

IN THE FIELD.

On Wednesday, May 5th, I travelled to Rakaia, where I spent the night with our staunch supporter, Mrs Boag, and plans were laid for the campaign. Considerable difficulty had been experienced in securing accommodation at Methven, but eventually Mrs W. Morgan, noted for her hospitable kindness, opened her home, though I believe she did not even know my mission. Her house, however, was three and a half miles out, so I set off on a tour of investigation. Friends who would have entertained me were already pressed for room, and the only boarding-house was "full up." However, Mrs J. Anderson, immediately upon learning the difficulty, stepped into the breach. Although she already had a visitor, at very great inconvenience she rearranged her sleeping accommodation, and for several days I was her guest.

Methven is in the unfortunate position of having only one officer, the Recording Secretary, who, being in business, can only attend a meeting on the Wednesday—an unsuitable day. I spent several days in visiting, but all my efforts failed to discover others, those who could or would have acted being already more than fully occupied. At the meeting on Tuesday seven members were present, and two visitors, who would have joined had things looked more promising. No one would take office, though the two ministers' wives (Mrs Powell, Church of England, and Mrs Aiken, Presbyterian) nobly promised to fill the chair if Secretary and Treasurer could be found, though both have their hands already quite full. At the same time the members are most unwilling to disband, a motion in that direction finding only one supporter beside the mover and seconder, four voting against it. It was finally decided to hold another meeting, and if by that time no officers have been found the Union must formally dissolve. But whatever happens, Mrs J. Anderson, the indefatigable "White Ribbon" Agent, is determined to keep the paper circulating.

The next day I took the early train to Rakaia, where Mrs Tucker kindly extended hospitality, and I found Mr Tucker knew my old childhood's home in a little Devonshire village. On

the Thursday I addressed the Girls' Friendly Society and other women and girls on "Girls and Their Lovers," and a week later gave an outline of our work at the Mothers' Union. I found, upon arrival, our membership totalled only four, but a few days' visiting raised this to thirteen. With Mrs Boag as President, Mrs Wright (Anglican) and Mrs Todd (Presbyterian) as Vice-Presidents, we were in a fair way for a start.

On Friday I described W.C.T.U. work and aims to the Ashburton Mothers' Union, returning to Ashburton the same night, and the following day cycled out to Tinwald, paid several calls, and arranged for work the following week.

During my travels I had acquired a few microbes of the prevailing malady, so spent the Sunday in blanket-land, recovering in time to get to Tinwald for Tuesday evening, where I had arranged for a talk with the girls. This, however, proved a frost, as the audience did not arrive, I believe in consequence of insufficient advertising. However, the few who did put in an appearance acquired some information upon W.C.T.U. methods. Mrs Cow was my hostess.

As Rangiora was on my itinerary, I thought it well to attend their regular meeting on May 28, spending a delightful evening in Christchurch en route, with Miss Roberts and Miss Bishop. Rangiora friends arranged for a visit later on, and Mrs May (President) received me into her kindly family. The next day I took the early train back to Christchurch and Ashburton to conclude the work at Tinwald. However, owing to various reasons, the meeting proved too small for organising purposes, but as good officers are available and a fair number of members, I decided to return there later and make another attempt.

At Rakaia on Friday, June 4th, a few ladies gathered, Mrs Boag being in the chair. This Branch was commenced by Mrs Mowlem in October last, and no meetings have since been held, the only officer it possessed being the President. We elected as Secretary Mrs W. Lee, whom I had known in Invercargill as Miss Ethel Nicholas. The Christchurch friends arranged for a week at Sumner, but owing to the dislocation occasioned by the various efforts connected with the

war, it appears unlikely we can make a start just now.

M. S. POWELL.

Miss Powell's address, until further notice will be: C/o Miss Henderson, B.A., 26, Tui Street, Fendalton, Christchurch.

CHRIST'S PEACE SOCIETY.

Motto. "Blessed are the Peacemakers."

I, the undersigned, believing in the teachings of Christ as disclosed in the Sermon on the Mount and in other portions of the New Testament, do hereby promise that I will, to the best of my ability, act in accordance with these **Teachings**.

I will refrain from speaking unkindly of or casting suspicion on other People or other Nations than my own.

I will endeavour to control my **thoughts** that they will breathe out **Harmony, Peace, Love, and Happiness** to all my fellow-men and women of every race and colour.

Date.....

The above is the pledge of Christ's Peace Society. Mr Forbes, of Sawyer's Bay, Dunedin, who formed the Society, will be pleased to receive names and addresses of intending members, and to forward them a card of membership.

NEGLECTING THE HOME.

No, it isn't home-neglecting

If you spend your time selecting

Seven blouses and a jacket and a hat;

Or to give your day to paying

Needless visits, or to playing

Auction bridge. What critic could object to that?

But to spend two precious hours

At a lecture! Oh, my powers!

The home is all a woman needs to learn

And an hour, or a quarter,

Spent in voting! Why, my daughter,

The home would not be there on your return!

—"Woman's Journal."