

The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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[Douglas Jones, Photographer.]

INDIAN WOMEN IN FIJI.

In the December issue of the "White Ribbon" a short article on indentured labour in Fiji was published. We propose now to deal more fully with the subject, in order that our readers may understand something of the social and moral conditions that obtain among their Indian sisters in that colony.

The system of indentured labour already referred to was decided to provide a supply of cheap labour for the mills and plantations in various colonies. Under this system men and women were recruited in India for work in Fiji. By a regulation of the Fijian Government the proportion of the sexes was fixed at 40 women to

every 100 men. The arrangements made were that the recruits agreed to work for five years at a fixed rate of wages—1s 3d per day for a man, 1s for a woman. They had no choice either of employment or employer, but on their arrival in the colony they were allotted to the various plantations and mills. Naturally in the course of years reports of the conditions of life amongst these labourers were carried back to India, and in 1913 the Government of India sent a Commission to all the Crown Colonies employing labour, in order to make enquiries into the condition of indentured people. This Commission, however, concerned itself more with the economic and material side of things than with the inner life of the people. Certain features of this

report, however, convinced some leading Indian gentlemen of the urgent necessity for further investigation, and in 1915 they deputed the Rev. C. F. Andrews and Mr H. W. Pearson to visit Fiji in order to study the conditions of the indentured labourers. The report issued by these gentlemen made a good impression on the Indian people, and in the following year the Viceroy announced that the indentured system would be brought to an end. In 1917, however, news reached India that the British Government contemplated a delay of five years, during which time recruiting might still be carried on. It was then that, for the first time on record, leading women from every province in India went in a deputation to the Viceroy, and asked that the indentur-

ed system should be abolished without delay. The effect of this action on the part of the women of India was immediate. The Viceroy announced that all further recruiting should be stopped at once. This decision was soon after confirmed, and by November, 1921, there will be no Indian working under indenture.

It will be readily understood, however, that the evils arising from the indentured system are not likely to be eradicated for many years, and only then if some special means are taken to accomplish reform in the social, moral, and religious life of the people. It is at just this point that the sympathy and co-operation of the women of Australia and New Zealand is asked for.

Early last year Professor Andrews made a tour of the Australasian States addressing meetings of women that he might arouse their interest and sympathy for their Indian sisters in Fiji. As a result of his efforts a Commission was set up to enquire into the social and moral conditions of Indian women in Fiji. The co-operation of all the women's societies in Australia and New Zealand was invited, and the executive of the New Zealand W.C.T.U. decided that our Union should be associated with the Committee.

Miss Garnham, a missionary on furlough from India, offered to visit Fiji and conduct investigations for the Committee. Her offer was accepted. She visited Fiji, and spent over three months in making the necessary enquiries. On her return at the end of November she presented a very complete report, which has since been published. A few extracts from this report will serve to show the conditions she found.

The quarters or "lines" in which Indians working on plantations live are built according to Government Regulations, and consist of long double rows of "apartments" under one roof. An apartment measuring 10ft. by 12ft. is considered a suitable dwelling for three single men, or for one man and one woman, with not more than two children. Of these lines Miss Garnham says:—

"When it is remembered that there are roughly three times as many men as women living in the lines, the danger of this method of housing will be more fully realised. It is true that some planters arrange for single men to live in a row of lines separate from

the married people, or at one end of a row of dwellings, while the married folk live at the other, though even this is not always insisted upon, and the married quarters are by no means barred to men. I had evidence from various sources during my stay on the island that life in the lines is unspeakably corrupt.

"Indians speak of the lines at the mill-centres as "prostitution houses," and many men whose period of indenture had expired told me how glad they were to be away from the lines, and to settle in places where their wives were protected. It was quite impossible, they said, for a woman to preserve her chastity in the coolie lines.

"This utter abandonment of morals is unfortunately not confined to the adult section of the community. I have heard little children speak of things which showed an appalling knowledge of vice of the worst kind. Children over three years of age, whose mothers are working on plantations, are quite uncared for as a rule, while the parents are at work. This neglect of childhood is one of the gravest features of life in the lines. It is scarcely to be wondered, in the circumstances, that Australian women in charge of the Methodist Mission Orphanage find that tiny children brought to them show a knowledge of evil that is exceedingly difficult to counteract."

Miss Garnham makes it quite clear that this moral degradation arises from the fact that the social and moral welfare of the people have been sacrificed to the interests of capital.

"It is important to note," she says, "that under the indenture system labour units, not families, were recruited. In some cases married couples were introduced, but only because both were labour units. Thus only women who were willing to work in the fields were recruited. To bring out married couples simply because they were married was not in the scheme at all; it would have meant greater expenditure in introducing the people into the colony—and so apparently the cheaper method was followed. It is just here that the greatest mistake was made, for clearly the introduction of families would have obviated much of the evil in Fiji to-day. Moral interests were evidently sacrificed to money, and the fact that the prosperity of a colony depends largely on the moral and social welfare of the

people seems to have been disregarded.

"I was told in Fiji that the colony could never meet the expenditure involved in thus bringing out more women, and was asked how the financial outlay could be met. Since the sugar companies and planters have benefited from the immigration of Indians on a cheap scale, it appears just that they should pay at least a part of the cost, but it is difficult to see how it could be recovered from them. Those responsible for the introduction of the system should also take their share, and it may be possible to work out a scheme by which the Imperial and Indian Governments could assist financially.

One fact that needs to be emphasised in order to give a true picture of the hopelessness of the present condition of the people, is that a very high percentage of men and women have left wives or husbands and children in India. As everyone knows, most Indian people are married while quite young, and there are practically no bachelors or spinsters in the country except in Christian and 'reformed' Hindu communities.

"I found that very few women had come out with their husbands. They had been induced by various means to leave their homes—and men had for the most part come without their wives. A big tragedy lies behind this fact.

"Some men and women, although already married, form other alliances soon after arrival in Fiji. This is one of the reasons why many men cannot return to their own country. It would mean in most cases that they would be forced to desert wives and children in Fiji in order to return.

"It is very evident that a great deal of fraud and deception was practised by recruiters in inducing Indian men and women to leave their homes in this way. The people themselves told me how they had been persuaded to come away, and how little they knew of the distance of Fiji from India, and of the conditions obtaining in the colony. How should they, who only know their own little district, be expected to understand how far they would be taken from their own homes, of the impossibility of return, of the complete change in the mode of life entailed, of the increased cost of living, which would swallow up all the extra wages they thought they would be able to earn? Many expressed to me their feeling of utter

hopelessness. They said that their honour had been snatched from them, and that since that had gone nothing else mattered.

"European people seemed to be under the impression that the Indian immigrant had but brought an immoral mode of life with him into the colony. As a matter of fact, the home life of the village people in the United Provinces, the district from which most of the Indian people were recruited, is so safeguarded as to warrant the statement that they are more free from social evils than any other people in the world."

The scope of Miss Garnham's investigations included the provision made for hospital treatment of the women and children and for education. She concludes her report with the following recommendations:—

"1. All indentures should be cancelled at as early date as possible.

"2. Every possible means should be taken to bring about a normal sex ratio. The evils arising from the unnatural sex proportion are by far the greatest to be contended with. The worst possible feature is the way in which quite young girls are literally sold to the highest bidder. All sense of decency and chastity is lost where such conditions obtain.

"3. The coolie lines are entirely unsuitable for married people. Separate houses should be built for them.

It has been shown that privacy is impossible in the lines, and that no proper home life is possible.

"4. Women doctors and certificated nurses should be appointed to all hospitals and dispensaries where women are treated.

"5. The hope for the future well-being of the colony lies in the children. Every possible means should be taken to counteract the demoralising influences of Indian life in the colony. A suitable scheme of education will do much to accomplish this.

"6. The new marriage ordinances should be revised so as to make all Indian custom marriages legally valid."

After full consideration of the report, the Committee has decided to petition the Fijian Government to carry out the reforms suggested by Miss Garnham.

DR. ARTHUR D. BEVAN URGES MEDICAL PROFESSION TO JOIN IN A NATIONAL EFFORT TO ELIMINATE DRINK.

At the annual meeting of the Medical Association this year before a great audience in which, besides the representatives of more than 81,000 physicians, members of the Association, were the Surgeon-General of the Army, General Gorgas, and of the Navy, General Braisted, titled representatives of foreign powers and the Governor of the State of Illinois, the incoming President, Dr Arthur Dean Bevan, urged the medical profession to join in a national effort to eliminate drink.

"As we analyse the facts in a scientific and medical way there can be no doubt of the injurious effects of alcoholic drink on both the physical and mental well-being of our population. There can be no doubt that the greatest single factor that we can control in the interest of the public health of the nation would be the elimination of alcoholic drink.

"In the slow evolution of civilisation, many great wrongs persisted for centuries because people have become so accustomed to them that they were accepted as matters of course. They became so entrenched that it required either centuries of education or a revolution to extirpate or right them. Great epidemics and plagues were accepted as inevitable and as visitations of God. Government by autocratic power and divine right without the consent of the governed has been tolerated. Slavery with its horrors was defended. The unequal rights of women went unquestioned. Among these great wrongs too long tolerated, none has done more injury to mankind than drink. Events now are moving more rapidly in the convulsions of a world-war. Women have demanded and will obtain, as they deserve the world over, their equal rights. The course of events is writing the death warrant of autocracy and rule by divine right; and science and education should eliminate not only the plagues and epidemics but also the curse of drink from the world.

"I want to plead for the united action of the medical profession of this country to secure protection by law against the injury that drink is doing to our people, not as a political measure, but as the most important pub-

lic health measure that could be secured. In this crisis when we and our allies are fighting not only for ourselves but for humanity and civilisation, we must organise the entire nation in the most efficient possible way, and this cannot be done without eliminating drink. Each member of the medical profession, as an individual, each county medical society, each state medical society should take an active part in the propaganda against drink, and secure national prohibition, not years from now, but now when it is badly needed and will accomplish so much good, not only for our boys in khaki and blue, but for the nation in arms. And when it has once been done away with, it could no more be resurrected after the war than could be slavery."

—"Scientific Temperance Journal."

MELBOURNE ANGLICAN SYNOD.

DECLARES FOR WAR-TIME PROHIBITION.

In moving the resolution in favour of this, Rev. F. E. Crotty said:—

"Even if Prohibition were not perfect, yet it is a magnificent thing. Even if we could not save the hardened drinker, we could save the children now living and the children yet to be. (Hear, hear.) Start now! He agreed that Prohibition might not be the ideal way, but this is not an ideal world. We must face facts. If this were an ideal world, and if all the people were well informed on the subject of alcohol, and men all sincere Christians, he believed that all would be total abstainers. (Hear, hear.) But this was not an ideal world, and the consequence was that Prohibition was necessary all through human history and life. In view of the pressing problems of the war, also those affecting economic and social conditions, also the great importance of the work of repatriation and other post-war problems, he urged them to support this motion in favour of Prohibition for the period of the war and of the repatriation of our soldiers. He believed that such a measure of Prohibition would be a step in the right direction of economy, efficiency, social reform, and moral progress—(hear, hear)—and by so doing we would be helping to build up in this way the City of God in the land we love." (Applause.)

ADELAIDE ON PEACE DAY.

A Commercial Traveller's Evidence.

