

saloons in the large towns, the credit of the advance being largely due to the progressive municipal bodies. The wonderful work of our Organisation in America makes a thrilling story. Surely such whole-hearted activity and determination is bound to win through and that quickly. The most notorious victory over the trade in strong drink was the complete abolition of vodka in Russia in the early stages of the War. We have heard of the wonderful increase of money in the savings banks, the improved health and morals of the people, the rapid and even marvellous recovery of wounded soldiers, due it is said to the entire absence of alcohol in the system. But the latest story comes to us from a Russian Medical Journal, published at Petrograd, which tells us that the amount of mental disturbances is comparatively small, about one per thousand, while in previous wars the rate was two or three per thousand. The main cause of the decreased rate is the total absence of alcoholism. In the present campaign, there has not occurred a single case of alcoholic insanity. Last month's "Vanguard" says: "For the sake of Russia it is beyond measure distressing that the splendid record of the last 3½ years is now broken, and that at a time when, above all times, the people require clear judgment, sanity, and self-restraint, the liquor fiend is once more let loose among them." The chaotic experiences in Russia now suggest that the entire nation is wallowing in vodka, and if Russia sober supplied powerful arguments for Prohibition, Russia drunk will show that of all the devils with which a nation can be cursed, the drink devilry is far and away the most to be dreaded.

Temperance Reform is well to the front in the Australian Commonwealth. Last September South Australia sent a large and representative deputation to their Premier asking for a referendum on State Prohibition. The result of the reduction in the number of licenses and restriction in the hours of sale in Victoria shows a decrease of a million and a half in last year's drink bill. The drink bill of New South Wales, published in November, 1917, disclosed a reduction of 6s 9d per head of the population as compared with the previous year. The correlative of the influence of the reduction in the consumption of intoxicants is also shown in the Police Court returns. In 1915 there were 32,467 convictions for drunkenness, and in 1916 they numbered 2322—a reduction of 11,145. A young scientist of my acquaintance supplied the following:

"Owing to restrictive taxation, alcohol costs ten times what it should. If distilleries were employed in the manufacture of alcohol for industrial purposes, enormous profits would accrue to the farmer, whose every waste product, spoiled crops, farm refuse, stalks, etc., would go to the manufacture of alcohol. Again, everyone would benefit by cheap fuel and motive power, selling at 10s per gallon;

and again, gasoline at 1s 4d (pre-war). In seasons of heavy crops excess could be converted into alcohol, and stored, while the farmer would use cheap tractors, etc., driven by alcohol, which would also light and heat his farm, etc. To this must be added the enormous impetus given by duty free denatured alcohol for trade purposes, polishes, lacquers, celluloid, paints, soaps, drugs, dyes, extracts, lanolin, photographic goods, etc., etc. Germany in 1904-5 used 31,800,000 gallons for these purposes."

Because our Union stands for the protection of the Home as well as the uplift of humanity, our work includes many departments, and embraces the removal of every disability that hampers the progress of our own sex. So with thankfulness we briefly note some of the records of women's progress in the world's work. Abroad this has been a winning year for women's suffrage. There are now 13 States in America where women enjoy political freedom; seven million women voted at the last Presidential election, according to a recent cable, after sixty-nine years of hard-fought battle. New York enfranchised their women by a majority vote of 80,000. This tremendous victory has come as a great encouragement to British Suffragists still waiting for their own chart of freedom to plough its way all too slowly through Parliament. Last May the British House of Commons granted the Parliamentary franchise to women, and in November, by unanimous vote, the same House extended to women on the same terms that govern the Parliamentary ballot the right to vote in municipal elections. Russia has promised to her women equal freedom with her men; she has already appointed women as assistant judges, and has had her first Congress of women, and has her first regiment of women, who have shouldered their rifles and taken their turn in the trenches, and are prepared for any share in the battle. Universal franchise has just been won in Holland; while in Canada the movement is spreading like a prairie fire. To Alberta falls the honour of electing the first woman member of a Canadian Parliament, Mrs McKinney. Six months after Miss MacAdam was returned as a second female legislator. Miss Maud Roydon has been appointed assistant pastor to the City Temple. The Congregational body also has a woman preacher, these being the first ordained for that work in England. In India and China women are coming forward as never before; they competed successfully with men in the Paunjab University, and carried off high honours. Many home missionary stations, made vacant through conscription, are now open to women in New Zealand if they will qualify for the position. Our request for a woman to act in conjunction with Mr Joliffe, the picture censor, has not yet been complied with, but may be next year will see further reforms in this matter, especially as the Teach-

ers' Annual Conference and other kindred societies are co-operating with us in our endeavour to get an improvement in cinema performances. We are pleased to congratulate the Railway Department on having at last considered the comfort of women by providing a special carriage for their use on the Northern Trunk express, and with it a female attendant will be on duty to perform such acts of service as invalids, nursing mothers, and women travelling with families always need when making long journeys. That it will meet a very pressing want is beyond question, and if sanitation and comfort be made the main studies, as they should be, it will not be long before public opinion declares in favour of the experiment being extended to the Southern Trunk line. The official employment of Women Police in many lands has been extremely rapid in the course of the last 12 months. The force in England now numbers 612, and is daily increasing. Most of these women act as guards in the munition factories; others inspect common lodging-houses, inquire into assaults on children, bastardy moneys, separation, or in cases of cruelty, etc. In many ways these officers endeavour to make good citizens instead of locking up bad ones. Nine women were sworn in at the Guildhall as special constables on the Great Eastern Railway. Canada has a woman Judge to look after women's cases. She is an experienced, motherly woman, and is said to be doing excellent service. Women police continue to justify their appointment in Victoria and in New South Wales. Fourteen more women have just been appointed as J.P.'s in South Australia. Among the list are Lady Houlder, Dr. Gertrude Halley, and Miss Dorothy Vaughan. We hope that the provision for the appointment of "Health Patrols" in connection with the Social Hygiene Bill means the first step to start the movement in New Zealand, and that the women employed will be sworn in as police officers, and be in receipt of equal pay for equal work, and not have their powers limited in any direction.

Social Hygiene.—As we are sure to have a full report of the attempt made in the House to re-introduce past dangerously ineffective legislation to check social disease, I need not comment upon it, except to say we are thankful the attempt was frustrated by the determined activity of the women's organisations. The "Woman Voter" says: "Suggestions are sometimes made for dealing with this scourge by restrictions imposed only on women. Such efforts have been and always must be futile. While men complain that they are infected by some women, each woman may with equal certainty affirm that she was infected by some man; and it is usually by men that infection is carried to unsuspecting wives and innocent children." Therefore we urge the Government and all persons interested in the subject to apply the fol-