

### IN THE FIELD.

Last month, when at Winchmore, I was deeply interested in the history of the little church. Until 1910 or 1911 the residents worshipped in the public school, but it occurred to our White Ribbon women that it was about time they had a building of their own. So the subject was ventilated, and the women of the district took the matter up heartily. A working party was organised, many women giving a regular monthly contribution, and working as well, while some who could not give worked, and others who could not attend the meetings contributed cash, orders being taken for underclothing, etc.; while occasionally the whole party repaired to the home of some busy mother and worked for several hours, each receiving a shilling for the funds. The men-folks at first poured cold water upon the scheme as impracticable, but as time went on and things began to look rosy, they gave their hearty assistance. The first idea was to put up a mission hall, but this was soon abandoned in favour of the more ambitious one of a church, which was duly erected, and in three years cleared of debt. I had the pleasure of inspecting it, and a more comfortable, pretty little building could not be desired. It is thoroughly well finished, and includes a commodious vestry fitted with lockers for books, crockery, etc. It is quite an ornament to the neighbourhood, and while not built by the Union, it is safe to say that if there had not been a branch of the Union in Winchmore there would have been no church there to-day. Three denominations have the free use of the church, and take the collections. The aspect which appeals to me most is that it is vested in no particular sect, a clause being inserted in the trust deed providing that any Protestant denomination applying for it upon a date not already engaged shall have the use of it free. How pleased Mrs Cole would have been at this result of the little branch which she organised.

On Tuesday, June 15th, I travelled from Christchurch to Ashburton, once more enjoying the kind hospitality of Mrs G. Andrews. Next day we held the adjourned meeting in Tinwald, and succeeded in organising a branch, which should do well.

There has been some lost time this month owing to the engagement at

Sumner falling through, so I had a delightful rest at the house of Mrs R. Evans, always my home in Kaiapoi.

On Saturday, 19th, I travelled to Rangiora, and spent the next few days in visiting.

On Friday (25th) the usual monthly meeting was held, at which arrangements for work were made. The previous night I had addressed the Papanui Band of Hope, the audience being good, but much smaller than usual, owing to the wet and foggy weather. I had for some days been fighting off a chest cold, induced by the climatic conditions, and after the Friday meeting a collapse came, and I spent three days in bed, feeling very thankful to be in the kindly sympathetic hands of Mrs E. Scott.

It was with much regret that I had to forego my Oxford engagements, the only remedy being to wire Mrs McCombs to make some arrangement.

On the Wednesday Kaiapoi was visited. The friends had done their best to get up a good meeting of a social character, but the whole town appeared to be down with epidemics, letters of sympathy being sent to a large number of members.

At Lyttelton, on Thursday, I found the date I had suggested had clashed with the Presbyterian Ladies' Guild, but as a number of women belong to both societies, our friends kindly consented to amalgamate the two, and a pleasant afternoon was spent at the house of Mrs Miller, two new members joining and two lapsed ones returning. Here I was the guest of Mrs R. Hatchwell, with whom I recalled many pleasant memories of the days when, as children, we occupied adjoining houses in a little Devonshire village by the sea.

On the following Monday a little visiting was done in Belfast, and on the Tuesday New Brighton was visited. Mrs F. Thompson kindly arranged for President and Secretary to meet me at lunch, so we had our plans laid before the meeting, the attendance at which was very good, considering that Tuesday is the Red Cross Day. We started the K.K. pledge and soft calico campaign, appointed superintendents for several departments, and gave the "Win One" effort a help along. New Brighton will do well.

M. S. POWELL,

Dominion Organiser.

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### WOMEN LEFT DEFENCELESS.

Recently Miss Jane Addams, the famous American writer and speaker, gave a remarkable deliverance on the effect of the war upon women:—

"In the manifestation of patriotism throughout the world, using the word in its highest and best sense," said Miss Addams, "women have played their important parts from the beginning. But the present European war is destroying the finer meanings of the word obtained through many centuries of effort; it is making a basic appeal to self-defence, the earliest and most primitive form of patriotism."

"This war is destroying the home unit in the most highly civilised countries of the world to an extent which is not less than appalling."

"To cite one instance of what I mean: The French Chamber of Deputies, in anticipation of the effect upon the nation of the slaughter of its men, has passed a law declaring that during these war times there shall be no such thing as illegitimacy in France."

"War benefits go equally to the mothers who are married and those who are unmarried. The nation is chiefly concerned to make up the deficit of human beings!"

"I am informed that in the French churches the 'foundlings boxes,' which had been taken away by law, have been restored. Their purpose is to offer mothers of unwelcome children an opportunity to dispose of them secretly, but still keeping them for the nation. This amounts to governmental and clerical encouragement of the dissolution of family ties."

"In Germany the same thing has occurred, and, if reports seemingly from trustworthy sources, are to be believed, has gone even further than in the sister nation with which she is at war."

"All that women have held dear, all that the Church has worked for, and the State has ordered, has been swept away in a breath—the hot breath of war—leaving woman in her primitive, pitiable state of the necessity for self-defence without the strength with which to compass self-defence."

The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Johnsonville.