

SUPERINTENDENTS' ANNUAL REPORTS.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

Supt.: Mrs Judson.

I have received reports this year from 16 Unions, five of which have a local superintendent for this department. This is a slight increase on the last two years, and with one or two exceptions, reports have been sent in much more promptly. As is usually the case, the majority of the reports are concerned mainly with the representation of women on School Committees and Hospital Boards. For the former, Christchurch stands highest, with 14 women members on different committees, Auckland coming next, with seven; Palmerston N. with three; New Brighton, Wellington District, Hamilton, Ashburton, Wanganui, and Wanganui E., with two each; and N.E. Valley and Nelson with one. Only four Unions have reported women members on Hospital Boards, Palmerston N. having three, Christchurch, Nelson, and Wanganui one each; but I am inclined to think these lists are incomplete. In both cases the majority are members of the W.C.T.U. The Christchurch Superintendent reports increasing difficulty in getting women to stand for School Committees, on account of the curtailment of the Committee's powers, many women feeling that they can do more useful work along other lines. This is to be regretted, as in visiting the schools there are many opportunities for suggestions from a woman with regard to the conditions under which the children are working. There are two questions which have been somewhat prominently before the Unions this year—the appointment of women police has been again brought up, and special efforts made. Christchurch, Auckland, and Nelson report deputations to the local M.P., and New Brighton to the Hon. Mr Russell upon the matter, and resolutions have also been forwarded. There now seems hope that we may before long see in New Zealand an officially recognised body of women police, as in other parts of the Empire. The other matter which has been taken up this year by several of the larger Unions is the improvement of cinema performances for children, aiming at better physical conditions at such performances, and also at the raising of the moral standard of the films displayed. Christchurch, Dunedin, and South Dunedin Unions have been specially active in this work, holding very successful public meetings in connection with it, and in Palmerston North a deputation waited upon the picture manager. Nelson and New Plymouth have also taken the matter in hand, and we hope that this coming year may see some definite action resulting in much needed reform. Auckland, Palmerston N., New Brighton, Kaiapoi, Nelson, and Wainawa report work for the 6 o'clock closing petition. This work was, of course, taken part in by many of the Unions,

and does not belong specially to this department, but it affords scope for good educative work in arousing in women especially a sense of their responsibility as citizens, and the duty of making full use of their privileges, which opportunity in some cases at least was taken advantage of. Literature has also been distributed in Auckland, Kaiapoi, and Nelson, Auckland especially doing much good work in that way. Very little has been reported in the way of lectures or public meetings. Auckland reports two—one to protest against the compulsory clauses of the Social Hygiene Bill, and one in connection with the visit of Rev. Mr Hammond, of Sydney, also several Temperance addresses. Dunedin held a meeting of protest against the light sentences imposed in the Ebzery and Parker cases; and Kaiapoi reports three in connection with 6 o'clock closing, with Mrs Lee-Cowie's campaign, and with the Social Hygiene Bill. Waipawa organised a citizens' meeting on Sunday evening, September 2nd, when resolutions against the drink traffic were passed and forwarded to Government; letters of sincere support were also sent to the local M.P. and to members of the Cabinet. At one of the Wellington District Union meetings the paper on Good Citizenship published in the "White Ribbon" was read, and at another an address on the subject was given, with reference to the "Mothers' Thought Guild," for the helping of mothers in the training of their children. In Nelson, also, an address upon this Guild was given at a meeting of Cradle Roll mothers; an address to mothers, by Dr. Ada Paterson, on "The Care of Children," was also arranged by this department in conjunction with the Plunket Society. At the Nelson District Convention two interesting addresses were given on "Women in Public Life" and "The Montessori System"; a resolution was also carried on the lines of the one passed by the last N.Z. Convention, protesting against the gambling methods so common in raising money for patriotic funds. An address was also given on Franchise Day upon "The Initiative and the Referendum." Ashburton reports the great success of the rest room opened by them two years ago, which has proved a great boon to mothers; this Union also takes the oversight of waiting-rooms, with very good results as regards cleanliness, etc., and the members take part in farewell entertainments for soldiers. The South Dunedin Union is affiliated with the National Council of Women. In view of the need for united action by all women's societies, if reforms are to be successfully carried out, I would call special attention to this as a step worthy of consideration by all Unions who have not already taken it and are in a position to do so. Union is strength, and in all our work we do well to

remember that it is not done simply for our own success as a Union, but rather as helping on the united efforts for reform put forth by all sections of the community.

NOTABLE DAYS.

Frances Willard Day.—The following Unions celebrated Willard Day:—Ashburton, address on "Notable Women" and collection for World's Missionary Fund; Christchurch, address on "Proportional Representation"; New Plymouth, address on 6 o'clock closing petitions; Napier, paper on "The Life of Frances Willard" and a picnic; Gisborne, public invited, and afternoon tea provided; Normanby, special collection; Hawera, address on "Life and Character of Frances Willard"; Tinwald, collection for World's Missionary Fund; Pahiatua, collection; Nelson, address on "Life and Work of Frances Willard"; Waipawa, picnic and address Greytown (one case of old linen and on Frances Willard's life, collection; Waipukurau, picnic and collection.

Franchise Day.—Winchmore had an address on Women's Franchise in New Zealand; Napier, social afternoon, address by the Editor of "Hawke's Bay Observer"; New Plymouth, address, with splendid attendance; Christchurch, address on "Responsibility of the Woman's Vote"; Bluff, gift afternoon, address on "Women's Responsibilities"; Nelson, address upon "Initiative and Referendum," collection of 21s 3d for N.Z. Fund; Waipawa, readings on "Woman's Work in New Zealand since 1893, and Improvement in Laws Relating to Women and Children Since That Date"; Gisborne, Hawera, and Fitzroy also celebrated Franchise Day.

White Ribbon Day was observed by Christchurch; address on "White Ribbon" paper from 1894 to present time; Winchmore; Palmerston North; Napier, address by Dominion Superintendent of Social Hygiene Department; New Plymouth, social afternoon; Bluff, mothers' meeting; Ashburton; Gisborne; Nelson, collection 13s 6d for Maori work.

T. E. Taylor Day.—Christchurch, address on "Life of T. E. Taylor"; Palmerston N., gift afternoon and social gathering; Napier, address; Bluff, drawing-room meeting; Ashburton, address; Gisborne, special meeting, public invited; Nelson, donation for 6 o'clock closing petitions.

BACKBLOCKS.

No Superintendent.

Nelson is the only Union which has reported work in this department. Parcels have been sent to Tui Kiwi, Mangarakau, Rai Valley, and all the sawmills adjacent to any place where a number of men in the backblocks congregate and work. Nelson always has a parcel ready when wanted,