

WORLD'S W.C.T.U.

Illinois, November 26, 1917.

My Dear Comrade,—As I wish you a blessed Christmas and a new year of gracious opportunity and achievement, I carry in my heart of hearts a vivid, sorrowful picture of the agony of grief a terrible war has brought to thousands of our women. Let us comfort our hearts by our sure belief in the regnancy of Christ, whose birth the world will soon commemorate. Like a canopy of tender love and good-will, the heavens are bending over the mourning homes and death-dealing battlefields. Surely, God's infinite love will soon triumph over the infinite pathos of this awful world tragedy. The angels are still singing, "Peace on earth, good-will to men," while heroic mothers and brave sons are helping to make true to the people of the world the prophetic song.

Interesting reports from nearly all the auxiliaries, encourage us to believe the White Ribbon forces are keeping well together. It is a time when we ought to heed the words of Joel given to Israel of old, "They march every one on his ways, and they break not their ranks." Thousands of women can be drawn to us by the opportunity to participate in our unique patriotic programme. Prohibition has a new, vital significance to many, who hitherto have taken only a superficial interest in the progress of the movement in our own land and in the countries of the allies. Especially should we invite the mothers of our enlisted men to unite with our nation-wide and world-wide organisation, well termed, "Organised mother-love." The W.C.T.U. affords them the privilege of translating their quenchless mother-love into patriotic devotion as they help drive from America and Europe the traffic in liquor and in vice. The W.C.T.U., which has always believed in Courts of Arbitration, should as an international organisation have a prominent part in the World Congress which after the war will speedily be called.

Each one of our federated countries is to be congratulated on its superb self-sacrificing patriotic service. In the United States we are hoping to secure from the Congress prohibition for the period of the war. The prohibition of the use of grain for the manufacture of distilled liquors dur-

ing the war is a tremendous victory, and we trust the use of foodstuffs for the brewing industry will also be checked. We have won a mighty victory in obtaining prohibition for the District of Columbia, which embraces our capital city of Washington. This past year we have added the States of Indiana, Utah, New Hampshire, and New Mexico to our list of prohibition States, now numbering twenty-eight. Prohibition also prevails in our great territories of Alaska and Porto Rico. Canada is also making tremendous gains toward a prohibition Dominion.

The recent victory for suffrage in New York State by a majority of nearly 100,000 surprises the most optimistic.

Our hearts are full of hope, although the future is in shadow. Let us go forth to meet it—unafraid. The world needs as never before the educational and spiritual impact of the W.C.T.U. We believe that a miracle of blessing now unseen will be wrought out for all the warring nations. For courageous souls who know the hidings of power in God, a crisis is a means of growth and refining of soul, rather than a time of fear, depression, and pessimism. Observance of the trysting hour of noon-tide prayer will keep us in close touch with one another and with the great heart of the Eternal, to whom alone we look to bring order out of chaos, calm out of the convulsion of war.—Affectionately,

ANNA A. GORDON.

HINTS FROM A NOTED SURGEON.

"Life is getting to be too complicated for the use of narcotics. The time was when the farmer could drive to town and get tanked up, and his friends would put him in the buggy and the sober horse would carry him home. But you cannot do that now with automobiles. We know that most of the automobile accidents are after dinners where alcohol has been served, and that not always in excess."

"A shoemaker by hand could drink and not have an accident, but a shoemaker to-day that drinks gets hurt by the machine."

"No one nowadays thinks drunkenness is well. What the public needs instruction about is the destructive effect of moderate indulgence."

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.**FOR MINE-SWEEPERS.**

41, Kent Terrace, Wellington,

January 3, 1918.

Dear "White Ribbon" Sisters,—

I have pleasure in supplementing my report of December 5 with the following:—

From Palmerston North W.C.T.U., £20; Mosgiel W.C.T.U., 10s; Invercargill W.C.T.U., £18 12s 3d; W. J. McDermott, Esq. (per Mrs Fountain, Ponsonby Union), £7 16s. Total, £46 18s 3d.

Parcels from Edendale, Dannevirke, Oxford Y's, and several North Island Red Cross Guilds, will be despatched as soon as possible.—Yours in the work,

BESSIE NIMMO.

POWHIRI MOTE HUI TAU.

Haere mai, enga roopu Maori. He pohiri tenei kia koutou kia tukuna mai he wahine e ia Roopu Maori, kia haere mai kite whakarongo kinga korero me tenei tau hou, ite hui tau i Timaru. Kote utu ote haerenga atu irunga ite tima; Akarana ki Christchurch, £6 17s 6d, "ritana." A ka kotahi pauna (£1) ma runga ite tereina i Christchurch ki Timaru. Me kii e waru pauna ritaana i Akarana ki Timaru. Hei te taenga ki reira ma te Roopu o reira koutou e awhina, a tae noa kite mutunga ote hui kite whiriwhiria e koutou, etahi wahine hei tuku atu ki tenei hui, a Maehe 13th nei, kia horo te whakaatu kia Mrs N. Walker, Fox Street, Gisborne.

Kia nui nga ora e puta kia koutou a tenei tau hou.

TE MARI WOODHEAD.

ALCOHOL AND EFFICIENCY.

Medical directors of three great life insurance companies say that alcohol is directly or indirectly responsible for 7 per cent. of railway accidents, 8 per cent. of street car accidents, 10 per cent. of motor car accidents, 43 of heat prostration cases and sun-strokes, 8 per cent. of all accidents in mines and quarries, 13 per cent. of drowning cases, and 10 per cent. of gunshot cases. A conservative estimate is that alcohol causes a loss of 21 per cent in the national industrial efficiency.