

Committee, of Christchurch, sent us copies of resolution passed by them, through Miss Roberts. They were all read, discussed, and passed, namely, proposals for the better protection of women and girls, and the care of the feeble-minded. Crime Amendment Bill, introduced by the Attorney-General, was approved of, with the exception of one clause. The Union is strongly opposed to so much power being put into the hands of one man, and they greatly object to the Attorney-General being the sole judge. The clause in reference to this they would wish to have removed. These resolutions were all copied and sent to the Premier, Ministers, and M.P.'s, and to the Speaker of the Legislative Council. Re venereal diseases, the Special Committee of Wellington Hospital and Charitable Aid Board's resolutions—The detention clause was not approved of. Copies of these resolutions were also forwarded to the Premier, M.P.'s, Minister of Public Health, and the Speaker of Legislative Council. It is quite evident that until our rulers admit that the white life for two must be enforced our race is in danger. Replies were received, courteous but non-committal. A letter of appreciation was sent to Dr. Tracy Inglis in reference to his remarks on venereal diseases before the Conference of Doctors and the Social Questions Commission of the Anglican Church; also to Rev. Monckton and Mr Ewington. We have not yet heard what was the outcome of the Commission. The leaflet, "An Appeal to Men of N.Z.," was received and distributed. I am glad to be able to report that our Union subscribes to the "Purity Advocate," a splendid and very cheap pamphlet. We now have 16 subscribers, chiefly young mothers. We must hope that such seeds as the truths contained in its cover may spring upon good ground; we can strongly recommend this pamphlet to our sister Unions. Much teaching is yet needed on this question. Some mothers betray a vast amount of mock modesty, poor dears; they have yet to learn that Ignorance is not Innocence.

**Hamilton** reports: We have had four papers dealing with Purity read at our ordinary business meetings; also several helpful talks to mothers at our Home and Evangelistic meetings, urging mothers not only to safeguard their daughters, but also their sons. We feel that it is very necessary for our W.C.T.U. to do all we can in this department.

**Timaru** reports: A paper was read on Social Purity, and also one on Eugenics. 300 leaflets, "An Appeal to Men," have been procured.

**Gisborne.**—Have been able to distribute a good number of leaflets; have received letters asking questions on the subject, and have replied, enclosing Purity literature. To my mind, the most lasting work is among the children and young people.

**Wellington Central.**—Only one public meeting has been held during the year, when a short talk to mothers and a paper on Purity were given to a large audience, with good results; also Purity literature and leaflets, "Helps to Manhood," have been freely circulated to Territorials in camp, and a few letters to members, enclosing Purity literature, have also been sent. Much more should have been done, but courage and tact are needed in dealing with the subject of Purity.

I wish to thank the various Unions for their reports, and Mrs Field for her kindly help during my term of office.

DR. FLORENCE KELLER.  
Supt. for Purity and Moral Education.

### MOTHERS' MEETINGS.

This department is one that should appeal strongly to our White Ribbon sisters, but only a few reports have come in answer to my circular letter.

**Hamilton** and **Devonport** elected Superintendents.

At **Hawera** Home and Mothers' Meetings have been successfully carried on.

**Invercargill** reports a Mothers' meeting held in October, in connection with the Cradle Roll, when two suitable addresses were given, by Nurse O'Shea on "The Care of the Baby," and by Mrs C. W. Brown on "Companionship between Mother and Children."

**Ngaere** held one special meeting, to which mothers who were non-members were invited. Papers read, followed by an informal talk.

**Pahiatua** held no special mothers' meeting. Their Home meetings are mostly attended by mothers. The "White Slave Traffic" has been discussed, and "Health Talks" held.

**Auckland** report tells of an address by Mrs McCombs, President of the Christchurch Union, on "The Responsibilities of a Mother."

At **Core** a beautiful paper, entitled "Motherhood," was given, and at **Timaru** and **Oxford** addresses to mothers.

**Blenheim** is very wide awake along this line, and sends an excellent report. To quote from it: "We have held mothers' meetings regularly every fortnight, and about six months ago we agreed to meet the 'Mothers' Union' meeting (in connection with the Anglican Church) once every three months. We have held one meeting, when our friends joined us at the W.C.T.U. mothers' meeting, and we had a very good time indeed, and think we shall all reap good from being united. We have about 12 mothers on the roll, and sometimes we have as many as 14 babies and young children at our meetings."

A. C. JONES,  
Dom. Supt. Mothers' Meetings.

### GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

The work of the department has gone on slowly, but steadily throughout the year, especially during the earlier months, before the declaration of war brought so many fresh calls, and there is evidence of some slight increase of interest, judging from the reports received and those sent to the "White Ribbon." Local Superintendents have been appointed by seven Unions, but work has also been done in others. I would again urge all Unions to elect Superintendents whenever possible. The work has been mainly along three lines: (1) General interest in elections, and the placing of women candidates upon various local bodies; (2) the holding of meetings for educational purposes; (3) passing and forwarding to Parliament resolutions more or less connected with the department. Under this heading may be mentioned those in support of the representation of women on the Advisory Board of the National Council of Education, one in reference to the cabled reports of the Suffrage Movement, and those drawn up by the United Women's Committee, Christchurch. It is gratifying to see that several of our Unions (six) have this year held one or more meetings for the discussion of various civic and political subjects, and for the general education of women in the duties and responsibilities of citizenship. This I hold to be the most important branch of the department's work, and I should like to see every Union taking some part in it, however small. Nearly every Union from which reports have been received has taken part in some way in electioneering matters, Parliamentary, Municipal, and School Committee; and six have acted upon the suggestion thrown out last year that the ministers should be asked to bring the matter before their congregations, specially emphasising the religious aspect of citizenship. May I suggest that this practice should be more generally adopted, every local Superintendent making a special point of it before any election. General efforts have also been made to secure the representation of women on the different local bodies, with the result that between 40 and 50 women have been elected as members of School Committees and Hospital Boards. All these figures are taken from the reports I have received and those published in the "White Ribbon." If every Union had reported all work done in this connection, they would probably have been larger. Since the declaration of war the ordinary work of our Union has been to some extent subordinated to the many schemes of relief work inaugurated. This is inevitable, and only to be expected; but, while fully realising the necessity and duty of giving such help as freely as possible during the present national crisis, may I also venture to suggest that by the faithful performance of duties already undertaken, the preservation of a calm, well-balanced attitude of mind, and