A commercial traveller, of thirty years' experience, writes:—"I was an eye-witness to the following on Thursday, Peace Day, November 14th: About five o'clock I was in the Central Market, when I saw a large crowd of people outside a well-known hotel; amongst them were a number of men drunk, three or four men fighting, when one of these fell in a drunken fit. After trying for some time to bring him round, they had to carry him away bodily to some house nearby. After this I was in Hindley Street, when I saw another crowd of about 200 people or more. Several men were drunk; even soldiers in the King's uniform were amongst them. The scene here was most disgraceful, howling and hooting like a lot of wild savages. This was outside the Wondergraph Theatre. The police were there, true, but they either didn't try or didn't want to make any arrests. Perhaps they were wise, as it might have made matters worse. After this I saw other drunks in other parts of the city. Talking to a business lady, an old resident in Hindley Street, this lady told me that she had never seen anything like it before. In fact, whilst I was talking to her there were two drunken sots trying to walk towards us, when we immediately parted so as to avoid them. I left for my home, feeling sad at what I had seen, and was led to cry, "Oh, God, Oh God, how long is this to last?" I could scarcely believe that I was living in a Christian city of churches. The following day a resident of Franklin Street told me that men trying to get home were rolling into the porch of his door, drunk. In my whole thirty years as a resident of this city I have never seen anything so bad. You are at liberty to make use of the above information."

Contrasted With Prohibition.

On the Tuesday previous Adelaide was wild with excitement at the glorious news, and the popular demonstrations were much more pronounced than on the Thursday, yet there was almost an entire absence of unseemly conduct. Why? Because booze was kept out of the way.

Tuesday was a short experience of Prohibition; Thursday was a never-to-be-forgotten experience of the open bar.

The liquor trade has sought to belittle the amount of drunkenness by quoting police figures, which showed practically no difference for the two days. The fact was that the police were not attempting to make any arrests, and they probably acted wisely, as further riots would surely have taken place.

Everybody Closed Up But the Booze Shops.

The situation on the holiday was considerably aggravated by the fact that all other places of business were closed up—even to the cafés and cool drink shops—while the pubs stood with open doors. The rioters were insistent upon the amusement places closing or giving free shows, and that the refreshment places should be closed; but they let the booze dispensaries go scot free.—"Patriot."

WITH OUR TRAVELLING SECRETARY.

Owing to two attacks of influenza, I was not able to report to "White Ribbon" for November or December. Much has been accomplished in spite of the disorganisation during the fearful epidemic. I volunteered as a V.A.D., and witnessed sorrow and suffering never to be forgotten. I have secured many new members for Unions, also new "W.R." subscribers. Five lapsed members were recovered. May I plead with officers and members to do their utmost to bring members who are leaving them in touch with the Union nearest to their new home. £256 17s 6d has been collected and paid into our Campaign Fund. Will the many friends who have so kindly assisted me in my work and opened their hearts and homes to me during the past year, please accept my sincere thanks and best wishes?

MYRIE WEYMOUTH,

N.Z. Travelling Secretary.

Address: Care Miss Henderson, B.A.,
26, Tui Street, Fendalton, Christchurch.

At the annual meeting of the Allsops Brewing Company it was shown that its profits in 1914 were over 65,000 dollars; in 1915 they ran over 150,000 dollars; in 1916 they stood nearly 304,000 dollars; and in 1917 standing well up to 900,000 dollars,

FRENCH OPINIONS ABOUT ALCOHOL.

"Alcohol does not warm, and is very dangerous to use when it is cold."—Vallot, Director of the Mont Blanc Observatory.

"Alcohol delivers the people to oppression, misery, and shame."—Anatole France, of the French Academy.

"For the development of French industry and in the interests of the common people, war to the death must be declared upon alcohol."—Leon Jouhaux, Secretary of the C.G.T.

"There must be a national coalition against alcohol, the greatest enemy of the nation."—Louis Dubrenilk, Secretary of the Socialist Party.

"Alcohol is the fatal poison of the nation."—Alexandre Ribot, President of the Council.

"If we do not suppress alcohol, it will suppress us."—Victor Cambon.

"France is now the only country whose Parliament is too timid to attack this most execrable of human vices."—Charles Richet, of the Academy of Science.

WHICH CHILD LOVED MOTHER BEST?

"I love you, Mother," said little John; Then, forgetting his work, his cap went on, And was off to the garden swing, Leaving his Mother the wood to bring!

"I love you, Mother," said little Nell, "I love you better than tongue can tell!"— Then she teased and pouted half the day, Till her Mother was glad when she went to play.

"I love you, Mother," said little Fan, "To-day I'll help you all I can." To the cradle then she did softly creep, And hushed the baby off to sleep.

Then stepping softly, she took the broom, And swept the floor and dusted the room; Busy and happy all day was she, Helpful and cheerful as child could be.

* * * *

"I love you, Mother," again they said (Three little children going to bed). How do you think that Mother guessed Which of them really loved her the best?

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTERS.

Dear White Ribbon Sisters,

Please remember the 17th of February, Frances Willard Day, of all our red letter days the most notable, for on that date we commemorate the heavenly birthday of the founder of the W.C.T.U.

"My first **whole day** of real spiritual, joyful, loving study of the kernel of God's Word, simply desirous to learn my Father's Will is this 17th day of February, 1877, with the Boston work just begun. And on this sweet, eventful day, in which, with every hour of study, the Bible has grown dearer, I take as my life-motto henceforth, humbly asking God's grace that I may measure up to it, this wonderful passage from Paul:— 'And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.'"

February 17th, 1898:—"How beautiful it is to be with God."—Frances Willard.

Will all Unions endeavour to observe this red letter day by holding some form of education social gathering, and trying to interest people who are not acquainted with the aims and objects of our Organisation. In this way many new members may be gained, and fresh enthusiasm aroused. Will any Unions who have not reported Notable Day gatherings send along a report as soon as possible.

Collections on 17th February go to World's Missionary Fund.

A. C. JONES,

Dominion Supt. Notable Days.

Ngaere,

31st December, 1918.

CRADLE ROLL, L.T.L., and BAND OF MERCY.

Dear Fellow-Workers,—

Though many Unions are doing Cradle Roll work, some are still waiting for more workers before beginning.

Many "Y" Branches have been organised this year, and where the mother union has not taken up Cradle Roll work, I would suggest that the "Y's" begin.

Our Organisation has been called "Organised Mother Love," we begin with the baby; the mother signs a card promising not to give, or to allow her child, to take any alcoholic liquor, and the child's name is placed on our Cradle Roll.

The Superintendent cannot always visit the mother and child in the home, but she can see that helpful literature reaches that home.

I have leaflets for mothers, on social purity lines; packets, price eight pence, post free. The Medical Temperance leaflets should also be used for this work.

L.T.L.

At the age of eight years, the child should be passed into the Loyal Temperance Legion or Band of Hope, otherwise we lose sight of the children at their most impressible age, instead of training an army of Temperance Workers, familiar with all the latest scientific facts concerning alcohol.

Here, too, the "Y's" may help in this very important work. To be a leader in the L.T.L. does not require that you know everything, but that you study the lessons for the boys and girls, and help them to a knowledge of the truths contained in these lessons.

I supply the following helps for the work. Eight graded charts on alcohol and tobacco are as follows:—

With Manual explaining the charts, 7s 6d.

Lesson Manuals—

Temperance Tales, 8d.

A Handful of Hints, 8d.

About Ourselves, 8d.

About our Country, 8d.

It is Written—Bible Stories, 8d.

Side Lights from Shakespeare on the Alcohol Question, 11d.

Marching Songs, Nos. 1 and 2, 8d.

Questions about the L.T.L. Answered, 1s 4d.

The Anti-Cigarette Speaker, 8d.

Medal Contest Reciters, Nos. 3, 5, 7, 15, 17, 20, and 21, each 8d.

L.T.L. Badges, per doz., 4s.

Programmes for Children of all ages sent on appo. "The Young Crusader," a monthly paper, price, 1s 7d per year.

BAND OF MERCY.

The aim of this department is to secure a more wide-spread knowledge of existing laws against cruelty, the enactment of new humane laws, especially those for humane education and to work for the general development and promulgation of the humane idea as a means of preventing injustice and cruelty, and of hastening the coming of the Golden Age.

Every L.T.L. should appoint a Mercy Superintendent, who should keep a record of pledges signed,

literature distributed, and work done in this department. All Legioners should sign the Mercy pledge, and should report humane acts they have performed and deeds of cruelty they see perpetrated. Sample packet of Band of Mercy literature, price 3d, post free. Band of Mercy pledge cards, 5d per dozen.

Trusting that reports of work done in these departments will be sent in without delay.—Yours in W.R. bonds,

CLARA M. NEAL,

Dominion Supt.

3, Fitzroy Street, Feilding.

Dear Sisters,—So far I have only received annual reports in this department from the following Unions: Lyttelton, Kaiapoi, Timaru, Pahiatua, and New Plymouth. I know what a difficult year this has been in this department, but if any Union can report any work done, I shall be glad to receive it at once. Acknowledged with thanks the following donations up to date:—Oxford, £1; Dunedin, £1 5s 6d; South Dunedin, 10s; N.E. Valley, £1 7s; Wanganui East, £2 13s 6d; Nelson, £3 16s 6d; Ashburton, £3 14s; Ponsonby, £1 10s; Gisborne, £1 13s 6d; Auckland, £2; Winchmore-Greenstreet, 9s; Richmond, 5s 9d; Hawera, £3; New Plymouth, £2 2s; Wellington District, £1; Pahiatua, 12s; Waimate, 15s; Napier, 10s; Dunedin, 11s; Waipukurau, 8s 6d; Otamatea, 5s, and £1 to Lee-Cowie Fund; Ngaere, 14s 6d; Onawhero, 5s, and £1 to Lee-Cowie Fund; Pahi, £1 to Lee-Cowie Fund; Mrs Toneycliffe, Gisborne, 10s.—Yours in Union Service,

N. F. WALKER.

"Gortgowan," Upper Fox Street, Gisborne.

LOST.

During her travels, Miss Powell has lost a small, black-covered note-book containing cooking recipes, medical prescriptions, etc., which was probably lent to some one who neglected to return it. As many of these cannot be replaced, the owner will be glad if the friend who borrowed it will kindly forward to Miss Powell, The College, Turakina.

In U.S.A. grain used in brewing of beer, ale, and other malt liquors would make four million loaves of bread daily.

President Wilson Urges the Extension of Suffrage to Women.

The President, addressing the Senate at 1 o'clock on September 30th, said:—

Gentlemen of the Senate:

"The unusual circumstances of a world-war in which we stand and are judged in the view not only of our own people and our own consciences but also in the view of all nations and peoples will, I hope, justify in your thought, as it does in mine, the message I have come to bring you. I regard the concurrence of the Senate in the constitutional amendment proposing the extension of the suffrage to women as vitally essential to the successful prosecution of the great war of humanity in which we are engaged. I have come to urge upon you the considerations which have led me to that conclusion. It is not only my privilege, it is also my duty to apprise you of every circumstance and element involved in this momentous struggle which seems to me to affect its very processes and its outcome. It is my duty to win the war, and to ask you to remove every obstacle that stands in the way of winning it.

