

abstinence for the individual and total prohibition for the nation. Mrs L. M. N. Stevens said: "A saloonless nation in 1920," and some of the bolder spirits say "A saloonless world in 1930." We make no terms with King Alcohol; every member is pledged to uncompromising hostility to him. It is a fight to the finish. We are joined for Protection of our Homes; their greatest enemy is strong drink. It is a race poison. It poisons the germ of life, and both physical, mental, and moral degenerates are the result of alcoholism in either or both parents. Expert opinion now says that the epileptic is oftener the child of parents who drink than of epileptic parents. Not only does it wrong the child before birth, but drunken parents make life one long torture to their tender children. Strong drink is the enemy of humanity. It mars the physical health, is the foe to efficiency; it weakens the brain power. No man who uses it is at his best mentally, and worst of all, it ruins the moral character. It makes its victim rob, lie, cheat, even murder, to supply its wretched craving.

#### Union.

Unity is strength. Woman united will be a mighty power. Already our Union is organised in 50 countries. "All round the world our ribbon white is twined."

How can we help to convert this great ideal into an actual? Let us persuade every woman we know to join our Union. We have our organisation; now all we want is for the flame of enthusiasm to be kindled among our members. May this Convention set us all on fire with devotion to our Master, and a great desire to do His will.

#### REDUCTION OF LIQUOR CAUSES REDUCTION IN CRIME.

In England, owing to reduction of crime since the war began, eleven prisons have been closed entirely. In four others a wing has been closed, and arrangements are being made for the total closing of five more. The prison estimates for the year have been reduced by £100,000, or about 12 per cent. A special correspondent of the "Times" says that the liquor restrictions are largely responsible for the reduction of crime.

## SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

### MAORI DEPARTMENT.

Dear Sisters,—Will all those who have received collecting cards from me during the last year remember that they should be returned to me at once, whether filled or not. In case of any one wishing to keep hers for collecting this year, would she kindly notify me to that effect?—Yours in Union service,

N. F. WALKER,  
Organising Treas. Maori Dept.

### GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Dear Sisters,—May I again remind members of the N.Z. Unions of the Municipal, School Committee, and Hospital Board elections at the end of April? I write thus early in order that all arrangements for these elections—selection of candidates, etc.—may be made, or at least begun before the Union Convention in March, as when that is over little time is left, and whatever is done is likely to be hurried and insufficiently considered. As I gather from the letter of a correspondent that there is still a little doubt in the minds of some as to the qualifications of electors and candidates for the School Committees, I may perhaps repeat what has been already stated in the October "White Ribbon": That any householder resident in the district, whether man or woman, can stand for election, and that there is nothing legally to prevent a man and his wife standing for the same Committee, if they so choose. Nominations should be sent in seven days beforehand, but if the election takes place at a householder's meeting, as is usually the case, they may also be made at the meeting. The vote in these cases is restricted to householders, whether men or women, that is, those occupying their own houses, or those in whose name the house, whether the whole or part of it, is rented; a man and his wife possessing a vote, but no other member of the family. In districts which have been placed under the new regulations, according to the Education Act, 1914 (see "White Ribbon" for October, page 2), the election takes place at the same time and under the same conditions as the

Municipal elections. In all these elections the qualifications for candidates are the same as those noted above; and I would specially remind our members that women, as well as men, are eligible for a seat on the City Council, where they can do and have done good work.

As regards voting, every adult individual, man or woman, over 21, who has resided in the district for three months, is entitled to vote, provided that his or her name is on the Municipal Roll. Electors should make a point of ascertaining in good time that their names appear upon the roll, and if not, should take immediate steps to have them placed thereon.—Yours in the work,

MARIAN JUDSON,  
N.Z. Supt. Good Citizenship Dept.  
Nelson, January 15, 1917.

### CORRECTION.

In last month's "White Ribbon" it was stated that the roll used was the Parliamentary Roll. It should have read the franchise is the same as the Parliamentary franchise. Every person entitled to be on the Parliamentary Roll is entitled to be on the Municipal Roll, but he must make sure his name is on the Municipal Roll.—Editor, "White Ribbon."

### TO MOTHERS WHO HAVE NOT HEARD.

Mothers! you who wait in anguish,  
Watch with dread for news each day!  
White-faced mothers, worn with weeping,  
Think of one thing when you pray.  
God has known your boy from childhood,  
Guarded, loved him, day by day,  
Would He leave him, just when duty  
Called him from his home away?  
He who knows his country needs him,  
He your boy, who longed to fight  
For the sake of those who love him,  
Will be precious in God's sight.  
Living, wounded, dead, or missing,  
Face the words—one must be true.  
Through your prayers be very certain  
God is with him and with you.

In life's small things be resolute and great  
To keep thy muscles trained; for knowest thou  
When Fate thy measure takes, or when she'll say  
"I find thee worthy; do this thing for me."