

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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Women's Disabilities.

READ BY MRS K. W. SHEPPARD AT THE
DUNEDIN CONVENTION, IN MARCH.

Freedom is a possession desired by every healthy, living thing in the vegetable and animal kingdom. I do not know whether there exists a state of absolute, individual freedom, but we know that it cannot exist in groups of plants, animals, or human beings. For the freedom of each individual is perforce limited by the desires, wants, and necessities of its fellows. Yet the struggle for freedom goes ceaselessly on, and those who abandon the struggle are degenerated, and must still more degenerate.

The amount of freedom enjoyed by any individual member of a group of unreasoning beings depends entirely upon the relative amount of vitality, energy, force, possessed and exerted by that member. Might, in short, is the sole measure of individual freedom in a primitive and unreasoning community.

When, however, the advantages of living in communities became fully apparent, and reason was brought into operation, it became obvious that some other standard than individual might must be set up to define the limits

of individual liberty. It was seen that the community could not cohere and successfully resist attacks from without unless the disintegrating forces of greed, selfishness, and cruelty were restrained within the group. The freedom of the community became of more importance than the liberty of the individual; right began to take first place, and the force

more and more recognised. And to-day we gauge the civilisations of the past and present by the equity of their laws, and by the freedom and security given to the weakest of their people. We now recognise that the essential of true civilisation is to render justice and fair play, and an equality of opportunity to every member of the community. It is, in

fact, the application of the Golden Rule to the affairs of our civic life.

The non-recognition of this Rule causes disintegration, it leads to injustice and dissension, it erects barriers where none should exist, it allows might to rule instead of right, and inflicts hardships on large sections of the community. In other words, it brings about a reversion to primitive and barbaric conditions.

When we examine the political and legal conditions of this colony, we find a curious mingling

of advanced civilisation and semibarbarism. Cowley says, "The liberty of a people consists in being governed by laws which they have made themselves."

Accepting this definition, we find that only half—the male half—of the people of this colony enjoy the sweets of liberty. The other half—the women—are hampered and restrained by laws admittedly unjust, which they had no voice in making.



MRS. K. W. SHEPPARD,
Late Editor.



MRS. J. M. SMITH,
Late Business Manager.

of might was turned against the forces outside. The whole power of the community was used to redress the wrongs of one of its members, and as civilization progressed, even the slaves of the community came to have recognised rights.

Slowly, but surely, the idea of freedom broadened out, the slaves were set at liberty, and the rights of the common people were

It is true that some ameliorations in the lot of woman have been made, but they have been made fitfully, grudgingly, and partially. None of our legislators have been bold enough to say fearlessly, "Women are as valuable to the State as are men, they have equal intelligence, equal probity, and should therefore have equal rights and privileges with men." Nearly ten years ago, after years of agitation and struggle, the franchise was given to our New Zealand women. It was given to them, after years of hard fighting, by a majority of two. But, in order that the measure might not be wrecked, it was expressly stated that women were not to be treated equally with male electors, but were to be debarred from entering Parliament.

Here is a curious instance of a reversion to the primitive and barbaric idea of the subjection of women. Any thoughtful person will see that the freedom to sit as a representative of the people is a logical sequence to the extension of the franchise to women. And equally obvious is the fact that the question of electing or rejecting women candidates could safely be left to the electors. We do not know of any women who are desirous of serving their country in Parliament. And, as a matter of fact, in South Australia, where the legislators were more logical and just than their brethren in New Zealand, and where the matter has been left to the judgment of the electors, not only has no woman been elected, but we have not heard of one even offering her services. The truth is that so strong is the force of sex-prejudice that a woman would have to be very courageous to become a candidate, and would have to display most exceptional fitness to have the remotest chance of being elected.

By barring women from Parliament in defiance of their logical rights as electors, our legislators are either most fantastically chivalrous, or most barbarically tyrannous. In either case they are out of tune with the spirit of civilisation and Christianity. Do they fear that the modesty of women may be injured by taking part in the proceedings of Parliament? If so, would it not be better to improve the character of their sittings? and would not the presence of women help them to do this? We used to hear of the danger to the modesty of women if they were allowed to vote. Yet we now know that that fear was a baseless one. Are our legislators afraid that the strength of women would be unequal to the strain of a Parliamentary session? If we may judge by the physique of some of our members of Parliament, the task of legislating does not demand any

SPECIAL MUSCULAR DEVELOPMENT.

Are they in doubt as to whether the mental calibre of woman would be equal to the gigantic wrestling with mighty problems which our representatives indulge in? Let us look at this question of mental capacity, for it is on this point that some men like to speak so superiorly. They forget to acknowledge that the average woman is so confined to her home duties that she has not the opportunity of frequent interchange with other minds. Nor is she able to sit down regularly every evening and read magazines or instructive books. And if, in course of time, that leisure and opportunity is afforded her she has by then often lost the taste for that kind of improvement. The men who speak thus slightly forget what increasing demands are made on a woman's intelligence by the care of a family. An

average intelligent wife and mother has to acquire an elementary knowledge of physiology, of hygiene, of dressmaking, of tailoring; she learns the duties of a children's nurse, of a sick nurse, of a housemaid, of a plain cook, and financial problems of a complexity that would puzzle a colonial treasurer, have to be grappled with and solved.

This statement of the case will not, perhaps, convince our superior man of the capacity of a woman's brain. Let us therefore take cases in which the circumstances are alike and in which comparison can be accurately made. It will be admitted that the average boy has more spare time than the average girl. Yet the average school-girl takes the same subjects, and passes the same standards in our primary schools as does the average boy. This does not look like inferior intellect. "Oh, but," it may be said, "there is a differentiation later on between the male and female brain." Let us, therefore, take a later period for comparison. We find that in the Collegiate courses young women take the same work as young men, and have to show the same mental capacity before they gain their degrees of B. A. or M. A. Yet they take their degrees. In law and medicine the same qualifications are exacted before they are allowed to practise. If they become school teachers, their school work is judged by the same standards as that of men who are teachers, and no allowance is made for inferiority of intellect. In teaching, almost the only practical difference that is made between the sexes is that while a woman may do the same work as a man, she will be paid only about half the salary he receives. We think that enough has been said to show that there is no sound reason why women should be debarred from entering Parliament. The question next arises, "Do women suffer because they are not allowed to have representatives of their own sex to watch and take part in legislation?" We think that they do, and that not women alone, but the whole community is seriously affected by our mono-sexual system of representation. By excluding women from Parliament, the electors are

