

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

PEACE AND ARBITRATION DEPARTMENT.

After four years of world strife, at length we see the dawning of the day of peace. But while our hearts are filled with deep thankfulness, we may not yet relax our efforts to hold up the ideals of peace for which we have striven during three years; only as they are recognised and acknowledged, and are made the basis of our national life, can our hopes and dreams of the establishment of a lasting peace upon earth be realised. At this time more than ever it is needful that these ideals should be emphasised, that they may become a factor in the laying down of the conditions of the new world upon which we hope to enter. To-day, as of old, it is true that "Hatred ceases not by hatred; hatred ceases by Love," only as this is recognised and acted upon can we hope for a satisfactory settlement to be arrived at. More especially should these ideals be impressed upon the minds of our children, that when the time shall come for them in their turn to take on the responsibility of citizenship, and to do their part in the formation of public opinion, that they may be actuated by the highest and noblest principles of individual and national life—those of mutual service and self-surrender. Let the heritage we hand down to them be one of love, not of hate, that they may forget the divisions and animosities of the past, remembering only that they are all children of one Father, members of one family, amongst whom no strife or hatred should be found.

It may be that we women of New Zealand have little voice in the settlement of external conditions, but we all have the power to help in the moulding of the spirit of the new era, and by keeping our own thoughts peaceful and loving, and free from disturbing influences, to do our part in the creation of a thought atmosphere that may tend towards the predominance of that love, forbearance, and mutual respect which alone can put an end to the curses of war. I would suggest to every member of our Union that we should make it a part of our daily thought and prayer, that the settlement now to be made shall be based on love, justice, and righteousness. Such thought and

prayer throughout the Union at this time would become a power for good, surrounding all who take part in the deliberations with a subtle influence that would tend to check the memory of past wrongs, to strengthen the desire of reunion, and to make possible the restoration of such relations between all nations as would make our social and political life worthy of those who bear the name of Christian. So may we rise to the true life of Liberty, and so shall the best and greatest victory of love over hatred, of truth over falsehood, of good over evil be attained.

MARIAN JUDSON,
N.Z. Supt.

MEDICAL TEMPERANCE.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

In looking back through the year, I realise how little demand there has been for the literature of this department.

Perhaps it is because the N.Z. Alliance has furnished such splendid literature for the Campaign, and we have been so busy with Petition work, that we have lost sight, for the time being, of the importance of enlightening the people on the medical side of the temperance question.

The work of this department is as urgent and necessary as it ever was, and one can scarcely pick up a newspaper without finding letters, etc., advocating the use of alcohol in the treatment of influenza.

Even though our Department of Public Health deemed it advisable to close the hotels while the epidemic was at its worst, we still find men and women quoting the opinions of some obsolete doctors as to the use of alcohol as a medicine and as a food.

The American Medical Association, at its Annual Congress in June, 1917, passed the following resolution:—"Whereas, it is the unanimous opinion of the Council on Health and Public Instruction of the American Medical Association, that alcohol has no drug value, either as a stimulant, as a tonic, or as a therapeutic agent, and that it has no food value; and whereas its use as a beverage or as a therapeutic agent is detrimental rather than beneficial to the individual; therefore, be it resolved that its use in medicine is permissible only in the preparation and preservation of pharmaceutical products."

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, Chairman of the Committee on the Revision of the Pharmacopoeia, said that there was no good reason for retaining whisky and brandy in the Pharmacopoeia, as so few physicians now prescribe alcoholic liquors. Port wine and sherry were left out of the Pharmacopoeia some years ago. Alcohol as a drug can be eliminated from the Pharmacopoeia without in any degree crippling the efficiency of the doctor's armamentarium.

The new evidence against alcohol shows it to be a depressant, not a stimulant. Two very important conclusions concerning the physiological action of alcohol have been reached by the latest series of tests. Alcohol is the universal narcotising drug. Various other drugs have a narcotic effect upon certain actions, and are somewhat selective as to the functions which they will depress. But alcohol seems to depress all vital functions, and it appears to be the only one of the narcotics that has this universal action.

I would again urge every Union to send for a supply of this up-to-date literature. First send for a sample packet, price 10d, post free. Then order the leaflets which seem best suitable for your district. The prices range from 1d to 6d per dozen, post free.—Yours in White Ribbon bonds,

CLARA M. NEAL,
Dominion Supt.
3, Fitzroy Street, Feilding.

NARCOTICS.

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,—

The time is drawing near when the Superintendent of each department will be expected to send a report of the work done by each Union throughout the Dominion.

I shall be glad if you will forward to me, as early as possible, any work attempted by your Unions in the way of suppressing Narcotics during the past year.

I had hoped to have written earlier in the year to each Union personally, but it has been a year of years as far as work is concerned, so I ask my White Ribbon sisters to overlook my seeming neglect, and please send me as full a report as possible on Narcotics.—Yours in White Ribbon bonds,

E. A. BOXALL,
40, Pirie Street, Wellington.