heavy cost in nervous and muscular strength. There are also numberless homes where ill-health or incompetence, or sloth, or some external circumstance spells itself out from day to day in ineffective service, querulousness, sordidness, and dirt.

The field of observation is so large, when we come to answer the question above propounded, the variety of conditions presented is so great that we must proceed methodically to arrive at anything enlightening in the way of an answer. Let us remember that there are, roughly speaking, three classes of homes those of the wage-earners, those of the salaried and middle-class, and those of the wealthy. There are also town homes and country homes. In Southland, perhaps in New Zealand, there is nothing to approach the gigantic wealth of other and older lands; we do not produce as yet millionaires and we hope we never will; but in our own degree we do possess a wealthy class, as distinct from the earners of salaries and the small middle-class tradesman, as these in their turn are from the wage earner. Domestic problems reveal their urgency in the homes of the middle and lower classes; but the conditions that produce them are fostered by the practice of the rich. The value of money to women is most often to procure for them relief from the drudgery of life, to enable them to live softly, eat daintily, and wear fine garments. Their food and furniture are better than those of their neighbours, and they can hire other women to do the toilsome and unlovely work of the establishment. Our economic conditions give them these material advantages irrespective of their merit or demerit. As long as those conditions obtain we must reckon with the fact; and not until we arrive at some means of securing a more equitable distribution of the world's wealth, can we hope for any fairer division of material comfort and refinement, any fairer sharing of leisure and recreation among married women. The inequalities existent among the homes, their necessary reflex in the life of the children, seem to me the most insistent call heard to-day for the drastic overhaul and amendment, if not revolution, of our economic and social structure.

I do not think it necessary to dwell on the fall, on the evidence of the fact that in many homes, perhaps a majority, domestic labour is carried on under adverse conditions and is inefficiently performed. The observations of workers during the epidemic of 1918 showed the state of affairs to be worse than most comfortable people had dreamed. What we want to do is to examine the causes that produce, or the conditions that aggravate present evils. They seem to me to admit of classification under two headings those pertaining to material things, conditions of housing, and appliances first; second, those belonging to the character and capability of the workers. In the actual houses we live in, we are only very slowly escaping from the limitations and mistakes of the past; the women who have to work in our homes, are often handicapped by ignorance and traditional prejudice.

The first houses built in New Zealand were, as a rule, small and inconvenient. Some were mere shanties. Such houses were put up for a generation and a half and they can still be seen in various stages of decay about our towns and countryside. As conditions improved for some people, they built new homes, equipped with modern conveniences; but the old dwellings are still lived in by the poorer class, and until there is no one living in a house without bathroom or sink or proper drains, our civic conscience cannot be at rest. These old houses continue to do duty until they fall to pieces. May they fall quickly. They ought to be systematically pulled down year by year and modern dwellings of a more solid and lasting structure put up in their place.

And now for the ignorance and prejudice. The lore of house-keeping has been in the past traditional; daughter learned from mother what the latter had acquired from grandmother. The tradition of an elder and more leisurely generation, too, was often good, but its prejudices have stood in the way of many modern innovations tending to simplification and the saving of labour; while the home as the

only place of domestic training was hopelessly inadequate for the simple reason that in many poor-class homes there was no domestic craft at all, only ignorance and incompetence.

It is to that ignorance and incompetence in the homes from which domestic servants are drawn, and to the absence in those homes of all modern conveniences and refinements, that we owe the difficulty if not impossibility, of securing competent domestic hired labour; and the popular opinion that tacitly supposes all domestic work to be an inferior and degrading form of labour, especially when done for hire, is to blame for our having no other class of person offering for it.

Our ideal commonwealth would lodge all its people in comfortable, convenient, and beautiful homes; it would train its domestic workers to keep those homes clean, orderly and beautiful; it would so esteem and reward domestic service as to induce persons of good character and capacity to take it up as a means of livelihood outside marriage; it would require of all women who married a standard of character and competency; it would arrange all possible means of reducing by simplification and co-operation the burden of unnecessary work. In a word, it would cherish character and promote capability while it economised in time and energy.

