

Education Bureau: Mrs C. Weston, Fitzherbert West, Palmerston North.
Backblocks and Work Among Railway Men: Mrs Moyes, 27 Halifax Street, Nelson.

Notable Days: Mrs X. Jones, Ngaere.
Press: Miss Jessie Mackay, Cashmere Hills, Christchurch.

Military Camps: Mrs Whincop, Greytown.

Medical Temperance: Mrs Clara Neal, Feilding.

"White Ribbon" Agents please report to the Business Manager, Mrs Peryman, Port Chalmers. Will all agents send in the number of new subscribers secured during the year 1919, also the number of subscribers now on their lists? The Business Manager will be grateful if **every** "White Ribbon" Superintendent will send in a report.

Dominion Superintendents.

Please send in reports to the Editor, "White Ribbon," by January 31st, 1920.

MRS WHEELER AT N.E. VALLEY.

On Wednesday, October 15th, Mrs Wheeler addressed a gathering of women at the N.E. Valley, under the auspices of the local branch of the Union. Despite the wet weather, the Young Men's Institute was crowded. Mrs Don, our National President, spoke warm words of welcome. Mrs Peart, on behalf of the local women, presented our distinguished visitor with a beautiful bouquet. Mrs Wheeler gave an interesting talk on the great problems that had to be overcome before the States went dry, and the part the W.C.T.U. took in the struggle for National Prohibition.

Mrs Wheeler also gave a recitation entitled, "A Mother's First Baby," which was an elocutionary treat. At the close of the meeting Mrs Don spoke to those not already members to link themselves with this great woman's organisation, with the result that 13 came forward. Mrs Don read the Initiatory Service, and closed the meeting with the Benediction.

The ideal for the college student should be total abstinence. Total abstinence is what we ought to have among our students. No railroad, no industrial concern to-day will take a student graduate from Cornell University unless it has my assurance that he is a total abstainer.—Dr. Jacob G. Schurman, President Cornell University.

ALCOHOL AND MORALS.

(By Nurse Ada E. Chappell.)

A little time since I wrote an article on "Food and Morals." In this article I want to show the effect on the morals resulting from alcohol.

I could go into a detailed account of the effect of alcohol on the cells of the brain, particularly those to do with the finest qualities of the human being, but it might weary you, so I will quote first from an article written by Carl Easton Williams, published in the "Physical Culture Journal" in America this last August. The title is, "Why We Are Going to Stay Dry." One part says: "Personal liberty in the use of alcohol is on a plane with personal liberty in the use of morphine or cocaine, so far as the individual is concerned, but it is also on a par with personal liberty in the matter of reckless driving, which is not only a danger to the driver himself, but a menace to others. Such is booze! Furthermore, we cannot recognise personal liberty in all things, because too many people are children, mentally speaking. Give a calf enough rope, and he will hang himself. A man facing the responsibility to take a drink is like an irresponsible child. After he has had a few drinks he is morally far less than a child. Did it ever strike you that a few drinks, paralysing the higher brain centres, rob a man of the fruits of thousands of years of mental and moral development (passed on to him by his ancestors), and that a still few more drinks will rob him of the fruits of a million years of revolutionary progress, leaving him something less than a pig?" The moderate drinker, who as yet can take it or leave it alone, calls the man "a weak fool" who takes so much as to make his conduct openly disgraceful. It is well for him to remember drink can make a weak fool of the strongest character. He should ask himself, What rank is the drunkard recruited from? Certainly not from the ranks of the total abstainer. So that there can be no other ranks from which they are recruited but those of the moderate drinker. In another part of the same article he goes on to say: "And now for some of the big reasons why we are going to stay dry. The first of these is one that is usually overlooked by those who glibly say if one wishes to drink it is his own business. Aside from the fact that it is partly the business of society to pro-

tect a member of the D. Phool family from himself, there remains the fundamental truth that the welfare of others is paramount. To drink or not to drink, that's not the question. It is not so simple as that. Perhaps alcohol is bad enough in its immediate and direct effects to justify prohibition, but its far-reaching evil consequences presents even more urgent reasons for going and staying dry. The next time you see a blind baby you will ask yourself whether or not the affliction, innocently acquired, happened in this case to be the result of venereal disease contracted by the father during a period of irresponsibility brought about by alcohol. If you will read a little statement published by the War Department Commission on Training Camp Activities, you will know that gonorrhoea in former years was the cause of eighty per cent. of all blindness, babies' eyes being infected at birth. I mention the blind baby for the reason that he or she is a concrete illustration of the relation of alcoholism to disease. . . . Venereal disease in nearly all cases is contracted in conjunction with the moral irresponsibility of more or less intoxication. **The saloon and the brothel have always gone hand in hand.** Perhaps the saloon is camouflaged as a restaurant, hotel, cabaret parlour, tearoom, or what not—it is any place where booze is sold. And you may rest assured that no one knows so well as the professional seducer of the prostitute the invariable relationship between alcoholism and sexual laxity. This is a point that does not admit of any possible dispute. Not only the question of 'Why girls go wrong,' but also the question of why boys go wrong in most cases finds its answer in the paralysis of the higher faculties induced by drink. It is usually only under such conditions that **normal** young men and young women can be induced to take a step which would ordinarily be revolting to their instincts and contrary to their native quality of reticence. Prohibition cannot at once entirely obliterate this evil, for secret and illegal drinking will continue to some extent, and will be associated with this sort of thing. But self-respecting, law-respecting young people will be protected. Incidentally, alcohol was barred from the Army and Navy during the war not because of the harm of drinking in itself, but purely as a measure for preventing venereal disease, the great other enemy." The opinion has been expressed that the