

## News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

### ASHBURTON.

May. Mrs W. K. Watson presided over a good attendance. A warm welcome given to Mrs G. Frost. Mrs W. T. Lill reported on money collected for the Rest Tent at the A. and P. Patriotic Show, and that £2 10s was handed over to the Patriotic Committee as a donation from the W.C.T.U. Rev. J. D. McArthur was present, and by request spoke on the "Social Evil" question. The need of education on this subject was forcibly impressed upon all, educating ourselves, our children, and the community. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the speaker.

June. Attendance large. Mrs G. Miller, V.P., occupied the chair. A motion of sympathy, expressive of the national loss sustained through the untimely death of Earl Kitchener, and appreciation of his noble work, was carried, all members standing. Collecting cards for Patriotic Fund were requested to be returned by June 7th. A warm welcome was extended to Mrs Tregonning, late Oamaru Union, and two new members initiated. Mrs Lill reported that the "Y" Branch had made arrangements to conduct a Juvenile Band of Hope, commencing June 18th. The meeting then took the form of a "pay up" social, and an interesting programme was submitted. A brief address by Mrs G. Frost on "First Impressions in a No-License Area" was listened to with great interest.

### LYTTELTON.

June. Meeting held in the Presbyterian Schoolroom; Mrs Whilby (President) in the chair. Seven members being present. Petitions re six o'clock closing have been well filled up, and we all hope and pray that we may get the six o'clock closing very soon.

July. Meeting held in Presbyterian Schoolroom, Mrs Whitby presiding over ten members. The clause in the War Amendment Bill was discussed; the majority were in favour of sending a protest against it.

### WANGANUI EAST.

President in the chair. Small attendance. White Ribbon hymnal used for the first time. Decided in future to meet in the Anglican Schoolroom. The Superintendent L.T.L. department reported having organised another L.T.L. branch, which is held alternate Mondays in the Church of Christ Chapel.

Twenty-two members joined last meeting, all of whom are very enthusiastic, and it is anticipated a strong auxiliary will soon be worked up. The Okoia L.T.L. continue to have good meetings, once a fortnight, and are about to start a drum and fife band. The Treasurer of the Okoia L.T.L. (Harry Little) proudly handed in £3 1s 5d which he had collected for the W.C.T.U. patriotic effort. Every Union should have an L.T.L. department. Members and friends will be pleased to hear that our Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs Andrew, is progressing favourably after a serious operation.

### GREYMOUTH.

Meetings presided over by Mrs Mason. All our meetings have been well attended, especially the Prayer Meetings (started by our Union), united Churches, specially for this time of war. An interesting letter was received from Mrs Gaskin, re work in various Unions, also a parcel of fancy articles, for sale on behalf of Sailors' Rest. Our Patriotic Card Fund did well, something over £23 being forwarded. Our Greymouth and Cobden Bands of Hope are well attended, well conducted, and full of interest.

### AUCKLAND.

June 14. Special Patriotic Meeting. Surgeon-Major McGuire gave a most interesting address on "A Doctor's Experiences in Egypt," which was much appreciated by a large audience. A collection was taken for the Patriotic Effort.

June 28th. Mrs Cook presided. Reports were given from delegates to the Auckland Province No License Council, held on June 3rd. The Patriotic Cards were called in. The report of petitions showed that 16,140 signatures had been secured by the Auckland Union. Arrangements were made to hold a Pay-up Social at the next meeting. The following resolutions were passed: "The Auckland W.C.T.U. protests against the inaction of the Government in not including among the proposed amendments to the Licensing Act a clause providing for six o'clock closing of liquor bars. The Auckland W.C.T.U. earnestly desires the introduction of the early closing reform." This was forwarded to the Premier. Private letters have also been sent by individual members, and friends. The following resolution was passed: "That the Auckland W.C.T.U. protests against any attempt to introduce the C.D. Act in any form on the ground that the regulation system is condemned as being wrong in principle and a failure in practice. Regulation increases vice and fails to reduce disease. The Union urges the Government to provide without delay free hospital dispensary treatment for all patients voluntarily presenting themselves for treatment, this being the course advised by Sir Jonathan Hutchinson and other eminent authorities. The Union further urges that a vigorous campaign of educational

teaching by suitable lectures be inaugurated by the Government, giving plain warning as to the lasting effects of transgression."

### OXFORD.

June 6th. Mrs Gainsford in the chair. A vote of sympathy was passed with Mrs Ryde in the serious illness of her daughter. A letter of thanks was received from Mrs Lee-Cowie for a donation of £25 from the Union for Patriotic Fund. Decided to hold an Intercessory Service. Miss Gainsford gave an address on the Power of Prayer, based on the text: "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it," and was accorded a vote of thanks. Two new members were enrolled.

June 21st. Decided to celebrate Taylor Memorial Day by an afternoon meeting on the last Tuesday in July. Mrs Gainsford reported that the box of garments has been despatched to Belgium. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to all those who have helped in any way with the work, and especially to the Red Cross Society for the use of their sewing machines.

At a meeting of the Oxford Junior Band of Hope, Mrs Gainsford presided, and at the Senior Band of Hope the Rev D. Rankin presided. Songs and recitations and dialogue were contributed by members and others.

### HAMILTON.

June 8. Mrs Jones presiding. The President made feeling reference to the loss our Empire had sustained by the death of Earl Kitchener. Mrs McKenzie, Secretary-General for New Zealand for the Ramabai Mukti Mission, being interested in the work of the W.C.T.U. and in its efforts to raise a sum of money for Y.M.C.A. work at the Front, handed over to the local Union £25 for that fund, being part of the proceeds derived from the sale of Indian goods at the recent Show. A motion of appreciation of the Borough Council's action in providing a much-needed rest room for women, was adopted. Decided to send the following protest to the President of the Winter Show:—"As members of the Hamilton W.C.T.U., we desire to protest against the permitting of a certain game of chance at the last Show, a game in which small rings were thrown over coins placed on the table." From personal observation, many members are convinced that such a game was in all respects most detrimental to the best interests of our young people.

### TOKOMARU BAY.

The monthly meeting was held on Friday, June 9th. Meetings have been irregularly held on account of severe storms and consequent broken bridges, etc. So far the Branch has collected well over the proposed £1 per head for the Soldiers' Comforts Fund, and there is still more to come in. It was arranged that several members take charge of copies of the six o'clock closing petition.