

50 from the effects of alcohol. One of his sons is a feeble-minded, drunken sot; another has sporadic sprees, when he becomes violent and uncontrolled. One daughter is a harmless alcoholic wreck, so degraded that her children will not take her into their homes. Of her six children, one is feeble-minded, and one highly neurotic. Another daughter was feeble-minded. Her eldest child is a mental defective and a criminal; the second is moody and feeble-minded; the youngest is a cripple and mentally deficient. Of 23 descendants of this man, 18 have been in public or private institutions.

Dr. Gordon publishes in a medical journal three family histories which are most instructive. In the first group, covering four generations, the great-grandfather was strongly alcoholic. In the three generations following there are 22 descendants, of whom only three are normal. There were two miscarriages, three still-born, one died at four, one developed tuberculosis and died at twelve, three were backward, two epileptic, one alcoholic and epileptic, one an eccentric alcoholic with a violent temper, one a somnambulist, two had St. Vitus dance or a tendency to it. In the second family alcohol was present in the grandfather and one son. The latter had three children, of whom one died at six months in convulsions, one is epileptic, and the third is a masturbator. Of fourteen descendants of the alcoholic grandfather, only three were apparently normal.

In the third family, the family tree is traced from the grandparents, one of whom was profoundly alcoholic. Of 15 descendants of this alcoholic grandfather, only two were normal. Three were stillborn; one an alcoholic weakling; one defective, both physically and mentally; two epileptic; two choreic; one a thief; one had a violent temper, and could not keep a position; one was a somnambulist; one sexually vicious.

"It appears to be reasonably certain," says Dr. Gordon, "that alcoholism alone can be incriminated as a direct cause of the striking abnormalities traced in the several successive generations. The conclusion to which these exceptionally striking pedigrees lead is that alcoholised individuals precreate defective children. One such family is capable of throwing into the community dozens of

useless or dangerous individuals, who, if capable of multiplying, will produce their like. Facts like these cannot be too widely known. The burden upon the taxpayer of supporting institutions for these physical and mental defectives created by alcohol is becoming well nigh unbearable.

Alcohol robs the nation of its "best immigrants"; it robs the child of its right to be well born; it fills our hospitals, our mental hospitals, our gaols, and our poorhouses. It stands pilloried on "infamy's high stage" as the greatest child-murderer, race exterminator, and national efficiency destroyer of all the ages. Is it not time a sane people voted it out?

AUCKLAND DISTRICT CONVENTION.

October 10th. Mrs Cook presided. Following Branches were represented:—Auckland, Ponsonby, Devonport, Birkenhead, Takapuna, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Henderson, Avondale, Eden, Warkworth, Matakana, Pakuri, Leigh, Avondale Y's, Auckland Y's.

Reports were read and adopted; satisfactory work done throughout the year. After discussion, it was decided to send telegrams to the Prime Minister and the Hon. G. W. Russell protesting against too hurried consideration of the Social Hygiene Bill. The Union wished to consider the provision in the Bill regarding compulsory examination and detention. Five new Unions had been organised during the year, also two "Y" branches and one Loyal Temperance Legion. Miss Powell gave an address in the afternoon, valuable hints on the management of a Union, which were much appreciated. A demonstration was given by the Auckland City and Avondale Y Branches, under the leadership of Miss Weymouth. Miss Parkinson's report of the six o'clock closing deputation to Wellington was much enjoyed. Afternoon tea was dispensed. In the evening a meeting was held in St. David's Hall, Khyber Pass, and the programme was provided by the Loyal Temperance Legion. Dialogues, recitations, and songs were given by the children, who had been trained by Miss Weymouth. Mr Le Roy gave a temperance address.

REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!

Will all Unions kindly note that reports should be in the hands of the N.Z. Superintendents of Departments by December 31st? When there is no local superintendent of a department, the Secretary should report any work done in that department to the N.Z. Superintendent. We print below a full list of N.Z. Superintendents, with their addresses:—

Evangelistic: Mrs Johnson Wright, Constable Street, Wellington.

Maori: Mrs Walker, Upper Fox Street, Gisborne.

Social and Moral Hygiene (Purity): Miss McCarthy, 18, Albert Street, St. Clair, Dunedin.

Literature: Mrs Houlder, 108, Wallace Street, Wellington.

Work Among Seamen: Mrs Nimmo, Arawa Road, Hataitai, Wellington.

L.T.L., Cradle Roll, and Band of Mercy: Mrs Clara Neal, Pahiatua.

Y's and Medal Contests: Mrs Griffin, Gilbert Street, New Plymouth.

Scientific Temperance Instruction: Miss Maunder, Hawera.

Prison and Reformatory Work: Sister Moody-Bell, c/o Amethyst Hall, Invercargill.

Good Citizenship: Mrs Judson, Van Diemen Street, Nelson.

Home and Mothers' Meetings: Mrs Garroway, Tatanui, Thames Valley.

Narcotics: Mrs Hoare, Whataupoko, Gisborne.

Legal and Parliamentary and Anti-Gambling: Miss Henderson, 26, Tui Street, Fendalton, Christchurch.

Home Science (Hygiene, Thrift, and Domestic Science): Mrs McDonald, 8, Huia Road, Hataitai, Wellington.

Bible-in-Schools and Sabbath Observance: Mrs Boxall, Pirie Street, Wellington.

Flower Mission and Relief Work (including all Patriotic Work): Miss E. C. Cole, c/o Rev. D. J. Murray, Lower Hutt.

Rest and Refreshment Booths: Mrs Upton, 165, Victoria Avenue, Wanganui.

Educational Bureau: Mrs Young, No. 4 Line, Fitzherbert W., Palmerston North.

Peace and Arbitration: Mrs Judson, Van Diemen Street, Nelson.

Military Camps: Miss Helyer, Tonks' Grove, Wellington.

Notable Days: No Superintendent. Send reports direct to Editor "White Ribbon," Port Chalmers.