DIVIDED INTO TWO CLASSES,

from one of which alone may representatives be chosen. One half of the electors is therefore excluded from direct representation, and our legislation is therefore as lopsided as is our system of election. If the brain of mankind is bi-sexual, it is a logical inference that one half cannot satisfactorily perform the duties of the whole. And, as a matter of fact, there are few, if any, subjects considered by our legislature which do not affect both sexes. We have heard it seriously stated by a gentleman, and we offer it in all seriousness, that no Parliament can adequately represent the whole of the people which is not composed of representatives of both sexes in equal numbers. The effects of the exclusion of women from their political rights is plainly to be seen in the legislation of the past. Can any one believe that if women had been sitting in Parliament, the shameful C. D. Acts would have been passed? Does anyone think that if women were in Parliament to-day these Acts would be allowed to remain an insult to women, and a disgrace to our Statute Books? If we had women as our representatives would the unfair system by which the State pays its women school teachers half the salary which it pays to men for doing the same work be tolerated? And the evil of unfair payment does

not end here. For the example set by the State is followed by the Boards that govern High schools, and by other local boards, and by private employers. Why should not women receive the same remuneration as men if they do work equal in amount and equal in quality? Why should the Masters and Apprentices Act and the Factory Acts decree that girls shall be paid less than boys? The answer is, of course, that woman is unrepresented in Parliament. And the same spirit of unfairness runs through numbers of our laws. Women are deliberately assigned a position of inferiority. Some little time ago we asked that women should be appointed to visit our gaols, with the powers and position of visiting justices. A visiting justice, we understand, may hear the complaints of prisoners, and listen to charges made against them, and inflict punishments. There are, unfortunately a number of women in our gaols, and it seemed only reasonable and decent that complaints and charges would be more fitly made to a member of their own sex. In reply to our application we were informed that no provision is made by the law for the appointment of women to the office of visiting justice. These unfortunate women were arrested by men, prosecuted by men lawyers for breaches of laws made solely by men, the jurors who decided upon their guilt were all men, the judges who sentenced them were men, their very gaolers are men, and the solitary crumb of comfort in the shape of a woman justice is denied them.

Will not future generations wonder what kind of barbarians we were?

Trial by jury is supposed to be the palladium of our rights and liberties. It was

EXPRESSLY PROVIDED IN MAGNA CHARTA

that all persons accused of crime should be judged by their peers in order that they might be protected from oppression. The exclusion of women from the jury list is a deliberate infringement of this admirable provision.

It appears to me that there are many cases where women and children are concerned, where it is absolutely necessary that women should be on the jury in order that justice may be done.

No doubt we shall be told that women would not like to serve on the jury, and that it would often happen that women would be unable to serve their country in this way. In answer to the first statement we may admit its truth. But we may point out that men also dislike the position of jurymen and will avoid it if possible. Yet they accept the inevitable, and few of them would seriously advocate that trial by jury should be abolished. With regard to the second objection, if the health of a woman rendered her unfit to perform the duty for which she was summoned, a private explanatory note to the Registrar from her medical man, or even her husband, would be sufficient ground for the court to grant her leave of absence.

Let me now draw attention to the question of the economic partnership of husband and wife. In this matter the law and the Church take opposite sides, and both are equally unfair. The Church forces the man to solemnly endow his wife with all his worldly goods. The law takes no notice of this oath, but gives the man an absolutely tight grip not only on what he possesses at the time of marriage, but whatever may be gained in the future by the joint exertions of himself and his wife. We all know of many cases where a

competence has been earned mainly through the thrift and energy of the wife. Yet from the day she marries until the day of her death, the woman never has a penny but what her husband may dole out to her. She has worked as hard as he, she may have shown far more versatility, and resource, than her husband, but all that she is entitled to, by law, is the most meagre of food, and the scantiest of clothing. If she dies before her husband, she cannot will a shilling of the property that she has helped to gain to her children. By law it is

ALL HER HUSBAND'S,

and he may dispose of it quite regardless of her wishes. Surely a rational marriage law, a law framed by men and women acting together, would provide that when a man and woman love each other sufficiently to enter into a life-long partnership, their property and income should be held in common, and their partnership should be economic as well as consubstantial.

There are other aspects in which the economic position of the wife is unfairly laid down by the law. A wife may not enter into partnership, even with another woman, without the consent of her husband, no matter how worthless he may be. In the guardianship of children all power is centred in the husband, mainly through the sole control of the family income which the law gives him. It may be said, "but a wife has power to pledge the credit of her husband." That is true, so far as bare necessities of life are concerned, and it is also true that he has the power to advertise that he will not be responsible for her debts, although she may be earning her own living.

We freely admit that there are many men who live above the law, and treat their wives fairly, and even generously. But there are many who do not, who cause their wives bitter humiliation, and these latter receive the sanction of the law. We are quite aware of laws which have been passed of recent years for the amelioration of the condition of women, but much still remains to be done.

In the matter of illegitimacy we see the one-sidedness of laws made by men alone. The woman risks her life, she bears a life-long brand of shame, the child is called by her name, and her efforts to earn a living are hampered by the little life that has come unsought. But the man walks with head erect, and, save for the payment of a quite inadequate lump sum, or a trifling weekly contribution for a few years, goes scot free.

Even the recent Factory Acts, good in intention, show how difficult it is for one sex to legislate fairly for the other. The fixing of the weekly working hours for women at a less number than for men, and making it imperative to obtain a permit for women to work overtime, was no doubt chivalrously meant by the framer of the Acts. But the effect has been to assign to women, perforce of law, a distinctly

INFERIOR ECONOMIC POSITION.

Men may be free, but women may not be free to work as their strength and inclination may dictate. And the result is that employers who are inclined to accord to women workers an equality of opportunity, find themselves so hampered by legal penalties that they refuse to employ women excepting for inferior work.

The few instances here given should be sufficient to show that the disabilities of women are not a mere figment of the imagination.

They illustrate the truth of the axiom that one class cannot be trusted to legislate for another. They show that there is need for a radical change in the conception of the sphere of woman.

We do not suppose that the passing of any one Bill will at once remove all the inequalities and inequities of the law concerning the sexes.

But the passing of a Bill which contains a pronouncement in general terms of the right of women to civil and political freedom, and places in the hands of women power to help themselves, would be a great advance towards a truer civilisation.

It has been said that "Mankind can never have a comprehensive view of any subject, until the mind of woman has been brought to bear upon it equally with that of man. The two sexes have separate points of view; different thoughts, feelings, and modes of judgment, and no theory of life or any part of it can be complete till the distinct views of each have been formed on it and mutually compared. There is no subject which man has conceived, or shall conceive, or pursue, which woman should not also conceive and pursue according to her powers. Until she shall do this, neither she nor man will have a full or rational conception of the whole." We heartily concur in these remarks, and we have great hope for the future. Many of the best and most thoughtful men are on our side. Let us resolve to educate and to agitate for a truer recognition of the mutual interests of men and women.

NEWS OF THE UNIONS

We rely on our local Unions to send us news for this column. We cannot evolve it out of our inner consciousness.]

Auckland.

We held a special meeting to welcome home Mrs and Miss Dewar, who went as delegates to the Convention from the Auckland and Onehunga Unions respectively. There was a good attendance, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs Dewar for her interesting and very clear report. The President's address was highly appreciated, a large number of copies being taken away for distribution. Afternoon tea made a pleasant break in the proceedings.

Ponsonby.

This newly-revived branch has elected officers as follows:—President, Mrs Thorne; secretary, Mrs Blomfield; treasurer, Mrs Ready; visitor, Sister Kenneth; superintendent of mothers' meetings, Mrs Mitchell. Under the active guidance of these ladies it is hoped to do some good work in the district during the year.

Gisborne.

At the March meeting three new members were enrolled. It was decided

to form a sewing committee so as to provide monthly boxes for our poor. Mrs Graham gave an interesting address on "The necessity of a pure mind," and a quantity of literature was distributed.

Colyton.

We sent, from our March meeting, a message of hearty greeting and encouragement to Convention. Business arising from the minutes was dealt with, and matters connected with next Licensing Poll discussed.