What can be done to bring this ideal even a little nearer? In succeeding articles we shall try to indicate some practicable avenues of progress, those of simplification, co-operation, and training.

INVERCARGILL Y.W.C.A.

(Continued from April 1.)

SOCIAL.

The "Come Again" evenings have been popular throughout the Winter and have been regularly held on the first Wednesday of each month. There were over eighty at the Annual Meeting on May 7, when we took the opportunity of welcoming Miss Thomson from Dunedin, who had come amongst us for a year as Leader of our Girls' Work. The Hon. A. F. Hawke was in the Chair, and after the usual business programme, stunts of welcome and songs were given by the girls. Supper was dispensed at the invitation of the Board of Directors.

Closely following this was a farewell to Miss Alice Hunt, who for two years held the position of Girls' Department Secretary. Enthusiasm put into this "Alice In Wonderland" party by the ninety-five who attended expressed something of the appreciation which the girls felt for Miss Hunt.

Yet another specially arranged party was that given quite recently, when it was discovered that Miss Earnshaw, one-time General Secretary of this Association, was visiting Invercargill. Quite a number of the girls who had known and loved Miss Earnshaw took this opportunity of meeting her again and talking over old times.

THRIFT CLUB.

The number of girls taking advantage of this Club is steadily increasing. There are now 48 members on the roll and there is a substantial increase in the amounts deposited. The total deposits for the year are £105 4s as against £48 7s 4d deposited last year. During the Winter some of the girls from the Thrift Club at the Rosedale Woollen Mills formed a Rosedale Saturday Club at the Association.

LIBRARY.

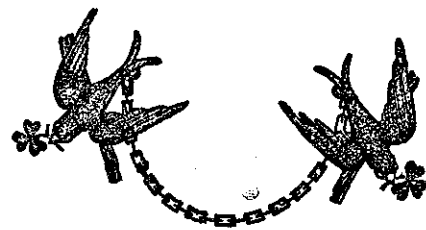
The books have been re-catalogued and numbered and we appeal through these pages for gifts of suitable books from our friends and well-wishers.

HOSTEL.

At last we have secured a House Secretary. The Wellington Association very generously released Miss Farquhar from their Brougham Street residence, and she arrived to take up duties with us on November 1. Since writing our last report the east wing of the building which contained a large meeting hall has been painted and subdivided into six bedrooms, with electric light installed. Four of these are already occupied. We also report the addition of a man on our hostel staff, whose duty it is mainly to keep the grounds in order. There have passed through the Hostel in the twelve months 107 transient and 47 permanent boarders. In order to purchase some much needed extras the House Committee gave a Donation At Home in the Federal Tea Rooms. Over 100 guests were entertained, and the sum of £19 was realised. We were sorry to say good-bye to Mrs Cartwright, who had been with us as Matron from the third month of our existence, and who had so loyally helped us, during the difficult times which are inevitable at the beginning of such a new venture.

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Mrs Cartwright carries with her the good wishes of all those who resided under her kindly care.

NATIONAL BOARD OF AUSTRALIA.

The 5th Triennial Convention was held in Auckland in November, 1919. One delegate from Invercargill attended.

A Workers' Conference was held in Christchurch in March, 1919, when many of the delegates had the pleasure of meeting for the first time Miss Amy A. Snelson, National Secretary for Australasia. Two delegates from Invercargill attended.

The New Zealand Summer Conference followed closely upon the Triennial Convention and was held at Hayward's, Wellington, in February, one delegate from Invercargill attending. The leaders of the Conference were Miss Amy A. Snelson, National General Secretary, and Miss Jean Stevenson, National Industrial Secretary.

NATIONAL.

