

of Public Health to deal with venereal disease, but is unworkable, particularly in the matter of employment. It does not deal with notification at all. The part of it which makes the sale of drugs for venereal disease or the treatment of venereal disease by unqualified people, illegal, is both necessary and good, and is the only really practical part. A scheme on the lines outlined in the ten sections which begin this paper, and firmly administered, will effect its purpose, and will meet all objections which can be raised. Anticipatory prophylaxis, if it lessens the percentage of infection, must inevitably widen the scope and increase the incidence of venereal disease in the end.

NELSON PROVINCIAL CONVENTION.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1st, 1918.

The first Nelson Provincial Convention was held on October 1st. Fourteen delegates attended, Nelson District, Richmond, Wakapuaka, and Motueka Unions being represented; delegates were also expected from Wakefield, Blenheim, and Picton, but were unable to attend. The Convention was presided over by Mrs Field, who in her address touched upon the principal lines of work taken up during the year.

Devotions were conducted by Mrs Field.

The report of the Recording Secretary showed the two chief points to be the formation of a branch of the Union at Motueka during Mrs Peryman's visit to Nelson, and the inauguration of special picture performances for children once a month, through the kind co-operation of the Nelson picture manager, Mr Surrell.

Reports of the Branch Unions were read, all of which showed good work done in connection with the Prohibition Campaign. Richmond reported a flourishing branch of the L.T.L., with nearly 100 members, and Nelson one with 80; both are holding regular meetings, and doing good work amongst the children.

In considering work for the ensuing year, it was resolved: "That Unions endeavour to extend their work amongst the young, and that Bands of Mercy should be formed in connection with the L.T.L." It was further resolved: "That each Branch

Union should endeavour to support the present movement for educational reform by the methods which seem to it most feasible and most conducive to permanent improvement."

Short reports were also given by Mrs Field (Superintendent of Social Hygiene and Literature) and Mrs Moyes (Superintendent for Backblocks and L.T.L.), of the work of these departments.

At the afternoon session the Constitution of the Provincial Convention was discussed and the one framed last year for the District Convention was adopted, with a few slight necessary alterations.

The afternoon devotions were conducted by Mrs Knapp, Mrs Field also taking part; in the prayers grateful reference was made to the Allies' success in Bulgaria, and the desire expressed that Bulgaria's surrender might be a step towards the restoration of peace amongst all nations.

The following officers were elected:—Pres., Mrs Field; Cor. Sec., Mrs Wilkinson; Recording Sec., Mrs Judson; Treas., Mrs White.

Amongst the resolutions passed were the following:—

"At this time of universal sorrow, the Nelson Provincial Convention desires to tender its deepest sympathy to all those who during the past year have been called to pass through the fire of suffering, whether by bereavement, sickness, or in any other way."

"The Nelson Provincial Convention of the W.C.T.U. is pleased to be able to congratulate the Hon. the Minister for Public Health on his decision to at once appoint women patrols, and trusts that, though appointed under the Department for Public Health, it may not be found necessary to regard the work of women patrols as dealing only with the health of the community, but that their duties may be so arranged that they may find scope for preventive work, such as the protection of young people. This Convention recognises that the Hon. Minister's decision is a step in the right direction, and is pleased to assure him of its support. Recognising also that it is very important that the right class of women should be appointed, this Convention would respectfully suggest that he might get valuable assistance from the different women's societies, and especially from the Salvation Army, who have had long experience in a somewhat similar class of work."

"The Nelson Provincial Convention of the W.C.T.U. seeing to what a large extent women are undertaking work hitherto exclusively performed by men, considers that the time has now come for all public offices and employments to be thrown open to women equally with men and would specially emphasise the need for women in Parliament, in order that reforms affecting women and children, which have been again and again refused, may receive greater consideration. The Convention therefore appeals to the Cabinet and to the members of Parliament to make such alteration in the law as will give electorates the right to elect a woman representative to Parliament."

"This Convention condemns, as lowering to the moral standard, and as an unwarrantable insult to the great majority of men, the practice of regularly supplying prophylactics to soldiers on leave, and urges that all measures for stemming the progress of venereal disease should be based on the belief in the nobler side of human nature, and that all necessary instructions to the men should be accompanied by an appeal to the sense of duty, patriotism, and chivalry which exists even in the weakest." (This resolution was passed at the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union Conference last June, being proposed by Miss Ruth Atkinson, and seconded by Mrs Waldegrave, also a New Zealand woman.)

The resolution already passed by the Unions with reference to the inequality of the treatment of men and women in cases of social immorality was also re-affirmed.

A well-attended public meeting was held in the evening, at which an address upon Educational Reform was given by Mr F. G. Gibbs, M.A., headmaster of the Boys' Central School, as representative of the Nelson Teachers' Institute. Mr Gibb outlined the proposals of the Institute for betterment of our educational methods, and showed some of the difficulties in carrying them out, and also emphasised the need of co-operation between teachers and parents. Mr Gibbs was heartily thanked for his most interesting address.

London County Council has decided to make it a condition of all the new music hall and cinema licenses that no intoxicating drink should be sold or consumed on the premises.