

posed: "That this meeting urges that all hotels in Wellington district be closed at 6 p.m. during war time, and enters a strong protest against the wet canteen." Our delegates were asked to take particular notice of the L.T.L. at Convention, and if possible to get one started here on their return. It was reported that all arrangements for the "Red Cross Tea" were arranged satisfactorily.

HAMILTON.

Dec. 2. Annual meeting. The President (Mrs J. M. Jones) in the chair. There was a good attendance. Report of the year's work was read and adopted. Ten business, two public, and seven home, evangelistic, and missionary meetings had been held. The Hospital Committee had visited the patients in the Public Hospital every week, and distributed flowers, magazines, etc. Most of the members had assisted in sewing for our wounded soldiers and Belgians. In her address, the President urged those present to a more united effort against the liquor traffic and all forms of betting and gambling. The Treasurer's report showed credit balance—adopted. A motion of appreciation of Archdeacon Cowie's letter, in recent issue of local paper, re censorship of picture films, was adopted, the members feeling that a good many of the moving pictures contributed a grave menace to the moral well-being of the rising generation, and strongly urged a strict Government censorship of pictures. Following officers elected:—Pres., Mrs J. M. Jones (re-elected); Sec., Mrs Auld; Treas., Mrs Jenkins. Mrs Snow was re-elected Superintendent of Home, Evangelistic, and Missionary Meetings. Hospital Committee re-elected. Mrs Henderson re-elected "White Ribbon" Agent. Afternoon tea was served before the meeting closed.

March 2. First meeting of year. Mrs Jones presided over good attendance. In a brief address, the President made some suggestions as to work the members could take up this year. She emphasised the importance of and great need for more prayer. Mrs Cumming gave a most earnest Gospel address, and sang a sacred song, which were much appreciated by the ladies present. Afternoon tea was served, and two new members were initiated.

PETONE.

The following officers were elected for the year at Petone:—Pres., Mrs Rowse; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Corner, McPherson, and Miss Kirk; Sec., Mrs Burd; assist-Sec., Mrs A. Cole; Treas., Mrs Donoghue; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Wilson; Cradle Roll, Mrs Hope; Sick Visitors, Mesdames McPherson and Murgatroyd.

A TEMPERANCE PARABLE.

A certain man was going down from the cradle toward the grave; and he fell among the liquor dealers, who took away his money, his work, his reputation, and his power to earn a decent living, and turned him adrift worse than dead. By chance a certain moderate drinker came that way, and when he saw him he said: "A man who cannot control his appetite is better dead." And he passed by on the other side.

In like manner also a licensed victualler, when he came to the place and saw him, said: "The workhouse for him. Let him break stones for the city until he becomes sober." And he passed by on the other side.

But a certain Christian Temperance fanatic, as he journeyed, came where he was; and when he saw him he was moved with compassion, and took him home, and ministered to him and to his family, and got him to sign the pledge, and found him work. Which of these three, thinkest thou, was the best of humanity?

THE BOTTLE THAT CHRISTENS A SHIP.

Whenever a ship has been christened with a bottle of wine, those of us who believe most strongly in prohibition have been apt to rejoice in the fact that another bottle of wine had gone into the water. "A good place for it," we have said. And some of us have said: "What difference does it make whether a ship is christened with water or with wine? It's a mere formality: a rite. Why fuss about a little thing?" But comes along the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and puts a new light on the matter. Consider, it urges, the root meaning of the word "christening": "One of the dictionary definitions of **to christen** is: 'to name, as a ship, by a ceremony likened to baptism.' Always baptism in the Christian ceremony has been with water. If in days gone by spirituous liquors were supposed to give long life and to bring good luck, the revelations of science have thoroughly exploded that theory. Water is a symbol of life; alcohol, a symbol of disease, destruction and death, the enemy of life and of efficiency; hence the christening of

any ship with champagne is an absurdity and an anachronism."

Many will stand corrected by this same view. We do, and we are glad to take off our hats to the clever mind in the Women's Christian Temperance Union that conceived this excellent argument.—"Ladies' Home Journal," January, 1916.

WOULDEST THOU?

Would'st thou be loved? From Love's all-potent chalice

Pour healing balm over hearts that mourn and bleed,
And not a taint of envy, hatred, malice—

But love pure, priceless love—shall be thy meed.

Would'st thou be brave? Gird up thy loins, and duly

Do noble deeds that else were left undone,

And valour's "Cross" thy breast shall grace as truly

As 'twere in battle's dread arena won.

Would'st thou be happy? Ever by kindly action

Relieve thy weaker brother of his load,

So shall the bliss of Heavenly benefaction

Be thy sweet solace on Life's tortuous road.

Would'st thou be honoured and thy name engraven

Deep on immortal hearts, not crumbling stone?

Then lead thy comrades on to honour's haven,

And reign—a king—on an Elysian throne.

—Wm. Johns.

Parnell.

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, 2.30 p.m., Central Mission Hall, Albert St.; Pres., Mrs Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompaier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, G.F.S., Wellesley St.; Treas., Mrs McLean, Principles St., Grey Lynn; Org. Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Pompaier Terr., Ponsonby; "W.R." Agent Miss Pudney, 16, Wallace St. Ponsonby.