

## "THE TRADE" ON EARLY CLOSING.

The licensed victuallers are once again victims of public apathy. The fanatics, the one-eyed, the goggle-minded, and the long-whiskered "kill-joys" of the State fell over one another in their anxiety to vote six o'clock.—"The Hotelkeeper."

"Women, unfortunately, have got a vote.—"Wine and Spirit News."

What is to become of the homeless brigade if they are turned out of the hotels of Victoria at 6 o'clock each evening?—"The Hotelkeeper."

The liquor trade may well call itself "The Trade," for surely no other trade is like it. When any other trade has to go out of business for the good of the people, it gracefully "bows to the inevitable." When a very large carrying firm had to retire from business owing to the opening of a railway line, they sent a dignified circular to their patrons saying that owing to railway competition, they were retiring from business, and thanked patrons for past favours. They had much money invested in plant and stock, but it was better for the public to have the railway, and they recognised this, and promptly retired. But the liquor trade has been proved to the hilt to be a national destroyer, and when for the very salvation of the State its hours are restricted, or even threatened with restriction, it howls and shrieks in the most undignified manner because its dollars are in danger. We can only remember two instances at all worthy to be compared with its laments: the makers of images of the great goddess Diana crying out against Paul and Silas because "our craft is in danger," and the wreckers shrieking out against the erection of a lighthouse because "it will deprive honest people of a living."

True marriage is not a monologue; it is piece for two persons, and the success of the whole depends upon each part being well taken and carried out. It is possible, however, to study one part only, and that not your own, but the part which the other ought to play. I say—study your own part and act it well.

## CONSERVATION OF HUMAN LIFE.

(Extracts from an Address given at National Convention, 1915, by Texas President.)

Why are children born defective? Why are they born blind, etc., etc.? If stock and cattle raisers were continually forced to take care of blind pigs, blind calves, and colts, our law-making bodies would appoint a live stock commission, with a large appropriation, to find out the cause and remove it. Let no one believe that they would build pens and tax the people to take care of them. The unerring voice of science declares that there are only two causes for defective children—alcohol and impurity.

Society is so intricate, so firmly bound by the ties of life, that no man or set of men can engage in any evil without bringing harm to others. Yet there are people so morally perverted, so intellectually senseless, to claim that the red-light district is a necessary evil. There is no necessary evil. What is necessary to life is not evil, and what is evil is not necessary. Yet the fact remains that this evil has laid terrible tribute upon the unborn, and we are forced to make a public fight for the private right of every child—that of being well born—for every physician knows that no child can be assured of a sound heritage of mind or body whose parents, or either parent, have paralysed their higher faculties or narcotised their system by a drug so destructive to the protoplasm of life, the development of brain and nerve cells, as alcohol. Too long has man forced woman to weep in silence over her blind babies. Too long has she peopled the insane asylums and homes for the feeble-minded with the pangs of her body and soul while she prayed to God to send the angel of death to bear away the fruit of her murdered love. Too long has her heart broken when manacles clasped the limbs of her erring child, and turned with streaming eyes from prison doors and gates of infamy as they closed for ever upon her lost hopes. Too long has she gazed in abject despair upon her children clad in the rags of poverty and pinched with hunger, only because man demands his personal liberty, and that the red-light district

shall be protected. I say to you, if any man should persist in perpetuating and protecting a breeding place for smallpox and yellow fever, because of the revenue it would bring the medical profession, that man would be mobbed. If any political party protected any such place it would be hissed into oblivion by an enraged and outraged public. But I say to you, and can prove it by records, that such a place is safe and sane compared with your politically protected red-light districts and the blood-stained bar rooms of our country, for they leave their scars in the blind eyes of our babies, and their blighting, withering fevers in the feeble-minded and insane of our homes. We have 310,000 insane and 165,000 feeble-minded, according to some statistics. We are told that 30,000 of these are in asylums and homes, leaving something like 280,000 of them free to multiply their kind. Add to this the hundreds of thousands of paupers, tramps, criminals, and sexual perverts caused by alcohol, and we face a tremendous loss of character, ability and life. Who shall say that God is a liar, and that He did not mean what He said when He declared that "not a sparrow should fall to the ground without His knowledge"? How much more important is human life. God also said, "Vengeance is Mine. I will repay." Woe to that nation that for gold and selfish lust crushes out the life, the opportunities, the moral vision of its people. We shall reap what we sow; we must pay what we owe.

**Ashburton**, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m., in Baring Square Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs W. K. Watson, Box 37; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevurzon, 169 Peter Street; Asst. Sec., Miss Wise, Short St.; Treas., Mrs W. T. Lil, Willowby; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

**Auckland District**, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Central Mission Hall, Albert St.; Pres., Mrs Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, G.F.S., Wellesley St.; Treas., Mrs McLean, Princeps St., Grey Lynn; Org. Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; "W.R." Agent Miss Pudney, 16, Wallace St., Ponsonby.

**Blenheim District**, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs A. Jackson; Sec., Mrs D. P. Sinclair, Box 27; Treas., Mrs Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Mesdames Brewer and Hancock; "W.R." Agent, Mrs W. Parker, Grove Rd.

**Cambridge**, 1st Tuesday in month, in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. D. Shepherd; Sec., Mrs A. Wallace, Weld Street; Treas., Mrs C. H. Rycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs Reeves; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. T. Watson.