Our April meeting was postponed to the 23rd, so as to receive our delegate's report of Convention. We also discussed the N.Z. Corresponding Secretary's circular re the Organising Agent, and the inevitable question of funds for the same. Extracts from the President's address at Convention were read with much interest. It was reported that letters were sent to each of the candidates for the Licensing Committee of our district, to three of which courteous replies had been received.

Wellington.

The meeting was held on April 2nd, in the Girls' Association Room. Two new members were elected. A strenuous effort is being made to reduce the mortgage on the building by £50, which would leave the new mortgage at £400. The delegate to the Convention gave a full report of the transactions, and placed once more before members the duty of obtaining new subscribers and also advertisements for WHITE RIBBON. Surely the only women's paper published in the colony should receive the helpful support of all right thinking women. A supply of the President's Convention address was referred to, and it was decided to distribute freely. During the month, two memorable days have been spent. On the 18th, Mrs W. H. George gave a garden party, to commemorate the anniversary of opening the Girls' Room, the weather was perfect, and a most enjoyable time was spent. On the 28th, Mrs Keene, of Island Bay, kindly invited all girls of the Association and their friends to a garden party, and entertained them most royally.

Brunner.

Since our last report we have had a visit from Miss Balgarnie, whose addresses and meetings were well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all the Temperance people. On Feb. 25th, we, with the Greymouth Union, were invited by the Reefton Temperance friends to a most enjoyable picnic at Totara Flat.

Feilding.

Our meeting was held April 2nd. It was resolved to ask the local daily papers to allow us space for Temperance articles and extracts, also that the gentlemen of the Feilding Temperance Society be requested to assist us in this matter. It was resolved to have an instructive paper read at each meeting.

At our March meeting it was resolved to advertise in the WHITE RIBBON.

Greymouth.

Since last report we have held two Union meetings, and two Missionary meetings, and also two very successful Sailors Socials. Miss Balgarnie's meetings were a great success.

Christchurch.

At the meeting held on April 22nd, it was arranged to give a Tea at the Jubilee Home on the 7th inst. Correspondence was received from Messrs H. D. Bedford, and J. F. Arnold, M.H.R's. The following were elected superintendents of departments:—Juvenile Work, Miss Roberts; Home Meetings, Miss Gordon; Temperance Instruction, Miss M. Smith; Social Purity, Mrs Guise; Jubilee Home, Miss Clark and Mrs Pedlar; Children's Aid Society, Misses Roberts, Gordon and Mrs Field; Samaritan Home, Mrs Malcolm.

Nelson.

One new member was enrolled at our March meeting. A resolution was passed protesting against the action of the "Trade," and also against the peculiar views and finding of the Magistrate, in connection with the Newtown case. It was resolved to do everything possible to further the return of those candidates for the Licensing Committee who favour ten o'clock closing.

At our meeting held on April 14th, Mrs Williams read a circular inviting help towards the expenses of an Organising Agent, when it was resolved that all the members be asked to give a small sum toward so necessary a work. A discussion arose on the Women's Disabilities Bill, and it was decided to send to Mrs Sheppard for a copy.

Tariki.

At the March meeting, the circular from our President was discussed. It was decided to advertise our meetings in the WHITE RIBBON. A friend kindly gave a donation to the funds of the paper.

Reefton.

Our monthly meetings are held at the home of our president, and are

always enjoyable and instructive. Mothers' meetings are held weekly, in the homes of some of our members at Black's Point and Crushington, and have proved most helpful to the Temperance cause. The distribution of literature has also been a great help.

Dunedin.

At the meeting held on 5th inst. Mrs Mazengarb was unanimously elected as president and Mrs Heatly as agent for the WHITE RIBBON. It was agreed to print an account of the work of the union and of the Sailors' Rest, together with the balance-sheet of the latter, and send copies to subscribers. Mrs Peter Dick continued her report of Convention. A special committee was formed in connection with the Rest.

Petone.

At our last meeting it was decided to form a union at Lower Hutt. We at Petone vote well, but our neighbours drag us down, so we thought we would try and pull them up, and could think of no more effective way than opening a W.C.T.U. there. We were glad to hear of so much good work being done at Convention, and regret funds did not permit of our sending a delegate.

Waihi.

We hold our meetings on the first Thursday in the month, and special ones when required. Our membership has grown. There have been several elections here lately, which have needed the help and interest of the Temperance people, who have all worked well. The officers elected at the annual meeting of the Union, held on March 15th, were:—President, Mrs Savage; secretary, Mrs Heard, assistant-secretary, Mrs McRae; treasurer, Mrs Turnbull. We have decided in future to hold the annual meeting in December, so as to fit in with other unions.



* SOCIETIES. *



Canterbury Women's Institute.

At a meeting of the committee of the Canterbury Women's Institute, correspondence was received from the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Socialist Party to the effect that delegates had been appointed to attend meetings of delegates in reference to the quarterly public meetings. In regard to the first public meeting, it was

decided that the Institute's delegates should be instructed to vote in favour of the subject being "Children of the State." Mrs Sievwright, president of the National Council of Women of New Zealand, wrote, forwarding the following resolution:—"That whereas the disparity between a woman's working week or day and that of a man, the payment of women on holidays, and other arbitrary differences between the sexes, established by the Factories Act, 1901, have nothing to commend them, are vexatious to employers and employed, and must necessarily tend to the rejection of women in the printing and other trades eminently suitable for women, the National Council of Women respectfully recommends that the said Factories Act, 1901, be so amended—(1) that except as to sub-section 3 of Section 23, 'woman' shall be held to mean 'man' and 'male worker' to include 'female worker,' and (2) that the work, hours, and rate of pay, etc., of girls under sixteen, shall be subject to the same regulations as those of boys of the same age." Mrs Sievwright explained that she intended bringing this resolution before the Executive of the National Council, and asked that the Institute should strongly endorse it. The matter was discussed last August, when the Institute decided:—"That this Institute, while desirous that the hours of labour should be shorter for both sexes, and especially for boys and girls, is yet opposed to a privilege being granted to girls which may be used to cut them out of trades in which they have already obtained a footing." Members of the Institute felt that a principle was involved, that not privilege, but justice, was what thinking women were desirous of, and it was resolved that the Secretary should write to Mrs Sievwright, enclosing the resolution. The subjects to be discussed at the Executive meeting of the National Council were then considered, and the following were agreed upon:—"Removal of all Disabilities from Women," "Children of the State," "Inspection of all Institutions to which Persons are Committed," "Universal Old Age Pensions," "Municipal Reform," and "Women Sanitary Inspectors."

At a general meeting, held on May 1st, further arrangements were made for public meeting to be held on May 8th re Children of the State. Attention was called to the fact that official documents addressed to recipients of old age pensions were enclosed in envelopes

bearing the inscription, "On Old Age Pension Business." The members of the Institute were unanimously of opinion that this was making the affairs of old age pensioners unnecessarily public, and was calculated to cause unnecessary distress to sensitive old colonists. It was resolved—"That this Institute is of opinion that an alteration of the law, which allows Crown lands to be offered for sale, is urgently needed, and trusts that a law prohibiting these sales will be passed during the coming session of Parliament."

OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

The following letter has been received in reply to the greeting of our N. Z. Corresponding Secretary:—

Congregational Church,
Collins-street, Melbourne,
27th April, 1903

DEAR MISS POWELL,

As letter-writer to the Triennial Convention of the W.C.T.U. of Australasia, I write, on behalf of the delegates now assembled, to thank our sisters in New Zealand for their kind greetings and cordial expressions of sympathy, which were much appreciated when your letter was read at Convention this morning.

Wishing you still greater success in your work,

Yours in W. R. bonds,
ALICE C. DEVEREUX.

World's W.C.T.U. Bulletin.

From Miss Slack's interesting Bulletin for February we glean the following items:—

WORLD'S CONVENTION, GENEVA, JUNE 27TH TO 11TH. Amongst those who are giving us valuable assistance at Geneva is Mdlle. Merle D'Aubigné (daughter of the historian). Madame Gautier, at the request of the committee, is writing a short history, in French, of the World's W.C.T.U., for circulation in Switzerland. British Y's are intending having a summer school at Geneva. The World's officers are hoping to carry out a scheme by which the girls of Geneva will be influenced. Lady Henry Somerset has consented to be again nominated as President of the World's W.C.T.U.

GERMANY.—The International Temperance Congress was expected to meet at Bremen April 14th to 19th. This is the first time Germany has been

favoured with the presence of the Congress, and as eminent scientists as well as other distinguished men and women are among its members, Temperance work in the Fatherland should receive great impetus. Fraulein Otilee Hoffman organised the Deutsche Abstinente Frauenbund, which is affiliated to the W.W.C.T.U., in 1900. Through a White Ribboner six coffee taverns have been started. Another White Ribboner has opened a cocoa and tea room in Bremen.

INDIA.—All over India interest is being shown in the proposed Frances Willard Memorial Inebriates' Home.

MADAGASCAR.—In several day schools quarterly Temperance addresses are given.

JAPAN.—Miss Smart has secured for the Japan W.C.T.U. permission from the authors and publishers of the latest and best Scientific Temperance Physiologies to translate and publish their books in Japanese.

MEXICO.—Three L.T.L.'s have been organised.

A Temperance Convention.

Having a few hours to spare on April 10th, I looked in at the Convention of Temperance Workers which was being held in Christchurch on that and the following days.

The personnel of the Convention was decidedly interesting. First of all, an M.H.R. was in the chair—a happy augury of a time when all our legislators shall be men (and women?) of not only sober habits themselves but ready to further any means which may help to bring their fellows to a like condition. Then, prominent among the most active members of the little company were several of the teaching profession. To mould the future of a country and its inhabitants first gain the ear of the parents, and next of the day school teachers. Bright indeed with promise is the district whose state school teachers realise their high privilege and holy calling, and throw their enormous influence directly on the side of temperance. Next to be noted was the number of young people who were delegates to the Convention, their presence not only giving freshness and enthusiasm to the proceedings, but betokening the fact that should the present leaders fall by the way, there will not be wanting well equipped men and women to take their places.

As to the discussions and deliberations, it is not my purpose here to record them, but I may note that during

the few hours I was present at the Convention, the prominent idea was "The youth of the colony for Temperance." And the youthful speakers were the most emphatic on this point. The boys and girls of to-day, said they in effect, will be the voters at the next election. Get hold of them. The young men and maidens of to-day will be our judges, our doctors, our professors, our politicians, our business men, our teachers, of fifteen years hence. Get hold of them.

Band of Hope work, too, came in for special pleading. Teach the children not only to abstain but also why they should abstain—the child's natural *why* should not be stifled. Teach them not only to abstain from alcohol, but from everything that mars or deforms God's noblest work. Give them practical instruction in matters pertaining to healthful diet, physical exercises, etc. Interest them in Nature, in everything, in fact, that will make them better fitted to resist the claims of alcohol should the evil ever seek to gain a hold. Make the Band of Hope true to its name in every sense of the word. Set an ideal before the young minds. Do not allow the dialogue to become a vehicle for the portrayal of vice and folly. Get hold of the children.

Naturally, the matter of Scientific Temperance Instruction in schools did not escape notice, and, in the opinion of those teachers present, the best way of securing this greatly desired end is to include it in the subject of physiology, as is done in the schools of the Dominion of Canada.—ONLOOKER.

Australasian Convention.

No report has yet reached us of the Fifth Triennial Convention of the Australasian W.C.T.U., held in Melbourne, April 28th to May 1st. The programme, however, is to hand, and, judging from its contents, no pains were spared in the matter of organisation.

The amount of business crowded into the few days is astonishing. Long reports or speeches were evidently not to be in order, as ten minutes only is the time set down for the reading of a report and discussion thereon!

The programme is enriched by portraits of Miss Willard, Lady Henry Somerset, and a number of past and present Australasian W.C.T.U. officials. The quotations at the head and foot of many of the pages seem to us a particularly happy idea.

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ORGANISED - 1885.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity."

President:

MRS A. R. ATKINSON, Arbury, Wadestown, Wellington.

Vice-President at large:

MRS SCHNACKENBERG, Mount Albert, Auckland

Corresponding Secretary:

MISS POWELL, 28, Windmill-rd, Christchurch

Assistant Corresponding Secretary:

MISS TWEMLOW, c/o Dr Riley, Pirie street, Dunedin.

Recording Secretary:

MISS MAUNDER, Hawera.

Treasurer:

MRS HILL, Bluff Hill, Napier.

OKAIAWA W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets in the Church on the last WEDNESDAY in the month, at 2.30 p.m.

President:.....MRS MAUNDER.

Secretary:.....MISS SCOTT.

CHRISTCHURCH W.C.T.U.

GENERAL MEETING second Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.; Educational Meeting fourth Wednesday, 3 p.m.; at the Metaphysical Club Rooms, Gloucester Street.

President—MISS POWELL, 28 Windmill Road.
Recor. Sec.—Mrs Wicks, Madras-st, St. Albans.
Corres. Sec.—Miss W. W. Smith, P.O. Box 114.
Treasurer—MRS. C. FERGUSSON.

KAIAPOI W.C.T.U. COFFEE ROOMS.

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NAPIER W. C. T. U.

THE Union meets every alternate Thursday in St. Paul's Schoolroom, at 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Miller. Treas.—Mrs R. Saunders. Recor. Sec.—Miss Howe. Corres. Sec.—Mrs E. A. Israel.

AUCKLAND W. C. T. U.

GENERAL Meeting in the Central Mission Hall, Albert Street, Second and Fourth Wednesday, 3 p.m. Executive meets 2.30. President—Mrs. Dewar, Ponsonby. Secretary—Mrs Daldy, Hepburn St. Treasurer—Mrs Hughes, Mount Eden. WHITE RIBBON Agent—Mrs R. M. Wallis, Mount Eden Road.

WELLINGTON W.C.T.U. President, Mrs Kirk, 30, Pirie-st. Sec.—Miss C. E. Kirk, 30, Pirie Street. Treas.—Miss E. Wilkinson, 20, Pirie-st. "White Ribbon" Agent—Mrs Amos, Owen-st. Union meets first Thurs. each month, alternately Newtown Girls Room, 7.30 p.m., and Wesley Class Room, 3 p.m. Girls' Association Rooms, Constable-street, Newtown. Evening Classes and Socials. All Girls Invited.

SANSON W. C. T. U.

THE UNION meets the first and third Wednesday, in the Vestry of the Wesleyan Church. Pres.—Miss Harris, Sec.—Mrs Crichton. Treas.—Mrs Wrigley.

