

allowed to lapse, and no N.Z. Superintendents be appointed by this Convention.

E. B. TAYLOR,
Supt. Home Science Department.

THRIFT.

I regret I have very little to report for the year. In the June number of the "White Ribbon" I had a letter published urging the Unions to take an active interest in the work of "Thrifty," to which I received several replies, asking for advice concerning the work, which I at once answered, also sending leaflets. A letter also appeared in the November number of "W.R." from me, asking for any reports of work done. I received replies from the following Unions:—Timaru, New Plymouth, and Wellington, to the effect no work done during the year; hope to appoint a Superintendent next year.

Pahiatua reports: Paper read, at afternoon meeting, explaining the Provident Fund instituted by the N.Z. Government; members very much interested, and agreed to make it known. A great many people here possess home savings banks.

Masterton.—Did not appoint a Superintendent this year. Several personal friends have become possessors of the home savings banks during the year.

At the last session of Parliament provision was made in the Education Bill by which savings banks can be established by the School Committees for the benefit of the children.

M. FLANAGAN.

HYGIENE.

Invercargill.—Literature obtained and distributed. Special supply of "Prevention of Consumption" given out at the Show Rest Tent.

Pahiatua.—The Supt. read a paper on Eugenics at July meeting, also showed pattern of Hygienic bodice, to wear instead of corsets, sent by N.Z. Supt. Pattern given to members, one member made it up, and showed it at a subsequent meeting.

Wellington Central reports the places of accommodation for women and girls have been inspected throughout the year, and it has been found they are kept satisfactory for the most part.

A pattern was cut from a Freedom Waist and forwarded to Unions by the aid of a chain letter, and two letters of thanks were received highly approving the patterns as the best of its kind for growing girls.

There is quite an interesting lot of pamphlets on this subject purchased from America, but although the attention of Superintendents was drawn to the fact, through the "White Ribbon," very little response was made. I would earnestly ask each Union to send for a shilling packet, or if funds

are low in some struggling Unions, I will forward them free of charge. The main thing is to get the subject read and discussed.

Dr Louise Purington in Food Evolution writes, "Women are the chief purchasers in the household economy, and should be specially helpful in the matter of enforcement of pure food laws.

"They should not buy an impure article because it is cheaper and 'never hurt me yet!' but buy less, if necessary, and get that which nourishes. Women with conscience cannot afford, even as a question of ethics, to ally themselves with the dishonest manufacturer in the sale of adulterated goods, to say nothing of the effects in the home. Dyes and flavours and scraps and pulverised rock; harmful preservatives; irritating substances; and especially lack of nourishment make drunkards faster than even the W.C.T.U. can save them."

We hear of "altruism in adulteration"—that it isn't for money but for some benevolent purpose that foods are adulterated. The patent medicine man is one of the greatest offenders, as the one who said, "the passage of the Pure Food Bill means to me an annual loss of £40,000. It costs to tell the truth; to change what has been labelled 'Sulphur Bitters.' 'No Alcohol' and state correctly 'forty per cent alcohol and no bitters.'"

Preservative is a bad thing and against its use in milk too much cannot be said when the health of little children is endangered. I would recommend the attention of our Unions be drawn to this matter especially.

MAY McDONALD,
N.Z. Supt. Hygiene

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU.

Out of ninety European Unions, I have, in response to appeals in the "White Ribbon," received only eight reports. About the most comprehensive comes from little Pahiatua, organised just eighteen months ago. Eighteen subjects, dealing with various aspects of our work, have been introduced by speakers or by the reading of papers. If this were the only work accomplished by the little branch, it would have justified its existence in the creation of public sentiment upon various questions dealing with moral reform.

Christchurch has, as usual, a fine record, eight meetings having been held, and a variety of subjects ventilated. The Superintendent remarks that "it is somewhat difficult to define educational meetings, discussions upon resolutions carried at the business meeting possessing a high educational value." This is true, and I suppose all our meetings are more or less educational. There is necessarily a good deal of overlapping of departments, but it is better to report work twice than not at all. In

Christchurch five suburban meetings were held before the election, 24 new members being gained, and the District President visited a number of neighbouring towns in the interests of the poll. Although this does not strictly belong to my department, I mention it lest so fine an effort should be overlooked.

Palmerston North holds an educational meeting monthly, outsiders being often present. The last before the election took the form of a mock ballot, a most necessary branch of educational work.

Kaipoi has invited a number of young women to hear addresses on the Purity question, and has also held several educational meetings for its members, among whom it also circulates several works on educational lines.

Ngaere and Bluff report educational papers read at the business meetings.

New Plymouth and Timaru courteously sent post-cards to state that they had no report to present, although I feel sure this branch of our work has not been neglected.

Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin, and others furnish no report at all. **Invercargill**, I am aware, has held educational meetings, but no report has reached me.

During the year I have circulated papers among a large number of Unions, all the younger branches being kept supplied each month, as long as they returned them.

May I once more call attention to the waste of good material caused by these papers being gathered up with others at the close of the meeting, put away, and forgotten. Then the Superintendent has to send a card of enquiry, entailing needless expense and labour. Occasionally this secures the return of the paper, but too often she is told it is lost. Sometimes the late Secretary has removed, and no one else knows anything of it. Numbers of papers which have cost the writer weeks of thought and research, have been lost in that way, when by a little system this might have been avoided. If the local Superintendent would take to the meeting an addressed wrapper, a piece of string, and a couple of stamps, she could drop the package into the post on her way home. The stamp for refund postage is an important item to the N.Z. fund, though it means less than a shilling a year to each individual branch.

It is with considerable regret that I relinquish the supervision of this department—the child of my own brain and heart—but it is now impossible for anyone constantly travelling to keep pace with it. Before leaving Palmerston North I handed the books over to a very efficient successor, Mrs Young, of Fitzherbert West, who has kindly taken charge in the meantime.

M. S. POWELL,

Dom. Supt. Educational Bureau.