

WOMEN'S Christian Temperance Union Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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Official Organ:

"The White Ribbon."

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers.

Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.

Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,
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For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, MAY 18, 1916.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON SOCIAL DISEASES.

At last the Royal Commission set up by the British House of Commons to take evidence and make recommendations for treatment of venereal diseases has brought in its Report. This report has been summarised by several leading dailies in this Dominion, and so is doubtless familiar to our readers.

The Commission recommended:—

No system of notification should be adopted for the present.

Free modern treatment in all hospitals.

Facilities for diagnosis and free treatment should be organised by larger local authorities, the Imperial Exchequer to contribute 75 per cent. of the cost.

On these two points the findings of the Commission agree with the atti-

tude taken up by the W.C.T.U. We have always opposed compulsion, and urged facilities for free treatment.

The Commission also recommended that social disease be an incapacity, by law, for future marriages, and th unanimously approved of the proposition of the English Divorce Commission that venereal diseases shall be a ground for divorce. Doctors' communications to patients in this relation should be privileged.

We are pleased to see that the Commission urges education of the young in sex physiology, and goes a step further in the right direction, and says that instruction should be based on moral principles and spiritual considerations, and not merely on the physical consequences of immoral conduct. Another fact emphasised by the Commissioners is that abstinence from strong drink is a decided factor in lessening this great evil.

The evidence taken showed plainly how great a menace to our national existence is the sin of impurity. Venereal disease is directly the result of immorality. Chastity is the only remedy for it.

The Commission favoured the prohibition of all advertisements of remedies, and while saying that certain drugs had proved of value in the treatment of the disease, did not assert that any of them had proved a cure.

We shall have more to say on this report in a later issue, but we cannot but feel that it marks a decided advance in public opinion. It should for ever settle the question of the C.D. Acts or any form of State Regulation of vice.

A RUSSIAN TRAVELLER'S TESTIMONY.

The Daily Chronicle of December 1, 1915, contains a striking testimony from Mr J. S. Dane as to the benefits of prohibition in Russia. He says:—"I have returned recently from a trip through Russia and Siberia. I can positively state that in no hotel, club, or shop can any spirits, wine, or beer of any kind whatever be obtained. There is an impression in Great Britain that the Russian interdict only applies to vodka, but I can assure you that it applies to every form of alcoholic liquors."

A MOTHER'S CHOICE.

Yes, I know there are stains on my carpet,
The traces of small, muddy boots;
And I see your fair tapestry's glowing
All spotless with blossoms and fruits!

And I know that my parlour is littered
With many old treasures and toys,
While your own is in daintiest order,
Unharmd by the presence of boys!

And I know that my room is invaded
Quite boldly all hours of the day,
While you sit in your own unmolested,
And dream the soft quiet away.

Yes, I know there are four little bed-sides
Where I must stand watchful each night,
While you may go out in your carriage,
And flash in your dresses so bright!

Now I think I'm a neat little woman,
I like my house orderly, too,
And I'm fond of all dainty belongings;
Yet I would not change places with you!

No! keep your fair home with its order,
Its freedom from bother and noise!
And keep your own fanciful leisure;
But give me my four splendid boys!

—Sel.

CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S VOTE CLOSES IMMORAL HOUSES.

On February 17th, 1915, in accordance with California Red Light Abatement Act, Superior Judge Sturtevant closed four immoral houses, ordered the confiscation of the personal property of the tenants, and of the furnishings and furniture in the houses, and decreed that the places must remain vacant for one year.

This decree, according to legal authorities in San Francisco, will have the effect, if sustained by the higher Courts, of closing every immoral resort in the State.