

On the day of the licensing election, or direct veto, most of our members were busy all day at the various voting places, looking up voters and distributing leaflets, etc.

During the year we have held 21 meetings. Public meetings have also been held, one on our Franchise anniversary, and another during Rev Isitt's mission.

We also had a visit from Miss May Yates, from the "Bread and Food Reform League Association." She gave two lectures, but unfortunately they were not a success financially, involving the Union in some loss. But let us hope for a great gain in the matter of hygiene, as a society has been formed in Auckland.

ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE OF MARRIED WOMEN.

(BY MASEY MACLEOD.)

THE economic independence of married women is a subject which is occupying the attention of many women in various parts of New Zealand. As one writer put it recently, "a woman in this colony has a voice in the public affairs of her country, but she has not the right to pay her own milliner's bill." In England also the matter is receiving consideration. That justly popular paper, *The New Age*, discussed the question some months since, pointing out that women of the middle classes are probably the greatest sufferers in this respect. In the higher circles of society a man dare not keep his wife without money to spend as she may think fit lest he so create a scandal. Among the labouring classes a good husband usually places the whole of his earnings in the wife's hands to lay out for the benefit of the entire family. The wife in the middle rank has frequently to ask for every sixpence she may wish to spend. Her husband pays for her boots and bonnets, but not a shilling can she claim as her right. Was it ever thus? Surely, then, some fanatic—some visionary creature—framed the marriage service, wherein the man says, "With all my worldly goods I thee endow!" A nineteenth century form would run "I engage to provide thee with such food and clothing as I think fit; to allow thee money for charity, postage and tram-fares when I feel in the mode so to do."

Of course, it is not easy to settle what proportion of the income a wife should be able to claim as her own. The writer in the *New Age* suggests that where the income is considerable a wife should be able to consider as her private share an amount at least equal to that of the most highly paid domestic in the establishment. With lower incomes a woman would probably be content with

that paid to the maid of all work. This is surely no outrageous claim for one who has to bear and rear the coming generation.

There are many who lift up their hands in holy horror at such an innovation. Put a wife on a level with a servant? Yes, rather than have her treated as a slave. Many slaves were well fed, clothed, and housed, even surrounded with luxury; yet these creature comforts did not make them independent beings, or do away with the necessity for righteous war in the cause of the oppressed.

Not for one moment would I insinuate that even in the middle classes all wives have such cause for complaint. Many just men and true are there who carry out the marriage vow to the very letter.

Think of the friction, the dissension in homes such a law would cause! To be sure there would be discomfort—in those dwellings where injustice reigns. To the truly just man, he who now treats his wife as a partner and an equal, such a regulation would make no difference.

The Home.

BRONCHITIS—ITS CURE.

(BY A. W.)

AMONG those who in this century have given their highest and best for the good of their fellows, Professor Kirk, of Edinburgh, shall not remain unrecognised in the time that is coming. We who have acted on his counsel can testify, and indeed must testify, to the marvellous results of his simple methods. Let us take as an example his treatment of bronchitis. A bran poultice is prepared sufficiently large to cover the shoulders and the nape of the neck. The mother must see to it that it is not too hot: our friend will have the healing process always to be soothing and pleasant to the sufferer. If the poultice is too hot, it should be covered with two or three layers of flannel, as the case requires. There may be removed as the poultice gradually cools. At the same time as the moist heat is being applied to the back, a small towel, wrung out of cold water, should be laid, and at the same time gently pressed, upon the neck and chest. This wet cloth must be covered with a dry one, in order, of course, to keep the bed dry. As soon as the wet cloth has become heated, which will be the case in two or three minutes perhaps, renew with a fresh cloth wrung out of cold water. This should be repeated until the inflammation is conquered and the breathing is normal. If the little sufferer shows signs of sleeping, by all means allow him to do so, but do not remove the poultice or the cold cloth. When the poultice is removed, sponge the little back first with tepid vinegar and