

It was proposed by Mrs Osborn that a collection should be taken up to defray the expenses of the meeting.

Lady Stout proposed a vote of thanks to the Chair, and with this the proceedings terminated.

EDUCATIONAL REFORMS.

The W.C.T.U. is heartily in sympathy with the Teachers' Institute in its endeavours to secure educational reforms. That our readers may be fully enlightened upon the needs of our school teachers and children, the July issue of the "White Ribbon" will be an Educational number. Articles will be supplied by experts chosen by the N.Z. Educational Institute, and the paper will be of great value to mothers who wish intelligently to help the teachers in securing better education for their children.

Will any Union wanting extra papers please order early, as scarcity of paper causes us to print only the number required?

LOST FOR WANT OF A WORD.

Lost for want of a word, fallen among thieves and dying;
Priests and Levites passing the place where he is lying;
He too faint to call, too far off to be heard;
These are those beside life's highway lost for want of a word.

Lost for want of a word, all in the dark night straying;
Among the mazes of thought false lights ever betraying;
Oh! that a human voice the darkness had stirred!
Lost and benighted for ever, lost for the want of a word.

Lost for want of a word; too high he may be, and noble,
To be ever checked in his sin, or led to Christ in his trouble;
No one boldly and truly to tell him where he has erred,
Poor handful of dust and ashes, lost for want of a word.

Lost for want of a word, a word that you might have spoken.
Who knows what eyes may be dim, what hearts may be aching and broken?
Go scatter beside all waters, nor sicken at hope deferred,
Let never a soul by your dumbness be lost for want of a word.

—Selected.

Correspondence.

(The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed by correspondents.)

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madame,—At the Dominion Convention a resolution was passed urging the appointment of a woman censor for picture films. The members of the Hastings Union are feeling very strongly that some definite course of action should be adopted if we wish to achieve our object in this respect, and as a step in this direction they wish to urge the Unions throughout New Zealand to write to the Minister of Internal Affairs and ask for this appointment. If the letters were backed up by a deputation from the Wellington Unions, the Minister might be further made to realise that there is really a very wide desire for reform of the present day picture shows. Hoping that the Wellington and other Unions will be able to help us in this matter.—I am, etc.,

R. M. LOVELL-SMITH.

Sec. Hastings Union.

803 Ellison Road, Hastings,
May 22, 1918.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—Will you allow me to supply some information that may help to set right, or prevent a very serious injustice? In the resolutions prepared last week by Lady Stout and distributed to a large number of women's societies throughout the country there were two (Nos. 6 and 7) to which serious objection was taken here, and Lady Stout withdrew them; they were not brought before the meeting on June 8 at all. They have not, however, been withdrawn throughout the country, and some societies are passing them in complete ignorance of the facts. They run as follows:—

6. "That this meeting strongly deprecates the inhumanity shown to the accused women in the Kelburn case by the withholding of the verdict for over a month, thus inflicting unnecessary anxiety and misery on them."

7. "That this meeting protests against the withholding of sentence in the Kelburn case until such time as the chief witnesses for the defence should have left the country, thus nullifying any chance of success in an appeal to a higher Court."

In reference to No. 6, the charge of "inhumanity" would be cruel if it were not absurd. If a criminal is arrested just after the Supreme Court sittings, he will have to wait the best part of three months before he is even brought to trial, yet no one talks about inhumanity. Secondly, the delay was not "over a month." The case closed on May 9, and judgment was delivered on June 4—a space of 26 days. The ordinary interval when judgment is reserved in the Magistrate's Court is about a week; here

there were four days of conflicting evidence to be sifted, in addition to the ordinary work of a short-handed Bench. Then, in consequence of the sudden illness of the Hawke's Bay Magistrate, Mr McCarthy was despatched at the shortest possible notice to take his place. During his absence, so far as the Kelburn case was concerned, there was no Court in Wellington, for no one else might legally deliver judgment. The King's Birthday caused a day's further delay on his return, and judgment was delivered on June 4. So that evidently the Magistrate is not to blame.

The resolution numbered 7 is even more serious. If it means anything, it means that the Magistrate of set purpose delayed judgment in order to prevent the accused having a fair chance in the Appeal Court. There is no ground whatever for this attack upon a conscientious and high-principled man.

It is most unfortunate and regrettable that such good women should thus unwittingly assist the attempt that "vested interests" are now making to have the Magistrate removed from Wellington, because his consistent and fearless administration of the law, and of the liquor laws in particular, causes them discomfort.—I have the honour to be, Madam, your obedient servant,

L. M. ATKINSON.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—I have read with interest Miss Jessie Mackay's letter in the May number of your paper in reference to the treatment of conscientious objectors, and would like to endorse every word of it. As may be seen in the Convention number of the "White Ribbon," a resolution on this subject was brought forward at the Timaru Convention, and it was a matter of great regret to its supporters that it was not allowed to be proceeded with, and that the N.Z. Union was not yet prepared to take a definite stand for freedom of conscience. I know there are many amongst our members who do not view it in this light, and it may be long before on this point

"The multitude make virtue
Of the faith they had denied."

In the meantime, the only course for us is to continue to hold the ideal before the public mind until the beauty of that ideal shall win all to its acceptance. I would commend to all readers of the "White Ribbon" the words of Professor Garvin, which I quoted in moving the resolution. He says, in speaking of the great importance he attached to liberty of conscience, and especially to that of a conscience **with which he did not agree**: "We risk the loss of one of the greatest factors in human progress if we do not tolerate the conscience that seems to us unreasonable."—I am etc.,

MARIAN JUDSON.

June 2nd.