

## Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor.)

Westcote, Hawera,

January 25th.

Dear Madam,—I am glad to see that Miss Powell has written in favour of a delegate being necessarily a member of the Union she represents; the object of Convention is to secure a representative rather than a large delegation. A delegate should be able to give information as to the work, difficulties, etc., also the general views of her Union, which an outsider could not do; a proxy is more restricted. I have brought this subject before Convention through the Question Box, but the answer was somewhat indefinite. I hope now we shall arrive at something definite.

J. E. MAUNDER.

### THE WOMEN'S PRESS.

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—With much pleasure I read Miss Harriet C. Newcomb's letter in your January issue. It is necessary indeed that the women of the Empire should be in touch with each other for mutual help, these days and after, when we trust that the united voice of women all over the world will be heard in promoting a settlement on lines of lasting peace. May I supplement Miss Newcomb's letter by urging the necessity of knowing the real trend of events in Britain itself? As a journalist, I have found it impossible to get any clear idea of current events or social progress from the higher point of view without a close study of the leading women's papers. Much more is it difficult to get any such idea now, when the ordinary papers have room for nothing but war news. Needless to say, we are ourselves engrossed by the vast Imperial struggle and necessity to-day, and for that reason demand news, not only of the battle-field, but of the Red Cross, the refugee camps, the unemployment bareaux, the social problems, and the general scope and machinery of relief work. That is now provided most efficiently by the women's papers, which contain most educative articles on the times.

The most valuable of these are, "The Common Cause," organ of the N.U.S.S. (2, Robert Street, Adelphi, London, 8s 8d per annum), and "Votes for Women," organ of the United Suffrage Union (4-7, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London, 8s 8d). "Votes for Women," founded by Mr and Mrs Pethick Laurence, has done more than any other paper to awaken public opinion at Home and abroad. It has stood for great sacrifice, and since it represents the widest feminine interests, literary, social and other, and has been chosen as the organ of the British Overseas Domin-

ions League, it is particularly to be recommended to colonial readers who want to get a sound grasp of British and Imperial affairs, as touching women. For those, moreover, who want a bird's eye view of the feminist activities of the whole world, there is "Jus Suffragii," the organ of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance (7, Adam Street, Adelphi, London, 8s 8d.)

I am, etc.,

JESSIE MACKAY,

Press Superintendent, W.C.T.U., Christchurch,

January 29, 1915.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—Will you kindly permit me to say a few words in reply to Miss Powell's letter of January 18th.

It is nearly a year since I was at Convention. I have had ample time to reconsider my notice of motion, but my mind has not changed in the least. I am still thinking of those Unions who have never been able to send a delegate to Convention, and in consequence have not been represented at all, or in a very unsatisfactory manner.

For one reason, because a delegate can only represent one Union, although several Unions may exist within a few miles of each other, and any member of each would thoroughly understand the business of all of them, still, according to the Constitution, she can only represent her own Union. If she presumes to represent another, although she has the full confidence of that Union and has generously paid her own expenses, she is called only a proxy, and according to Miss Powell's letter, is to be denied hospitality, and must in consequence feel herself inferior to a delegate, although she may be quite as efficient, and have the advancement of the Women's Christian Temperance Union quite as closely at heart.

Under these conditions, how is a proxy to be obtained? No sensible woman would leave her home duties,

her own fare, travel miles by train and steamer, to be refused hospitality at the end of her journey. The only thing that can be done under present conditions is to appoint some one who is a resident of the town where the Convention is held. It will be in Christchurch this year. Now, how much would a sister in that Southern town know of a remote Union here in the North Island? Nothing. And there is also another point: the Union wishing to be represented has not the power to appoint its own representative; Convention reserves to itself the right to do that, hence my notice of motion.

Miss Powell says I shall see things in a different light after a time. Not at all. I believe I am now Miss Powell's senior, and my principles are not likely to change. I am opposed to any rule which prevents sisters of the W.C.T.U. being on an equal footing. If such a thing is allowed to continue, then we shall become a society of disunited members.

I would like to remind Miss Powell that it is many years since the Constitution was printed. In the meantime great changes have taken place, and in order to march with the times the Constitution should be from time to time amended.

If the W.C.T.U. is to become a power for good in New Zealand it must be up-to-date in all departments of its work.

Let us, by raising the standard of purity, faith, and love, keep the Women's Christian Temperance Union up to Miss Willard's ideal.

Miss Powell says I was at Convention for the first time last year. That is quite true. A mother must think of home first, and take up humanity when God wills.

I shall always remember with great pleasure the kindness and generosity of the people of Gisborne.—Sincerely yours, in the Master's service,

RUTH SCANLEN.

(Our correspondent is in error in saying that it is many years since the Constitution was printed. Our Constitutions were printed last June (1914), and brought right up-to-date.—Ed. "W.R.")

### A COLD WATER BLOTTER.

Whoever heard of a poor old horse that had to go reeling home  
Because he had taken a drink too much of somebody's poisoned rum;  
Whoever heard of a drunken cow, or even a tipsy rat,  
Or whoever heard of a nice old puss that was not a Temperance cat?

No; each of the creatures God has made, on earth, in sea, in air,  
Needs nothing ever to quench its thirst but water pure and fair.

So, when we are great, big, grown-up folks, and while we are children small,

We'll have as much sense as the dogs and cats, and we will not drink at all.

—National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Evanston, Illinois.

School teachers belong to that class whose earnings come under the head of fixed wages. The school teacher is asked to make her dollar do a gigantic and almost impossible task. One of two things must happen in the near future—the teachers must be paid a very much higher salary, or the State must provide ample pensions for them in their old age. The fairest and most satisfactory way would be to pay the teachers a wage in proportion to the service they render the community. The next best thing is to give them State pensions.—"Journal of Education."