

wiser, kinder dealing with the children and their desire to know. There is a great deal to be done in these directions, and you can do it. You can make this Union a centre of influence which will permeate the whole community, and go far, without any stir or noise, to sweeten and purify our moral life. And here is one practical suggestion I would make to you as a branch of the Union. There are many books and pamphlets published nowadays, the aim of which is to help in this matter of informing the children and educating our growing boys and girls. How would it do if you formed a little library of the best of these books? It would be a library from which any mother might borrow a book to help her in the task of enlightening and guiding her own children, from which any member might borrow a book to lend to a friend. The books would need to be wisely chosen. They need not be very many. Some small charge might be made for the loan of them. I can conceive such a little library being of great use. We once had a little library of that sort in the manse—only a very little one; but it is astonishing how many times the volumes were lent. And I know they did a lot of good. But we made no charge for the loan of them, and one by one they forgot to come back. No doubt they are doing good service still, somewhere. I just throw out the suggestion to you.

I thank you very heartily for the hearing you have given me this afternoon.

#### DISTRICT NURSE WANTED.

So many nurses are away looking after our wounded and sick boys, that there is a scarcity in the Dominion. The Riverton Hospital and Charitable Aid Board advertised for a district nurse, salary £150, and no suitable applicant replied. Our White Ribbon sister, Mrs Harrison, of Tuatapere, is very anxious that a district nurse should be secured who will be a real help to our sisters in this far Southern district. If any of our readers know of a suitable nurse, who is free to apply, would they bring the matter under her notice? All applications are to be sent in to Mr Cassels, Secretary Riverton H. and C.A. Board, Riverton, Southland.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

### CRADLE ROLL, L.T.L., AND BAND OF MERCY.

#### CRADLE ROLL.

##### Aims of the Department:

To teach mothers that alcohol is a racial poison.

To train up a race who will not know the taste of alcohol.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

Our World's Superintendent, Miss Porritt, sends us the following message: "Children are the nation's greatest asset. Surely it should be our duty to see that these little ones are protected from the foe, Alcohol, which is more destructive to us as a nation than Germany and her allies."

We are humbled as we realise how strong a position this alcohol foe holds in our nation at present, and now, whilst the spirit of patriotism burns strongly within us, we should be willing to make a gigantic effort to save the coming race. Let us ever remember that to begin with the cradle is too late. Our desire is that the very beginnings of life may be free from the paralysing effect of alcohol, and on this point seek to provide teaching for fathers as well as mothers.

If we are to accomplish this gigantic task we must learn to co-operate with other workers, and to "take our work into what is already going on." For example, we must seek to win over to our side the midwives, maternity nurses, and all who have to do with the young.

Again I wish to draw attention to the fact that as each new Union is organised, they invariably take up Cradle Roll work, but in many of the older and larger Unions this work is not yet begun, or has been allowed to lapse.

As well as enrolling the babies, we must aim at winning the mothers over to the ranks of total abstinence. Will Superintendents make a note of this, and report the number of mothers who have joined the W.C.T.U. after their babies have been enrolled?

Many of the medical temperance leaflets may, with advantage, be used in the work of this department, especially "Safe Remedies in Illness," "Save the Babies," "Alcohol Injures Children," "Alcohol and Nursing Mothers." These may be sent with the birthday card, or may be left

when calling upon the mother. Leaflet, "How to Organise the Cradle Roll," free.

Pledge Cards, 1s per dozen.

Birthday Cards, 9d per dozen.

Certificates, to send with the 8th year birthday card, 2d each.

"Purity" leaflets for mothers, 5d per packet.

#### L.T.L.

The meeting of a model Loyal Temperance Legion, as demonstrated by Mrs Duxfield and her Okoia Legion at Convention, has had the result of stirring up members to take up the work of this department.

Several Legions have been organised, and there has been a steady demand for L.T.L. literature.

I have been notified that the four junior and four senior Lesson Manuals are now unobtainable, as the charts and four other manuals more than take their place.

The following is "A Word to Teachers" from one of these manuals:—

"This little book 'About Ourselves' follows the line of 'A Handful of Hints.' At first sight it will seem to be simply a collection of stories, but the real subjects are Alcohol and Cells, Muscle, Nerve, Blood, Heart, Lungs, Stomach, Skin, Brain, and Character. Only the essential facts are given concerning the relation of alcohol and tobacco to the body as a whole and to its different parts.

"The 'things to remember' at the end of each chapter will clarify the subject in the child's mind, and the questions in the back of the book will be helpful to the teacher. If she will use 'A Handful of Hints' in preparing the lesson it will afford further illustrations, and give variety to her teaching.

"Concerning the blessedness of such work as this, a certain writer has said: 'I would rather plant a single acorn that will make an oak of a century and a forest of a thousand years, than sow a thousand morning glories that will give joy to-day and are gone to-morrow. For the same reason I would rather plant one living truth in the heart of a child, that will multiply through the ages, than scatter a thousand brilliant conceits before a great audience that will flash like sparks for an instant, and like sparks disappear forever.' This highest kind of opportunity is within the reach of all, for anyone may gather a