

## Correspondence.

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

### THE TOTALISATOR.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Sisters,—It appears that an attempt is being made to obtain legal authority for the introduction of the totalisator in Australia. The Council of Churches in Melbourne is making strong protest, but probably there is a lack of information among the public generally. Will not each of you White Ribbon sisters having friends in Australia be careful to send them your personal interest by letter? Also forward any reliable data and statistics which prove the undoubtedly disastrous effects in New Zealand in encouraging the gambling evil, especially among young people of both sexes?—Yours cordially,

SISTER MOODY BELL.

Invercargill.

### ONE WAY TO SPOIL A UNION.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Sisters,—As I travel around many mistakes are apparent to me which are not always so clear to the local members. One thing which tells against our work is the constant appeal for money. Quite lately, in different parts of the country, I have met with women who have ceased to attend the meetings on this account. When canvassing for new members, I tell them, "It will cost you two shillings and sevenpence a year." A woman joins us, and then something is proposed, and another member says, "We'll give a shilling each," or "We'll each give 6d a month." It is a mere nothing to the speaker, but the woman sitting next her (who has joined because, though somewhat pinched, she could afford the annual membership fee) cannot afford it. She does not like to say so, and quietly drops out. Nobody minds a "plate" occasionally, but even this should, by rule, be very plain.—Yours in the work,

MARY S. POWELL,

Dominion Organiser.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Editor,—May I comment on two of the notices of motion which Mrs Evans has reminded us are to be voted on at Convention?

The proposal to give Dominion Superintendents of Departments seats on the Executive while Convention is in session would, I think, make for inefficiency. The present Executive consists of nine general officers and nineteen Vice-Presidents, twenty-eight in all. If to this number is to be added twenty-six Dominion Super-

intendents, we should have an Executive numbering fifty-four, practically a Convention in itself! It is proverbial that small committees do the best work.

Regarding the proposal of allowing our Unions to nominate Superintendents. This seems to me an excellent one. If this were carried, the Unions would be undertaking at their leisure a very important work, which Convention, for want of sufficient time, has generally scrambled through in a very hasty and perfunctory manner. If nominations were made in time for publication in the January number of the "White Ribbon" for these departmental officers, there would be time to consider the appointments before Convention meets, and the Superintendents would be more likely to be deliberately and wisely chosen—I am, etc.,

K. W. SHEPPARD.

### A HYMN FOR MOTHERS IN WARTIME.

Countless boys who fight and fall;  
Oh, believe He knows them all!  
Oh, believe His hand can reach,  
With a special gift to each!

Countless stars in heaven's blue frame;  
Everyone He calls by name,  
Every sparrow's fall He sees:  
Are our heroes less than these?

Wounded falls your darling? Balm  
He sends down, and strength and calm.  
Killed? He takes him from the strife  
To the everlasting life.

Missing? He knows where, and  
heeds,  
Gives him just the help he needs,  
Can he stay beyond his bound  
In whose love the lost is found?

Prisoner? He can break the bond.  
Mother, will you yet despond?  
Love, 'mid millions, keeps your son  
As he were the only one;

Keeps him still, alive or dead;  
Count the hairs upon his head.  
This His message, sent to you;  
This, in life or death, is true.

—S. G. Ford, in "London Daily News."

### FRANCES WILLARD DAY.

If any Union would like a paper to read at their Frances Willard Day meeting, Mrs Don has one on "The Life of Frances Willard," and any Union could have it by writing to 54, Canongate, Dunedin.

## IN THE FIELD.

The holidays do not furnish much material for reporting, but mine came to an end when, on January 30th, I started off around Dunedin on a collecting tour.

Invercargill was reached on February 1st, and the following day I returned to Mataura to attend the first meeting of 1917. The friends were rather out of heart, but rallied around well, elected a visitor, arranged for the cradle roll, and agreed to meet a quarter of an hour earlier, devoting that period to prayer in connection with the war, and inviting other women to unite with them in this.

On the Sunday afternoon I addressed the P.S.A. at Amethyst Hall.

It was a happy inspiration on the part of Invercargill to get up a conversazione for the Tuesday night, and thus afford me an opportunity of meeting old friends in the town where I first heard of, and joined, the Union. All went well except the weather, which had broken after a spell of several weeks of glorious sunshine and warmth. The wind was bitterly cold, and the rain showers semi-tropical in their violence, but the "faithful few" attended, and, as tickets had been freely sold, the affair was a financial success. This break in the weather seriously interfered with the collecting, which was my object in visiting Invercargill, so that I was obliged to stay longer than I had intended.

MARY S. POWELL,

Dominion Organiser.

Address: C/o Mrs Houlder, 108, Wallace Street, Wellington.

**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. L. Willowby; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterick, Wakanui.

**Ruckland 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, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs McLean, Prinsep St., Grey Lynn; Org. Treas., Miss Dewar, 4 Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; "W.R." Agent Mrs Ogilvie, Victoria St., Richmond.

**Blenheim District**, 1st Tuesday, 8 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**, 1st Tuesday in month, in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.: Pres., Mrs E. James; Sec., Mrs A. Wallace, Weld Street; Treas., Mrs C. H. Rycroft; Cradle Roll, Mrs Reeves; "W.R." Agent, Mrs A. T. Watson.