

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—I feel very much stirred up by Mrs Lee-Cowie's letter in the December number of "White Ribbon." She suggests that the W.C.T.U. of New Zealand unite in doing something really great, such as raising £500 for ambulance work, or a hospital bed, or a Y.M.C.A. canteen for Egypt, every member to collect or give £1. I feel quite confident such a movement like this would meet with a hearty response and interest people in our work immediately. At present, you must admit, the efforts of small unions like our own (Stratford), for instance, fail to appeal very strongly to the casual observer. Let our own organisation have the credit, for you know nothing succeeds like success. I am willing to promise to begin collecting at once. Hoping the work will be done.—I am most sincerely yours in the work,

B. REEVE.

BREWERS AND WAGE EARNERS.

Figures taken from the British Government Census of Production, 1912-13, show the capital of £54,977,000 used in production of fruit, preserves, confectionery, cocoa, bread and biscuits employs 170,903 persons. The capital of £58,926,000 used in production of beer and spirits employs only 91,732 persons. The late Sir George White, M.P., said he knew of three breweries, each of which had greater capital than his own boot factory, but in his boot factory more money was paid in wages for labour than the three breweries combined.

The profits of Messrs Arthur Guinness, Son and Co., brewers, of Dublin, are over six times the amount they pay in wages. In a shoe manufacturing company in the West of England, employing 1,600 persons, the wages paid are six times the amount earned as profits.

The nation that chooses to go on drinking, destroying food and turning it into poison, lowering its efficiency, soiling mind and body, whether in peace or in war—that nation, in the coming days, will assuredly go down into the night of gloom.—Dr Saleeby.

HIGH SCHOOL, PALMERSTON N.

PRIZE ESSAY.—FORM V.

Some Economic Arguments Against the Use of Alcohol.

About four months ago we read that the Russian Government, having control of the sale of liquor (vodka), had decided to forbid the traffic in that beverage in that country, thus foregoing duty to the extent of over ninety million roubles. This shows that the law-makers of that country had decided that alcoholic liquor was not a suitable beverage for a nation during the time it was fighting for its existence. In the same way, France has prohibited sales of alcoholic liquor.

That the buying of alcohol is a waste of money is evidenced by the fact that the people of New Zealand spend annually over three million pounds sterling on that liquor. In England nearly two hundred millions, or about £4 per head of the population, is spent on liquor. This shows that in every year a man spends more than a week's wages. A working man has quite enough to do with his money without throwing it away. Why is it that there is so much poverty among the lower classes? Is it not because so much per week is spent on alcoholic drinks? Is it a common sight to see two men, both of whom do the same work and earn the same wages, one shabby and unkempt, while the other is respectable and looks as if he looked after himself and did not spend money on wasteful objects.

Doctors of mental hospitals say that from 80 to 90 per cent. of insanity is caused directly or indirectly through drink. When a man continues to drink he is likely to injure his mind. His children also, without any drink, are liable to be weak-minded, and so it is that when a man becomes a confirmed drunkard, his children's grandchildren are likely to inherit his weakness for drink and become insane.

That a great many accidents are caused by drink is obvious. When a man gets into a maudlin state, he is apt to do what a man who is sober would not attempt to do. A drunken man crossing a street is not on the look-out for emergencies, and so when an accident happens he is not likely to try to escape.

The State often suffers through drink. A single man is worth about £70 to the State, while one who is married is worth nearly double, and if that man becomes a drunkard, he does not work so well or set an example to his children to work well. This is shown in the arsenals of Great Britain, where the men who drink work about 30 hours, and those who do not work from 70 to 80 hours per week.

ORGANISING FUND.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—Owing to almost universal financial stress, caused by the war, I have not this year sent out my usual circular to the Unions throughout the Dominion reminding them of their donations to the Organising Fund at the rate of 1s per member on their roll.

However, travelling and other expenses seem to be heavier this year than previously, and both private and Branch subscriptions are coming in so very slowly that still it is imperative for me to make an appeal to all our Branch Unions begging each one that has not yet contributed to send in its fee as soon as possible.

The organising department of our work is so important that it should be supported most generously by each Union.

If, in times of stress, a Union is not able to give its full assessment fee, let it give as liberally as it can afford.

Trusting there will be a fine response to this appeal, and wishing you and all our fellow-workers a Happy and Brighter New Year than the one last has been.—I remain, yours sincerely,

ALICE R. C. TAYLOR,

Organising Treasurer.
"Coveney," Balgownie, Wanganui,
January 6th, 1916.

Ashburton, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Baring Square Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs W. K. Watson, Box 37; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevurzon, 169 Peter Street; Asst. Sec., Miss Wise, Short St.; Treas., Mrs W. T. Lil, Willowby; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

Auckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.3 p.m., Central Mission Hall, Albert St.; Pres., Mrs Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, G.F.S., Wellesley St.; Treas., Mrs McLean, Princept's St., Grey Lynn; Org. Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; "W.R." Agent Miss Pudney, 16, Wallace St. Ponsonby.