

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

WORK AMONG SEAMEN.

The Superintendent wishes to thank the following Unions for their gifts to the mine-sweepers, received last month:—

Masterton—1 pair underpants.

Hastings—30 pairs socks, 7 Balaclavas, 17 scarves, 4 pairs mittens, 12 singlets.

Normanby—3 pairs socks, 1 pair bed socks, 2 pairs mittens, 2 Balaclavas.

Money Donations.—Dannevirke, 5s; Normanby, 12s 6d.

MILITARY CAMPS.

Dear Sisters,—Will you please draw the attention of your Union to the subject of Military Camps, and before the end of the year send me a report of any work done in that connection by your Union?

Some of the directions in which work can be done are:

Inducing soldiers to sign K. and K. pledges.

Distributing literature to soldiers in Camps and Hostels.

Arranging for addresses to be given to soldiers.

Writing to lonely soldiers.

Yours very sincerely,

E. HELYER,

Superintendent of Military Camps.
"Wharenu," 13, Tonks Grove,
Wellington, 25th September, 1916.

Dear Sisters,—

I hope all the Unions are taking advantage of the recommendations of the Education Department to teachers to instruct the children in Scientific Temperance, by promoting the writing of essays and instruction on the effects of alcohol. Let the teachers know you are observing; many will be encouraged thereby.

Please send records of work done in this department.

J. E. MAUNDER,

Supt. Sci. Temp. Instr.

For you,—you, too—to battle go,
Not with the marching drums and
cheers,
But in the watch of solitude
And through the boundless night of
fears.
And not a shot comes blind with
death.
And not a stab of steel is pressed
Home, but invisibly it tore
And entered first a woman's breast.

MEDICAL JOURNAL OF AUSTRALIA.

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST VENEREAL DISEASE.

"We have been informed that the Commonwealth Government has decided to assist the State Government in the endeavour to control the spread of venereal diseases. The sum of £15,000 has been ear-marked this year for the purpose of subsidising on the £ for £ basis the work undertaken by any of the States on certain general conditions. A maximum has been fixed for each State. The sine qua non of this offer is that compulsory notification of venereal diseases on lines similar to those obtaining in Western Australia must be introduced. The Commonwealth Government will require evidence that the work has been efficiently planned, and that it will be carried out thoroughly. Facilities must be provided for educating medical students and graduates in modern methods of research and clinical observation. The work will be subject to regular inspection by the Commonwealth authority. In addition to the subsidy, the Commonwealth Government proposes to institute investigations through the Quarantine Bureau, and to embark on an organised research in connection with some of the problems dealt with by the Departmental Committee."

"It will be noted that no attempt is made to render this work federal. The Commonwealth Government does not propose to interfere with the action of the State Governments in their individual attempts to exercise a complete control over syphilis and gonorrhoea. Each State will be free to carry out its own programme. There are indications that some movement will be made in each State. In Victoria, the introduction of a special Bill in the coming session will probably place this State in the same position as Western Australia. The matter has been occupying the attention of the Health Department of New South Wales for a considerable time. In view of the fact that the proposals contained in the Act of Western Australia are to a large extent experimental, it is probably a wiser expedient to leave each State free to adopt such legislative measures as it deems advisable. At a later date, after the experimental stage has passed, uniformity in con-

trolling the spread of infection should then be adopted by all the six States. In the meantime, the various States will be well advised to accept the conditions of the Commonwealth Government, and to provide night clinics in connection with the hospitals, laboratories, and other facilities. The cost of installation will be borne by the Commonwealth, provided that the work is undertaken in a manner reasonably promising of good results."

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HEALTH ACT.

"The various forms and pamphlets have now been issued to medical practitioners. In Form A. the nature of the venereal infection and the sex and age of the patient has to be stated. This form is for use in all fresh cases, and the duty devolves on the practitioner to explain to the patient the communicable nature of the complaint, and to hand him or her a pamphlet issued by the Department of Public Health. The pamphlet contains a short, elementary description of syphilis, gonorrhoea, and soft sore; a paragraph setting forth that prompt, expert, and persistent treatment is required to ensure cure; a paragraph pointing out that sexual intercourse is not necessary for health or essential to manhood; and lastly, a paragraph giving sound advice, with the object of avoiding infection, and also of informing the individual, should infection have taken place, what his legal obligations are."

Form B. has to be used when the patient absents him or herself from treatment for a period of more than six weeks. In this certificate, the name and address of the patient has to be disclosed. Form C. is for use by a practitioner who is called upon to treat a patient previously under the care of another practitioner. Form D. is a certificate to the effect that, to the best of the practitioner's knowledge, the patient is not at the time suffering from venereal disease in any form. In a note attached to this certificate, it is specially pointed out that it does not constitute a guarantee of cure. It merely indicates that the practitioner can no longer detect signs or symptoms of venereal disease. Patients suffering from syphilis are warned that they should not regard themselves as cured unless active treatment has been continued for at least two years. In the case of gonorrhoea, the sufferer is told that