

PORT CHALMERS.—An interesting meeting was held recently under the auspices of the Union. Our devoted Missionary to the Sailors' Rest went from door to door issuing invitations to a free tea. The hall was crowded. Addresses—Gospel and Temperance—were given by Mesdames Kirkland and Don, and music lent variety to the proceedings.

PALMERSTON NORTH.—At the large Temperance Convention held here on May 24th and 25th, the programme included discussions, papers, open-air demonstration, and huge public meeting. At the latter the Mayor presided, and the speakers were Messrs Bell, M.H.R., Haggan, Dr Newman, and Miss Kirk. Of the address given by the last-named, a correspondent says: "It was decidedly to the point, chaste, calm, and dignified, and well aimed. . . . Probably of some it may be said, 'A woman slew him.'"

The Wellington Convention.

Annual Report.

AUCKLAND.

Another year has cycled round, bringing us to our tenth annual meeting. In reviewing the past, we see how little we have done, and how much we might have done that we have left undone, in this mighty warfare against the curse of our fair country. Those of us who have been privileged to meet together fortnightly have been kept in touch by letter with those of our sisters across the seas, who are hard at work, with pen and voice, swaying the multitude, and awaking the mighty ones of the land to come and join their ranks. While hearing these glad tidings, our hearts have rejoiced to know that we belonged to such a band of noble, self-sacrificing women; and the longing of every heart has been, "Oh, that the women of leisure and ability could be awakened to come and help us do likewise." For still King Alcohol reigns, devastating the land. If the sympathies of our younger sisters could be enlisted, more departments might be worked; but, alas, too many of them fear the ridicule heaped on women taking any part in public work. And it is hard to overcome the teachings of by-gone days, "that it was only right for a woman to give her mind to her house." In a few years these obstacles will be a thing of the past, and, as well as "looking well to the ways of her household," her praise shall be heard "in the gates." At present the working members are all active workers in various churches, and have little leisure for outside work—most of them feeling that calls from home are overdone.

Our Union now numbers 70, with 4 honorary members.

Evangelistic and cottage meetings are worked by our Superintendent in conjunction with the Primitive Methodist Church Mission.

Two petitions have been taken out—one on the repeal of the C. D. Act, and another on Prohibition.

Help is given in distributing the *Prohibitionist*. This is a very important work, and one whereby the membership of our Union might be considerably augmented, for each distributor is supposed to try and get the recipient of the paper to sign the pledge; and as these recipients are mostly women, it would be an easy matter to invite them to come and join our Union.

In the early part of the year a communication was received from the Band of Hope Union, asking for our co-operation in trying to again get scientific temperance instruction into the public schools. A committee was formed, after first obtaining permission from two school committees, whereby six schools were opened to us. Then came the difficulty of finding a suitable person to impart the needful knowledge in a form suitable to school children. The united committees decided that a slight remuneration must be offered to pay expenses, the Band of Hope Union offering to pay half, if our Union would do the other. This decision was conveyed to our Union, but was negatived. The Union decided it would not be wise to expend money in this way, as it would only cover a very small portion of the field of labour, when, if put on the school syllabus, all schools in town and country would be reached. The Band of Hope has engaged one of our members, Mrs Kerr, to visit the six schools.

Another effort was then made. A deputation waited on the Board of Education, and earnestly pleaded past promises that scientific instruction be a class subject. The effort was fruitless, although five of the members were supposed to be in favour of temperance, and it was deemed a very favourable time to present the subject. Alas! for the short-sightedness of men. May the time soon come when women shall have seats on the Board, then we may expect some improvements in its work.

While the Parliament was in Session their proceedings were watched with much interest, and members written to when occasion warranted.

On the 9th November, being a public holiday, Rev Isitt's mission closed with an all-day convention of Temperance workers. This Union provided a luncheon for 100 persons. All took the movement up with spirit and worked well, it proving a great success.