"I had assumed that the Senate would concur in the amendment because no disputable principle is involved but only a question of the method by which the suffrage is to be extended to women. There is and can be no party issue involved in it. Both of our great national parties are pledged, explicitly pledged, to equality of suffrage for the women of the country. Neither party, therefore, it seems to me, can justify hesitation as to the method of obtaining it, can rightfully hesitate to substitute federal initiative for state initiative, if the early adoption of this measure is necessary to the successful prosecution of the war and if the method of state action proposed in the party platforms of 1916 is impracticable within any reasonable length of time, if practicable at all. And its adoption is, in my judgment, clearly necessary to the successful prosecution of the war and the successful realisation of the objects for which the war is being fought.

PROFESSIONS NOT SUFFICIENT

That judgment I take the liberty of urging upon you with solemn earnestness for reasons which I shall state very frankly and which I shall

hope will seem as conclusive to you as they seem to me.

This is a peoples' war and the peoples' thinking constitutes its atmosphere and morale, not the predilections of the drawing room or the political considerations of the caucus. If we be indeed democrats and wish to lead the world to democracy, we can ask other peoples to accept in proof of our sincerity and our ability to lead them whither they wish to be led nothing less persuasive and convincing than our actions. Our professions will not suffice. Verification must be forthcoming when verification is asked for. And in this case verification is asked for,—asked for in this particular matter. You ask by whom? Not through diplomatic channels; not by Foreign Ministers. Not by the intimation of parliaments. It is asked for by the anxious, expectant, suffering peoples with whom we are dealing and who are willing to put their destinies in some measure in our hands, if they are sure that we wish the same things that they do. I do not speak by conjecture.

It is not alone the voices of statesmen and of newspapers that reach me, and the voices of foolish and intemperate agitators do not reach me at all. Through many, many channels I have been made aware what the plain, struggling, workaday folk are thinking upon whom the chief terror and suffering of this tragic war falls. They are looking to the great, powerful, famous Democracy of the West to lead them to the new day for which they have so long waited; and they think, in their logical simplicity, that democracy means that women shall play their part in affairs alongside men and upon an equal footing with them. If we reject measures like this, in ignorance or defiance of what a new age has brought forth, of what they have seen but we have not, they will cease to believe in us; they will cease to follow or to trust us. They have seen their own governments accept this interpretation of democracy—seen old governments like that of Great Britain, which did not profess to be democratic, promise readily and as of course this justice to women, though they had before refused it, the strange revelation of this war having made many things new and plain, to governments as well as to peoples.

WOMEN PARTNERS IN THE WAR.

Are we alone to refuse to learn the lesson? Are we alone to ask and take the utmost that our women can give,—service and sacrifice of every kind,—and still say we do not see what title that gives them to stand by our sides in the guidance of the affairs of their Nation and ours? We have made partners of the women in this war; shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right? This war could not have been fought, either by the other nations engaged or by America, if it had not been for the services of the women,—services rendered in every sphere,—not merely in the fields of effort in which we have been accustomed to see them work, but wherever men have worked and upon the very skirts and edges of the battle itself. We shall not only be distrusted but shall deserve to be distrusted if we do not enfranchise them with the fullest possible enfranchisement, as it is now certain that the other great free nations will enfranchise them. We can not isolate our thought and action in such a matter from the thought of the rest of the world. We must either conform or deliberately reject what they propose and resign the leadership of liberal minds to others.

WILL NOT BE "SLACKERS."

The women of America are too noble and too intelligent and too devoted to be slackers whether you give or withhold this thing that is mere justice; but I know the magic it will work in their thoughts and spirits if you give it them. I propose it as I would propose to admit soldiers to the suffrage, the men fighting in the field for our liberties and the liberties of the world, were they excluded. The tasks of the women lie at the very heart of the war, and I know how much stronger that heart will beat if you do this just thing and show our women that you trust them as much as you in fact and of necessity depend upon them.

"VITAL TO THE WINNING OF THE WAR."

Have I said that the passage of this amendment is a vitally necessary war measure, and do you need further proof? Do you stand in need of the trust of other peoples and of the trust of our own women? Is that trust an

Ladies' Home Journal Patterns for Easy Dressmaking.

A very large number of these Patterns are sold, and because of their simplicity, and the excellent results that are obtained from them, they are most popular with New Zealand women. Clear directions are given with each Pattern. Designs for every description of clothing for women and children.

All Patterns 9d each, post free.

BEATH & CO., LIMITED

CHRISTCHURCH.

asset or is it not? I tell you plainly, as the Commander-in-Chief of our armies and of the gallant men in our fleets, as the present spokesman of this people in our dealings with the men and women throughout the world who are now our partners, as the responsible head of a great Government which stands and is questioned day by day as to its purposes, its principles, its hopes, whether they be serviceable to men everywhere or only to itself, and who must himself answer these questionings or be shamed, as the guide and director of forces caught in the grip of war and by the same token in need of every material and spiritual resource this great Nation possesses—I tell you plainly that this measure which I urge upon you is vital to the winning of the war and to the energies alike of preparation and of battle.

NEEDED AFTER THE WAR.

And not to the winning of the war only. It is vital to the right solution of the great problems which we must settle, and settle immediately, when the war is over. We shall need then in our vision of affairs, as we have never needed them before, the sympathy and insight and clear moral instinct of the women of the world. The problems of that time will strike to the roots of many things that we have not hitherto questioned, and I for one believe that our safety in those questioning days, as well as our comprehension of matters that touch society to the quick, will depend upon the direct and authoritative participation of women in our counsels. We shall need their moral sense to preserve what is right and fine and worthy in our system of life, as well as to discover just what it is that ought to be purified and reformed. Without their counsellings we shall be only half wise.

SPIRITUAL HELP NEEDED.

That is my case. This is my appeal. Many may deny its validity, if they choose, but no one can brush aside or answer the arguments upon which it is based. The executive tasks of this war rest upon me. I

ask that you lighten them and place in my hands instruments, spiritual instruments, which I do not now possess, which I sorely need, and which I have daily to apologise for not being able to employ.

AFTER THE WAR—WHAT?

With ecstatic joy the armistice was welcomed. As the harbinger of peace surely the Millennium is in view! Now is at hand a good time for the oppressed of earth!

But before the end of the war; before there could be peace demonstrations; before there could be a readjustment of world-matters befitting the Millennium, lo, Pestilence stalked abroad. And for his victims he has claimed many of what yet remained of the flower of mankind. Domestic, social, business, political life are alike disorganised. Who would have thought that States would have to add to their burdens the support of orphans and others disabled by Pestilence? How often are we confounded in presence of evils against which we believed ourselves immune! Why all the sorrow and distress that have befallen us as a nation, as communities, as individuals? That God has a voice in national as in individual life is referred to in His judgments on apostate nations in Deut. 8:19, 20, and the uprooting of a people from their own land for sins as truly ours as Israel's, sins positive and negative. "Therefore are my people gone into captivity" (Is. 5).

Israel was God's barometer, rising or falling according to His attitude God-ward. If we are to continue to be used as an ally of the Most High, surely it must be as we purge ourselves from our national sins, as, too our individual.

Of Pestilence God distinctly says, "I send pestilence" (2 Chron. 7:13). Can such disasters be averted? Have they been averted? Can they be averted by "Peace Congresses," by

"legislation," by civic efforts to stamp out disease? Assuredly not! We may cope with them but in one way: "If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Woe worth the day if we ascribe to cause other than God the cessation of hostilities, and the departure of Pestilence. "Thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us" (Ps. 44:7). Alas! what do we find? Instead of responses to the call of prayer, humiliation, the putting away our sins, we find a people still bent upon their own will,—gain, pleasure, and these only held in abeyance through stern necessity.

Our many disasters and the fact that we have been perilously near defeat, coupled with our national declension from God, and our now surely undeserved victory, should have a sobering effect upon us, and drive us to our knees.

Will God put forth His hand in further judgments? Yes, when all shall eventually have been reduced to "peace and safety," and men are settling down to enjoy the fruits of their own labour, "then sudden destruction" (1 Thes. 5:3).

Warning upon warning may be sent till God eventually pours down upon this apostate world the full fury of His wrath in "The (coming) Tribulation." "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time; no, nor ever shall be." But between now and then there shall be certain caught up to meet the Lord in the air. Who are they? The "alive" in Christ, "and the dead in Christ" (1 Thes. 4:16, 17). Oh! reader, where will you and I figure in the portentous events close at hand?

GERTRUDE COCKERELL.

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE.

EXTRACTS FROM SPEECHES IN HOUSE OF LORDS.

By the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I deprecate in the strongest way the allegation that those who are in favour of women's votes want to concede them as a reward to the women for having behaved well in the war. It is nothing of the kind. That is a complete misconception of what we mean by the trust of the franchise. It is not a plum as a reward to somebody for being good. It is the discharge of a great and serious responsibility which people have to exercise as a trust given to them by the nation to exercise for the nation when they have shown that they are fit and worthy to take a responsibility of the kind. It is given to women as a recognition of the part they are now taking in our national life from top to bottom; not for the part they have taken in doing women's work—nursing, and the rest—but for the part which in our whole social system, fabric, operations, administration, they are taking to-day, permeated through and through as these things are by the agency and the activity and the effective daily work of women. I am not speaking of the fact that women have nursed our wounded men, or that they have done the things which we all knew from the beginning they would do.

And the Bishop of London.

Although for many years I was very doubtful as to the support of woman suffrage—it was hardly a tactful way to convert us by burning down our churches or putting bombs in our homes and cathedrals—I have been wholly converted to the support of this movement by the belief that we need women in the reconstruction of the world after the war.

What are the burning questions that are coming up after the war in these working-class quarters? The other day I was at a Sunday conference of a thousand men in the East End of London, who were conferring on the disgraceful conditions of the housing of that part of the city. Seven areas were condemned in 1904, and nothing whatever has been done to remedy them. Why not? Because no voice with special power could reach the centre. Whose voice do we want to sound that view? The voice of the

working women, those who are most concerned.

Then take infant mortality. It is well known now and accepted that 100,000 little children, of whom 50,000 could be saved, die in the year of their birth. When Lord Haldane was in power he entrusted me, under an Act of Parliament, with the chairmanship of a great charity, a royal charity, a great ancient foundation, which was restored to its original use of saving the infant life of this great city. As I looked round the table I found to my horror that we were all bachelors, although the feeding of babies was the concern of the charity. What did we do. We called in the most experienced woman we could find to do the job for us.

There is a third question of safeguarding and saving young girls from a bad life.

Then comes the tremendous question of education. The working classes of this country are determined to have a better education for their children, and why should the mothers not have a voice in it?—Exchange.

FINDING FAULT.

The winds refused to blow;
"No use," said they, "to try,
From north, or south, or east, or west,
These folks to satisfy."

"The north wind is 'too hot,'
The west wind 'bold and rough';
The east is 'wretched,' they complain;
The south 'is much too cool.'"

And so the windmills stopped;
The ships lay idly by;
The sun beat down from morn till night,
Because no cloud could fly.

The people sighed for wind,
"Blow hot or cold," they said,
"From north, or south, or east, or west,
But blow from somewhere, pray."

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MRS HOULDER,

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Christian Temperance Union
Of New Zealand.

Organised 1885.

"For God and Home and Humanity."