BLENHEIM W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on the first Tuesday in the month at 3 p.m. Pres.—Mrs Rose, Kegworth. Sec.—Mrs Griffen. Treas.—Mrs Hay. WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs W. Parker.

FEILDING W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on the first Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m. in Riverside Hall. President: Miss Minchin; Secretary, Mrs Pickering; Treasurer, Mrs Cowles; WHITE RIBBON Agent, Mrs Burnley.

DEVONPORT W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets on the last Thursday in the month, in the Wesleyan Schoolroom, at 3 p.m. President—Mrs Thorne. Secretary—Mrs Little. Treasurer—Mrs Butler.

TARIKI W.C.T.U.

THE UNION meets every second Thursday in the month at 7.30 p.m. President—Mrs Fenwick. Secretary—Mrs Jemison. Treasurer—Mrs Waite.

THE WHITE RIBBON.

EDITOR ... MISS L. M. SMITH, Box 114, CH.CH.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR ... MISS JESSIE MACKAY.

BUSINESS MANAGER ... MISS L. M. SMITH, Box 114, Christchurch.

Please Note.

Will readers and subscribers please note change of address for both literary and business communications? Confusion is frequently caused through the failure of correspondents to accurately address their letters.

The White Ribbon:

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1903.

Personal.

The chief editorial chair has been occupied for eight years by one so uniquely fitted for the position by natural endowment and by wide experience that we need scarcely say that it is with much of fear and trembling that the newly-appointed Editor takes up her task. Still, it is always well to have the standard set high, for however far one may fall short of reaching that standard, a higher mark will certainly be attained than would be possible were the aim low.

Our readers will all rejoice to know that as her associate the Editor has been so fortunate as to secure the services of Miss Jessie Mackay, whose name is so well known in literary circles, and whose article on Barmaids, which appeared in our pages a few months since, has been so highly appreciated by the New Zealand unions.

It will be the constant endeavour of the present Editors to maintain the broad view which the WHITE RIBBON has always taken of women's duties and responsibilities. To this end we ask the kind co-operation of our readers, whether members or not of the W.C.T.U.

Women's Disabilities.

We should like to draw the attention of our readers to the paper on Women's Disabilities, read before the Dunedin Convention by Mrs Sheppard, and which is published in this issue. After

the reading of the paper a number of resolutions were passed, and all save one appear in the report of the proceedings of Convention. Strange to say, that one which, by some misadventure, was omitted, was the most important of all, inasmuch as it has to do with the definite work of the unions.

The resolution reads thus:—"The delegates here assembled pledge their unions to unceasing agitation for the removal of the civil and political disabilities of women."

The unions throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand will therefore see that whatever work they may do or leave undone, they are pledged to carry on active and unceasing warfare against those legal enactments which bind and oppress women and hinder their full development, both as individuals and as the mothers of the race.

"Mankind in the Making."

The writer of the paragraph referred to by our correspondent, "An English Son," which appeared in the February issue, is Mrs Frances Swiney, who, we presume, as an Englishwoman, speaks for her countrywomen. We fancy "An English Son" has scarcely comprehended the ground of her accusation. As English law stands, law made by English men—sons of English mothers—a woman is placed in the same category with children, lunatics, and criminals. Now, one may and should reverence children, treat the imbecile with affection, and at least pity the criminal, but let "An English Son" ask himself if the most lavish display of these sentiments would in any wise make up to a man for the loss of the right to conduct his own business affairs, to take his share in the government of his own country, and to order his life as he thinks becoming. Let him ask himself, too, if he thinks such

deprivation would tend to produce a finer man, or one better fitted to become an "ancestor." Would the privilege naturally conferred on infancy, or on mental or moral weakness, compensate him for loss of justice?

It is not pampering and petting that true women desire, but the right to take their share of the burdens and responsibilities of life, the right to order their own life according to their own conscience, the right to play their part in the world in such manner as their own taste and ability direct. And we cannot expect woman to attain to her full stature until she is developed by such freedom.

Mr A. S. Adams, speaking at the public meeting held in connection with the Dunedin Convention, put the matter thus cogently: He said that, "In the past men had been very complimentary to women, but they had not dealt righteously by them. Women had been treated like hot-house plants, and had been stifled in the artificial atmosphere thus created for them. Men had flattered women, and coquetted with them, and at the same time had cheated them out of their legitimate rights. The hand that rocked the cradle had got tired of ruling the world theoretically, and now desired to make application of this oft-repeated maxim."

Chronic Drunkards.

Mr H. G. Ell, M.H.R., is nothing if not pertinacious, and we are therefore exceedingly glad to note that he has taken up the cause of the chronic drunkard of the depraved class. There is strong hope that the matter will not be allowed to drop until some provision has been made for those poor creatures who spend their time between the gaol and the police court. Mr Seddon's reply to Mr Ell is decidedly non-committal. Does he expect Prohibition to be generally carried at the next Licensing Poll, or does he simply mention the probable result of the reform so as to avoid the necessity for a direct ye or nay to the demand to have the pro-

visions of the Inebriate Homes Act, passed in 1898, carried into effect? The marvel is that the utter absurdity of the present mode of procedure, simply from an economic point of view, has not penetrated the brain of the taxpayer who is charged with the support of these drunkards and the whole paraphernalia of police and warders and courts and gaols. If the general public would only look into the matter, and then make its voice heard, we venture to think it would not be long before these unhappy creatures were safely housed from temptation and placed in a position where they would be largely self-supporting.

Our Illustration.

It is with the greatest pleasure—a pleasure shared, we are sure, by all our readers—that we accede to the wish of our N.Z. President and give as our illustration this month the portraits of the late Editor and Business Manager. From us no eulogistic words are needed. Their work has spoken for itself, and their praise is not only in all the unions but on the lips of many women and men outside the White Ribbon ranks.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

ORGANISER.—We have much pleasure in informing our readers that Miss Hughes, of Auckland, has consented to act as our organiser, and will start work as soon as the necessary funds are forthcoming. Will unions kindly reply to Miss Powell's circular without delay, so that no more time may be lost.

THE UNIONS' RESPONSE.—Since the above paragraph was written, Miss Powell reports that the unions are responding most encouragingly to the appeal for funds for the organiser's work.

NATIONAL COUNCIL.—We are asked to notify that the meeting of the National Council of the Women of New Zealand has been postponed till September.

CHILDREN OF THE STATE.—The members of the Canterbury Women's Institute are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts to initiate quarterly public meetings in Christchurch for the discussion and elucidation of social and political problems. It is quite probable that the choice of sub-

ject had much to do with the large attendance at the first meeting. The sad Burnham fatality, and other cases of kindred nature, are fresh in the public mind, and many are feeling that the best of everything is not too good for those "little ones" who, by ancestors or others, have been so grievously "offended."

BIBLE IN SCHOOLS.—This important question is now, we hope, in a fair way towards a satisfactory settlement. The promise of the Premier to promote the passage of a Referendum Bill, during the coming session of Parliament, is certainly a step in the right direction, both as regards this and other matters of deep national concern.

A SIGN OF THE TIMES.—What may seem a somewhat significant sign of the times (says a Bristol correspondent of the "Daily News") came under my notice recently. A friend of mine had occasion to advertise for a cook for his family, and also for a teacher of music for his children. He received nine replies to the former advertisement, and no fewer than 389 to the latter.

