

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, MARCH 19, 1917.

HICHER IDEALS.

Ever before us shines the ideal, always untouched, but always calling to noble endeavour. "Hitch your waggon to a star" is good sound advice. Lower your ideals, and your character becomes debased. Do you wish to elevate the race? Then give it higher ideals. Raise those ideals from good to best.

Much concern lately has been expressed over the moral depravity and its resultant physical taint. The cause of this depravity is the double standard of morality. To whom should we look to give young men higher ideals? Surely to the doctor (the physician of the body) and to the preacher (the physician of the soul). Yet many preachers act on the assumption that a young man must sow his wild oats. And now for the first time in our recollection, a doctor stands forth publicly in defence of prostitution. The "Medical Journal" reports an address by Dr. Molesworth,

of Sydney, and the discussion thereon. He says: "We must come back to the recognition of the fact that the communal sexual desire is a constant force; that this desire will find gratification if the heavens fall and hell gape in consequence." And so this learned doctor calmly condemns a class of women to be sacrificed to satisfy this desire. The two strongest forces in a man's nature are self-preservation (the desire to save his own life) and race-preservation (the desire to reproduce his kind). Now, the first of these passions has ever been held in check by a healthy public opinion. If a man deserts a comrade in danger to save his own life he is branded at once as a coward. We never hear it said, "Oh! he was only yielding to the strong passion of self-preservation; he really could not help running away; he must save his own life." No such excuse is made. He is branded as a coward, and is shunned by all his fellows. Now, why not bring the same healthy public opinion to bear, and brand the man as coward who deserts the woman who has erred for love of him, and often, too, deserts his unborn child? Is he not doubly a coward? Why, then, receive him, and flatter him, and say, "Poor fellow! he sowed some wild oats"?

Let us clear away the accumulated rubbish of years, and get down to facts. Either this passion can be controlled or it cannot. Now, all doctors of standing agree that chastity is conducive to health. There is no physical necessity for a man to sin. If he lives cleanly he lives healthily. If we admit the position of our medical friend, then if it is necessary for men to sin, it is necessary that women be set apart for them. Why then look down upon these women? The whole thing had its origin in the low estimation in which women were held. If the prostitute is a necessary evil, then these women are condemned to a life of misery and suffering, an early death from a loathsome disease, all to gratify man's desire for pleasure. What matters the woman's suffering? She is only here to serve the lordly male and minister to his pleasure. Men may think this, but that any woman should agree with them is to us unthinkable. Yet we have women of the ruling class at Home asking for compulsory examination of all prostitutes, and also of girls from 15 to 18 years of age. What

a dreadful thing it is! Here are women willing to create a slave class (for that is what it amounts to). To supply man's lust, let the White Slaver trap and steal the girl of tender years. Let him herd them in houses as slaves, get the law to compel them to be regularly examined; never mind what horrors you inflict upon these girls (they are without the pale); do all you can to make sin safe for men, and God Himself mocks all your endeavours, and cries, "The soul that sinneth shall die." Men may devise all ways to sin and not to suffer the consequences, but "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap."

The cry of these poor outcast women goes up to God continually, and the man who forced them to a life of shame shall not go scathless.

Women of our land! what is the remedy for this moral scourge? Legislation may help and act as a palliative, but education is the only certain cure. Create a healthy public opinion. Set up the same standard for the boy as for the girl. Expect your boys to live as purely as your girls. Don't forgive his moral lapses more easily than hers. Set up higher ideals for marriage. Teach that the reproductive powers are God-given, and only to be used for the purpose for which they are given. Not in a day or a year or a generation can it be done. But let us start by taking the youth up on to the Mount of Vision. Give him a glimpse of the grandeur of purity; teach him self-reverence and self-knowledge. Raise the status of women. Not man's superior, nor yet his inferior, but his equal. Man and Woman together create the ideal home. So together they will create the ideal State.

OFFENSIVE POSTERS.

Invercargill Union sent a protest re hoardings on town walls. The following letter is the reply received:—

"Further to yours dated 9th inst. I have to inform you that the Borough Council are taking steps to put a stop to picture posters of an offensive or indecent character being shown on the hoardings throughout the town. The Inspector has been instructed to **take immediate action** under the By-laws when any objectionable poster is shown."