

Notes and Comments.

THE awful crimes committed at Winton have roused discussion on two matters: The righteousness and wisdom of abolishing capital punishment, and the urgent need for establishing Foundling Homes.

THE Bills of special import to women at present before the House are: Repeal of the C.D. Acts, one to enable women to practice the profession of the law, and one to remove all disabilities of women.

THE Woodville *Examiner* reports on Miss Kirk's speech at the Palmerston North Convention as follows:—"Miss Kirk's address was a telling one, and she astonished her audience by delving into history and showing the origin of the liquor and licensing system. It appeared that in the time of Queen Elizabeth the farmers and labourers were so well off that the aristocracy were afraid of them. Lord Burleigh suggested that a means should be devised of robbing them of their money, and so destroying their independence, and suggested that the best course would be to establish liquor shops all over the country, so that the farmers and labourers might be induced to spend their money in them, and so lose their independence. The proposition was adopted, and hence the drink traffic of the present day, which had so well carried out the work it was originally intended to do."

WHAT are our Branches doing with regard to the 20,000 new pledges which Rev L. M. Isitt asks his followers to obtain during his absence? The Wellington Union has adopted the following plan:—Having purchased several pledge-books, they keep them moving around all the time. Any member of the Union can take one, and, after doing what she can herself, pass it on to a friend, who, after a short interval, returns it to her. Young people in shops or work-rooms are often able to obtain several signatures, and any organisation such as the Christian Endeavour should be enlisted in this work. There is no time to lose; let all begin at once. We shall be glad to hear what plan any Branch is adopting. It has been stated that the W.C.T.U. has undertaken to raise half the above-mentioned number. We are not aware that any such promise has been given, but there is no reason why we should not set 10,000 before us as our aim. Now then, friends, set to work without delay!

MR ISITT also asked members of the Union to feel themselves responsible for arranging pledge-tables whenever a temperance meeting is being held. Such tables should be placed near the door, so that those who leave early may have an opportunity to sign.

We shall be glad to establish a Query and Answer column should our readers be so minded. Questions may relate to Union, social, political, or home affairs, and for the present must be addressed to the Editors.

A Book to be Read.

By A. W.

"THE CHILD AND CHILD-NATURE."

By THE BARONESS MARENHOLTZ BÜLOW

This admirable little book, which is an exposition of Fröbel's method of education, should be read by all mothers, and indeed, by all who have in any degree the responsibility of the training of children. Motherhood, it plainly shows, should be a profession than which there is none more exalted. The life entrusted to the mother's care is threefold in its relations to nature, humanity, and God. What culture, then, on the mother's part, is demanded to mould the plastic young mind in the perfect shape. The child is a product of nature. There is constantly an interchange of material between man and nature, and nature and man, from birth to the grave. In the kingdoms of nature there is but one law which governs all, man in no wise excepted. It is because the spirit of God lives in nature, and in the human soul, that man is able to understand her. She is God's great interpreter. The need then that the child should early be initiated into nature's marvels is evident. Flowers and fruits, trees and shrubs, the sea, the dry land, mountains and valleys, rivers and streams, the clouds and air, rain and storm, wind and breeze, light, heat, colour, sound, all readily appeal to the sympathies of the child. By their means his faculties of observation are cultivated, and reverence for the marvellous revelations of God in his handiwork is instilled. Having eyes, he shall see, having ears, he shall hear, having a voice he shall proclaim the glories of God.

As a child of humanity his relation as part of a living organisation—society—must be borne in upon him. The constant interaction of his influence on others, and others' influence on him, must be revealed to him and the need of self-conquest urged ever on him. "By gentle, gradual steps, through the rudest and simplest modes of sensual perception to the manifestation of divine beauty in Art and of divine truth in the Word, has God, the Great Educator, led His human children." So shall we do His will, if we follow never so feebly His guidance. Thirdly, in every human being is there the divine spark which must be fanned into flame? To place ourselves in