

of a temporary nature, which should not be treated in the ordinary mental hospitals.

Miss Roberts moved: That a Dominion library of reference books be established for the use of officers and superintendents; and that Miss Macarthy be appointed Librarian, and act with Mrs Field and Mrs Peryman as a Committee of Selection.—Carried.

Names of books suitable for such a Library to be sent in to any one of the Committee, and request made for donations of books.

Resolved that a portion, £2, of the balance in the Purity Department, be used to procure books, and that this be subsidised by the N.Z. Treasury to the amount of £3.

Resolutions from Resolutions Committee.—

7. That this Convention re-affirms its request that all official women visitors to prisons and reformatories be given the status and powers of Justices of the Peace.—Carried.

8. That the Unions be urged to give more attention this year to the Department of Narcotics, especially in the direction of instructing young people of both sexes in the harmful effects of tobacco.—Carried.

9. That in the interests of the community and the better observance of the Lord's Day, this Convention calls attention to the growing evil of Sunday trading, and asks that the present incomplete, vague, and unsatisfactory law relating thereto be amended by Parliament, so as to meet the case more adequately and prevent what is so much to be deplored in the interests of the young people of our land.—Carried.

10. As it is quite evident from the sentences inflicted, that the law regards a criminal assault against a boy as a greater offence than one committed against a girl, this Convention most indignantly protests against laws which imply an unequal standard of morality; a criminal assault upon a girl of tender years should be regarded as an unnatural offence equally with a similar assault upon a boy. The Convention further expresses its strong conviction that as long as such distinctions are made, there will be no diminution of the social evil.—Carried.

11. A recommendation having been made by the National Efficiency Board that weekly lessons should be given in all the public schools on the history of the Empire and our duty to it, with a view to inculcating in the minds of the children a patriotic and national spirit, this Convention of the W.C.T.U. would respectfully suggest to the Minister of Education that such lessons should have a wider international bearing, cultivating a sense of their responsibilities and appreciation of their privileges, not only as citizens of the Empire, but as members of that wider community of which every nation is but one small part.—Carried.

The "White Ribbon" Editor was requested to bring the Constitution up-to-date.

Session closed in ordinary way.

THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 21st.

Devotions (Mrs Hiett).

Roll call, 87. Minutes read and confirmed.

Greetings from Oxford and Hamilton East.

Reports.—Peace and Arbitration, Literature, Home Science, adopted after discussion.

Press, Backblocks, Military Camps, Flower Mission and Relief Work, Rest and Refreshment Booths, adopted without discussion.

Resolutions Re-affirmed. — See "White Ribbon," April, 1917, p. 5.

Election of Officers.—Mrs Peryman and Mrs Young appointed Tellers. All the present officers were unanimously re-elected for the third consecutive year, and responded suitably.

Mrs Crabb nominated as Chief Vice-President.

Letter read from Miss Newcomb enclosing resolution from the Provincial Equal Franchise Board of Saskatchewan, and following resolution passed in connection therewith:—

Be it resolved that we, members of the N.Z. W.C.T.U., in Convention assembled, do hereby appeal to all the women of our country to continue with us in prayer and strenuous effort to secure the complete prohibition of the manufacture, importation, and sale of all intoxicating drink for beverage purposes, and we urge this appeal more especially in view of the fact that so many important countries, recognising the evil effects, moral, physical, and financial, of the trade in liquor, have restricted the traffic or banished it from their midst. Whatever the cost and sacrifice entailed upon the world by the war, it will be worth while if thereby the universal overthrow of the liquor traffic be obtained.

In connection with a letter just received from Secretary of N.Z. Educational Institute, it was resolved: That this Convention urge upon the National Government the necessity of making provision, without delay, for improvements and extensions in the education system of the Dominion.

Corresponding Secretary requested to send to Mrs Bendely the news of her re-election, and to express the Union's appreciation of the way in which she has kept on her office in spite of ill-health.

President announced that Mrs Cowie had consented to act as Provincial Organiser for Otago, and to take two young members to train in organising work; also that Mrs Napier had consented to act as Dominion Y. Organiser whilst remaining in the Dominion.

Noontide devotions (Mrs Patterson).

Notices of Motion.—(1) By Mrs Peryman: That as Unions may now choose as their delegate any member in their own district, Article III. of the Constitution be amended by deleting the words "No proxy shall be appointed, etc.," to the end.

(2) By Miss Macarthy: That Article IV. be amended by inserting after the words "Editor and Business Manager of the 'White Ribbon'" the words, "and Superintendents of not less than

4 nor more than 6 Departments to be selected by the Executive."

The N.Z. Superintendents were elected. (See page 21.)

A hearty vote of thanks accorded to Miss Maunder for long and faithful services rendered as N.Z. Superintendent of Scientific Temperance.

Resolved: That Unions should make 3 returns of members next year—(1) number of financial members, (2) number of members whose subscriptions were only one year behind, (3) number of members on complete roll.

Ashburton Union representatives invited on platform. Banners presented, with congratulations.

At an earlier session, Mrs Lill was presented with the life membership badge; also a badge entrusted to her for Mrs Ferriman, the first Dominion life member, and now she was given the badge for Mr Ferriman, the first Dominion Honorary Life Member.

Session closed with Temperance Doxology.

Thursday Afternoon.

Devotions (Mrs Fairbairn and Mrs Tiffany).

Greetings from Eden Branch.

Mrs Young was elected National Treasurer for the Y.M.C.A. hutment patriotic effort.

Mrs Peryman appealed to all Unions to get again 6 new subscribers for the "White Ribbon."

Resolved that £10 extra be paid as honorarium to the "White Ribbon" Editor.

Invitations for next Convention from Palmerston North and from Napier. Resolved to accept Napier.

Resolved that charges of conveying Challenge Banner from Auckland to Convention be paid by N.Z. Treasury, but this not to form a precedent.

Roll call, 79. Minutes read and confirmed.

Votes of thanks passed as follows:—

To entertaining Union and hosts and hostesses.

To the Auditors, Mr G. Plummer and Mr D. Morice.

To the Press.

To those who had provided afternoon tea.

To the Trustees of Wesley Church for use of Wesley Hall.

To the Unions who lent copies of hymn books.

To the Y delegates for making copies of report.

Resolved that this Convention desires to express its appreciation of the ability shown by the officers of the Timaru Union in organising, and for their thoroughness in carrying out, every detail in connection with its sessions; and desires to thank Mrs Rule and her colleague, Mrs Cave, for their untiring zeal and unfailing kindness, which helped to make the annual gathering so successful.

An Initiatory Service was held, and then Convention closed with singing Hymn 11 ("Another Year is Dawning"), and the Aaronic Blessing and Benediction pronounced by the President.