

## Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

### MOTHERS!

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—That was a fine piece of wording about the mothers of the world in your last number. But what about some "action"? I appeal to the women, because they seem to be more sensible than men; at any rate, they do not seem to consider it a necessary part of their lives to go "boozing" at every "pub." they come to. They also seem more sociable, more spiritual, more economical, and yet think of something else besides money. I suppose all people should revere their mothers—the mothers—in action as well as in words. Then why not give "the mothers" an indestructible place in the world? It would be a fair thing, good Christianity, tend to eliminate war, and good economics. I would insist that every mother be presented with an inalienable right to a satisfactory portion of the earth's surface, say, five acres, either by her husband or by the State. Then she would indeed be a citizen of the world, with an inalienable right in the world.

Just consider "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Could those mothers train their sons to war on other mothers' sons?—I am, etc.,

SAM. A. BROWNE.

Clevedon, Auckland, Aug. 28, 1916.

(To the Editor.)

Dear White Ribboners,—

It has occurred to me that our representatives in Parliament are lacking in knowledge of the true work of the W.C.T.U., and that it might be advisable that our Union undertake to supply the members of the different electorates each with a copy of the monthly publication of the "White Ribbon."

If the expense cannot be undertaken by the Dominion Union from funds, would it not be advisable to do so out of a levy on each Union, or the Mother Union of the electorate undertake to supply copies. As there are no Unions in some electorates, and several Unions in others, a levy on all would enable the work to be more generally progressive, and thus the stronger may assist the weaker to reach the goal to which we all aim.

There is an impression that our petitions were signed by Prohibitionists or White Ribboners, if not altogether, in a large degree. This we know is wrong, as even in this part of the electorate a number who signed for 6 o'clock closing would not give any support to the Prohibition platform at last election, and there were many abstainers and moderates who would gladly have signed, but owing to the limited time, it was impossible

to reach all. One lady, when the petition was presented to her, at first refused, and then said, "Yes, I will sign it, for I do not believe the publicans have played the game since the war began." The inconsistency of the Colonel's remarks to the men in camp on the drink question is rather remarkable, as compared with his antagonism to 6 o'clock closing, and his advocacy for the "wet canteen." His address was to the point in many respects, but why not help the weaker ones, many of them mere boys, by removing the temptation. If they can be helped and saved during those first months in camp from the first downward step, may they not have gained something in strength of character and mind to help them to withstand temptation? In talking over the question with officers and non-coms., they all have said, "If we had wet canteens, we should have no discipline." These are the men who see and know the immediate effect upon the men under their charge.

Is it not also true that most, if not all, the crimes in the camp are to be traced to the influence of drink? All do not appear in the Press. Can you put yourself in the place of the poor mother who, after journeying to Wellington to say farewell to her boy, cannot see him because he is "in drink"? Can you realise her feelings and sorrow; her boy's grief and remorse, when he is taken on board the transport under escort of the guard, and without that loving look and parting smile and kiss, which are such dear memories during the long, weary months of waiting and suspense? It may have been his first step on the downward grade; but would it not be better that the "cause" of the evil be removed? Is not the remorse of leaving a mother grieving under such conditions, among them the uncertainty of meeting again in this life, when all might be explained, worse than meeting German bullets? It is seldom one hears of a young man leading an impure life unless he has first been under drink's influence. Keep the liquor from our young men, and we need not fear that he will be a victim to its accompanying evil. What do the unfortunate women say? "If we did not drink, we could not live this life." Is it not true of a young man? Legislate on the drink question, and we shall not need to legislate for venereal disease.

Many of our M.P.'s have sons in camp or at the Front. Have they thought how they may be legislating for the downfall of their own sons, and daughters too? Have they thought how many innocent men, by being obliged, in the course of their camp life, to come in contact with others not so pure as themselves, or by the different vehicles of contagion that may exist, have become victims? These youths and men may be the future husbands of our daughters, or our sons may be affected, and themselves be obliged to live a single life, or cause unhealthy children to be born. Thus its effects are far-reaching.

It is selfishness that stands in our way, because of interest in the "Trade" can we, by still appealing to selfishness, because their own flesh and blood stand in danger, arouse some interest in this vital question.

Let us remember the 6 o'clock closing petition, and the treatment it received in the House, when next election comes.

It is not for ideals only we are fighting, but for our very existence as a people of purity and truth. Yours, for our sons' and daughters' sakes,

SOLDIER'S MOTHER.

### PROMOTED.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of Mrs Harris (nee South), which took place at her residence, near Timaru, on August 27th, 1916. For over 40 years our dear departed sister was a most earnest Temperance worker, ever ready to push the battle against King Alcohol. She was a very old member of the W.C.T.U., latterly in the South Dunedin Branch, where she was President, and attended several Dominion Conventions as a delegate. Our sister was also a very old member of the Good Templar Order, having filled many high offices, and done splendid work in training the juvenile branch. We cannot write all our dear sister did. With her large family, she took an interest in all good works, and while we tender our sincere sympathy with the bereaved ones, we can only say of our dear sister that having most faithfully done what she could, she enters now into the joy of her Lord. Thy will be done.

**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, Poinpallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Miss Evans, G.F.S., Wellesley St.; Treas., Mrs McLean, Princept St., Grey Lynn; Org. Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Poinpallier 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**, first Tuesday in month, in Victoria Hall, at 3 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.