

forms for distribution, and our Unions should see that they get wide circulation.

Unions were urgently urged to oppose the amendment to the Crimes Act, whereby no prosecution for defilement of girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years could be commenced without the leave in writing of the Attorney-General.

Though neither this amendment nor the medical proposals concerning venereal disease were introduced into Parliament during last session, it by no means follows that the danger is past. All Unions will need to keep close watch to prevent either or both these proposals, so dangerous to purity and morality, from becoming law.

A copy of all the above-mentioned communications accompanies this report.

A good many Unions notified me that they had passed the resolutions sent, or ones on similar lines, and from the published reports in the "White Ribbon" I note the names of more who have also done so. At least five Unions have passed resolutions antagonistic to the stand taken by Convention with regard to the treatment of venereal disease. I am strongly of opinion that such a thing would not have happened had the members been possessed of wider knowledge concerning the operation of the C.D. Acts and the great change that has taken place among scientific medical men as to the treatment of venereal disease.

I have to acknowledge, with warmest thanks, the valuable help and literature I received from Mrs Sheppard and Miss Henderson.

The following Unions passed resolutions supporting Convention in the opposition to compulsory examination and detention, and compulsory notification of venereal disease:—Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington District, Wellington Central, Dunedin District, South Dunedin, Gisborne, Invercargill, Invercargill South Branch, Timaru, Otautau, Ponsonby, Mosgiel, Greymouth, Bluff, Ashburton, Ngairi, Kaiapoi, Willowby, Pahiatua, Feilding, Kaikorai, Hawera, Whangarei, Opotiki, Nelson, Waimate, New Brighton.

Ashburton passed resolutions on three occasions against the inadequate punishment meted out to men guilty of sexual offences against women and girls.

Willowby passed and forwarded a resolution asking for an amendment to the Crimes Act, whereby in affiliation cases where several men are implicated, each shall be made liable for the whole of the maintenance, the money to be paid into Court for the benefit of the child.

The "White Ribbon" records that Palmerston North and Napier protested against the vote cast for the continuance of Bellamy's.

The petition for six o'clock closing was heartily taken up by the Unions. All Unions sending in reports mention it, while several made efforts for

the mitigation of the severe sentence passed on Alice Parkinson.

Dunedin and Christchurch voiced very decidedly their indignation over the liquor supplied to the Hospital Ship; letters went to Lord Liverpool from both those Unions.

Kaiapoi passed a vote of censure on Parliament for refusing to restrict the evils of the liquor traffic and for increasing facilities for gambling and racing.

Ngaio, Otautau, Tuatapere, report several resolutions and telegrams to Government and members connected with temperance and social matters, but do not indicate their nature.

Some very fine educative work was done by Waimate Union by summarising the paper on venereal disease and getting it printed in two local papers.

Correspondence this year has been very considerable.

EDUCATIONAL BUREAU.

Superintendent: Mrs Young.

The following Unions report holding Educational meetings:—Christchurch (subjects discussed, Frances Willard, Anti-Gambling, Women's Work in the Old Land During War, Progress of Prohibition in Other Lands); Pahiatua (paper on Good Citizenship, Medical Temperance, Life of Frances Willard, addresses on Comparison of Cost between War and the Liquor Traffic, "White Ribbon" Paper, Women's Franchise Movement in New Zealand, Women's Disabilities); Invercargill (addresses on the work of F. N. Charrington, Methods of Dr. Montessori, What War Has Done for Women, Diet or Dentistry); Bluff (Franchise in Britain); Edendale; Otautau (lantern lecture); South Invercargill (Kitchener Pledge, Ignorance, Prospective Motherhood, Prenatal Influence, Diet or Dentistry, Abolition of Vodka); Palmerston N. (held fortnightly meetings, which were well attended).

LITERATURE.

Superintendent: Mrs Dearlove.

During the past year, in spite of adverse circumstances, a very fair amount of literature has been distributed by our various Unions, the "K.K." pledges taking the foremost place. Of these, there are some thousands still on hand, and we would urge our members to continue the good work of striving to get more pledges signed.

Many Unions who have purchased various booklets have sent no report, but few having been received. Timaru notably has sent literature to Trentham, also giving bundles of same to the men on each boat leaving the port.

Devonport similarly sent leaflets in Maori to each member of the 2nd Contingent; also to Gallipoli and Malta for the 1st Maori Contingent, and posted "Vanguard" to soldiers on active service. These examples are to be commended. Our sailors, too,

have not been forgotten. Comfort bags, containing useful reading matter, having been forwarded. Railway stations, rest tents, and Snow grounds have not been neglected. Invercargill accounted for 1000 "K.K.'s" at their Winter Show, and distributed a large and varied assortment during the year, being assisted by Mrs Cowie.

Our own "White Ribbon" paper has come in for its share, some by monthly copies, and others by the Convention number.

Some 47 subscriptions have been sent this year for the "Purity Advocate." It seems a pity that those sending name for this worthy quarterly at the small price of sixpence so often fail to renew their subscription. Surely this cannot be from lack of interest or fault in the paper, but just a lapse of memory or not understanding the necessity of renewal, therefore I would here draw attention to it, and hope this year to have a large list.

Appended are the year's receipts and disbursements:—

Literature.—Sold, £17 2s 4d; bought, £6 7s 3d; N.Z. Treasurer for K.K.'s, £4. Total, £6 15s 1d.

Purity.—Sold, £13 8s 1d; bought, etc., £11 6s 6d. Total, £2 1s 7d.

PURITY AND MORAL EDUCATION.

Addresses on Purity: Napier held two meetings, addressed by Miss Austen, one by Deaconess Brand, who spoke on "Character Building," also two meetings addressed by local friends. Pahiatua, addresses by Mr Bligh; Invercargill, meetings addressed by Mrs Lee-Cowie and Sister Moody-Bell; Palmerston N., meeting addressed by Miss Austen; Dunedin, meeting addressed by Mrs Lindo Ferguson on "Venereal Disease." Mrs Ferguson suggested that a clean bill of health should be required before the issue of a marriage license; Winchmore held two meetings addressed by local clergy. Purity literature was distributed by Hawera, Invercargill, Dunedin (among soldiers), Winchmore, and Pahiatua.

The following Unions circulate literature:—Invercargill ("Purity Advocate" and "American Motherhood"); Winchmore ("Purity Advocate"); Palmerston N. has lent out Purity books locally and also to Woodville; Pahiatua distributed free six copies of the "Purity Advocate," also has given away 35 booklets, and has a lending library of 36 books and 23 leaflets.

The Invercargill Union protested against some objectionable pictures on the Southland Show Ground, and they were removed.

Dunedin Union discusses clauses in the Public Health Act, and sent a protest to the Ministers against the same.

Timaru sent leaflets to Trentham; Waimate distributed 300 leaflets, and Auckland has distributed literature and passed resolutions of protest