

ALCOHOL AND EPILEPSY.

Matthew Woods, M.D., member of the American Medical Association, and the National Association for the Treatment and Care of Epileptics, stated that: "According to the observation of all epileptologists there can be no doubt as to the effects of alcohol in general, as a frequent factor in the production of epilepsy. The difference among observers is one of degree, rather than kind. Maudsley, for example, is responsible for the startling expression that epileptics, because of drink on the part of parents, are as much manufactured articles as are steam engines and calico printing machines." Dr. Molli, of France, assures us that of all persons inheriting impaired nervous systems from drunken parents, from 30 to 40 per cent. of them were epileptics. Dejerine, of France, asserts that 51 per cent. of all epilepsies in children are due to parental alcoholism. For Germany, Dr. Binswanger declares of epileptics in Germany, 22 per cent. of them have had their origin in parental inebriation, while but 11 per cent. were due to parental epilepsy. From the investigations of numerous cases, conducted by various physicians of high repute, evidence is adduced to justify the conclusion that even a single lapse from total abstinence is sufficient to curse the unborn child with an epileptic or insane tendency.

EFFICIENCY BOARD.

The Efficiency Board, consisting of business men, have taken and weighed evidence, and condemned the Liquor Trade.

We are against compensation, always have been, but if we can't get rid of this trade, which costs us so dear in money and in human wreckage, in any other way, then the Board's proposal is worthy of consideration. If we can buy out the Liquor Trade and close it down for all time, as we believe the recommendation of the Efficiency Board is, then we are quite sure that our Government might put four or five millions to a worse use. Mothers! how much is it worth to have the liquor bars closed "when the boys come home"?

TARANAKI PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

This Convention met at Eltham on July 11th. The weather was inclement, but there was a record attendance, and a most successful gathering. Devotions over, Mrs Stanners, local President, welcomed visiting members. Reports were read showing that the Unions have been actively at work. Much of the work was necessarily of a patriotic character. A very fine paper on "Education" was read by Miss Tait, emphasising strongly the need of temperance teaching in our schools.

During the afternoon "Five Minute Speeches" were given for competition. Rev. A. O. Harris awarded the prize to Mrs Gilling, of Hawera, for her speech on "First Things First."

Mrs Phillips sang, and Mrs X. Jones read a paper on "Worry," containing cheery and practical advice for the present anxious time.

Mrs Phillips was chosen President, and eloquent testimony was borne to the long and faithful services of Mrs Douglas, retiring President.

Resolutions of sympathy passed with all who had suffered bereavement; also resolution in favour of 6 o'clock closing.

The evening meeting was very enjoyable, songs and speeches and recitations. Rev. Culleford spoke on the spiritual, and Rev. Harris on the social and moral side of woman's work. Collection in aid of the funds, and votes of thanks to all who had helped, closed the 1917 Convention.

PASSED TO HIGHER SERVICE.

Ethel Mair Evans joined the Kaiapoi W.C.T.U. when she was but 14 years of age, and for 15 years has been a faithful member. She has suffered from ill-health for many years, but has always displayed a bright and patient spirit. Her unselfishness and consideration for others was always manifested in loving work and kindly deeds, right up till the day of her death. Mrs Evans was the first President of the W.C.T.U. in Kaiapoi, and has been a supporter of the Union ever since its inception, 27 years ago. Sincere sympathy is felt for Mr and Mrs Evans and family in their sad bereavement.

Correspondence.

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

SAILORS' REST. (To the Editor.)

Dear Sister,—As some of you know, I have been on the West Coast for several months assisting our W.C.T.U. members, especially with the organising for the 6 o'clock closing canvass. The unusual number of liquor bars here, the Sunday (!) evening pictures, etc., present very great difficulties. But we are encouraged with the result of our efforts, and value the kindly letters of appreciation from Rev. J. Dawson.

One of the important and constant work of the Greymouth Union is in carrying on "The Sailors' Rest," which is now in a most deplorable condition, necessitating a comprehensive scheme of thorough renovation, at a probable cost of £150 at least. It has occurred to me that as there are so many strong Unions in inland towns which have no Sailors' Rests to manage, some individual friends among such might be pleased to help financially in this effort of the brave little Greymouth Union. While so much is being done for soldiers to-day, the claims of the seafaring men, upon whom we are so dependent, should not be overlooked.

Mrs Gaskin (Cobden, Greymouth), President of W.C.T.U., and Mrs Hansen (35, Alexander Street, Greymouth), Secretary of Sailors' Rest, will be glad to acknowledge donations.

With all good wishes.—Yours cordially,

SISTER MOODY BELL.
Greymouth.

ORGANISING FUND.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following amounts have been received for the Organising Fund since last report of May 7th:—

South Dunedin Union, £1; per Mrs Duxfield—Okioia L.T.L. £1 14s 6d, and Mathieson Street, Wanganui, L.T.L., 19s 3d; per Miss Powell—Profit on badges, £6 0s 6d, J. W. Harding (Waipukurau) £2 2s and small sums 7s 6d.

Total receipts for three months, £12 3s 9d.

Expenditure: May, £10 5s 5d; June, £11 15s 2d; July, £9 19s 9d.

Strength of the Nation Movement.

The following donations have been received:—Miss C. Plummer (Nelson), 10s; Invercargill Union, £3.

NELLIE BENDELY,
N. Z. Treasurer,
Auckland, 4th August, 1917.