

very best training for service? Shall we not fit them to serve God and country in other ways?

In addition to mental training should go the spiritual education. In the last extreme it is always character that counts. Give a girl high ideals of duty, teach her to do her duty faithfully to the smallest detail, and then, whether in her own home or in the office or the shop, will she so work as to hear at last the Master's "Well done! good and faithful servant."

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### PRESIDENT'S LETTER.

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Dunedin, January 3, 1917.

My Dear Sisters,—

Because of the sadness due to the war, one feels almost ashamed to be happy, yet I am going to wish you all a Happy New Year. Many are mourning the loss of brave sons, some who have given their lives for their country; some have sons in the hospitals, in the trenches, and in the camps, and as women best understand all that these things mean to a mother's heart, we cannot get away from the gloomy war shadow. And then we are disappointed because, in spite of our great effort to get the liquor traffic restricted, we seemed to make no progress, and according to figures, drunkenness is on the increase throughout New Zealand. And yet, in spite of all, once more I say to every sister "A Happy New Year." Someone has said "Happiness is a great love and much serving." We do not know what 1917 has in store for us, neither do we know for what God is preparing us in His school, for what work on earth or in Heaven, our business is to do our work well in the present place, whatever that may be, and in the doing of it we shall be blessed. From all round the world news has come, and is still coming, of the restriction and annihilation of the Liquor Traffic, and we never know the hour when the tide will turn in New Zealand, and the opportunity come for the last fight that will free us from the enemy, and see our White Ribbon mast high over Prohibition territory. In the meantime, trusting in God, let us go forward with a patient, dauntless effort, with a good courage, and love in harmony, with

the unconquerable love of God. I hope every Union will make an effort to send a delegate to Convention. Will those who cannot go pray specially for the gathering in Auckland, that wise plans may be made for future effort, that all present may be inspired and enthused, and that from the Northern City there may go through the Dominion fresh impetus and increased determination to keep at it till we rejoice in victory, and thus win for ourselves and others in every sense of the word "A Happy New Year."—With loving greetings, yours in the work,

RACHEL DON, Dom. Pres.

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### DOMINION STOCKING LEAGUE.

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At this time, when economy is being urged upon us from all sides, it will be interesting to take a glance at the work of the Dominion Stocking League. This Society first started work in Dunedin in 1910. It certainly was a Heaven-born inspiration to take the worn-out stockings, which few value, and most throw away, and out of them fashion warm and dainty clothing for the underfed, ill-clad waifs of the London streets. From small beginnings the work has grown, and now not only worn stockings, but all kinds of worn-out woven clothing are taken and made into dainty suits, caps, scarves, etc. First the stockings are sterilised, and then all the good parts are cut out to be used.

The first annual report was issued in September, 1911. It was then called the Baptist Women's Missionary Union Stocking League. This year a branch has been formed at Roslyn, in addition to the original one at Hanover Street. The total number of garments for 1911 was 417. These were despatched to missionaries in India, and the remainder were sent to London, and there divided between the West Ham Central Mission and Dr. Barnardo's Homes.

In 1912 branches were formed at Gore and Mosgiel, the former contributing 100 garments, and the latter 106. The Dunedin branch, with a membership of 43, made 754 garments. These were again forwarded to India and London.

In 1913 six new branches were added to the three, making nine in all—Dunedin, Gore, Mosgiel, Bluff, Kelso, Oamaru, Wellington, Berhampore, and Khandallah. This year the name was altered to the Dominion Stocking League. It was now spreading throughout the Dominion, and was quite undenominational. The number of garments this year numbered 1670.

In 1914 Dunedin doubled its membership. The number of garments made was 4837. This year, in addition to the usual recipients, a large case was sent for the widows and orphans of those who had fallen at the Front. This year Lady Liverpool became Patroness of the League. At the annual meeting, in September, members decided to hold special meetings to make clothing for the Belgian refugees, and so enthusiastically did they work that by November 25th, 2341 garments were ready to be shipped. These were sent to the High Commissioner, who, in acknowledging their receipt, said: "The kind gifts of your League have been very highly appreciated by the recipients. The clothing is admirable, and in almost every child's garment was a coin of some sort."

In 1915, branches were formed in Hastings, Auckland, and Wellington. Every year a display of goods is made before they are packed to be sent away. The display this year was wonderful, and nobody looking at the jerseys, dresses, caps, babies' boots, etc., so tastefully made and so beautifully ornamented with hand needlework, would credit that the whole was made from cast-off stockings of all sizes and all shades of colour. Mrs McLaren, 604, Cumberland Street, Dunedin, is Dominion President. If any lady is desirous of starting a branch of the League in her own town, she can get full particulars from Mrs McLaren, also patterns of all garments to be made. Surely these workers are to be praised who utilise what would otherwise be wasted, and from a pair of stockings, whose worn-out feet are the despair of even the most enthusiastic darning, fashion beautiful and useful suits, dresses, caps, and other things too varied to be mentioned, to keep warm the poor waifs of London and the stricken Belgian refugees.