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Superintendents' Letters.

L.T.L. AND BAND OF HOPE.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

The World's Superintendent of the Mercy Department has sent to our President a package of leaflets dealing with the work of this department. Mrs Don is greatly interested in this, and has asked me to appeal to those of you who work among the young people to try to form Bands of Mercy in connection with L.T.L.'s and Bands of Hope.

In America it is usual to have a Band of Mercy in connection with each L.T.L. (see L.T.L. Handbook, page 35), which reads thus:—"Make one of the boys or girls a superintendent of the Band of Mercy. 'The Young Crusader' and 'Our Dumb Animals' will supply them with many incidents about pets and animals generally, and give them lessons in kindness to animals."

The following are extracts from the World's Report of the Mercy Department:—

"Africa.—In the Wesleyan Sunday School, Mercy literature is taken in rotation with other selections in the half-hour preceding the regular exercises, and has had a most beneficial influence."

"Canada.—In St. Thomas fountains and watering troughs have been erected, and 1000 children have signed the Mercy pledge. Seven medals were awarded for humane essays, 500 children competing. Five addresses were given in Sunday Schools, and five prizes given for the highest number of Scripture passages showing God's care for animals."

Mercy contests were also held in Japan, the prizes being "Humane books."

The police are helpful in enforcing the laws against cruelty, but the Superintendent says: "Teaching mercy in the schools and giving instruction through the newspapers are more effective than police work." She

has offered prizes throughout the Empire for essays on Mercy.

"In the Philippines there is an immense Band of Mercy. A law has been enacted prohibiting the docking of horses' tails, and the importation of horses so treated."

I could quote more, such as where superintendents have worked to get children and animals into homes, have protested against and helped to abolish bull fights, worked to get legislation passed protecting birds, etc., but have striven to point out how the Mercy Department may be worked among the children of the L.T.L.'s, Bands of Hope, and the Sunday Schools.

Will superintendents kindly write to me for Mercy leaflets, also for L.T.L. Handbook, and sample copy of "The Young Crusader." These I will forward post free.

Trusting that many Unions will decide to form a Band of Mercy, and to adopt the suggestions given.—Yours for God, Home, and Humanity,

CLARA M. NEAL,

Dominion Supt. L.T.L.

"Trocadero," Pahiataua.

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU.

Dear Sisters,—Kindly make a note of the fact that all papers belonging to above department should be returned without delay, not to me, but to Mrs Young, No. 4 Line, Fitzherbert West, Manawatu, who has kindly taken over the work until the Convention. All reports not already forwarded should be sent to me promptly at address given below.—Yours in the work,

M. S. POWELL,

Supt. Educational Bureau.

St. Clair, Dunedin.

TAKE NOTICE.

Will N.Z. Superintendents of Departments please remember that their reports must reach "White Ribbon" office not later than January 31st, in order that they may be printed in time for Convention.

ORGANISER'S REPORT.

Dear Sisters,—Ngaere meetings being over, I hastened back to Manaia, and started right away visiting, securing in one day seven new members for the Union, and having good talks with the people. My heart was saddened as I visited home after home where drink has made sad havoc. We had hoped, in spite of fears, that many a home would have been made brighter and purer as the result of last poll, but in spite of all our effort the deadly traffic goes on doing its devilish work, legalised by our Government and its people. One feels that the Women's Christian Temperance Union justifies its existence, if only to unite to help fight for these homes and the wives and mothers who bear patiently "for the children's sake" these trials caused through this infamous trade.

Visited again Kapuni, when two more new members were initiated. My last meeting before the poll was with the Executive of the Union. A full membership had gathered to talk over ways and means of furthering the work of the W.C.T.U., and a profitable time was spent. I then returned to Auckland in time to help in the strenuous duties of polling day. The following week had the pleasure of visiting the Auckland District Union. And now my term of office is brought to a close, and Miss Powell again takes on her duties. To all I wish to express my gratitude for assistance given in placing vehicles and drivers at my disposal, and in the countless acts of kindness received from all with whom I have come in contact. I shall ever watch with interest the growth and development of the various Unions and the work achieved by our W.C.T.U. Praying that though delayed, we may yet see the object of our desire, the abolition of the drink traffic. Wishing you all the very best of years through the new one just entered upon.—Sincerely yours in fellow service,

ALICE L. MOWLEM.

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.