THE W.C.T.U. IN INDIA.—A reform which is sweeping over India is the abolishing of barmaids from drinking places. Calcutta has just followed in the footsteps of Rangoon. This step has been brought about by the W.C.T.U. of Bengal. A large proportion of these barmaids in India are English and Irish girls, taken there for ostensibly honest employment.—*Outlook*.

SWISS LADY LAWYER.—Dr. Anna Mackenroth, who is the first woman to practise as a lawyer in Zürich, has won her case for a poor betrayed, deserted girl whom she was defending.—*Exchange*.

A LADY SURGEON.—From the *Englishwomen's Review* we cull the following:—Dr. Mary Scharlieb has been appointed consulting physician for the diseases of women to the Royal Free Hospital in Gray's Inn Road. This is a notable triumph for women doctors, the hospital being a general institution and not one devoted to female patients only. Mrs. Scharlieb's degrees include not only M.D., M.B., and B.S., but also the highest degree open to either sex in the medical profession, Master of Surgery.

CONVENTION NUMBER.—As there are still on hand a large number of the April issue of the *WHITE RIBBON*, the Business Manager will be glad to receive orders for extra copies.

* CORRESPONDENCE *

To the Editor.

Hawera, April 28th, 1903.

DEAR MADAM,

I should be glad if you will allow me to correct a printer's error in report of the minutes of Convention. It should read "Mrs P. Dick gracefully expressed" etc., instead of "gratefully."

Thanking you in anticipation,

I remain,

Yours in the work,

J. E. MAUNDER,

N. Z. Recording Secretary.

"MANKIND IN MAKING."

To the Editor.

DEAR MADAM,—Your article on "Mankind in Making" contains an assertion that English sons now treat their mothers as imbeciles.

I am only a temporary visitor in the colony, and cannot speak for colonial sons; but I do take up the defence of English sons, and I assert that one of the strongest points in English manly character is that of deep affection, reverence, and respect for the mother. Possibly the writer in your paper regards a mother as being treated as imbecile when her adult son—strong in brain and body—treats her as requiring tenderness and care, and strives to relieve her of the stress and responsibility of life's burdens by taking or sharing them himself.

I speak of *adult* sons, not of mere boys, who are irresponsible and feather-brained, and who, in the whirl of juvenile delusions, and in their inability to see life as it really is, are often scarcely responsible beings, and blind to the value of many of the chief things in life—to the self-sacrifice and love of the mother amongst them.

I am, etc.,

AN ENGLISH SON.

[The subject is briefly dealt with in our leading columns.—ED. *WHITE RIBBON*.]

Some say alcohol steadies the nerves. If so, why do surgeons abstain before performing a delicate operation?—*Good Health*.

In Memoriam.

Helen Blackburn.

From the *Englishwoman's Review* for January we take the following *In Memoriam* sketch of its late Editor, Miss Helen Blackburn, who passed away at her residence, 18, Grey Coat Gardens, Westminster, on January 11, aged sixty years:—

There has lately passed away at her residence in Grey Coat Gardens, Miss Helen Blackburn, one of the pioneers of the movement for improving the position of women politically, industrially, and educationally, which was so prominent a feature of the second half of the nineteenth century. Miss Blackburn had a wide and accurate knowledge of the chief events connected with this movement, and in many of them she had taken an active personal part, devoting herself to the various phases of the work with a remarkable self-devotion and loyalty. Those who worked with her were constantly indebted to her wide knowledge of what had gone before and to her readiness to grasp what was essential to the immediate work in hand, and, most of all, to her gentle courtesy and generous appreciation of the part taken in the work by her colleagues. In committee no one was more tenacious of her own opinion, formed, as it invariably was, after careful thought and with due consideration to the special circumstances of the case: but if the decision went against her no one was more loyal in using every endeavour to make the conclusion arrived at a practical success. She acted as secretary, and afterwards as honorary secretary, for many years to the Central Committee for Women's Suffrage in London. At an earlier period she had been secretary to the Bristol and West of England Women's Suffrage Society. She was a strenuous opponent of legislative restrictions on the labour of adult women, and contended that what women wanted was more and not fewer opportunities of earning an honest living. She edited for many years, and up to the time of her death, the *ENGLISHWOMAN'S REVIEW*. Her ingenuity in devising new ways of presenting her views to the public may possibly have been the form in which she inherited her father's gifts as an inventor. He was driving about Regent's Park in a horseless carriage of his own construction more than twenty years before the appearance of the modern motor-car. Miss Blackburn

had marked antiquarian tastes. She collected and arranged an interesting series of portraits of abbesses, peeresses, and other notable women who in days long gone by had represented the spindle side in the councils of the nation. She presented this collection a few years ago to the Women's Hall in connexion with University College, Bristol. Her father's family were settled at St. Peter's, Isle of Thanet, from the seventeenth century. On her mother's side she traced her descent to a brother of John Knox. One of her ancestors was Thomas Coventry, Lord Keeper and Chancellor for sixteen years during the reign of Charles I. He became possessed of one of the shirts worn by the King at the time of his execution. He wore two, and desired his groom of the chambers to give him "a shirt more than ordinary by reason the season is so sharp as probably may make me shake, which some may imagine proceeds from fear. I would have no such imputation. I fear not death." This shirt, stained with blood, was handed down through nine generations of Miss Blackburn's family. It was shown at the Stuart Exhibition a few years ago. Miss Blackburn was born in Ireland, and spent her youth at Valentia, where her father managed some slate quarries belonging to the Knight of Kerry. She cherished a warm affection for the land of her birth, and took a strong interest in all that concerned its welfare. Her knowledge of Ireland and of Irish life and character made her a staunch supporter of the maintenance of the union with Great Britain.

MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT.

BOOKS.

Baby's Firsts, Almost a Man, Almost a Woman, and Teaching Truth, all by Mary Wood Allen, M.D., 1/-; *The House We Live In*, by Vesta J. Farnsworth, 4/6. The Echo Publishing Company, Limited, Melbourne.

"There is nothing new under the sun," said the writer of old, and the phrase often recurs to one's mind when looking through books. The same topics and problems come up for discussion and elucidation again and again, and perchance some may say, why this expenditure of the energy needed to send forth these or those pages? And the reply may be twofold. Is it not a truth that all minds are not sensitive to the same presentation of thought or fact? One form of words will fall un-

heeded on the senses, another may penetrate the very fibre of the inmost being, and change the current of that life. If this be so there need be no apology for the making of many books, nor for the reviewing of the same. Then again, even for those who vibrate readily to the sound of almost any sincere voice, is there not need for such voices to be ever and anon speaking? We need impelling to take down the goods from the storehouse of the brain, to examine, and to use them. We are too apt to relegate much of our knowledge and experience to the lumber room, to be used but rarely. Do we not recognise this—perchance unconsciously—as we read, and re-read (those of us who do) the pages of our Bibles both in our homes and in our churches. The words and sentences and their import are very largely already in our possession, but we need to let our eye light on their outward form, or our ear listen to their sound, in order that we may bring forth and use the same.

The foregoing is not in the nature of an apology, but simply "meditative." A parcel of books has been placed in my hands, all dealing with that most sacred of subjects child-life. Four of these publications are little booklets of from 50 to 70 pages, printed in good, clear type, and altogether such that the busiest and most weary woman need not shrink from perusing, should they be thrown in her way.

