

Also to acknowledge, with thanks, a grant from the Justice Department of 50 copies of Mr J. Pope's valuable book in Maori entitled "Health for the Maori": dealing with sanitary temperance and other important subjects

Also a gift from Mr James Cappen, of Wellington, of 500 Gospel tracts in Maori, nearly all of which have been distributed and much appreciated by the Maoris.

I have also to acknowledge a gift of £1 from the Union at Hokitika, and to thank the Honorary Secretary, Miss Jack, for her kind and sympathetic letter, which greatly helped and cheered me.

— H. HEWITT,
Superintendent of Department.

UNFERMENTED WINE.

I am sorry there is so little to tell regarding my department of work for the past year.

In our district (Hawke's Bay), considerable cultivation of the vine is carried on at the R.C. Mission Station, but the wine made contains alcohol. I wrote to Father Brinsfield, who has charge of the vines, &c., asking if he could not make unfermented wine? He wrote me saying he would most gladly do so, but, being ignorant of the process, would thankfully avail himself of the services of a capable man who thoroughly understood the business, and would do his best to influence the wine growers in the district. Having written to Messrs. Wright, Munday & Co. on the subject, their answer is rather disappointing, but perhaps someone may be found in Australia or New Zealand to overcome the difficulty.

From the above firm I have received copies of their circulars, &c., and am full of gratitude to God to see the numbers of the Christian Churches in Britain which have for many years past used unfermented wine at the Communion. Their report is for 1887, and no doubt hundreds more might now be added.

By the last number of "Woman's Signal," I see most encouraging meetings are being held all over Scotland by Rev. John Pyper on this very subject.

Our union may remember authorising me to get printed a number of copies of a paragraph from the pen of Rev. Charles Garrett, on the use of Unfermented Wine for Sacramental purposes, which was done, and a copy sent to every Episcopal and Presbyterian minister in New Zealand, as they seem in this matter farther behind the times than any of the other Christian Churches.

I have had many interesting and encouraging answers from the latter body, and am thankful to find it in more general use than I had imagined.

Believing and knowing that Mr. Garrett's words

had done good among us, I wrote telling him so, and thanking him with all my heart for his life-long labours in the temperance cause.

AGNES BIGG;

HYGIENE.

On sending round for reports to the various Unions, I found that the subject of Hygiene has been put altogether on one side, excepting perhaps at Napier, where Miss May Yates was engaged to give two lectures on Hygiene. Dunedin hopes to take up this branch of work during the coming year, and Hokitika writes, asking for helpful information, which I have despatched to the Secretary of that Union.

Attention has been drawn to the urgent necessity of Government appointing properly qualified Meat Inspectors at the various centres. The alarming increase of cancer in our own immediate district compels us to face this question. The Rabbi of the Auckland Hebrew congregation has kindly placed at our disposal some facts, showing that cancer and consumption are extremely rare among the Jews. "Scientific authorities," he says, "agree that we owe our comparative immunity from disease to our meat inspection, which has been carried out since long before the Christian era." The Rabbi of the Wellington Hebrew congregation also writes, saying, "that during his term of seventeen and a-half years not a single case of cancer has occurred among his people." Out of the 6767 deaths registered in New Zealand during 1893, there were 1061 caused by cancer and tuberculous diseases, two ailments which are very common amongst cattle. These facts point to the value of the Jewish regulations for the slaughtering of cattle.

I may also mention in connection with my department that I sent an article to the Ladies' column of the *Southern Cross* condemning the present harmful custom of wearing heavy clothing depending from the waist. As a consequence of which, so authorities tell us, we have serious displacement of the internal organs, as well as other aches and pains too numerous to mention. I have also pointed out the diseases—such as cancer of the breast, etc.—which may be traced more or less directly to the irritating pressure of that monstrosity, the corset.

SYBILLA TWEMLOW.

INFLUENCING THE PRESS.

I regret to say that the Invercargill Union is the only one sending a full report of this department of work. The local Superintendent says:—

During the year our work has been kept prominently before the public. In February, 1894,