

of literature are given to each vessel leaving port. Mataura and Christchurch sent comfort bags, as also did Pahiatua, which also sent 40s to cover the cost of filling.

Greymouth still continues the good work. Several of the men who were regular visitors have gone in the transports to help in the defence of our Empire.

Lyttelton members assist in the work of the B. and F. Sailors' Institute, and supply tracts for distribution at the Sunday evening service. Mrs Booth, wife of the Superintendent of the Institute and a member of our Union, is most energetic in helping the sailors, and has induced many of them to sign the pledge during the year.

REST AND REFRESHMENT BOOTHS.

Superintendent: Mrs C. S. Howard.

The following Unions report refreshment booths at A. and P. Shows; Blenheim; Oxford (profits given to the Belgian Relief Fund); Napier (has just concluded a 5 years' contract with Hawke's Bay A. and P. Show to provide luncheon and tea at their Spring and Summer Shows); Palmerston N.; Christchurch (a very large effort, thousands being fed, and many having to go away for lack of room; boxes were placed on the tables to receive gifts for Red Cross work); Invercargill (K.K. pledge forms distributed at the Winter Show; objectional pictures at Winter Show were removed at the request of a deputation from the Union).

Rest Tents at Shows were provided by Blenheim, Timaru (literature distributed), Hawera (proceeds given to Red Cross Funds), Invercargill (at Caledonian Show and at Retailers' Patriotic Show).

Several Unions assisted at the different functions held to raise funds for patriotic purposes: Kaiapoi (profits £60), Oxford (profits given to Belgian Relief Fund), Christchurch (catered at Harvest Festival, and handed over profits amounting to £275 to Belgian Relief Fund, also at the Tournament, in aid of sick and wounded).

Palmerston N. has a rest room in the centre of the town, much used by girls in business. Kaiapoi lets its rooms for social functions, and when let for weddings the members do all decorating and waiting. Members of Oxford assisted at Christchurch tent.

HOME MEETINGS.

Superintendent: Miss Dewar.

This department of work, like all others, has suffered owing to the war and the urgent calls for Red Cross work. Quite a number of Unions have replied to my circular, saying that for the above reason no meetings have been held. The following Unions have sent reports:—

Hawera held one meeting.

Pahiatua reports five meetings. Result, 8 new members.

Ngaire held a number of Home meetings.

Bluff, one meeting, addressed by Miss Powell.

Gore, one meeting.

Tuatapere held one meeting and three socials.

Auckland, one very successful meeting, addressed by Miss Bisson; new members gained.

Wellington South.—This Union considers Home meetings the best method for gaining new members. Most of the 31 new members this year were won by Home meetings. Four successful meetings held. Addresses by Misses Powell and Bisson.

Nelson.—Several meetings held, with good results; new members gained.

Palmerston North.—Home meetings held regularly.

Petone reports nine well-attended meetings, at which collections were taken up, amounting to £3 18s 7d.

Bluff.—Two very helpful meetings held; new members were gained.

Waipawa held Home Meeting, addressed by Miss Bisson on K.K. Pledge (two new members); Hikurangi reports two successful meetings.

PRISON AND REFORM WORK.

Superintendent: Sister Moody Bell.

Making an annual report of my department is rather like "making bricks without straw." I could wish that the scope of this department in New Zealand could be widened to coincide with the world's W.C.T.U., and to fall into line with their divisions of work.

By regulation of the late Minister for Justice, no women are allowed to work or even to visit the men's prisons of New Zealand. Mrs Barney, World's Superintendent of Prison and Reform Work, considers it very desirable that an appeal should be made to the Minister for Justice with a view to the entrance of suitable wise and motherly women as visitors into the prisons for men.

There is only one special prison for women in New Zealand. Only two Unions report work done in this department, Christchurch and Invercargill. The former reports that Mrs E. W. Cunningham suggests that prisons be called "Moral Hospitals." Mrs Millar, of Lyttelton, has been appointed official visitor for the Government. Mrs Cunningham has recently furnished a little chapel at Addington Gaol in memory of her late husband. Invercargill reports four meetings organised for making the needs of this work known to the citizens. Arrangements were also made to canvass the city for financial aid. The Victoria Home for Friendless Girls of Invercargill and district is being maintained with efficiency. Some of the New Zealand Unions have remembered this work by acceptable gifts of clothing for the women and babies.

SCIENTIFIC TEMPERANCE INSTRUCTION.

Superintendent: Miss Maunder.

I am disappointed that more Unions have not taken up the temperance wall sheets essays, but it is cheering to know that the present Minister of Education has promised to take steps to bring the subject more definitely before the teachers. Again I would urge that if possible all scholars should write the essays, not volunteers only.

The following Unions report giving prizes for essays on Temperance:—Christchurch (19 prizes), Kaiapoi (subject, "Temperance in Relation to the War"), Opotiki (16 prizes), Birkenhead, Palmerston North (prizes presented by the Minister for Education).

Auckland, Christchurch, Oxford, and Palmerston North report temperance addresses given at Band of Hope and other meetings.

Hawera, Devonport, and Waimate report that they attempted to get essays written, but from various causes the attempt failed.

Ngaire and Opotiki (16 prizes) give prizes for Temperance Wall Sheets.

Invercargill District, assisted by donation of £1 from South Invercargill, gave prizes for essays on Temperance wall sheets to the 183 schools of the Southern province. Bluff, Otautau, Tuatapere, and Mataura have also given prizes for Temperance essays to the different schools.

NOTABLE DAYS.

Superintendent: Mrs Harrison.

I regret that my first report in this department of work does not include more of our Unions. Perhaps the Unions have felt it difficult to work the "Red Letter Days" of our particular interests while there hangs over us this heavy war cloud, and so many patriotic and extra meetings have been called, in which we are proud to say our W.C.T.U. members have nobly done their share, or it may be the Superintendent being somewhat new to her duties, has failed to impress her department on the minds of the workers. We are also struck by the fact that some of our largest Unions have not sent in any report, and we trust some effort has been put forth, though not reported. I think one Union suggests adding another Red Letter Day to list, but would it not be advisable to try and work successfully the "Notable Days" set apart by Convention ere we take up fresh duties in that direction, however worthy the occasion may be. I trust the reports sent in by no means cover the work accomplished.

Franchise Day.—Gisborne held a meeting, addressed by Revs. Chatterton and McCutcheon and Miss Malcolm. Resolution of protest passed re Hospital Board elections. Collection, £1. Nelson; Oxford had a paper on "Citizenship" by Mrs Kippenberger; Bluff had suitable papers read; Pahiatua meeting, paper read