

TRAINING OF GIRLS.

EDUCATION COUNCIL'S PROPOSALS CRITICISED.

Sir Robert Stout presided at a meeting held in the Concert Chamber, Wellington to discuss the Council of Education's proposals respecting the vocational training of girls, a meeting which had been arranged by the Society for the Protection of Women and Children.

Lady Stout was the first speaker, and emphasised the value of a higher education without undervaluing domestic science.

Professor Hunter made a point of the decision of the University Senate not to allow a girl to matriculate until she had gone through a course of domestic science.

Mr W. H. L. Foster moved: "That this meeting of Wellington citizens, while in full sympathy with domestic training for women, strongly protests against any alteration of our educational system that will place disabilities on women and deprive them of educational rights equal to those of men. That the meeting consider that the adoption of the recent proposals of the Council of Education on this matter would have these disastrous consequences, and therefore calls on the Department not to give effect to them." Mr Foster said he was present as champion of the primary schools and to oppose the recommendation that the education of girls from the third standard upwards be differentiated, and that they should be under the charge of women teachers. The Council of Education had reaffirmed a resolution of last September that vocational training should be given effect to in the primary schools in the case of children from 10 to 14 years of age. As to vocational training in primary schools, the Council of Education should answer two questions. The first one was: Did children between 10 and 14 years of age require to learn physiology and hygiene, the principles and practice of homecraft, economy in feeding and clothing, and the care of children? Secondly: Should positions be ear-marked for women? He agreed with Lady Stout that women should have the same rights as men, and therefore did not believe that positions should be ear-marked for women. If they had the

capacity and ability they would get such positions.

Miss Coad, who seconded the motion, said if there were fewer subjects taught in primary education it would be better.

Miss McLean, in referring to the proposed differentiation in education, reviewed the history of education for girls from 1836, when accomplishments such as music and dancing were the chief subjects. She also objected in this vocational training to the proposal that it should be compulsory. She also mentioned that with the new compulsory subjects, it would not be possible for pupils to qualify for the free places in the high schools in two years. The course would have to be three years, and the regulations would have to be altered accordingly.

Mrs H. Smith thought that the time for serious vocational training was after the ordinary school years, because at that time girls took more interest in those things. She also said that it was one of the most difficult things to teach girls to think, and that more homes had been ruined by women unable to think than by those unable to cook.

Mrs A. R. Atkinson also made an interesting speech in support of the ideas embodied in the Council of Education's recommendation.

Miss Myers also defended the proposals.

Mr Foster's motion, when put to the meeting, was carried by about 50 to 6.

WORK DONE FOR GOD DIETH NOT.

Though chilling winds have o'er us rolled,
Warm at our hearth this faith we hold,
Whate'er may die and be forgot,
Work done for God it dieth not.

Though scoffers ask, "Where is your gain?"
And mocking, say, "Your toil is vain."
Such scoffers die and are forgot,
Work done for God it dieth not.

Press on, true hearts can never fail,
Whoe'er oppose, they must prevail.
Opponents die and are forgot,
Work done for God it dieth not.

Press on, right on, nor doubt nor fear,
From age to age this faith shall cheer;
Whate'er may die and be forgot,
Work done for God it dieth not.

—Author unknown.

THE STRENGTH OF THE NATION.

"The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth."

We are full of joy and gratitude at the Efficiency Board's report on the Liquor Trade. Surely we are at last coming into our own. From such sterling men of probity, business ability, and commercial standing, the unqualified condemnation of this non-essential traffic must carry weight to every fair-minded man.

"The thing shall be done suddenly." Keep on praying, sisters; keep on working in God's great power; keep on trusting. "God He it is that doth fight for us."

We are still having excellent missions and good results. We urge you still to keep on circulating "Defeat." It is doing the mining and sapping. In addition, we want you to order large or small quantities of the two poems, "The Cry of the Mothers" and "The Women's Hour." These can be supplied at 8s per 1000, post free. We would advise every Union to buy 1000 from Mrs Houlder, Literature Superintendent, 108, Wallace Street, Wellington, and do them up in little rolls of 20 each, to sell at 3d. Hundreds will buy them at that price, and enclose them in letters and give them to friends and neighbours, so reaching people we could never touch, and reaching them in the most effective way.

Three Unions have sent gifts to our fighting fund: Auckland, £5; Oxford, £2; Pakiri, £1. Will you please note that all funds voted from local treasuries are to go to Mrs Bendely, Dominion Treasurer, with the request that such money be forwarded to aid our great Forward Movement? Our expenditure has been nearly £200, our income £77, but when all the money is in for "Defeat" and poems we shall be in a favourable position as regards finance.

God has worked wonders since our prayer campaign started. Pray more fervently now than ever, for we are just on the eve of victory.

Your comrade in His compelling might,

B. L. COWIE.

There is a necessary limit to our achievement, but none to our attempt.
—Phillips Brooks.