Although at the very inopportune time of Christmas week, the visit to Invercargill of the National General Secretary, Miss Snelson, was much enjoyed by those who were able to take part. The attendance at the Sunday afternoon meeting in Victoria Hall was considerably lessened by bad weather and the holiday season, but the happy time spent together both there and at the Christmas tea, which followed was quite an inspiration to the forty-two who braved the elements. The evening spent by the girls with Miss Snelson has left a pleasant memory, and her next visit to this Association is eagerly anticipated by at least one little group of girls. The proposed scheme for Community Work in Invercargill, as introduced by Miss Snelson, at a meeting with the Advisory Board has been widely discussed, but owing to difficulties with regard to buildings, etc., on the part of the Y.M.C.A., nothing definite has been done. We are hoping to hear shortly that some of these difficulties have been surmounted, and that we may yet more definitely consider the idea of introducing Community Work here.

GIRLS' DEPARTMENT.

Each year impresses upon us the growing need for concentrated work upon the adolescent girls. The All Round Clubs on Monday night prove most popular and the attendance has been good. The subject studies have been Blouse-making physical culture, know your city, glee singing, impromptu speeches and discussions. Two Hearstfire Groups for school girls and one other were formed and continued throughout the year, also two Bible Circles at the Girls' High School, one lead by the General Secretary and one by the Girls' Department Secretary. Members of this Department have joined in the rambles and out-of-door sports whenever possible. On June 2, a High Tea to farewell Miss Hunt was daintily arranged by the girls whose "after-tea" speeches expressed warmly the appreciation of Miss Hunt's work amongst them.

Quite a number dressed up in "Alice In Wonderland" costumes for the party, and the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and the Turtle's Story acted by some, added to the fun of the evening.

Hearstfire parties have been held, and the first Swearing-in Ceremony, with Miss Thomson as Chief Guardian, was attended

by several members of the Board of Directors.

The Japanese Fair by which the girls raised their money for the Foreign Work was most encouraging. Each Hearstfire was in charge of a stall and some of the youthful stall-holders sold their wares from cushions on the floor. On the All Round Club depended the arrangement for the supper.

APPRECIATION.

The thanks of the Association are due to our Hon. physician, Dr Pottinger, who so willingly advises cases of sickness at the Hostel; to Mr C. S. Longuet, Hon. Solicitor; and to Mr J. Hensley, Hon. Auditor. We also thank those who have given gifts and services to both Hostel and Club Rooms or have assisted us at meetings and functions or in other way during the year.

"Thus on we go

Fixing our eyes upon our King,

Though far below;

Unknown, yet not fearing what
the year may bring."

MR. HOLLAND IN FIJI.

LABOUR MEMBER'S INQUIRIES

Speaking in the Paramount Theatre recently, Mr H. E. Holland, chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, referred to his inquiries among the Indians in Fiji regarding the recent industrial troubles. He said he had been assured by the Prime Minister before the party left New Zealand that no restrictions would be placed on members' investigations. Before the party landed at Fiji Sir James Allen asked members to give an undertaking that questions would be put to the Indians. The members were going ashore as the guests of the Fiji Government, and they should not do anything to re-ignite industrial troubles. Mr Holland refused to give this undertaking, and when he landed he got into touch with Indian leaders. He had a "long interview" with them. Later, the "Fiji Times" published a report of his movement, and he was convinced that he had been watched by spies.

His inquiries, added Mr Holland, had shown that the trouble in Fiji had an economic foundation. The coolies demanded an advance to 5s a day, owing to the high cost of living. Once the strike started, the women took a hand, and "did things which probably they ought not to have done" in their dealings with "traitors." But he had been told that the Fijian Government never had employed armed force. The Indian women had presented a petition to the Government on the subject of the increase in the cost of living, and had quoted figures to show that the old wages had become inadequate. They asked for 5s a day as a reasonable wage.

Mr Holland condemned the housing provided for the coolies at Fiji, and said that drastic restrictions had been placed on the Indians' right of meeting and movement. He had learned that Indians were still beaten in connection with their work, and that the moral conditions belonging to the employment of Indians in Fiji were a disgrace to the British Empire. Very many of the Indians wanted to get away from Fiji, but they could not do it.