

IN THE FIELD.

The holidays leave but little scope for reporting, and the last three weeks have been spent at my home in Dunedin. I am now in Invercargill, having arrived just in time to attend the first meeting of the year. The friends here are naturally very gratified at the magnificent result of their work for the mine-sweepers.

I have communicated with the Southland auxiliaries, and am hoping to pay a flying visit to each.

M. S. POWELL,

Dominion Organiser.

Address: Miss M. S. Powell, Isca Mount, St. Clair, Dunedin.

OBITUARY.

MRS WARREN.

The Lyttelton Branch of the W.C.T.U. has suffered a great loss through the death of Mrs W. L. Warren, who passed away at her residence, Dampier's Bay, Lyttelton, on December 30th, after a short illness. Mrs Warren joined the Union six years ago. She was a faithful member, a good worker, and a willing helper whenever help was needed. She left a grown-up family to mourn their loss.

A PRAYER.

Give me a good digestion, Lord,
And also something to digest;
But when or how that something comes,
I leave to Thee, Who knowest best.

Give me a healthy body, Lord,
Give me the sense to keep it so;
Also a heart that is not bored
Whatever work I have to do.

Give me a healthy mind, good Lord,
That finds the good that dodges sight,
And, seeing sin, is not appalled,
But seeks a way to put it right.

Give me a point of view, good Lord,
Let me know what it is, and why;
Don't let me worry overmuch
About the thing that's known as "I."

Give me a sense of humour, Lord,
Give me the power to see a joke,
To get some happiness from life,
And pass it on to other folk.
—T.H.B.W., in the "Westminster Review."
"Christian Commonwealth," Oct. 24, 1918.

LETTER RECEIVED BY A UNION MEMBER IN RETURN FOR PARCEL SENT TO SOLDIER.

No. 3 Camp, Sling.

Dear Mrs S—,

I have very much pleasure in thanking you for the small parcel which I received a few weeks ago. I mislaid your address, so could not write before, but I happened to find it to-day. I have now been in England just on 12 months. My word, it is a cold place. I mean in the winter. I expect to be coming home any time now, so I may perhaps be able to thank you in person. It is the only parcel I have received since I left New Zealand, two years ago, so you may guess how pleased I was to receive something from the old place, I'd love to be back once again, and to see that we are not altogether forgotten. But some people have already forgotten us, even some of my own relations have never once written to me, but I suppose all will come right in the end. Trusting that these few lines will reach you safely, and thank you very much for thinking of the lonely boys from home.

Pte —.

WILL IT PAY?

Out from the hearthstone the children go,
Fair as the sunshine, pure as the snow;
A licensed wrong on the crowded street
Waits the coming of guileless feet.
Child of the rich and child of the poor
Pass to their wreck through the dram-shop's door;
O, say will they ever come back as they go,
Fair as the sunshine, pure as the snow?

Out from the hearthstone the childrer fair,
Pass from the breath of a mother's prayer.
Shall a father's vote on the crowded street
Consent to the snare for the thoughtless feet?
Ah! fathers, your finest gold grows dim,
Black with the rust of such nameless sin!
You may pave the streets with your children slain,
And light your ways with the price of shame.
But say, will your dear ones come back as they go,
Fair as the sunshine, pure as the snow?

—Mary T. Lathrap.

MOTHER'S PENSIONS.

Judge Henry Neil, of Chicago, is visiting England to propound a scheme of Mother's Pensions. His story is a most interesting one. "Early in January, 1911," he says, "I went into the Juvenile Court in Chicago, and saw the first case tried. It was a mother with five children, the mother worn out trying to earn a living for the children. The father had died three years before, and the mother had gone out washing. Now broken in health and unable to work, the landlord ordered her to move on, and she had nowhere to go. The Probation Officer said that as the mother could not support the children, they should be taken away from her and given to someone who could. The mother said, 'Judge, wouldn't it be kinder and more humane if you took the mother out and shot her before you take away from her for ever her children?'"

"That case woke me up. I went to the State Legislature of Illinois, told them the story of this woman, and asked them to enact a law by which a widowed mother, with no reasonable means of support, would be furnished with money to support her children out of the common county tax fund. The law was enacted, and has been successful in thirty States. The mother gets her cheque every month, and if she proves unable to handle the money properly her pension may be revoked."

Instead of putting children in institutions which are costly, they are looked after by their own mother, and the cost is about one-third what it was.

ALCOHOL AND EFFICIENCY.

The use of alcohol results in much inefficiency. It is well understood by all who control large bodies of men that alcohol and effective work are incompatible. Abundant liquor means a full guard-house and many court-martial cases. In the matter of target shooting, careful experiments conducted in Sweden showed an average of forty per cent. fewer hits by marksmen after one drink of brandy. Since alcohol markedly interferes with mental processes, it is plain that decisions in military crises are apt to be faulty. Alcohol and venereal diseases are closely allied.—Dr. Keefer, Lieutenant-Colonel, Medical Corps, U.S.A. Army.