

Postage, Letters and Parcels, £1 19s 11d; Balance in hand, £5 5s 9½d. Total, £22 15s 2d.

162 letters and 98 parcels sent out by this department during the year.

Dunedin Band of Hope Report came direct to Editor too late for incorporation in above.

CLARA M. NEAL,
Dominion Superintendent.

BIBLE-IN-SCHOOLS DEPARTMENT.

Superintendent: Mrs Houlder.

Only two Unions sent reports, and both say no work has been done in this department. I can only surmise that the other Unions have done nothing, or so little that they have not thought it worth reporting.

In this time of the world's great need, when God is speaking so loudly, let us do our part to help to have the Bible read in our public schools.

MOTHERS' MEETINGS.

Superintendent: Mrs X. Jones.

Meetings held: Timaru held a meeting, addressed by Plunket Nurse; Normanby, a paper by the N.Z. Superintendent read, on "The Responsibility of Mothers to God, Their Children, and the District They Live In," and "How Mothers' Meetings May Be Made Helpful"; Invercargill had two meetings, and also a Garden Party, which was addressed by Miss Powell; Ponsonby held a meeting in June.

Pahiatua mothers and children attended five Home meetings. Waimate distributed and lent books and leaflets. Dunedin organised a weekly patriotic prayer meeting specially for mothers who have boys at the Front. Quite a number of requests for prayer were sent in, which were entered in a book and read out at each meeting, the mothers themselves oftentimes interceding for their own sons. Short addresses were given and suitable hymns sung. These gatherings lasted all the winter, and were greatly appreciated by those who attended.

FLOWER MISSION AND RELIEF WORK.

Superintendent: Miss E. C. Cole.

The following Unions reported visiting the Hospital regularly:—Napier (delicacies taken and cards distributed), Timaru, literature and flowers taken), Hamilton (flowers, periodicals, eggs, etc., taken for the patients), Gisborne (visits also the Old Men's Home), Petone (flowers and papers taken), Ngairere (flowers distributed), Christchurch (Jubilee Home visited, flowers and literature distributed), Greymouth.

Pahiatua, Kaiapoi, Timaru, and Greymouth report visiting and helping the sick; Warkworth collected and mended clothes for the Auckland poor; Gisborne made sheets, pillowslips, and towels for the Salvation Army Home; Ngairere sent a parcel to

the Door of Hope, Auckland, gave a maternity bag to a mother, and sent clothing to the Invercargill Home.

Wellington District Union visited three laundries, three factories, and the Alexandra Home at Christmas, and distributed flowers and literature, and Kaiapoi sent letters of sympathy to members in trouble.

Otautau sent a case of clothing to and collected £13 for Dr. Barnardo's Homes; Mataura sent 308 articles to Barnardo's Homes; and Warkworth sent clothing to the poor of London.

In addition to this, a vast amount of work was done for the various Patriotic Funds. Ashburton and Winchmore provided tea for the boys of the county who were leaving that evening for Trentham; Ashburton sent comfort bags, chocolates, etc., to the boys on H.M.S. Philomel, Psyche, and Pyramus; Bluff lent their hall to the Patriotic Committee, and assisted in their work; Tuatapere, Normanby, and Pahiatua report knitting for soldiers; Petone gave flowers to boys leaving for the front; Christchurch granted £5 to the Nurses' Relief Fund; Napier and Waimate made articles for the soldiers; and Mosgiel and Edendale report work of this kind done.

Wounded Soldiers' Fund.—Ashburton (street collection and flower selling); Winchmore assisted at a Produce Stall, which raised £25; Invercargill; Warkworth meets once a week to sew and knit for this fund; Christchurch helped with afternoon tea at fete for this fund; Pahiatua sent money and comforts; Petone visits and takes flowers to sick and wounded soldiers.

Belgian Relief Fund.—Napier collected £33 5s, and made 480 garments; Ashburton had charge of rest tent at Belgian Relief Fete, also helped in street collections and flower selling; Gore sent garments, and Otautau Band of Hope collection of £3; Tuatapere collected clothing, also £14; Normanby (30s); Ngairere, parcels of clothing; Christchurch took charge of luncheon and tea rooms at Harvest Festival, and raised £275, also sent box of clothing; Invercargill.

Red Cross Fund.—Napier collected £29 14s, and sent two cases of Red Cross necessities; Kaiapoi rooms are used as Red Cross headquarters, and Union managed refreshment tent at Patriotic Sports, and cleared £60 for the fund; Invercargill; Waipukurau does sewing and collecting; Normanby gave £3 11s 6d, also 10s to St. John Ambulance, and 30s to provide hospital bed for our boys, sells cuttings, plants and flowers for the fund; Ngairere sends parcels; Christchurch meets every week to sew, and sends parcels, collected £10 14s by boxes on tables at A. and P. Show, members give regular subscriptions to this fund.

Sandbags were given by the following Unions:—Tuatapere (£7 for fund); Invercargill; Waimate, 102

bags; Mosgiel; Waipukurau, 130; Ngairere, 100; Napier, 1600; Normanby, between five and six hundred.

Hospital Ship.—Pahiatua, money and bandages; New Brighton held a sox and handkerchief afternoon, result 31 dozen handkerchiefs, 28 pair sox, and £1 18s 6d; Hikurangi, 200 garments, and helped to raise £200 for it; Christchurch, bolt of flannel.

Gore, Tuatapere, New Brighton, Normanby, and Mosgiel collected old linen for Red Cross, which Mosgiel also sterilised.

NARCOTICS.

Superintendent: Mrs Wright.

I regret I have very little to report this year. Ngairere has a Non-Smoking League, and members secure pledges among men and boys. Importation of opium into the Dominion is prohibited except for medicinal purposes. Much is smuggled in. Wm. Clough, at Greymouth, was fined £100 for being in possession of opium. A fine of 40s was imposed for selling tobacco to a youth under 15 years of age. The Minister for Internal Affairs requested committees not to put cigarettes into parcels to be distributed on troopships. Knitters are requested not to put cigarettes into the feet of the sox to be sent to the hall.

HOME SCIENCE.

Superintendent: Mrs McDonald.

Wellington Central reports that Superintendent visited lavatories for women and children, and found only two which were up to the standard of a good lavatory. Wellington District Convention passed a resolution drawing attention to the exposure of food in shops and hand carts to flies and dust.

Papers and meetings on the subject reported by Timaru ("The Ideal Home"), Devonport (subject discussed at various meetings), Invercargill District, and South Invercargill ("Diet or Dentistry"), South Invercargill ("Health Diet"). The spirit of thrift has been raised as never before, and the needs of our brave boys have been supplied by loving sacrifice in small things. As one young girl said, "Can't afford sweets now; all my pocket money goes in wool and stamps."

UNFERMENTED WINE.

Superintendent: Mrs Gaskin.

When in Christchurch I tried to get an advertisement from the Health Food Company for our paper. I am hoping to get an agent here in Greymouth to stock unfermented wine, so that it might be easily obtained for invalids, sacramental purposes, etc. I would suggest that where possible our Unions might secure agents.

Pahiatua and Timaru report no work done. The churches, with the exception of two, use unfermented wine. Greymouth reports unfermented wine used in two churches.

Hawera has circulated literature.