

WOMEN'S
Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

PRESIDENT:

MRS. DON,

C/o Mrs Hicks, Ravensbourne,
Dunedin.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

MRS CRABB, Fitzherbert Street,
Palmerston N.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

MRS. W. A. EVANS, M.A., Hiropi
St., Wellington.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
MISS HENDERSON, B.A., 26 Tui
St., Fendalton, Christchurch.

TREASURER:

MRS BENDELY, Aratonga Avenue,
One Tree Hill, Auckland.

Official Organ:

"The White Ribbon."

Editor: Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers.
Associate Editor: Mrs Evans, M.A.
Business Manager: Mrs Peryman,
Port Chalmers.

The White Ribbon.
For God and Home and Humanity.

WELLINGTON, SEPT. 18, 1917.

1893—1917.

It is 24 years this month since the women of New Zealand had conferred upon them the right to vote. Have they used that vote for the betterment of their native land? We publish below a list of laws passed since 1893, which show that gradually laws are being passed which are of benefit to all, but particularly to women and children. But there is much still to be done. We have not yet banished the liquor trade from our Dominion. Better protection is needed for our girlhood. Women are awake to the necessity of this. In America a procurer was sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment; in Dunedin lately a man, characterised as a "procurer of the worst type," got 11 months. This scandalous sentence raised a storm of protest from one end of the Dominion to the other. There has also been strong agitation to secure the appointment of women police, and to ensure that the man who commits a

criminal offence against a little girl shall be detained for life, preferably on a farm colony. These things have yet to be won, as well as many other improvements in existing laws. Every woman should educate herself upon these questions, should organise with other women desiring the same reforms, and then should agitate, and keep on agitating, till her end is gained. We believe the surest way to secure better protection for girls and better environment for our children to grow up in is to secure the election of women to Parliament. And the first reform we should press for is an amendment to the Electoral Act, which will not only allow women to elect, but to be elected to the Legislature.

**WHAT NEW ZEALAND WOMEN
HAVE GAINED SINCE 1893.**

The following is a list of humanitarian Acts which have been passed since women have had the right to vote:—

1. Infant Life Protection Act (to prevent baby farming).

2. Act to regulate the adoption of children.

3. Industrial Schools Amendment Act (providing for better classification and general methods).

4. Illegitimacy Amendment Act (whereby a child born out of wedlock may claim a share of the father's property after his death, the claim to be settled by the Court; and also providing that where parents are willing, the child may be registered in the name of the father as well as of the mother).

5. Legitimation Act provides that when the parents marry, any child born before such marriage shall be entitled to all the rights of a child born in wedlock, including inheritance of property.

6. Widow's Pension Act grants small pensions to a widow (or the wife of an incurably insane man), who has a child or children born in New Zealand.

7. Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act. (Enacts equal standard of morality. Divorce granted for adultery; wilful desertion for 5 years; for habitual drunkenness; for failure to support wife; if either person is in-

sane and unlikely to recover; or if either person has received sentence of at least seven years' imprisonment for attempt on the life of the other.

8. Summary Legal Separation Act gives protection to working women against worthless husbands.

9. An Act enabling women to receive compensation for slander without proving special damage.

10. Testator's Family Maintenance Act compels testator to provide for his wife and family according to his means.

11. Destitute Person's Act (1910) provides for registration of child born out of wedlock, in its father's name, where paternity is proved, and for the power to claim against the estate of either parent for the maintenance of such child. This Act also allows the imprisonment of any man not providing for his wife and children. Deserting husbands are brought back at the expense of the State.

12. The Destitute Person's Amendment Act (1915) provides that an officer of the Court shall be appointed to receive and to recover monies due under a maintenance order.

13. Married Women's Property Act.

14. National Provident Fund Act enables persons, on paying a small sum weekly, to secure an annuity at 60 years of age, the annuity varying from ten shillings to two pounds a week, according to payments made. It also grants assistance to widows, and parents on the birth of a child.

15. Old Age Pensions Act. (Both sexes treated alike.)

16. State Maternity Hospitals Act. Provides skilled medical attendance and trained nursing at moderate cost.

17. Aged and Infirm Persons' Protection Act. Provides that when any person is unable, by means of age, disease, illness, physical or mental infirmity, excessive use of alcoholic liquors or drugs, to manage his own affairs, a protection order may be made over the whole or any part of his estate.

18. Crimes Amendment Act provides for indeterminate sentences and reformatory treatment by modern methods.

19. First Offenders' Probation Act. Under this Act first offenders may, at the discretion of the Magistrates, be placed upon probation instead of being sent to gaol.