

charts recommended by the World's L.T.L. Superintendent have been purchased, and we hope to make good use of them during next session.

**Oxford.**—A. W.C.T.U. Band of Hope, numbering 60 members. A big picnic was held in the Park, to which the mothers and children of the Cradle Roll were invited. The Rev. Hollaway gave an address. All meetings were well attended. The L.T.L. charts are used.

**Otautau.**—A Band of Hope, with a membership of 91. The monthly meetings were well attended, and good temperance addresses were given by our Chairman. The children are all eager to take a part in the evening's entertainment, which is got up by them under the supervision of several W.C.T.U. members. The closing social was a great success, £10 of the proceeds being donated to the Belgian Relief Fund.

**Palmerston North** has a L.T.L., managed by a committee of five W.C.T.U. members. 38 meetings have been held; 71 names are on the roll. Addresses have been given to the children by ministers and temperance workers of the town. Classes of gymnastics and stencilling form part of the work of each meeting. Work done during the year by the children: Charge of the toy stall at the No-License Bazaar; waiting at table in the tea rooms; distributing temperance literature; street collection for Dr. Barnardo's Homes. Members wear the L.T.L. badge.

**Timaru** has a Band of Hope, with a membership of 54. It is successfully carried on by the "Y" Union.

**Dunedin.**—There are 11 Bands of Hope, meeting weekly, mostly in connection with the churches. The main work is to prepare the children for the Band of Hope Union competition. This year the 12th annual competition was held, and the increased interest was very marked over any previous year. This year's essay writing was altered by substituting test examinations on the Temperance Wall Sheets prepared by the Education Department for use in our public schools.

#### Balance-Sheet, Cradle Roll and L.T.L., 1914.

##### RECEIPTS.

Balance, 1913	£5 5 8
Sales Gisborne Conv'n	0 18 1
Sales Palmerston N. Con.	0 11 1
Sales by Post	10 17 4½
	£17 12 2½

##### EXPENDITURE.

Printing Cradle Roll Birthday Cards...	£4 14 3
Printing Cradle Roll Pledge Cards	1 12 6
Purchases, England	1 8 5
Purchases, U.S.A.	2 9 4
Envelopes and Writing Pads	0 15 9
Postage on Letters and Parcels	0 17 11½
Balance in Hand	5 14 0
	£17 12 2½

118 letters have been written for this department, and 97 parcels sent out.

In 1913 we were reported to have 2223 Cradle Roll members; in 1914 only 1796 members were reported.

37 Unions have purchased C.R. cards, and only 22 Unions have reported. Had the remaining 15 Unions sent reports, I believe our membership would have shown a considerable increase over the 1913 figures, as a greater number of birthday cards have been purchased. It is to be regretted that the number of C.R. members cannot be ascertained.

The new Unions which commenced C.R. work in 1914 are: Opotiki, Kapuni, Rangiora, Pahiatua, Woodville, Picton, Blenheim, Wanganui East, and Onehunga. It is encouraging to notice that the five first-named have sent in good reports. As the last-named purchased cards somewhat late this year, we may expect to hear from them next year.

Though individual members, at Convention, have purchased the packets of C.R. mothers' leaflets, only the following Unions have ordered:—Invercargill, Kapuni, Kaikorai Valley, Oxford, Opotiki, Pahiatua, Woodville.

In 1914 the designs of both pledge and birthday cards were altered. As regards the birthday cards, this does away with the necessity of Superintendents having to send the same card to children each year. A year's supply is printed at one time, so that the cards may be obtained and supplied to Unions as cheaply as possible.

If a new design is printed each year, the Superintendent's work will be easier, and the cards be supplied at a lower rate than if 1st, 2nd, and 3rd year cards were printed. If Superintendents have any of the previous year's cards in stock, it only remains for them to be careful to send these to new members, and the new cards to old members.

The suggestion that an eighth year card be printed is an excellent one, and should be considered this year.

Many C.R. Superintendents deplore the fact that when the children reach the age of eight years they are taken off the roll, and, at their most impressionable age, are lost sight of. The remedy is that every Union organise a Loyal Temperance Legion, however small it may be in point of numbers.

From the Bluff Band of Hope we learn how difficult it is to keep the members together after they reach the age of 14 or 16 years. Let us make good use of the years between by gathering the children together and teaching them why they should abstain from the use of alcohol, tobacco, and cigarettes. In the L.T.L. manuals the lessons are fully prepared, so that the Superintendent's work is made easy. This matter is of such vital importance that Unions are urged to consider it at the earliest opportunity.

CLARA M. NEAL,

Dom. Supt. Cradle Roll and L.T.L. Department.

## HOME SCIENCE.

In connection with this Department there is nothing, as far as the Unions are concerned, to report.

I have requested the District Unions to appoint, wherever possible, Superintendents, but no response has been made so far, and as I said at Convention last year, it is evidently a Department in which the Unions are not interested, or else the work appears to them to be beyond the scope of W.C.T.U. interest. I am much inclined to think that the latter is the case.

However that may be, during the year the Inspector-general of schools has been interviewed and the new syllabus thoroughly gone into and discussed.

There is not the slightest doubt that as far as primary schools are concerned the new syllabus gives ample opportunity for the teaching of as much of this subject as is at all necessary and from that point of view, the Union can I think, rest satisfied.

The working out of the syllabus is the important matter concerned from now on. The late Inspector-general expressed the desire that teachers and inspectors should use their own judgment to a large extent in working out the syllabus, and was willing to give very wide scope in the choice of work in each subject, so that the teachers and inspectors could agree, or arrange that the girls in Standards V. and VI. should be taught to make beds, clean rooms, wash and dress babies, or manage a kitchen, as well as learning cooking and sewing only. Of course not all this can be done in one year, but whatever of it the teacher can arrange and carry out in the two years' course. It therefore now remains really with the inspectors as to how much of this work the teacher feels justified in devoting time and thought to carrying out. The only work the Unions can do now is to put as many women as possible on the School Committees and Boards and get them to use their influence with the inspectors, and then with the teachers, and where a teacher is willing to try a little original work on his or her own account, a great deal can be done by a committee woman to help, especially in the smaller schools, in the way of equipment, and even in the provision of necessary room. With this exception there is very little that remains for us as a Union to do. As far as secondary schools are concerned, the subject is getting its full share of attention, and advances are being made every year. In Dunedin, in connection with the University work, a D.S. hostel is being established, something on the lines of the one in Christchurch, and very soon, no doubt, Auckland and Wellington, as well as other towns, will follow this good example. I would venture, under the circumstances, to suggest that, as it is evident that the Unions have already plenty of departments to attend to, and as the subject is being so thoroughly taken up by Educational authorities at the present time, that the department be