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The White Ribbon.

For God and Home and Humanity

WELLINGTON, JAN. 18, 1919.

A PERSONAL QUESTION.

Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? An old question, a pertinent question, a personal question.

An old question. First heard upon the Syrian plain from the lips of Saul the Pharisee. That energetic nature must be at work, and when arrested by the bright light and convinced that his past work had been evil, like a flash came the query: Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?

It was a time when kingdoms, nations, and dynasties were in the melting-pot, and this man was chosen of God to be the leader of His people. Paul's whole life furnished the answer to this question, an answer once put into words by the Apostle, "For me to live is Christ." I live only to do His will.

A pertinent question. To-day is also a time of world crisis. For this Dominion the next three months will be a time of crisis, great issues will be decided, greater perhaps than most people realise. At such a time, more than ever, the question of Saul must find an echo in the heart of every thoughtful, earnest woman. If each one answers the question in the same whole-souled manner as did the great Apostle of old, the issue next April must be a triumphant victory for the cause of right.

A personal question. What wilt Thou have *me* to do? Not what is my President, my leader, to do, but what am I to do? What will *Thou* have me to do? Not what do my friends, my relatives wish me to do; but what does the Eternal God wish me to do. Reverently, upon our knees, let us ask this question; patiently let us wait upon God for an answer; earnestly, faithfully, let us arise and obey the Divine voice. May the language of each heart be, "Surely my Captain may depend on me, Though but an armour-bearer I may be." Give thought to the subject; study it up to meet objections. Talk about it to everybody you meet in your daily round; write to absent friends and ask them to help us to make New Zealand dry. Create an atmosphere of expectation. Pray and believe. expect victory; work for victory.

If *one vote* fails us that you might have influenced, your duty is not done. This is to be a fight to the finish, no faltering, no halting, till that grim enemy of *God and Home and Humanity*—the licensed liquor bar—is defeated, out-voted, and banished, and we sing the triumph song over a dry Dominion.

The oft-repeated words of our now sainted leader, Mrs L. M. N. Stevens, will bear yet another repetition: "At the end of this fight any Union which has one cent left in its treasury, or one ounce of energy left among its members, is unworthy the name of a Woman's Christian Temperance Union."

WORK AND PRAYER. They cannot be divorced. What is earnestly prayed for must be greatly desired. What is greatly desired must be ardently worked for.

"O, it is hard to work for God,
 To rise and take His part,
 Upon this battlefield of earth,
 And not sometimes lose heart.

Workman of God, O lose not heart,
 But learn what God is like;
 And in the darkest battlefield
 Thou shalt know where to strike."

We cannot do better, in closing, than quote the call to prayer from the page of our esteemed contemporary, "The Methodist Times":—

"But there is one way of helping in this struggle for the overthrow of the liquor curse that we wish specially to commend to our readers. It was prayer that won for us six o'clock closing. It was prayer that secured the astonishing result of a Bill providing for a vote for National Prohibition on a bare majority. And it will be prayer that will be the most important factor in bringing off a National Prohibition victory. Therefore, to your knees, O Israel! Let God be entreated to give the strength of His right arm to those who are fighting for the overthrow of the greatest barrier that exists to the spread of His kingdom. Daily let the prayer go up from every Christian heart: O God, speed the cause of Prohibition to a successful issue on April 10." More than that. The suggestion has been made, which we cordially endorse, that every Church in New Zealand should be opened, say, on two evenings a week, in which those whose hearts are touched may meet for united prayer on behalf of this cause. Let all be encouraged to pray, not only those who can lift up their voices in prayer, but those also who pray in silence. There need be no formality about such meetings. It is not necessary that the minister should be always there. He ought to have his hands full with other work in connection with the movement. All ordinary engagements should be suspended in view of the tremendous issues at stake on April 10. Who can doubt the result if God's people all over the country join in fervent supplication on behalf of victory? God has honoured faithful, believing prayer in the past, and He will honour it again if we only put Him to the test. LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY."

A cause like ours is holy,
 And it useth holy things,
 While o'er the storm of a righteous
 strife
 May shine the angel's wings.

Where'er our duty leads us,
 The grace of God is there,
 And the lurid shrine of war
 May hold the eucharist of prayer.

WORLD'S W.C.T.U.

Evanston, Ill., U.S.A.,

November 15, 1918.

Beloved Comrade,—

As we emerge from the chaos of a world war, we yearningly reach out with unspeakable joy and sympathy to each and every auxiliary and member of the world's W.C.T.U. After four dark years of separation from comrades in Germany, Austria, Turkey, and Bulgaria, W.C.T.U. cables will soon connect "across the lines." At daybreak on the morning the armistice was signed, I could think only of that wondrous, holy morn when the angels gave the world the heavenly message, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." How privileged we are to belong to a great body of women who have covenanted together to help make this vision real to-day to the family of nations!

To our beloved and honoured President, Rosalind, Countess of Carlisle, we turn with renewed allegiance and affection, assuring her of our devoted loyalty and of our earnest determination to bend all our energies to the building up of our blessed organisation, not only that the constructive work we love may go splendidly forward, but that we may have an enlarged membership for the mighty programme immediately to be undertaken. Also we must keenly realise the need of continuing to aid the vast relief work growing out of the war. There is still committed to us this unfinished and supreme task.

Coincident with the cessation of hostilities, November 11, 1918, has come the near approach of prohibition for the United States. Believing the time ripe for an intensive campaign for world prohibition and for rallying the forces of our great organisation to renewed high endeavour, I sent out on that historic day this proclamation:—

"Proclamation for World Prohibition.

"World democracy, world peace, and world patriotism, demand world prohibition.

"Representing the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the United States, a Republic about to write prohibition in its constitutional law, we hereby call upon the peoples of all faiths and of all organizations in the world's family of nations to clasp hands with the World's W.C.T.U. and to help bring to full

fruition its hope and its heroic service of thirty-five years on behalf of a sober world. Science declares against alcohol. Health conservation and business prosperity demand total abstinence and prohibition. Together let us agitate, educate, organize, and legislate, until the exalted vision of the founder of the World's W.C.T.U., Frances E. Willard, is realised; until the Gospel of the Golden Rule of Christ is worked out in the customs of society and in the laws of every land.

"At the close of the devastating world war, in the white heat of the limitless, unparalleled opportunities of a new internationalism, depending upon the help of God and of all who love humanity, we hereby proclaim, by the year 1925, the triumph of world prohibition.

"Rest Cottage, Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.,

November 11, 1918."

To aid in the further development of our great principles of total abstinence and prohibition, and in the achievement of the goal set forth in our proclamation, "The Union Signal," the official organ of the National W.C.T.U. of this country, will, each month, publish a special number, to be known as the "International Edition." This paper will cover news items concerning our progress, and the growth of sentiment for our principles and plan of work in all parts of the world. We shall secure contributors in all our auxiliaries to help speed to success the plans, purposes, and principles which for thirty-five years we have unselfishly promoted. The subscription is 1.52dol, postpaid, or six shillings and fourpence. For the 12 numbers of the "International Edition," two shillings, postpaid. Address Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A.

The general officers of the National W.C.T.U. have telegraphed President Wilson, asking that American women may be appointed members of the Official Peace Conference. Other countries will doubtless make similar requests of their Governments.

In 1919, we must hold our Tenth Convention of the World's W.C.T.U. Lady Carlisle and the other general officers will soon decide time and place for this most important meeting, and all our auxiliaries will be promptly notified. May this Convention demonstrate our worthiness to bear the name long ago ascribed upon our banners.

May it prove that our bond of love for one another and of our long years of united service for our God-given work, is strong enough to survive the strain of war. May it show that as Christian women we are ready, hand to hand and heart to heart, to continue our great and holy endeavour for world sobriety and world Prohibition.—Affectionately,

ANNA A. GORDON.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK.

Are our police blind? Hotel bars are closed now in a port when a troopship returns bringing troops. A large contingent arrived at a southern port lately; in spite of closed bars many men were under the influence of liquor. Young ladies with cameras could get snaps of soldiers leaving the back door of licensed premises, wiping their lips, and exhibiting great unsteadiness upon their feet; in fact, civilians had no difficulty in seeing that the law was broken openly, only the police were blind. We want to know what is the good of issuing an order to close the bars and then not seeing that the order is enforced. Orders like this from the Defence Minister are a farce.

Our Business Manager desires to thank two generous friends for donations—Mr Brent, of Rotorua, £3; Miss Cockerell, of the Empire City, 10s. During these years, when prices have been going up, our "White Ribbon" has remained at pre-war price, and every year we have had a small credit balance. Will Unions and members help to keep up our record this year by sending in subs. promptly, also by sending in their six new subscribers before the end of the month?

The doctors are opposed to tobacco for soldiers. Next to venereal disease, tobacco causes more sickness than any other given agency. The other morning twenty-five men reported for sick call with sore throats. All but one smoked from four to forty cigarettes a day. Surgeon McLain, of the British Army, says that it weakens the heart-muscles, increases the heart action, and destroys the nerves, but men cannot shoot straight when they use tobacco. This statement can be confirmed in any army camp.—Chaplain Roberts, 7th U.S. Engineers.

IS IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE SAME MORAL STANDARD FROM MEN AS FROM WOMEN?

(Extracts from a speech delivered at the Conference of the British Dominions Woman Suffrage Union, London, June, 1918, by Dr. Edward Beadon Turner, F.R.C.S., Chairman of Representative Body, British Medical Association; Chairman of Medical Committee, National Council for Combating Venereal Disease; Member of Advisory Board to Ministry of National Service).

I presume that you have asked me to speak to you on this subject because I am a physician, and I am going to give the view of a doctor in the matter. I shall also touch on the point of view of a man of the world who has been intimately mixed up with young men, and who has taken a great interest in these subjects for a long time.

I will begin at once by telling you that it is absolutely reasonable and possible to expect the same moral standard from men as from women. Of this I am certain. I am sure that it is quite possible that both sexes should attain the same ideal standard. I have never known any healthy man, an absolutely healthy man, go wrong in health because he has lived a perfectly clean life.

Some of you may have known men who have been in hard training for some athletic contest for six months or more, during which time they have kept their bodies in temperance, soberness, and chastity. They are not broken-down men by any means, but come out of training in the pink of health and condition. Therefore, if they can live a pure life for six months, there is no reason why they should not do so indefinitely.

There are some persons to whom this does not apply. I have known a very few men who have practically been almost sexually insane, and the results have been disastrous; but it is an extremely small minority in which this obtains. Such conditions are abnormal, and do not affect the great mass of ordinary men.

Perhaps, on the whole, it may be rather more difficult for men to keep straight than for women for various reasons. I do not think, however, that there is really a very great difference in this matter between the two sexes. I presume that in speaking of an equal standard for men as for women, you are expecting that the standard for men shall be at least as high as that for women. If you mean to approximate the two standards by degrading that of woman to the level of that of the ordinary man, then I am "right off it"; but provided your aim is to raise the man's standard so that it shall be the same, then I am entirely with you.

