

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

VOL. 20.—No. 239.

WELLINGTON, N.Z., MAY 18, 1915.

2s 6d Per Annum, Post Free.
Single Copy, 3d.

NOTES ON THE ALLIANCE CONGRESS OF 1915.

The Alliance Congress, of 1915, stands, in many respects, in striking contrast with that of 1914. In the first place, the number attending was not above half that of last year, a fact due partly no doubt to the war, partly to the absence of excitement arising from the near approach of the triennial licensing poll, partly to sickness and bereavement. Another point, even more noticeable than the small attendance, was the entire omission of public functions. The usual tea-meeting was foregone, no public meetings were held, there was nothing like the "famous march on Parliament" to appeal to the outside public; in fact everything spectacular was carefully avoided, and the attention of delegates was focussed solely on the business they had come to transact. Accordingly three sessions were held on each of the first two days, and the morning session of the third day concluded the Congress.

Tuesday, April 13th, was the opening day, and the proceedings began at 9.30 in St. John's Schoolroom, with the usual preliminary business, and the presenting of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet. The report dealt mainly with the position of the Temperance Cause in New Zealand, specially as shown by the recent licensing poll, and with the hopeful signs of progress in several European countries that are directly affected by the lamentable war. In the discussion that followed, various speakers dwelt on the causes for the decrease in the vote for National Prohibition, and while some spoke in optimistic view, others in pessimistic,



THREE WHITE RIBBON AGENTS.

- (1) Miss Butterick, Ashburton; (2) Mrs Williams, Christchurch; (3) Mrs Stewart, Gisborne.

all agreed on the necessity for steady and persistent effort on educative lines for the next three years. There was no need to be downhearted, for while from some points of view there might seem to be a loss, from others there was a decided gain.

The afternoon session was devoted to the subject of Education, in connection with which three good papers

were given. The first, by Mr Maunder, dealt with the education of the young—those under 18 years. This being the most impressionable period, it was most important that right instruction should be given on the Temperance question, and the effect of Alcohol on the body, and though Bands of Hope do good, the only effective method of reaching all was through the day school. Clear and definite teaching ought to be given on the Temperance Wall Sheets, possessed by every school in the Dominion, and this should be a compulsory subject, not left, as at present, to the discretion of the Head Master. He advocated a short course of 5 or 10 weeks, followed by a break with the subsequent renewal of the teaching, in order to keep the children in an "anti-alcohol" atmosphere. In the course of the discussion it was urged that more attention should be given to Band of Hope work, especially to make it really interesting and instructive, with simple experiments showing the deadly character and effects of alcohol. Two resolutions were passed unanimously, one urging the Education Department to make Temperance teaching compulsory, and subject to the Inspector's report, and the other urging the Churches to take up Band of Hope work.

The next paper, read by Mr T. H. Mathieson, referred to the best ways of getting hold of the young people between 18 and 21 years. This was difficult, for they were not yet thinking much about the serious things of life. Public meetings did not attract them, Church organisations, such as Bible Classes reached only a certain number, and only in some of the High