Of the four, *Baby's Firsts* may well occupy foremost place in our notice. Written by one who is a medical doctor as well as a mother, the various chapters will be found essentially practical in their treatment of the first things in a baby's life. One guiding principle is, interfere with nature as little as possible, do not be in haste to "artificialise" the little morsel of humanity or his surroundings.

The chapters on the First Bath and First Dress are most explicit. Dr. Allen insists on the child being left at least forty-eight hours before attempting to array him in the garments so lovingly prepared. "If I were to have my own way I would leave him for a week or ten days untroubled by the process of dressing. Oriental and European babies are thus 'swaddled' until they are three months old. I have seen as many as three hundred babies under ten days old, in the wards of the Vienna hospital at one time, each one looking like a cross between an Indian papoose and an infant mummy. I often wondered

why there was so little crying, and concluded it was because the swaddling supplied as far as possible the conditions previous to birth, that is, a warm close enfolding, without compression or weight upon the tender limbs." Then follow descriptions of the simple garments recommended. The long roller band must be discarded, a loose elastic woollen band taking its place. In the weight and the very seams and buttons of the clothes the child's comfort is studied.

In the "First Bed," one to himself is naturally insisted on, and where space is limited, a basket suspended over the mother's bed is suggested as the little one's resting place. Nature's food should in all possible cases be "Baby's First Food." In the generality of cases there will be no need of giving artificial food if the friends have patience to wait for the mother's milk to come. From twenty-four to forty-eight hours at least may elapse without the slightest harm to the child. "The greatest danger to guard against is too much and too frequent feeding. That he takes food with avidity, may be an indication of an irritated stomach from too much food."

Mothers will do well to note the following in the chapter on the "First Tooth." "Teething is a perfectly physiological process, and if the child were healthfully fed and cared for, all its previous life, it would not suffer the diseases which are erroneously supposed to be due to teething. 'All its previous life,' however, includes its pre natal life."

But, alas! my space is filling, and I must pass over the chapters on the "First Year," "First Work," "First Education," "The Baby Who Must Travel," "The Baby Who Must Stay at Home," and "Nervous Children." These tend to show that in the first few months of baby's life much may be done to fortify the coming man against the dangers of intemperance, ill-health, and selfishness. Could these pages but be read and digested by every mother in the land, there would be fewer Rachels mourning for their children, and few heartaches for the parents of those children who attain to mature life.

If *Baby's Firsts* should be in the hands of every young mother at least equally should *Almost a Woman, Almost a Man*, and *Teaching Truth* be in the possession of the mothers and the fathers of those who are leaving childhood behind, and nearing that threshold of womanhood.

and manhood across which so many stumble never again to fully rise. In simplest, plainest language, and yet in a manner that cannot offend the most fastidious, is information given on the origin of life. Most strange is it that knowledge so vital in every sense of the word, should generally be denied the child—denied, that is, through the right channels, and frequently reaches him only through muddy gutters. As these books point out, a time comes when new thoughts and feelings and desires arise, and if the young are forearmed with the knowledge that such changes are simply due to the process of the unfolding of the perfect man and perfect woman, they will be ready to defend themselves from themselves. The law of reproduction, familiarised to the child by a study of plant life, will be seen in its purity, and as a law of the Great Father which runs right through creation.

Special stress is laid on the fact that purity is as essential for the boy as for the girl. "No man liveth to himself," and "We are ancestors," are thoughts impressed upon both boy and girl alike.

One point in *Teaching Truth* I should like to emphasise: "When girls are passing through these years of development, it is especially desirable that they shall not be educated along the line of the emotions. Romance reading is especially pernicious. . . . Love stories, whether in prose or verse, whether written by master minds or literary hacks, are pernicious at this period of life. The boy in his athletics and sports is less in danger than the girl, who with a more impressionable nature, imbibes poison, where he would only be awakened to ridicule. Take the girl out of the realm of fancy, sentiment, romance, into the wholesome air of natural science, of thought on abstract subjects; let her develop physically by outdoor exercise, put on her no undue burdens of sex through corsets or tight-clothing."

Now comes the last and biggest book of the package, *The House We Live In*, and to those wishful to give a useful as well as an attractive present to little people, I can suggest nothing better than these two hundred odd pages. The child, in words easily understood, is introduced to the human temple, and made familiar with its various "rooms," its halls and passages, its food and fuel, its heating apparatus, its wonderful windows, its music room, its caretaker, etc., etc. If any fault is to be found, it perhaps is, that almost too much infor-

mation is given. However, children may be safely trusted themselves to do any necessary "skipping." In this, as in the books noticed above, the ill effects on the system of tobacco and alcohol are emphasised, and the author concludes with a chapter on the "Character of the Master."

L.M.S.

NOTE.—It may be well for Christchurch readers to know that any of these books may be obtained through the Sanitarium, Cathedral Square.

Children of the State.

A well-attended meeting was held in the Alexandra Hall, Christchurch, on May 8th, to consider the question of the treatment of State children.

Mrs S. Page, president of the Canterbury Women's Institute, presided, and the speakers were Mesdames Cunningham and Wells, and Messrs T. E. Taylor, H. G. Ell, and G. Laurenson, M.H.Rs., and Mr H. A. Atkinson.

A number of resolutions were passed, the trend of which was that in the opinion of the meeting more adequate provision should be made for these wards of the State; that there should be a State council for children, composed of men and women, with a local council in each of the large centres; and that the children should be classified, so as to prevent contamination, and also so that the mentally weak and deficient may receive proper treatment.



The Cry of the Human.

"There is no God," the foolish saith,
But none, "There is no sorrow,"
And nature oft the cry of faith
In bitter need will borrow.
Eyes which the preacher could not school,
By wayside graves are raised,
And lips say "God be pitiful,"
Who ne'er said "God be praised,"
Be pitiful, O God!

The tempest stretches from the steep
The shadow of its coming,
The beasts grow tame and near us creep,
As help were in the human;
Yet while the cloud wheels roll and grind,
We spirits tremble under—
The hills have echoes, but we find
No answer for the thunder.
Be pitiful, O God!

The battle hurtles on the plains,
Earth feels new scythes upon her;
We reap our brothers for the wains,
And call the harvest—honour:
Draw face to face, front line to line,
One image all inherit,
Then kill, curse on, by that same sign,
Clay—clay, and spirit—spirit.
Be pitiful, O God!

The plague of gold strikes far and near,
And deep and strong it enters;
This purple cymar which we wear,
Makes madder than the centaur's;
Our thoughts grow blank, our words grow strange,
We cheer the pale gold-diggers,
Each soul is worth so much on "Change,"
And marked like sheep, with figures.
Be pitiful, O God!

The curse of gold upon the land
The lack of bread enforces—
The rail-cars snort from strand to strand,
Like noise of death's white horses!
The rich preach "rights" and future days,
And hear no angel scoffing.
The poor die mute—with starving gaze
On corn-ships in the offing.
Be pitiful, O God!

We sit together with the skies,
The steadfast skies, above us,
We look into each other's eyes,
"And how long will you love us?"
The eyes grow dim with prophecy,
The voices low and breathless,—
"Till death us part!"—O words to be
Our best, for love the deathless!
Be pitiful, O God!

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

After the Congress.