* * * *

If it be possible these things should be altered, both men and women should demand equal morality the one of the other. How are you going to set about it? It will take generations to accomplish, for it is hard to eradicate that which is bred in the bone. Legislation is of no use. If every woman had every vote in the world you could not accomplish it by any law that might be passed. Unless caught in the act, it is impossible to prove that a man is immoral. There is no physical change in him, as in a woman. But though law can do nothing, I believe that the solution lies entirely in your own hands. But you must begin at the very beginning. You must begin with the mother, who must take her sons and teach them; discuss with them these matters; discuss them healthily and cleanly, reverently and devoutly, teaching them to reverence both themselves and the other sex. Then you must alter the sentiments of an enormous number of women towards immoral men—a man who is notoriously immoral should not be allowed to be the honoured guest in any drawing-room—and you have finally to convince the mothers in this Kingdom, and the Empire, and also an exceedingly large proportion of their daughters, that chocolates, diamonds, furs, and motor-cars are not the "be-all and the end-all" here, and that a coroneted millionaire with a lurid past and a dozen discarded mistresses is by no means the most fitting mate for a pure young girl, and that she probably would be much better with a clean young man as a husband, who may have his way to make in the world.

Correspondence.

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

THE POOR AND NEEDY.

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—The war and the epidemic have opened our eyes to a lot of things. But they have shown most that our social methods require a lot of altering. The general conditions of "the poor and needy" are a blot on our common-sense and moral professions.

It does seem to me most unjust that because a child is born of certain parents, he should be penalised.

We all profess to believe that we are the children of the Creator, and to exemplify our profession we should at least try to see that all children born get fair treatment.

We are all failures, and because a child is born of parents who are also financial failures, it is not his fault, and he should not be penalised.

Which precludes that, I consider that we should humanise our treatment of all the aged, invalid, widows and children. It is a dreadful thing to know that because of "red-tape regulations" certain aged infirm must die paupers. It is dreadful also to think that invalids and widows should be punished for being invalids or widows.

It is distressing to think that children should have their lives warped because they happened to be born of certain parents.

The aged, infirm and widows should have a sufficient pension. Everything the children need should be guaranteed by the State, and provided. Those who are financial failures should be helped by a paternal public on scientific self-help lines, by granting them the use of our collective credit. As Wolff puts it, "the poor are poor because they get no credit, and they get no credit because they are poor."

The land should be "humanised" so that no man could withhold the land from the poor, and no man could hold more land than he really needed or worked properly.

Of course, any scheme for the improving of the conditions of the poor and needy, or anybody else, would be greatly hampered if not made ineffective without Prohibition. Those who do not believe in Prohibition should read the "Ten Commandments" and see how many of them are not prohibitory. We talk of a League of Nations to keep the peace. But how can any peace be built up on a substratum of undeserved poverty, and how can any man be self-respecting and a lover of peace who is not a free man, and how can any man be a free man who has not an inalienable right to a portion of God's earth, and what impulse has a man to go to war when he is happy enough in his own place?—I am, etc.,

SAM. A. BROWNE.

Clevedon, Auckland.

Y COLUMN.

WHEN A MAN'S IN FRANCE.

(M. Madeline Southard.)

"What's the use of trying to keep up a Young People's Branch? The boys are all in the army, three of the best girls are leaving to teach. I hate to have the thing drag along and die on our hands. Let's disband." It was an officers' meeting, and the President, Claire Burney, was speaking.

"I hate to," said Nan reluctantly. "We've had such good times, and it's meant so much to me. But it may be Claire is right. It doesn't seem so necessary in a bone-dry State."

"No," said vivacious Nell. "I loved it when we had to fight, and everything was exciting. But now everybody knows that prohibition is best. It's no fun to work for a thing after it's become popular."

"But there's the nation to be made dry, and the whole world. I think there is a great deal to do yet," came from timid Anne.

"Oh, we can still sign petitions and give some money. But our own young folk aren't in danger any longer. And with all the war work to be done now, I don't think we are justified in taking time for anything not absolutely necessary." There was finality in Claire's tone.

Mrs Robbins, whom the Troy Branch called god-mother, had been listening with a sinking heart. Now she interposed:

"Speaking of war work, girls, I was going to ask you to-day if we couldn't get the addresses of past and present Y.P.B. boys, and write to them."

"I don't think so, Mrs Robbins," came promptly from Claire. "The boys must be bored by so many women and girls fussing over them. Everybody they see wants to write to them, or feed them, or hold their hands adoringly. I think it's rather silly."

This was so like Claire, whose commonsense never gave her sentimental heart a chance to express itself, that Mrs Robbins dropped her eyes to hide their twinkle.

"Nobody will ever accuse you of being silly, Claire, at any rate." Then a vibrant tone came into the god-mother's voice. "That's just it, my dears. Many women and girls are being foolish, and unconsciously

tempting our boys. Some, of course, do it deliberately. It seems to me the good women and girls owe it to these men to steady them with little glimpses of home, reminders of how much they mean to their friends. We are not to forget that they are paying a rather big price to save us from what women in Europe are suffering. We might give a little effort, and a few postage stamps as a thank-offering."

"Oh, I don't mind the work." The quick tears sprang to Claire's eyes, and she could say no more.

"But, Mrs Robbins, some of our younger girls are rather foolish, too. I don't know that it would be wise." Nan taught in the high school, and knew some things.

"I'll tell you," exclaimed Nell. "We'll have a censor just like they do in France—make it a military procedure, and the girls won't mind. And Mrs Robbins will put her seal on each letter that is passed. Some of the most dangerous girls in town are writing freely to the boys. I don't believe we ought to turn it all over to them. Our girls will do the right thing after Mrs Robbins talks with them."

So it was settled, and so it was carried out, with an addition. Anne came to the next meeting with a quantity of kodak pictures. Others got out their old films, and she made many prints that were enclosed loose in the letters.

* * * *

Captain Clinton Ramsay was back from a stiff time in the front lines. His left arm was perfectly comfortable in a sling, his healthy young flesh had almost forgotten that a bullet had but recently ploughed through it, his virile young spirit was clamouring to be back sharing the danger with his men.

It was a welcome break in the monotony of convalescence when an invitation was received to spend a social evening in a chateau east of town. When the hour came, Clinton, with several other officers, was ushered into the stately rooms, and met the gracious hospitality of a French home. There was a certain sparkle about everything, from the cut-glass and the liquors served in it, to the eyes of the women and their animated conversation. The effect was exhilarating, and Clinton had an undefined feeling that everything he had known before had been dull and sluggish compared

with this. He thanked his lucky stars that French had been easy for him, and that he had given especial attention to pronunciation.

But if the language gave the young captain no other embarrassment, some other things did. He felt perfectly helpless when he was furnished with a beautiful glass of beautiful wine, and the beautiful girl beside him explained how the hostess had offered this rare vintage when she learned that among her guests was one wounded in defence of their beautiful France. Then, in a moment, one of the American men was expressing their gratitude to these fair ladies, and glasses were lifted at his call. Clinton hesitated until the others began to look toward him, then the horror of seeming discourteous overcame him, and he drank with the rest.

"I was afraid you were going to do queer things there for a minute last night," said another officer next morning. "Jennings would never have forgiven you if you had refused to drink to his toast."

"But Pershing—I thought—"

"Oh, there's rather a high-class minority that think Pershing's a bit of a crank on this. Of course, it wouldn't do to let the men get in the habit of drinking. But our officers are college trained men of self-control. And we have several things to do for America while we are here, besides whip the Hun. We must make the better classes understand that we are not a country of boors, that we are fit to meet socially. And you can't go in genteel society in Europe and not drink their delicate wines. It's just an incident, nothing to get excited about in the big game we are in."

Clinton found he was not particularly excited about it, any more than over many other innovations that cut squarely across his former thought and habit of life. He told himself he had enough to do to adapt himself to the emergencies of an officer's life without debating small distinctions in conduct that had once seemed important.

This attitude made it easy for him to continue, with rapidly growing intimacy, his acquaintance with an attractive young woman he had met at the chateau. Then the day came that he was to make his final call before going back to the front, and he was thinking with anticipation and appre-

hension of what the evening might hold.

"Look what a burden I took on myself for your sake," called a comrade as he came from the post office. It would take something of stronger texture than day-dreams are made of to hold an American's interest in the face of letters from the homeland, and with an exclamation of pleasure, Clinton reached for the white pile tossed to him. As he read, the "blue Alsation mountains" faded, and again he was tramping his familiar middle-State plains, the fragrance of tasselling corn in his nostrils, the breath of a welcome summer shower in his face. And it had blown away the last shred of his newly acquired philosophy long before the last letter was finished, the last kodak print lovingly scrutinised.

That evening a stern-lipped young man was admitted to the cosy sitting-room, a man who had the grace to be ashamed when he saw the light flash into the girl's face as he entered.

"Mother Robbins," he wrote a few hours later, "it would have been easier to lead my men into an open rain of German shells than face this gentle Felice and own to her that I was false to the friendliness she had given a wounded man. Oh, they are so pitiful, these French girls, so vital, so human, and their God-intended lovers are sleeping the long sleep. We Americans come to them as fair gods, deliverers from some misty, far-off land. They know we are lonely, they break their social conventions for us. Do you think a white God can ever forgive us, then, when we trifle with their hands, their lips, their hearts? I've turned the mirror to the wall. I can't look myself in the face since I saw the hurt expression in her eyes. Will you pray for her, godmother, and will you write to her. Of course, no word about this; just thank her for being kind to one of your boys; let her know some way that I honour her. You will know what to say.

"What a blessing a mother-confessor is. I remember hearing poor Fred Jenkins say, just after a moral funk, 'No matter what a cheap skate a fellow's been, if he honestly wants to try again he can count on Mrs Robbins.' Well, I've been the cheap skate all right, played the flirt—might as well put it straight—and broken my pledge. I wouldn't have done the other if it hadn't been for that, but wine went to my head, blurred the

fine sense of honour you taught to us boys.

"Will you please send me some Y.P.B. and White Cross pledges for the other fellows? You saved my soul putting those in. The familiar bits of pasteboard brought back the look on my mother's face when I signed—do you suppose my mother in heaven knows I've failed? But as I love her memory I shall not fail again."

To Claire Burney, Clinton wrote:

"Look here, Claire, if you disband the Y.P.B., I'll take a furlough long enough to come home and settle with you. That brother Jim of mine is getting old enough to join; he must have what I had. When a man's in France he can see what his kid training meant. You say the youngsters are safe now, as though they would always stay in a bone-dry State! I tell you they need every bit of the old teaching as long as there is a drop of stuff served anywhere on the globe. I'm grateful for the socks, and especially the surgical dressings you girls make—it's fine work. But I'd rather go cold and lie with wounds unbound than have you fail these high school youngsters. Of what use is it that we boys fight this horrible war for liberty unless you girls fight just as hard to keep the people with brains clear enough to see liberty aright when they have it. It's all one battle, Claire, mine in France, and yours in the dear home town that sends her sons to the ends of the earth. Some day, please God, I shall fight side by side with you, if you will let me, dear. But now, though our trenches are a long way apart, it's the same battle-line, and we will both 'see it through.'"

* * *

"What is the verdict?" asked Mrs Robbins, dropping in at the close of another officers' meeting. "Do we stop, or do we go on?"

"If we want any friends when the boys come home I guess we had better go on," answered Nell gaily. "Those who never would take any part, and whom we could hardly drag out for a meeting, write as though it would be a national calamity if we stopped."

