

quarters of the Red Cross work. The sick have been visited, and the needy relieved. Comfort bags for sailors sent to Sailors' Rest. Subscriptions have been sent to Patriotic Fund, N.Z. Fund, Organising Fund, Maori Fund, Prohibition League, Band of Hope Union, Red Cross Society. Miss Roberts gave an able address on "The Advance of Prohibition Since the War Began."

#### BLUFF.

The usual monthly meeting was held on Friday afternoon. Resolutions passed and sent to Parliament calling for the appointment of women police officers, and also the more stringent enforcement of the anti-shouting law. Arrangements made for the reopening of the Band of Hope in March.

#### PALMERSTON NORTH.

Feb. 2. Attendance good, Mrs Crabb in the chair. One new member received. Miss Lorna Hodder elected Treasurer. Mrs Crabb addressed the members. She said drinking and gambling had not lessened in New Zealand. A good membership was one thing to be thankful for, and if they did not tire, with the blessing of God much might be accomplished. She also thanked the members for their Christmas present, a gold-mounted fountain pen; the thought was kindly, and the gift welcome. £20 was voted to the funds of the No-License League.

#### PETONE.

Jan. Mrs Rouse in the chair. A splendid paper was read on giving up luxuries and drink to help win the war. Two new members were received. Mrs Corner promised to give the afternoon tea at her residence on the 21st.

#### TAURANGA.

Jan. 31. Mrs Christian in the chair. A hearty welcome was accorded to the new officers of the Salvation Army. Captain Midland was initiated, and elected a Vice-President. Decided to hand over a parcel of knitted goods each quarter to the W.P. League.

Feb. 17. Frances Willard Day. Decided to erect a stall for sale of flowers, sweets, preserves, and cakes, proceeds to go to the World's Missionary Fund. Convention delegate, Mrs Chappell.

#### WANGANUI.

Feb. 2. Mrs Upton presided; attendance good. New officers are: Pres., Mrs H. Smith; Sec., Mrs Upton; Rec. Sec., Mrs Bott. Letters of condolence sent to several members in trouble. Reported that many members were working hard with six o'clock closing petitions. Parcel of knitted comforts handed to Y.M.C.A. Mrs Smith appointed delegate to Convention. Our new President then addressed the meeting, urging all to great diligence this year.

#### SOUTH DUNEDIN.

Feb. 8. In regard to six o'clock closing, it was urged that a deputation meet the members locally, and a strong deputation, representing the various temperance societies in the Dominion, meet the House in Wellington, with a view to legislation during the coming session. Miss Austin will give a talk to parents in March. Members were urged to bestir themselves in connection with the forthcoming Municipal and School Committee elections. One new member initiated.

#### NGAERE.

Feb. 6. Mrs X. Jones in the chair, 15 members and one visitor present. Miss Ellis appointed delegate to Convention. Two young members each brought a parcel of Red Cross work.

#### DEVONPORT.

Sept. 11. Visitors invited to see a display of our Red Cross work. Reported that Maori contingents have been supplied with a leaflet in their own language.

Oct. 11. Decided to provide for one day at Soldiers' Club. Urgent need for police women was emphasised.

Nov. 23. Annual meeting. Mrs Cook, District President, gave an address. Joint Committee of Patriotic League and Union earned £23 by their effort on Mothers' Day.

#### WANGANUI Y's.

Jan. 29. A very successful opening meeting, 28 present. Mrs Smith, the President, and Mrs Duxfield addressed the meeting, encouraging the members in their work.

#### A DEDICATION.

Dear son of mine, the baby days are over,  
I can no longer shield you from the earth;  
Yet in my heart always I must remember  
How through the dark I fought to give you birth.

Dear son of mine, by all the lives behind you,  
By all our fathers fought for in the past,  
In this great war to which your birth has brought you,  
Acquit you well, hold you our honour fast!

God guard you, son of mine, where'er you wander,  
God lead the banners under which you fight;  
You are my all, I give you to the nation,  
God shall uphold you that you fight aright.

—Margaret Peterson.

#### "ASTRAY."

There was a man, it was said, one time,  
Who went astray in his youthful prime;  
Can the brain keep cool, and the heart keep quiet,  
When the blood is a river that is running riot?  
And boys will be boys, the old folks say,  
And a man is better who's had his day.

The sinner reformed, and the preacher told,  
Of the prodigal son who came back to the fold;  
And Christian people threw open the door,  
With a warmer welcome than ever before.  
Wealth and honour were his command,  
And a spotless woman gave him her hand,  
And the world strewed their pathway with flowers and bloom,  
Crying, "God bless lady" and "God bless groom."

There was a maiden who went astray,  
In the golden dawn of her life's young day,  
She had more passion and heart than head,  
And she followed blindly where fond love led,  
And love unchecked is a dangerous guide  
To wander at will by a fair girl's side.

The woman repented, and turned from sin,  
But no door opened to let her in;  
The preacher prayed that she might be forgiven,  
And told her to look for a place in Heaven.  
For this is the law of the earth, we know,  
That the woman is stoned while the man may go.  
A brave man wedded her after all,  
But the world said, frowning: "We shall not call."

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

Senator Wesley Jones, of Washington, on September 6 offered an amendment to the Corrupt Practices Act, forbidding the acceptance of campaign contributions from any person engaged in the manufacture and sale of liquor. Such acceptance would be made a felony, and be punished with a heavy fine, or imprisonment, or both. Senator Jones stated, as his opinion, that most of the corruption in politics can be charged to the liquor interests, and he would have those interests barred entirely from the financial end of the political campaigns.