

Y REPORTS.

TIMARU.

May 23. Mrs Napier, "Y" Organiser, gave a very interesting and instructive address, to a meeting for the purpose of forming a "Y" Branch. Fifty were present, and 18 members enrolled. Mrs Rule presided. Mrs Napier left two stars of honour to be given to the first members who gained 12 members each for the Branch.

June 10. Opening social. Attendance, 70 members. 21 new members enrolled. Miss Tullock, "Y" President, presided. Mrs Rule presented two badges of honour, which had been gained. A most enthusiastic meeting.

ASHBURTON.

June 17. Sister Jessie presided. Subjects for the syllabus for the ensuing year were discussed. Decided that our next meeting take the form of a "pay-up" social. Members were urged to make a special effort to secure new members.

AUCKLAND.

June 24. A very good attendance, and five new members were initiated. Our first meeting in the new headquarters. A very helpful and inspiring address was given by Rev. Saunders, of St. David's Church. Tickets for a concert in aid of the mine-sweepers, also collecting cards for the White Ribboners' hutment, were disposed of. A report of the No-License Convention, held previously in Auckland, was given by our delegate, Miss E. Wright, and was much appreciated. Refreshments at the close.

NATURAL EDUCATION.

"That education shall follow the natural development of the child," that "schools of the past have been too much concerned with teaching children adult facts," instead of helping them to live more completely and perfectly their life as children. These and similar conclusions are actuating the best of our modern educators to revolutionise their methods of educating. Nowhere is this revolution more complete than at Professor Meriam's Elementary School of the University of Missouri at Columbia. There the three R's are entirely lost sight of as studies per se, the pupils learning "to read and write and figure only as they feel the need of it to enlarge their work." Through play and stories, through observation and handwork, the pupils first become more familiar with the things they already know in part, and with the community in which they live, and then with the more distant things and places and times.

News of the Unions.

(The Editor cannot promise to insert anything in the next issue that does not reach her by the 8th of the month. Correspondents are requested to write their Reports as concisely as possible, on one side of the paper only. Newspaper cuttings are unsuitable.)

PALMERSTON NORTH.

June 7. Mrs Crabb presided. Letters were read from Sir James Allen and the Hon. J. A. Hanan stating that on the question of educational reform the representations made would receive consideration, each promising to support partial reform. Mesdames Barnett, Kenrick, Hodder, and Palmer are to visit local schools and report to the Union on their condition. Mesdames Cullen and Kenrick were appointed to represent the Union at the No-License Conference.

DEVONPORT.

June 12. Mrs Barr in the chair, and eight members present. Mrs Dewar, from the City Union, was the speaker. Another box of cakes is to be sent to Featherston Camp. A discussion took place on several subjects brought forward by the Executive, viz., the White Ribbon hutment in France, the National Council of Women, and the big mass meeting of men organised by Mr Bassett, of Wanganui, to abolish the drink traffic before the end of the war, all met with enthusiastic support. Members urged to provide woollen comforts for mine-sweepers.

LEIGH.

June 1. An "American Tea," the President in the chair. A fair attendance of members and four visitors. One new member. The question of sewing for the Red Cross was relegated to an Executive meeting. A vote of sympathy with Mr and Mrs Maun-der in the death of their son in France was passed.

WANGANUI.

June 6. Mrs Smith in the chair. Decided to send Mrs Macalister as delegate to the Taranaki Provincial Convention. Mrs R. Smith appointed delegate on No-License League Union. President appointed to attend Conference of No-License Workers at Palmerston on 11th inst. Decided to have a mine-sweepers' day as early as possible.

NGAERE.

June 4. Meeting at the residence of Mrs Ellis. Reports of year's work prepared for Convention. Afternoon tea was served.

BLENHEIM.

May 7. Mrs Litchfield presided. Attendance good. Mrs T. Pike to represent us on Band of Hope Commit-

tee. Resignation of Mrs H. G. Litchfield as Secretary was accepted. Mrs H. S. Horne appointed successor.

June 4. Mrs Litchfield presided. Attendance fair. An interesting discussion took place on Temperance advance in America. A vote of sympathy was passed with Mrs W. Pike in the loss of her son, killed at the Front.

WAIPUKURAU.

June 14. Donation of £50 for mine-sweepers received from A. and P. Association. Decided to assist in Petition Campaign. Decided to ask Mrs Neal to address our next meeting, and collection to be taken for Maori Fund.

HAWERA.

June 25. Mrs J. S. Young presided, 15 members present. Decided that Miss Maun-der, and, if possible, two more members, should represent our Union at the Conference of prohibition workers to be held at Stratford. Interesting reports of the Stratford Provincial Convention were given by Mrs Peacock and Mrs Gilling. Mrs Young gave a report of the N.Z. Alliance Convention, held at Palmerston North on June 11th. Decided to send for one dozen collecting cards for the White Ribbon Hutment Fund.

FEILDING.

June 6. A good attendance. Miss Powell presided. A deputation was appointed to wait on the Ministers' Association to try and arrange for Bible lessons in the schools on the Nelson system. Mrs Beattie was elected delegate to the Convention to be held in Palmerston next week. Miss Walton and Mrs Richardson were welcomed as a deputation from the Teachers' Association. Mrs Mai was appointed Superintendent of the Cradle Roll. A number of new members were received.

RAKAIA.

June 6. A united meeting of the W.C.T.U., P.W.M.U., and Mothers' Union was held in St. Mark's School-room. Nurse Chappell gave a very interesting address on "Social Hygiene." There was a large attendance. Mrs Blakiston presided. Mrs Boag proposed a vote of thanks, which was heartily responded to.

AVONDALE.

June 18. A well-attended meeting, presided over by Mrs Stevens. Report of the N.Z. Alliance Convention was given by the delegate, Mrs Thompson. An appeal from Mrs Nimmo for comforts for mine-sweepers was received. A resolution was carried, "That this Branch of the W.C.T.U. is of the opinion that hotel bars should be closed on the arrival of transports and for 24 hours after. One new member was initiated.

N.E. VALLEY.

June 27. Mrs Pert presided. The following resolution was carried:—"The N.E. Valley branch of the