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The "White Ribbon" will be posted to any address on receipt of 2s 6d, payable to Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers

Y's Reports.

WANGANUI.

Dec. 6. Annual meeting. Good attendance. It was with regret that we accepted the resignation of our President, Mrs Smith. The following officers were elected: President, Miss Hogg; Vice-President, Miss Emmett; Secretary, Miss Chisholm; Treasurer, Miss Twemlon; Organists, Misses Smith and Spurdle; Social Committee, Misses Turner, L. Tipper and Burson; Cradle Roll, Miss E. Tipper; White Ribbon Agent, Miss Jarvis. Two new members were initiated.

AUCKLAND.

Dec. 16. Annual meeting. Owing to epidemic, only a few members present. The resignation of the Rec. Sec., Miss Hazel Patterson, was received with much regret. Officers were elected: Pres., Miss I. Sussex; Rec. Sec., Miss L. Street; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Bottrill; Treas., Miss Stubbs; Librarian, Miss Lee; "W.R." Supt., Miss Budd. Our membership is still increasing, and we hope the interest and enthusiasm will grow also in the coming year.

PROHIBITION PARS.

In every case where we have a shipyard or a community go from open saloons to prohibition, there has been increased efficiency.—Secretary Daniels, U.S. Navy.

* * *

Prohibition benefits labour. "Our financial statement for March, 1918, shows more money handled, both in receipts and expenditure, than for any month in a number of years."—J. W. Stanford, Secretary Denver Cigar Makers' Union.

* * *

"I should say, from my experience, that alcohol is the most destructive agent that we are aware of in this country. . . . I would like to say that a very large number of people in society are dying day by day poisoned by alcohol, but not supposed to be poisoned by it."—Late Sir Wm. Gill, F.R.S.

* * *

"Drink kills more than all our newest weapons of warfare."—Late Viscount Wolseley.

* * *

"A young man cannot be fit if he takes alcohol. By no possibility can he want it."—Sir Frederick Treves, K.C.V.O., F.R.C.S.

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.)

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dec. 18. Annual meeting. Mrs T. E. Taylor presided. Annual report showed 242 members, and stated that much work had been done in getting signatures to the petition. The following officers were elected:—Sec., Mrs R. Day; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop; Treas., Mrs Paterson; Assistant Treas., Miss Gordon; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Blyth, Wicks, Paterson, Misses Henderson and Roberts. Election of President was deferred. Reports from auxiliary Union were read. A resolution was passed expressing appreciation of those members of Parliament who supported the Bill to provide full electoral rights to women, regretting that others failed to keep promises made in connection with the Bill during the recent session. A vote of sympathy was passed with all members who had lost friends during the recent epidemic.

WELLINGTON CENTRAL.

Dec. 20. Annual meeting, Mrs A. R. Atkinson presiding. Annual reports and balance-sheet read and adopted. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs A. R. Atkinson; Rec. Sec., Mrs Clark; Cor. Sec. and Press Reporter, Miss Helyer; Treas., Mrs Helyer; Hygiene, Mrs McDonald; Literature, Mrs Caughley; Work Among Seamen, Mrs Nimmo; Home Meetings, Mrs S. Evans; L.T.L., Mrs Stevenson; Cradle Roll, Mrs Remington; "White Ribbon," Mrs Port. Several letters were read by Mrs Nimmo from sailors who had received warm clothing from the stocks sent home by the W.C.T.U., and all spoke in most grateful terms of the gifts received.

RAKAIA.

Dec. Mrs Boag presided. Wire sent to Premier asking for hotel bars to be closed during peace celebrations.

Dec. 19. Annual meeting, Mrs Lill (District President) presiding. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs Boag; Sec., Mrs Hopwood; Treas., Mrs Ross. Reports read and adopted.

WAIHI.

Dec. 12. Poor attendance, owing to influenza. Vote of sympathy passed to relatives of late Mrs Roberts, an honorary member of our Union. Officers all re-elected. Resolved to meet early next year on account of Prohibition poll. Resolved to increase our membership, and endeavour to arouse interest in our work.

WANGANUI CENTRAL.

Dec. 13. Annual meeting. Votes of sympathy with Mesdames Blamires and Redpath, who had lost sons through the recent epidemic; also to those who had lost sons through the war. Mrs Bott was thanked for her services as letter-writer. Report read and adopted. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs J. Smith; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Upton and Emmett; Cor. Sec., Mrs Bott; Rec. Sec., Mrs McKenzie; Treas., Mrs Siddells; Evangelistic and Literature, Mrs Mara, senr.; Legal and Parliamentary, Mrs H. Smith; Hospital and Sick Visitor, Mrs Dunstall; Pianistes, Mesdames Macalister and Emmett.

HAWERA.

Dec. 19. Annual meeting, Miss Maunder presiding. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs J. S. Young; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Bone, Gray, Dixon, Liver-edge, and Miss Maunder; Cor. Sec., Mrs White; Rec. Sec., Miss Bischoff; Treas., Mrs Best; W.R. Supt., Mrs R. Tait; Supt. Y.P. Branch, Mrs Bone; Maori Work, Mrs T. Tait; Cradle Roll, Mrs Bischoff; Scientific Temperance Instruction, Mrs Best; L.T.L., Mrs Curtis; Literature, Mrs Tonks. Decided to ask the Salvation Army to co-operate with our Union in taking charge of the Rest Tent at the Show, which is to be held in February.

NELSON.

Dec. 10. Mrs Watson presided. The annual report and balance-sheet were read by the Secretary and Treasurer, and reports given of the departments for Literature, Good Citizenship, Cradle Roll, L.T.L., and Back Blocks, also of the W.R. An interesting address, given by the Rev. E. Patchett, briefly reviewing the position as regards the Prohibition Campaign. Report of Mine-sweepers' Fund showed £23 10s given in cash, and goods to the value of £12. Voted for the Organising Fund £5; for the Maori Fund £3. Election of officers postponed till February. The following resolution was passed:—We members of the W.C.T.U. would express our deep thankfulness at the prospect of the restoration of peace; and we trust that such satisfactory terms may be arrived at as shall tend to render that peace permanent. Also resolved that the Nelson civic authorities be congratulated upon the way the recent epidemic had been dealt with.

AUCKLAND.

Owing to the terrible epidemic which has been raging in our city our meetings have all been suspended. On December 11th our Executive Meeting was held, and votes of sympathy were passed to a number of our members who have suffered bereavement during this sad time. Telegrams were read from the Premier, Sir J. G. Ward and Sir F. Bell in reply to telegrams of protest sent re the action of the Legislative Council refusing to make women eligible for Parliament.

300 circulars were typed and sent to members urging them to appeal to mothers, sisters and wives of soldiers to influence them to vote Prohibition at the poll. £7 2s was donated by the Church of Christ in aid of mine-sweepers. Grey Lynn Union reported £7 3s 6d for mine-sweepers and Hutment Funds. The following resolution was passed: "The members of the Auckland and District W.C.T.U.'s. protest against Hon. Russell's strictures on the Mayor and Councillors. They consider that the fault lies undoubtedly with the Minister of Public Health as quarantine station should have been prepared three weeks before the arrival of the Niagara." A letter of appreciation of the Mayor's action with regard to the epidemic was sent to the Mayor. The report of the mine-sweepers work showed a large number of woollen comforts forwarded to Mrs Nimmo, and a good sum of money to be sent later. Decided to hold the annual meeting in February.

DANNEVIRKE.

Oct. 30. Annual meeting, Mrs Venables (District President) in the chair. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs Richards; Vice-Pres., Mrs Knight and Mrs Nicholson; Cor. Sec., Mrs Wiseman; Rec. Sec., Mrs McPhee; Treas., Miss Burdett; Evangelist Supt., Mrs McPherson. Afternoon tea dispensed.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT.

The annual meeting was held in Constable Street Rooms, on Thursday, December 19th, when Mrs Houlder presided. Mrs Keene (Secretary) presented the report, and Mrs Boxall (Treasurer) the balance-sheet, which gave evidence of a very satisfactory year's work. Reports were read from the Auxiliary Branches, and the following departments: Evangelistic, Press, Railway Boxes, Good Citizenship, Home Meetings, Notable Days, L.T.L., Sabbath Observance, and Flower Mission. Mrs Mowlem, Superintendent of "Y" Branch, proposed a scheme for starting a Girls' Hostel, which gave rise to an interesting discussion. The scheme had the hearty support of the Union. The Rev. W. Shirer presented the report and balance-sheet of the Building Fund, of which he is Hon. Treasurer. This was adopted, and Mr Shirer was unanimously re-elected to the position. The membership is now one hundred and thirty-four, and nine honorary members. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs Houlder; Rec. Sec., Mrs Webb; Cor. Sec., Mrs Evans, M.A.; Treasurer, Mrs Boxall; Press Reporter and W.R. Supt., Mrs Webb.

ASHBURTON.

Dec. 17. Annual meeting, Mrs Lill presiding. Votes of sympathy were passed with four families represented in the Union suffering bereavement. The Recording Secretary read

a report of the year's work, and the sincere thanks of the Union were accorded to all who had helped to make the year so successful. Treasurer reported a membership of 109; £112 5s 6d donated to "W.R." Hutment Fund; and a credit balance of £14 14s 5d. "White Ribbon" Superintendent reported 109 subscribers, an increase of 18. A case of woollen goods and £20 were sent to mine-sweepers; £3 donated to Maori Fund. The Band of Hope reported an average attendance of 62, and great interest taken in the work. Decided to make 30 Christmas puddings requested for River-bed residents. Departmental reports were most gratifying. Officers elected: Pres., Mrs W. T. Lill; Cor. Sec., Mrs G. Bowman; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevurza; Treas., Mrs W. J. Brown.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The following payments have been received since last report:—

N.Z. Fund:

Auckland, £2 10s; Wellington and Palmerston North, £2 each; Wellington Central and Gisborne, £1 10s each; Ashburton, Kaiapoi, and Oxford, £1 each. Total, £12 10s.

World's Missionary Fund:

Auckland and Wellington, £1 each.

Organising Fund:

Wellington, £5 12s; Ashburton, £5 0s; Auckland, £5; Nelson, £5; Gisborne and Hawera, £3 each; Oxford, £2 12s; Wanganui East, £2 10s; Takapuna, £2; New Brighton, £1 3s; Eltham, £1 2s; Edendale, Kaiapoi, Matakana, Opatiki, and Tuatapere, £1 each; Port Chalmers, 15s; Wakefield, 10s; Kaikorai, 5s. Total, £42 18s; expenditure, £62 0s 11d.

NEILLIE BENDELY,

N.Z. Treasurer.

Auckland,
4th January, 1919.

The President of a big whisky firm in Chicago intended to prove that whisky does not cause so much crime. Incidentally he proved that whisky prevented a man from having a clear brain. Read his words: "Crime, such as burglary or cracking a safe, is done by the trained criminal, who does not drink. That crime is pre-meditated, and carried on carefully. The men who do it do not drink, because if they drank they would get caught. A man who drinks gets caught. Now take the pickpocket; do you suppose he could go through a man's pockets if he drank? Certainly not, because he would be clumsy, and be arrested."

KEEP PEGGING AWAY.

