

was received. At the Provincial Convention, held in September, most of one afternoon was devoted to the reading and discussion of Medical Temperance papers. A varied assortment of M.T. literature has been distributed, especially to mothers and young men.

Pahiatua.—One medical temperance paper read. M.T. literature given out at all "Home" meetings. A copy of "Safe Remedies" given to each member.

Rangiora.—"Safe Remedies" and assorted M.T. leaflets distributed to the wives of farmers on market days at our Rest Room; also in connection with our Cradle Roll work.

Timaru.—Medical Temperance literature distributed, especially in connection with Cradle Roll work.

Hastings.—Purchased M.T. literature for distribution just before the poll.

The following Unions purchased M.T. literature, but have not reported:—Wellington South, Wellington Central, Nelson, Kaikoura, Mosgiel, Ashburton, Kaiapoi, Dannevirke, Dunedin, Pukekohe, Ngaio, North-East Valley.

The following Unions purchased the three special M.T. leaflets to use in connection with Cradle Roll work:—Petone, Picton, Pahiatua, Kapuni, Woodville, Oxford, Mosgiel, Invercargill, Rangiora.

Miss Powell purchased 400 leaflets to use in connection with her work.

Medical Temperance Balance-Sheet, 1914.

RECEIPTS.

1913 Balance ...	£0	12	7
Sales at Gisborne Conv't'n ...	1	3	7
Supts. Allowance from N.Z. ...			
W.C.T.U. ...	0	7	6
Sales at Palmerston North Convention ...	0	11	6
Sales by Post ...	3	17	10
	£6	13	0

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Purchase of Stock, America ...	4	18	2
Purchase of Stock, England ...	0	15	6
Purchase of Stock, Sydney ...	0	4	6
Postage on Parcels, Letters, etc. ...	0	9	1
Balance in hand ...	0	5	9
	£6	13	0

40 letters have been written for this Department, and 20 parcels sent out.

Have purchased 6,300 leaflets and 720 booklets.

Have distributed free, to various Temperance workers, at meetings, and to new Unions, 600 leaflets and 20 booklets.

	£	s.	d.
Purchase of Stock, 1913 ...	3	4	5
Purchase of Stock, 1914 ...	5	18	2
Sales by Post, 1913 ...	2	19	9
Sales by Post, 1914 ...	3	17	10
Sales at Convention, 1913 ...	0	19	0
Sales at Convention, 1914 ...	1	15	1

In 1913, 21 Unions purchased leaflets.

In 1914, 25 Unions purchased leaflets.

I have no means of knowing how many Unions are represented by the individual purchases at Convention.

On comparing the above you will note that both the purchases of stock and the sales have increased, yet only 4 more Unions purchased this year than last.

I doubt if Unions realize how great an educative advantage they are neglecting by not making an effort to raise funds to spread abroad this literature.

The old ideas cling and are hard to shake off, but whereas we have abandoned the obsolete notion that alcohol has any curative properties or is useful either in health or sickness, should we not do our utmost to help others to get rid of their erroneous belief in its efficacy? The M.T. leaflets put the whole thing in a nutshell, as it were, and in a few terse sentences give the opinions of the most noted physicians and scientists in the world.

Many votes for Prohibition are lost because we are not doing more to educate our friends and neighbours on this matter.

Will every Union decide that in the future some work shall be done in this Department?

(Mrs) CLARA M. NEAL.

N.Z. Supt., Medical Temperance Department.

NARCOTICS.

Again I have the pleasure of reporting some work done among the young.

North-East Valley.—Several members have attended juvenile meetings and classes, and given short addresses on the great evils of cigarette smoking, and also the use of tobacco as a poison. Leaflets and papers have been distributed in the homes in the district, and also in the back-blocks, Territorial Camps, Bible Classes, and Rechabite Lodges. The following literature has been distributed:—"Does the Drug Habit Lead to Health or to Disease?" by Mrs Martha M. Allen, Superintendent of the Department of Medical Temperance; "Why Headache Remedies are Dangerous," by Harvey W. Wiley, M.D.; "Dr. Harvey W. Wiley on Alcohol and Drugs"; "Opinions on Coca-Cola by Medical Experts," also on Caffeine, the drug used in making coca-cola; "What Burbank, the 'Plant Wizard,' says on Alcohol and Tobacco."

Union Reports.—New Plymouth and Pahiatua Unions report that they have been unable to do any work. Ngaere Union state they have an Anti-Gambling and Smoking League, but have nothing fresh to report. Invercargill Union reports having distributed literature.

I would like to say a word about the cause of malignant disease of the mouth. Sarcoma of the round or spindle cell type, is apparently congenital in origin, though long latent,

and may best be cut out. Even so grave a case as I have shown you tonight of tonsil, pharyngeal and cervical tissues has remained in perfect health for five years with no recurrence after incision. But carcinoma is always the result of irritation, either by a tooth, a dental plate, tartar, a pipe stem, or tobacco.

The charge against nicotine is the most serious in the calendar. It is extremely rare to question a patient with advanced cancer of the mouth and not find that he has been a heavy smoker or has chewed tobacco. If the question is answered evasively, or if he admits only light use of tobacco, his wife will usually come to your rescue and say that he either puts in a little chewing tobacco when he rises and takes a little out when he goes to bed, or that he smokes pipes or cigars habitually. This close relation with nicotine was emphasised by Buttin, and has been widely believed in.

I find complete corroboration in my own experience, and have come to regard excessive and continuous use of nicotine as a great risk to susceptible tissues. It is usually after twenty or thirty years that the beginning of epithelioma shows and advances.

Most often it starts either at the contact points of the pipe, or streams of hot smoke on the tongue, or in the gutters where the liquid lies in the mouth, or where the quid rests between cheek and gums.

"Smoked tongue" is a legitimate name for this ill-starred malady. One of the most threatening epitheliomas of the gum which I was fortunate enough to cure by radium was in a young lady who for years had been an inveterate smoker of cigarettes.

Cocaine is possibly the most insidious of all drugs yet known. Few of those who become enslaved to it ever are able to lay it aside. It leads to hallucinations of sight and hearing. Suspicious characters will appear to be watching an opportunity to do harm, and voices will be heard plotting injury. Some time ago, upon the death of a prominent woman, the newspapers reported that she had thought before dying that she was poisoned by enemies. Her friends and the authorities evidently considered that she was a victim of hallucinations, for no investigation was ever published. It seemed clearly a case of drug-taking.

Many persons have become enslaved to cocaine unwittingly through its use in catarrh snuffs, asthma "cures," and other proprietary preparations, the composition of which was secret. Should there not also be a demand loud and imperious for still greater safeguards of law from the destruction of drugs? Why talk of "race suicide" while no child is safe from these alcoholic and narcotic dangers?

The Cigarette Habit.—The report of the Director of Medical Service, which is incorporated with General Godley's (says the Dunedin "Evening Star"), contains interesting references to the health of the Territorials. The general public will learn with gratification that the physical condition of the