

European battlefronts without a thought of honour or glory, said Mrs Abbott, before closing her lecture, but honour and gratitude had come to them, and that alone was a worthy reward. In India and Australia there were many lotteries and things of the kind in which a small sum was asked, and the chance of a big prize was offered in return. "You cannot with your hands touch anything the Scottish Women can offer you in return, nor will your eyes see the gratitude that will be yours for the giving, but, 'Blessed are the merciful.'"

Mrs Abbott closed her stirring address by quoting the lines of "The Field of Honour."

"THE FIELD OF HONOUR."

(By H. Fielding-Hall.)

Child:

"Where does the Field of Honour lie,
For I would like to know its story;
Where is the place where heroes die,
And dying, win eternal glory?"

"Where is the soil that always yields
So much for such a little given?
Tell me, where are these battlefields
From which men rise up straight to
heaven?"

"Father, the road I want to know,
And you must tell me all its story;
And, when I'm old, I too will go
And die upon the field of glory."

Father:

He took the lad upon his knee,
The curly head was on his shoulder:
"My son, if you that field would see,
You need not wait until you are
older."

"The field of honour always lies
Wherever gallant folk are living,
And under whatsoever skies
Their lives they are for honour
giving:

"Wherever noble deeds are done,
Wherever pain and death are suf-
fered
In every land, 'neath every sun.
Where true self-sacrifice is offered."

"Not only gallant soldiers who
Have faced and dared the King of
Shadows;
All those whose lives and deaths are
true
Lie buried in those sacred meadows."

"And if, my Son, you wish to lie
At last upon the Field of Glory,
Live on it now; and when you die
You will not have to ask its story."

Last year of Vodka, £8,000,000;
last year of Prohibition, £177,000,000.

SOLDIERS AND DRINK.

EXPERT OPINION.

EFFECT OF THE CIGARETTE.

Evidence of military and medical officers regarding the effect of drink on soldiers was placed before the Australian Senate's Special Committee in Hobart recently, together with some statements with reference to cigarettes.

Dr Goddard, medical officer at Claremont Camp, thought drink interfered with soldiers' efficiency, and to a certain extent with their morale. Since September 1, 1917, the number of men rejected was 115, of which 14 were suffering from alcohol. Such men were not fit to stand the strain of warfare. They were also much more likely to contract colds and pneumonia. The man who had a heavy night in town was not likely to do his work efficiently next day. The number of men in camp suffering from drink is not very large, but several times he had to treat these lads. Since October 9, 1917, he had treated 37 cases, 16 of which were returned soldiers. Eleven were under the influence of drink when they contracted disease. He had good reasons to believe alcohol was connected with 45 or 50 per cent. of the venereal cases. He preferred to see other things tried before prohibition. In some cases boys were rejected because of palpitation of the heart, due to excessive cigarette smoking. He had heard boys say they smoked forty in the day.

Senator Grant: Do you favour regulating the supply of cigarettes or prohibiting their sale entirely?

Witness: Something should be done to stop boys smoking so many cigarettes.

Further questioned, the witness stated alcohol affected the vision, hastened fatigue, usually rendered pneumonia cases fatal, and lowered the powers of resistance of men suffering from shock and from wounds.

Colonel Dr. W. W. Giblin, who had been at the Front in charge of a casualty clearing station for two and a half years, now Chief Military Medical Officer of Tasmania, said there was a little drinking in the camp, but it was chiefly confined to those who drank prior to enlisting. These were turned out if their health were seriously affected. Occasionally they

were boarded out in the hope of recovering. He favoured wet canteens and anti-shouting. It was advisable to close hotels when troops were passing through a port. He was convinced a large number were rendered inefficient through drink.

Mrs Shoobridge, matron of the Red Cross Hotel at Hobart, said nearly all the returned soldiers passed through her hands. Drink affected them badly. Men and women shepherd soldiers when they knew they had cheques and stuck to them till the money was all gone. Returned men often drank to cure depression, and because they had no occupation. When repatriation was commenced these men should not be sent to isolated parts, but given industrial employment.

Sergeant Duncan McRae, a returned soldier, stated when men were doing hard training the effects of drink wore off very quickly. In Egypt drink interfered with discipline.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following payments have been received since the date of last report:

NEW ZEALAND FUND.

Life Membership Fees.—Mesdames W. T. Lill and F. Ferriman and Mr Ferriman, £5 each.

Donations.—Mr J. Hutchison and Christchurch Union, £5 each; Mrs Sheppard, Miss Maunder, and Timaru Union, £1 each; Ngaere Union, 10s; Mrs Jamison, Mrs Neal, and Mr Broad, 5s each. Total, £29 5s.

Expenditure (Convention grants and expenses), £123 13s 5d.

STRENGTH OF THE NATION FUND.

Christchurch Union, £2.

WORLD'S MISSIONARY FUND.

Tauranga, £3; New Plymouth, £1 9s 3d; Napier, 10s 3d.

ORGANISING FUND.

Invercargill (balance), £3 19s 1d; Blenheim and New Plymouth, £3 each; Tauranga, £1; Wanganui Y, 10s; Per Miss Powell—Mr W. D. Hunt, £2; Mrs W. Brown and Mrs Haynes, £1 1s each; Mrs A. S. Paterson, £1; smaller sums, 12s 6d. Per Miss Weymouth—Collection Y meeting at Convention, £5 4s 1d; sale of photos, 10s 6d. Total, £22 18s 2d.

Expenditure, £10 7s 8d.

NELLIE BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland, 2nd May, 1918.