They have altered the date from a seven to an eight

In the Almanac hung on the wall;
What counsel of cheer shall we take through the year

To help, and encourage us all,
By the happiest luck I have recently struck

On a word that's a spur and a stay,
So rousingly breezy, so heartily easy,
The motto, "Keep Pegging Away."

Last year, I'm afraid, resolutions we made

Fell flat ere a fortnight was fled,
The fault we would kill is alive in us still,

The grace we would nurture is dead.
We put such a heart in the capital start,

We fancied the rest would be play,
But nobody's winning by merely beginning,

The trick's in the "Pegging Away."
—Canon Lanbridge, in Canadian
"W.R. Tidings."

"THE TWO IDEALS."

Now with the full year Memory holds her tryst,

Heavy with such a tale of bitter loss
As never Earth has suffered since the Christ

Hung for us on the Cross.

If God, O Kaiser, makes the vision plain;

Gives you on some lone Calvary to see

The Man of Sorrows who endured the pain

And died to set us free—

How will you face beneath its crown of thorn

That figure stark against the smoking skies,

The arms outstretched, the sacred head forlorn,

And those reproachful eyes?

How dare confront the false quest with the true?

Or think what gulfs between the ideals lie

Of Him Who died that men might live—and you

Who live that men may die?

The gentle age into which we have happily been born is attuning the twain whom God hath made for holy destinies, to higher harmonies than any other age has known, by a reform in the denaturalising methods of a civilisation largely based on force, by which the boy and girl have hitherto been ridiculously trained apart.—
Frances E. Willard.

Auckland District, 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., W.C.T.U. Headquarters, Wellesley Chambers, Wellesley Street (entrance Lorne St.); Pres., Mrs Cook, Point St., Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terr., Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Rd., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss J. Dewar, Pompallier Terrace; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Nelson, 78 Esplanade Road, Mt. Eden.

Avondale, 3rd Tuesday, 2 p.m., Brown Street Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Stevens; Rec. Sec., Miss B. Gittos; Cor. Sec., Mrs Proctor, Treas., Mrs Walker; "W.R. Agent, Mrs Morgan.

Auckland, Y's.—Last Monday at 7.45 p.m. in W.C.T.U. Headquarters. Pres., Miss Alice Parkinson; Vice-Presidents, Misses I. Cook, and O. Scott; Supt., Mrs Perrett, Market Road, Epsom; Rec. Sec., Miss Hazel Patterson; Cor. Sec., Miss M. Bottrill, 31 Arthur St., Ponsonby; Treas., Miss D. Stubbs, Shoal Bay Rd., Devonport; "W.R." Supt., Miss I. Sussex.

Ashburton, 1st Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., in Baring Square Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs W. T. Lill; Cor. Sec., Mrs G. Bowman, Peter St., E; Rec. Sec., Miss Trevurza, 169 Peter St.; Treas., Mrs W. J. Brown, Walnut Av.; "W.R." Supt., Miss Butterfield, Wakarui.

Avondale Y's, 3rd Wednesday, 7.45 p.m. in Ante-room, Town Hall. Pres. Miss Elsie Stevens, Vice-Pres. Misses Ada Adams, Lilla Russel & Rowley. Rec. Sec., Miss G. Wright; Cor. Sec., Miss L. Morey. Treas. Miss A. Douthwaite; W.R. Supt. Miss B. Thomas; Y. Supt; Mrs Pirrett, Market Rd., Epsom.

Blenheim District, 1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.; Pres. Mrs A. J. Litchfield, Livermere; Sec. Mrs H. S. Horn Springlands, Blenheim; Treas., Mrs Hay, Stephenson St.; Mothers' Meeting and Cradle Roll, Messdames Brewer and Hancock; W.R. Agent, Mrs W. Parker, Grove Rd.

Cambridge, 1st Tuesday, in month in Victoria Hall, at 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs A. T. Watson; Sec. Mrs Clark, Methodist Parsonage; Treas., Miss Clark, Hall Street; Cradle Roll, Mrs W. Hogan; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. T. Watson.

Christchurch W.C.T.U. Rooms, 247 Manchester St., opp. His Majesty's Theatre. Second and fourth Wednesday; Pres., Mrs T. E. Taylor, Cashmere Hills; Cor. Sec., Mrs R. Day, Milford St., St. Albans; Rec. Sec., Miss Bishop, 12 Bealey St.; Treas., Mrs Patterson, 346 Worcester St., Linwood; Asst. Treas., Miss Gordon, Holly Lea, Manchester St.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Drinnan, 11, Brown St., St. Albans.

Dannevirke, 2nd Wednesday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs W. F. Knight, Tahoraiti; Sec., Mrs Wiseman, High St.; Treas., Miss Burdett, The Manse.

Dunedin District, 1st Tuesday, No-license Rooms, Moray Place, 8 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Hiatt, 72, Heriot Row; Cor. Sec., and Press Cor., Mrs Macartney, 156, Eglinton Road, Mornington; Rec. Sec., Nurse Williamson; Supt. White Ribbon, Mrs Anderson, 82, Duke St.; Treas., Mrs Young, Bishopscauld, Roslyn.

Devonport, Second Thursday, Wesleyan Schoolroom, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Barr, Victoria Rd., Vice-Presidents, Messdames Budd, Elliot, Sheppard, George and Young; Sec., Mrs Burnett, Jubilee Av.; Treas., and Supt. W.R., Miss Le Roy, Waterview Rd., Stanley Bay; Supt. Cradle Roll, Miss Lillwall.

Fitzroy, 1st Friday, 2.30 p.m., Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs A. Hayward, 834, Devon Street, Fitzroy; Sec. Mrs L. Gray, 638, Devon Street East New Flymouth; Treas., Miss Tolme, Chilman St., Fitzroy; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Kibby, Clemow St., Fitzroy.

Feilding, 1st Thursday, 8 p.m., St. Paul's Hall; Pres., Miss Moore, c/o Mr. W. H. Bain, Feilding; Rec. Sec., Miss Jordan, c/o Mr H. Feild; Cor. Sec., Mrs C. J. Thompson, Denbigh Street; Treas., Mrs Williamson, The Hill; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Burnley; Railway Box, Mrs Shearer.

Gisborne District, 1st Tuesday, 2.45 p.m., Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs Goffe, Ormond Rd.; Sec., Mrs F. S. Malcolm, Gladstone Rd.; Treas., Mrs F. J. Wilkes, 466 Gladstone Rd.

Greymouth District, 1st Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Sailor's Rest Hall; Pres., Mrs Gaskin; Sec., Mrs Mason, Cobden; Treas., Mrs Sweetman White Ribbon Agent, Mrs T. Brown; Cradle Roll and Band of Hope, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Perry.

Hamilton District, first Thursday, Wesley Class Rooms, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. T. Horne, Clifton Road; Sec., Mrs W. H. Paul, Clandlands; Treas., Mrs E. J. Davey, London Street; W.R. Agent, Mrs Gaulton, Roastrevor Street

Hamilton East—3rd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. in Methodist Hall. Pres., Mrs Gillies, Nixon St; Sec., Mrs Ogilvie, Fifth St; Treas., Mrs Jack, McFarlane St; Cradle Roll, Mrs Mears; W.R. Agent, Mrs Day

Hastings, 2nd and 4th Thursday, St. Andrew's Hall, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Moore, Stortford; Vice-Pres., Mrs Boyle, Mrs Burr; Sec., Mrs M. R. Lovell Smith, 803 Ellison Road; Treas., Mrs J. Wilson, Box 273, Hastings; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Cameron.

Hawera meets in Wesley Hall, R-gert Street, on the last Thursday, at 8 p.m. Pres., Mrs J. S. Young, Cameron Street; Vice Presidents, Mesdames Bone, Dixon, Gray, Liversedge, and Miss Maunders; Rec. Sec., Miss Bischoff, Turuturu Rd; Cor. Sec., Mrs White, Argyle Street; Treas., Mrs Best, Milmoor St.; W.R. Agent, Mrs R. Tait, Nelson St.

Henderson, 3rd Wednesday, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, alternately, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Gilbert, "Homeview"; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Williams and Wright; Secretary, Mrs McKay, Great North Rd.; Treas., Mrs W. Williams, Gt. North Rd.; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Platt, Gt. North Road.

Invercargill District, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m. in Allen's Hall; Pres., Mrs James Baird; Vice-Pres., Mesdames C. H. Macalister, McKenzie, Lopdell, Peters, Hunter; Rec. Sec., Mrs Kennedy, Gladstone; Cor. Sec., Mrs Parsonson, Princes St., Endwood; Treas., and "W.R." Agent, Mrs F. Lilliecrap, Earn St.

Invercargill South. Meets every second Tuesday, in Amethyst Hall, at 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Pasley, Centre St. Gorge town. Sec., Mrs Garrett, 195 Ness St.; Vice-Pres. Mesdames Morrison, Parkins, Morris, Hughes, Clements, Ewart; W.R. Agent, Mrs Pate; Treasurer, Mrs Aitken; Assistant Treasurer, Mrs Parry

Kaipoi W.C.T.U. Assembly Rooms. Union meets last Wednesday in the month, 2.30 p.m. Pres., Mrs Brighting; Sec., Miss Blackwell, "The Willows"; Treas., Mrs T. G. Blackwell; W.R. Supt., Mrs Ward.

Kati-Kati, 2nd Wednesdays, 2 p.m., in Public Hall. Pres., Mrs Baines; Vice-Pres., Mrs J. Hume Tres., Mrs Woolford, Sec., Mrs Jack Hume, W.R. Sp. Miss McCutchan, Cradle Roll, Misses Dickey and Andrews, Organist, Mrs N. Johnston.

Lower Hutt, first Tuesday, Church of Christ, Queen St., at 2.45 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Ballantyne, Belmont Rd.; Sec., Mrs Chittenden, Bridge Street; Treas., Mrs Bayley, Queens Rd.; Cradle Roll, Mrs Heyes, Brunswick St.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Burn Aglionby Street.

Lytelton, 1st Wednesday, Presbyterian Schoolroom; Pres., Mrs Wilson; Sec., Mrs Bromley; Treas., Mrs Clark; "W.R." Agent, Miss Elsie Clark, "Waratah." W. Lytelton.

Leigh, 1st Saturday, Leigh Hall, 2 p.m. Pres., Mrs C. Wyatt; Vice-Presidents, Mrs D. Matheson and Miss C. Matheson; Sec., Miss E. Matheson; Treas., Miss A. Matheson; Cradle Roll, Miss J. Wyatt; W.R. Agent, Mrs R. Matheson.

Mania, 2nd Friday, Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs T. Tait; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Parkinson and Hunt; Treas., Miss York; Sec., Miss Craig; Cradle Roll, Miss Ricketts; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Hunt.

Masterton, 1st Tuesday, Knox Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Devonport; Sec., Mrs M. Flanagan, 4 Cole Street; Treas., Mrs Sutherland; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Ross, High Street.

Matakana, 3rd Thursday, Presbyterian Church, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Witten, Tawharanui; Vice-Pres., Mrs W. Smith; Cor. Sec., Mrs E. Roke; Treas., & Rec. Sec., Mrs Melville; Cradle Roll, Mrs Eytan; "W.R." Agent, Mrs A. Roke.

