

could be decided on for next year's meeting.

On Thursday morning the delegates were taken to the Sailors' Rest, an institution of which the Timaru Union is justly proud; subsequently they were entertained at the Tea Rooms on Caroline Bay by the local Union till mid-day.

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

BAND OF MERCY.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

Since I wrote to you I have received a letter from Mrs Mary F. Lovell, our World's Superintendent of the Mercy Department, in which she says:—

"I cannot tell you how greatly I rejoice over the good news of the adoption of humane education in the L.T.L. in New Zealand. If this world is ever to become really the kingdom of Christ, every child born into it must be taught humaneness as systematically and regularly as reading and writing are now taught. I understand from what you say in your letter, and from reading the number of the 'White Ribbon' which you sent me, that as yet the Band of Mercy is adopted only in the L.T.L., but I trust that this is merely the beginning of greater things, and that you will gradually increase its scope until you have Bands of Mercy in your Sunday and day schools, in the Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavours, and every other possible place. There should be one at least in each W.C.T.U. in New Zealand.

"Your country is so progressive, and sets such a noble example in many ways to the rest of the world, that if the attention of your women is drawn to the necessity for this teaching, I believe it will be widely promoted and encouraged.

"The copy of the 'White Ribbon' which you sent me arrived some time before your letter, and I at once sent samples of the literature of this department to each President of a W.C.T.U., whose address was given. I hope this may awaken interest in the work, and that you may hear from some of the ladies to whom the packages were addressed."

Dear friends, in addition to every Union organising a Band of Mercy, could not each Union make the suggestion to all the Sunday schools in their vicinity, and give to each a packet of Mercy leaflets, which I will supply at threepence per packet?

I urge Unions to start this work at once, by appointing a superintendent to attend to the matter.

I would remind you that the report which you send to me in December will be the one from which I will compile my report for the next World's Convention.—Yours in the work,

CLARA M. NEAL, Pahiataua.

IN THE FIELD.

The month of September was spent in the Wellington Province, in travelling between the city, Lower Hutt, and Greytown. I attended the Provincial Convention in Wellington on 1st and 2nd, then returned to Greytown to arrange for a Band of Hope meeting on 24th. Upon returning to inaugurate this, I found that the letter informing me that the meeting had been unavoidably postponed had missed me, and there was nothing for it but to once more entrain for Wellington. In the city I addressed a Franchise meeting at Constable Street, and Home meetings at the houses of Mesdames Boxall and Sidey, small additions to our membership being made at each. I had attended two meetings at Lower Hutt, working up each beforehand by visiting. This method was also pursued with the third, which was held on 21st. There was a fine attendance, and eight members were initiated. In all seventeen new members were obtained, and two or three lapsed ones came back, bringing the membership up to 31.

On 30th I left Wellington for a final visit to Greytown, when the Band of Hope was commenced, 29 persons, old and young, joining, and the committee formed and arrangements made for the next meeting. In Wellington I was indebted for kind hospitality to Mesdames Houlder, Cummins, Weston, and Denton.

Friday night (October 1st) was spent in Palmerston North. Patea was reached the following day, and at a meeting of officers the same evening arrangements for meetings were made. On the Sunday evening I conducted the service in the Methodist Church, the Methodist parsonage being my congenial home while in the town, and on Tuesday afternoon Mrs Bridgman, my kind hostess, gave a home meeting, which was well attended. On the Thursday we went out to Kakaramea in a gale of wind and rain to a home meeting. In spite of the weather, we had an audience of eleven. Two had joined the Patea branch already, and when we had duly initiated and pinned the magic bow upon the other nine, Mrs Bridgman and I felt well repaid for getting wet.

M. S. POWELL.

P.S.—Will correspondents please note change of address, which is now Miss Powell, c/o Mrs Wilkes, 466,

Gladstone Road, Gisborne. Jerusalem badges are 'off' until the end of the war, as no money can be safely sent there just now. Will friends ordering enamelled badges kindly send postal notes, not stamps?—M.S.P.

VALUE OF PRIZE SPEAKING MEDAL CONTESTS.

By the Rev O. M. Miller, Editor of the "National Advocate," N.Y.

Seeing that I am Medal Contest Superintendent as well as "Y" it will not seem amiss if I copy some extracts that may be helpful to our L.T.L. or "Y" branches in a very valuable work.

It has been our privilege to get up many different Temperance Prize Speaking Medal Contests, and we have a firm belief in their great value, and from our own experience in the work, and from correspondence and conversation with others who have held these contests, we desire to show the value of these Medal Contests to the Temperance Cause.

EDUCATING PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

Medal-Contests are valuable in helping to educate public sentiment on the Temperance question. Many people will come to a church or hall to hear young people recite strong Temperance selections, who never go to hear a Temperance lecture. And many parents will go to hear their own boy or girl speak at these contests, who would not even go to hear some other person's child speak. Thousands of people have heard their first Temperance lecture at these contests. As the selections recited are taken from the writings of the greatest temperance writers and speakers of the country, the audience listens to the strongest temperance arguments that can be produced.

As Miss Emma E. Page, assistant national superintendent of the W.C.T.U. Medal Contest Work, says: "The best arguments of our ablest Temperance speakers and writers are poured into willing ears and understanding hearts—ears and hearts that would have been closed against these same utterances from the authors themselves."

We believe that the repeating at these Medal Contests, all over the country, of the great speeches of Gough, Finch, St. John Bain, Frances