Scattered to East and West and North,
Some with the faint heart, some the stout,
Each to the battle of life went forth,
And all alone we must fight it out.

We had been gathered from cot and grange,
From the moorland farm and the terraced street,
Brought together by chances strange,
And knit together by friendship sweet.

Not in the sunshine, not in the rain,
Not in the night of the stars untold,
Shall we ever all so meet again,
Or be as we were in the days of old?

But as ships cross, and more cheerily go,
Having changed tidings upon the sea,
So I am richer by them, I know,
And they are not poorer, I trust, by me.

—W. C. Smith.

Song of Hope.

Children of yesterday,
Heirs of to-morrow,
What are you weaving,
Labour and sorrow?
Look at your fabric,
Seamy and dark,
Lighten the labour,
And sweeten the sorrow.
Life's in the loom.
Room for it!
Room!

—Exchange.

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America's Leading Corset, The W.B. Erect form at 5s 6d, 6s 11d, 8s 11d, 10s 6d, 13s 6d, 17s 6d, 21s.

Specialité for Stout Figures in Extra Super Quality, 2 Guineas.

Very Stylish Picture Hats, Parisian Models,
27s 6d, 35s, 39s 6d, 42s, 47s 6d, 55s
Ladies' Trimmed Frieze Felts, in all Colours, very becoming,
12s 6d, 14s 6d, 16s 6d, 18s 6d, 21s, 25s
Girls' Camel Hair Felts, Trimmed. A Large Assortment,
2s 9d, 4s 6d, 5s 6d, 6s 6d, 7s 11d, 9s 11d
Children's Crème Bearskin Hats and Bonnets,
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New Aberdeen Knitted Tams, in all Colours.
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New Astrachan and Cloth Tams, Beautiful Selection,
2s 6d, 2s 11d, 3s 6d, 3s 11d, 4s 6d, and 5s 6d

New Vests, Combinations, Bloomers, Bearskin Tunics and Dresses, Bibs, Pinafores, Gowns, &c., Now Showing.

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Cashel Street, Christchurch.



THE HOME.

The Power of Thought.

By A. W.

THIS mysterious thing we call life is for many, perhaps for the majority, a continuous struggle. Betwixt knowing and doing a gulf seems to be for ever fixed which must be bridged if lasting satisfaction is to be obtained. "If ye know," "happy are ye," if ye do. This is true for every individual, and the power is not miraculously achieved in an hour, or a day, or a week. It is attained by constantly guarding the door of the thought which is the parent of our words and actions.

When once we realise the truth that every one comes to his own, that none can escape from reaping what he has sown, we see how absolutely just is the law that governs destiny.

With this knowledge it is manifestly weak and puerile to sit down and lament that our infirmity comes from this source or that alien to ourselves; that it lies in our heredity or in our environment. We must shoulder our burdens manfully, and realise that if to-day is the result of the thought, and word, and action of the yesterdays, the to-morrows will be what we are making to-day. Therefore how important for each one of us is it to *live greatly* in the present, believing that there is nothing but good at the source of all things, and that this all-good has every soul in its keeping.

But achievement in this direction, as in every other, means concentrated and directed energy. Genius, it has been said, is the capacity for taking infinite

pains. The scientist labours long years to discover the secret which so persistently eludes him. The orator arrives at his powers after numberless efforts which are individually apparent failures. The explorer discovers the unknown lands after long and arduous endurance.

The man who conquers himself must follow on similar lines. His purpose must be firm, his eye must be single. He must enter into his closet, close the door, and commune there with his Father which is in secret, that is, he must deliberately bar the door of the mind against all base and intrusive thoughts, and commune silently with the soul and life and source of all, which is known by its attributes — power, truth, peace, righteousness, beauty, joy; which makes its sun to shine on the just and on the unjust; which knows no shadow of turning; which holds all its children in its almighty arms; whose laws are unfailing; whose supreme name is LOVE. At such moments deep calls to deep, time and space are annihilated, the flood-gates of infinity are opened, and from the Over-Soul neither height nor depth, nor things present, nor things to come, can separate.

"Speak to Him, then, for He hears,
And Spirit with Spirit can meet,
Closer is He than breathing,
And nearer than hands and feet."

Hygienic Treatment of Typhoid Fever.

DR. ELMER LEE, who did good service during the cholera epidemic in Europe in 1892 in treating cases by cleaning the bowels with soap and water and then disinfecting them, has been experimenting with several hundred cases in the treatment of typhoid fever by a similar method. Without waiting for the development of all the features of the disease, as is often done,

he first makes the bowels clean by drenching them with a copious douche of soapy water made to pass into and out of the lower bowel until all contents are cleared away and the returning fluid is as clear as it entered. The temperature of the water used for the injections should depend on the temperature of the patient. If he is chilly, water of about 100 degrees is preferable. If highly feverish, then as low as 75 degrees may be used. This cleansing process is very comforting to the patient. During the first week of the disease the bowels should be washed out morning and evening; after this, once a day is sufficient. It is important that the water go past the rectum and deluge the colon. External bathing should be used to keep down the heat and also to cleanse the skin and open its pores.—*Good Health.*

The Morale of Diet.

The question of diet is a question of morals and we are stupid not to think of it in this way. We pray "Give us this day our daily bread," giving thanks for the supply, and that is all. Only a few study the adaptation of food to the highest mental, moral and spiritual growth. W. Bramwell Booth pleads thus for a simple natural diet:—"Our eating, the waste and worse than waste from the overplus, and the diseases engendered, tend to the undoing of nations. On this ground I, a man, humbly devoted to the spread of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, plead for a reform in favour of a natural diet. It is a moral as well as a national question, and has a bearing upon the life to come as well as that which now is; it is to be rightly classed among the greater problems which confront the Church of God."—*Union Signal.*

International Woman Suffrage Conference.

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

1. That men and women are born equally free and independent members of the human race; equally endowed with talents and intelligence, and equally entitled to the free exercise of their individual rights and liberty.

2. That the natural relation of the sexes is that of interdependence and co-operation, and that a repression of the rights of one inevitably works injury to the other and to the whole race.

3. That in all lands, those laws, creeds, and customs which have tended to restrict women to a position of dependence, to discourage their mental training, to repress the development of their natural gifts, and to subordinate their individuality, have been based upon false theories, and have produced an artificial and unjust relation of the sexes in modern society.

4. That self-government in the home and the State should be the inalienable right of every normal adult, and in

consequence no individual woman can "owe obedience" to any individual man, as prescribed by old marriage forms, nor can women as a whole owe obedience to men as a whole, as prescribed by modern governments.

5. That the refusal to recognise women as individual members of society, entitled to the right of self-government, has resulted in social, legal, and economic injustice to them, and has intensified the existing economic disturbances throughout the world.

6. That governments which impose taxes and laws upon their women citizens without giving them the right of consent, or dissent, which is granted to men citizens, exercise a tyranny inconsistent with just government.

7. That the ballot is the only legal and permanent means of defending the rights to "life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness" pronounced inalienable by the American Declaration of Independence, and accepted as inalienable by

all civilised nations; therefore, women should be vested with all rights and privileges of electors in a representative form of government.

8. That the rapidly developing intelligence of women, resulting from new educational opportunities, and the important position in the economic world into which women have been forced by the commercial changes of the last half-century, call for the immediate consideration of this problem by the nations of the world.

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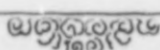
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