Mosgiel Meets in Presbyterian Hall, 2nd Wednesday at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs Pinfold; Sec., Mrs Eccersoll; Treas., Mrs E. Wilson; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Morton

Napier District, 1st Wednesday and 3rd Thursday, in St. Paul's Presbyterian Schoolroom, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs G. W. Venables, Ashbridge Rd; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Dodds and Fawcett; Sec., Mrs A. Chelwell, Macdonald St.; Treas., Mrs Grayling, Faraday Street; Asst. Treas., Mrs Chapman; Evangelists, Mrs Dodds; Hospital Visitors, Mesdames J. Walker and W. Findlay; Cradle Roll, Mrs Walker; W.R. Agent, Mrs Mens; Supt. Drawing-room Meetings, Mrs Fawcett.

Morrinsville, meets 2nd Tuesday. Pres. Mr Davies; Vice-Pres., Mrs Black; Sec. and Treas. Miss Beeson, c/o Private Hospital, Morrinsville.

Ngaruawahia, 1st Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. Presbyterian Church; President, Mrs Bycroft; Vice-Pres., Mrs Vincent; Sec., Mrs J. S. Colhoun; Treas. Mrs C. Rogers; Supt. Cradle Roll and W. R., Mrs Nicholson

New Brighton, 3rd Thursday in Methodist Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Hall, 36 Wainui St., New Brighton; Secretary, Mrs W. Smith, 344 Wainoni Rd., Christchurch; Treas., Mrs Nicholas, Brooke St., Bexley, N.B.; Evangelistic Supt., Mrs Strand, Bexley, N.B.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Langley, Park Rd., New Brighton.

New Plymouth District, last Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Good Templar Lodgeroom; Pres., ; Sec., Mrs Griffin, Gilbert Street; Treas., and W.R. Agent, Miss Taunt, Victoria Rd.

Normanby, Second Wednesday, 2 p.m., Social Hall; Pres., Mrs Scott, Rural Delivery, Normanby; Vice-Pres., Mrs Bevan and Mrs Clement; Sec., Mrs Dickson, Hurstlands; Treas., Mrs Lynn; Cradle Roll, Miss Clement; White Ribbon, Mrs Dickson.

Norsewood, 3rd Thursday, 2 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Speight; Vice-Pres., Mrs Gatman; Sec., Miss A. E. Olsen, "Willow Park"; Treas., Mrs S. Fredericksen; "W.R." Agent, Miss Olsen, "Willow Park"; Cradle Roll, Mrs Gatman; Evangelistic, Mrs Todd; Home Meetings, Mrs Jensen.

North East Valley, fourth Thursday, 2.45 p.m. Young Men's Institute. Pres., Mrs Peart, 4, Pine Hill Ter.; Sec., Miss M. Begg, 45, Selwyn Rd.; Treas., Mrs Sanders, 48, Frame St.; W.R. Supt., Mrs Wright, 78, Main Road.

Nelson District, Second Tuesday, Temperance Hall, 3 p.m.; Acting Pres., Mrs Watson; Cor. Sec., Mrs Knapp, Alfred St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Judson; Treas., Mrs A. Brown, Waka St.; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Whitford, Mount St.

Opetiki, 2nd Friday, St. John's Hall, 3 p.m. Pres., Mrs Jas Thompson; Sec., Mrs J. Gordon; Treas., Mrs Holman; "W.R." Mrs Francis; Supt. Cradle Roll, Mrs Pearson.

Oxford, last Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Coronation Hall; Pres., Mrs G. Ryde, Cooper's Creek; Rec. Sec., Mrs R. Comyns; Cor. Sec., Mrs T. Gainsford; Treas., Miss Caverhill; "W.R." Mrs D. Hawke; Cradle Roll, Mrs Gainsford, Sr., and Mrs Clark; Evangelistic, Mrs U. W. Fritt; Flower Mission, Mrs Foot; Home Meetings, Mrs Jim Clark; Notable Days, Mrs Kippenberger.

Pakiri, 1st Thursday, Pakiri Hall, 2 p.m. Pres., Mrs Rennie; Vice Pres., Mrs Wyatt; Sec., Mrs Gozar; Treas., Miss Dyer; W.R. Agent, Mrs Witton

Palmerston N. District, 1st Friday, St. Andrew's Schoolroom, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Crabb, 128 College St. W.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Hills, 64, Cuba St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Hodder, Allan St.; Treas., Miss Hodder, Allan St.; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Holbrook, 41 Waldegrave St.

Palmerston N., Y's.—Pres., Miss Lorna Holder; Cor. Sec., Miss Aline Rowlands, 21 Victoria Street; Rec. Sec., Miss Winnie Crabb, 128 College Street; Treas., Miss Maud Randall; White Ribbon Supt., Miss Cassie Bruce

Petone, 1st Tuesday, Church of Christ, Sydney St., 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Ashby, 64 Britannia St.; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Corner, McPherson Murgatroyd, Collins; Rec. Sec., Mrs Burd, 87 Cuba St.; Cor. Sec., Mrs Eason, 82 Richmond St.; Treas., Mrs Donaghue; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Barrow, Hutt Road.

Picton, 2nd Tuesday, 2.30 p.m. Presbyterian Church. Pres. Mrs Arthur Broadway; Vice Pres. Miss Jennings; Sec. & Treas. Mrs Wilkes, York St. Supt. Cradle Roll; Mrs Tregurthen, Taranaki St., Band of Hope; Mrs Jacques & Miss Jennings; W.R. Agent, Mrs Jacques, York St.

Ponsonby, 2nd Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Queen's Hall, Paget Street; Acting-President, Mrs C. R. Vickers, Millais Street; Vice-Pres., Mrs A. Thorne; Sec., Mrs Plummer, Coronation Rd., Epsom; "W.R." Supt., Mrs Plummer; Treas., Mrs T. Walker, Rose Rd.

Pukekohe, Methodist Church, 1st Thursday, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Vant, Beresford St.; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Wilson; Rec. Sec., Miss Usher; Cor. Sec., Mrs Haslem, East St.; Treas., Mrs Wilson; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Stevenson; Cradle Roll, Mrs Mee.

Rakaia meets on the 2nd Thursday in the month in the Methodist Church, Anglican S.S., and the Presbyterian S.S. alternately; Mrs Boag, Pres.; Mrs Judkins, Treas.; Mrs Hopwood Sec

Sawyer's Bay, 2nd Tuesday in Methodist Church. Pres., Mrs Allen; Sec., Mrs Booth, Rose-nath; Treas., Mrs Main; W.R. Agent, Mrs J. Perry; Supt. Home Meetings, Mrs Horn.

Sheffield, 1st Wednesday, 2.30 p.m., Road Boar Office; Pres., Mrs McIlraith, Annat; Sec., Mrs Pettit, Kirwee; Treas., Mrs W. Kennedy, Annat.

Stratford, 1st Wednesday, 3 p.m., Methodist Church; Pres., ; Vice-Pres., Mrs White and Mrs Phillips; Sec., Mrs J. McAllister; Treas., Mrs Birdsell.

Takapuna, 1st Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Takapuna Methodist, 2nd Milford Baptist, alternately. Pres., Mrs Fulljames, East Coast Rd.; Vice Pres., Mrs Veats, Hurstmere Rd.; Sec., Miss Rushbrook, Kitchener Rd.; Treas., Mrs Penning, East Coast Rd.

Tauranga, Meets in Presbyterian Hall, on last Wednesday, at 2.45 p.m. Pres., Mrs F. N. Christian, 6th Ave. W.; Sec., Mrs Weston, 3rd Ave.; Cor. Sec., Mrs A. Turner, Devonport Rd.; Treas., Mrs J. B. Chappell, Cameron Rd.; W.R. Agent, Mrs A. Christensen, 5th Ave.; Cradle Roll, Mrs A. Christensen, 5th Avenue.

Timaru District, last Tuesday, 7.30 p.m., Sailor's Rest, Pres., Mrs Rule, North St.; Sec., Miss M. Avison, Victoria St.; Treas., Mrs Cave, Raymond St.; Cradle Roll, Mrs Grant and Miss Evans; White Ribbon Agent, Mrs Brooker, 11, Mere Mere St.

Waimate, 2nd Wednesday, in Knox Church Hall, at 3 o'clock; President, Mrs W. Stewart; Secretary, Mrs Geo. Dash, P.O. Box 27; Treasurer, Mrs S. J. Hitchens, "Te Rangī, Mill Rd.; "W.R." Supt., Mrs G. H. Graham, Rhodes St.

Waipawa, 4th Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.; Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs H. McLean, Waverley St; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Foster, Bott and Robertson; Sec., Mrs James Bibby, Rose St.; Treas., Miss Johnson, Rose St.; W.R. Supt., Mrs S. Bott.

Wanganui East meets last Friday at 2.30 p.m. in Anglican Schoolroom. Pres., Mrs Duxfield, Okoia, Wanganui E.; Vice Pres., Mesdames Blair, and McLeod; Sec. and Treas., Mrs Andrew, Mackay St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Dowsett, Nixon St.; W.R. Agent, Mrs Melvin, Young St.

Wanganui District, 1st Friday, 2.30 p.m. Trinity Church Parlour. Pres., Mrs H. Smith, 88 Liverpool St.; Sec., Mrs J. Upton, 165, Victoria Av.; Treas., Mrs Siddells, Guyton St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs R. Smith, College Street; "W.R." Supt., Mrs W. R. Grant, Harrison Place.

Warkworth, last Thursday, 2.30 p.m., Schoolroom, Methodist Church; Pres., Mrs Buckingham; Treas., Mrs Ellis; "W.R." Agent, Mrs T. H. Wilson; Press Reporter, Mrs McKinney.

Winchmore, 1st Wednesday, 2.30 p.m.; Pres., Mrs Frost; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Prebble, and Mrs McIlroy; Sec., Miss Shearer, Ashburton; Treas., Mrs Moore; White Ribbon Agent Mrs Glassey.

Wellington District, 1st Thursday, 2.45 p.m., Rooms, Constable St.; Pres., Mrs Houlder, 108 Wallace St.; Rec. Sec., Mrs Webb, 37 Hall Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs Evans, 19 Hiroi St.; Treas., Mrs Boxall, 40 Pirie St.; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Webb, Hall St. I.T.L. Rooms, every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Y Branch, Rooms, alternate Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Wellington Central, 3rd Friday, 3 p.m., Y.M.C.A. Rooms, Willis St.; Pres., Mrs A. R. Atkinson, Wadestown; Acting Pres., Mrs McDonald, 8 Huia Rd., Hataitai; Cor. Sec., Miss Helyer, Rec. Sec., Mrs Clark; Treas. Mrs Helyer, Oriental Bay; White Ribbon Supt., Mrs Port, Austi Street.

Waikukurau, 2nd Friday, St. Andrew's Hall, 3 p.m.; Pres., Mrs J. E. Reid; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Hopkirk, Hardy, Stace; Sec., Mrs H. French, Main St.; Treas., Mrs Robinson; Organist, Mrs Harris W.R. Supt., Mrs Mercer.

Woodville, meets 4th Tuesday, 3 p.m., i Ormond St. Hall; Pres., Mrs Perkins, Ross St.; Vice-Pres., Mrs T. Jackson; Sec., Mrs Thompson, Fox Street; Treas., Mrs Hancock, Fox St.; Cradle Roll, Mrs Cole; "W.R." Agent, Mrs Thompson, Fox St.