

you for service, you can respond, 'Ready, ay, ready!' Remember 'there's always room at the top.'"

Both smiled, and Will said, "Your old formula, mum."

"Trite, but true, is it not?" and she smiled. Then tenderly laying her hand upon his: "Pray for me, Will, that in the hurly burly of political strife I may keep my chivalry unsullied, and my ideals ever exalted."

(To be Continued.)

Correspondence.

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

INDENTURED LABOUR.

(To the Editor.)

Madam,—In the last issue of our excellent little publication (for I write as an old White Ribboner), I should like to say a little about your article on "Indentured Labour." With all you say about the subject as it pertains to Fiji I agree. From Mr Burton personally, as well as from his books, and from Dr. Andrews' reports, as well as from a recent visit paid to Fiji, we know that the conditions there were unspeakably bad. But Indentured Labour in Fiji and in Samoa are two totally different matters. In a recent issue of the Christchurch papers appeared an article dealing with the subject. Unfortunately, I have not that by me, but enclose a later article appearing in the "Press" of November 28th, which shows that the condition of both the Chinese coolies and the Solomon Islanders in Samoa cannot in any sense of the word be said to be that of slavery. We were privileged recently to spend a month in Samoa in close touch with people interested in the Chinese and Solomon Islanders, and with many of the missionaries. We saw the men at work, and one of the members of the party saw the conditions under which they live, their pay, etc., and the only fault to be found with the system was that as the men on the plantations cease work at 4 m., they have ample leisure time on their hands, some of which should be used for educational purposes. The authorities, I believe, have that under consideration. The necessity for Indentured Labour is obvious. The valuable German plantations, now the property of the New Zealand Government, and which, when properly cultivated, will help to pay some of the war expenses, would soon be ruined without outside labour, and instead of Samoa being more than self-supporting, she would become an expense to New Zealand, and the first to suffer would be the Samoans themselves.—Yours truly,

LUCY THOMPSON.

38, George Street, New Brighton, Christchurch, 30th Nov. 1919.

COMMITTEE TO DEAL WITH THE SOCIAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS OF INDIAN WOMEN IN FIJI.

Cor. Sec. W.C.T.U. of New Zealand.

Dear Madam,—The enclosed letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary of Fiji (only recently received owing to being insufficiently addressed) was dealt with at a meeting of the above Committee on October 22.

It was decided, as there had been so much delay since this letter was despatched from Fiji:

(1) To send in answer, suggestions for conditions of service for medical women in Fiji, drafted by Dr. Kate Knowles, which are based on the rules of the Dufferin Women's Medical Service for India, and to ask, should these conditions meet with His Excellency's approval, that the Secretary of this Committee be advised by cable in order that the Committee may be in a better position to select a competent woman for the appointment, assuming that His Excellency will accept the choice of the Committee.

(2) To insert the following advertisement in the "Australian Medical Journal" for November:—"Applications are invited from medical women for work in Fiji among the Indian women. Applicants must pass an examination in Hindustani before taking up work, and be willing to bind themselves to four years' service."

(3) To write to Dr. K. Platt, Women's College, Delhi, India, asking if she knew of any British medical woman, with a knowledge of Hindustani, who would be willing to accept a position at the Suva Hospital under conditions based on the Dufferin Women's Medical Service for India.

(4) To write a somewhat similar letter to headquarters' secretary of the various Missionary Societies in Australia.

In placing this before your Society for endorsement, further suggestions are asked for helping the matter forward. No official report has yet come to hand from Fiji in regard to the report of the Select Committee appointed by His Excellency to consider the resolutions for reforms adopted by the Legislative Council, but the matter, we hear, is now being dealt with, and the report should reach this Committee shortly.—Yours faithfully,

H. F. BENNETT, Hon. Sec.
2, Sirius Flabe, Cremorne Road,
Cremorne, Sydney, N.S.W.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Suva, Fiji, 23rd May, 1919.

Madam,—I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3rd April last on the subject of certain recommendations contained in the report of Miss Garnham, who recently visited Fiji, and as to reforms advocated by Dr. Kate Knowles.

2. I am to say, in reply, that the recommendations of Miss Garnham have been and are receiving His Excellency's attention, and that you will be informed as soon as possible of the steps which it is found possible to take.

3. His Excellency is prepared to consider favourably any recommendations for the improvement of the moral, as well as the material, conditions of East Indians in Fiji, including the appointment of a medical woman for the purposes suggested by Dr. Kate Knowles. In this connection I am to enquire whether your Committee is in a position to recommend a lady doctor with the necessary qualifications, including a knowledge of Hindustani and the languages of Southern India, who would be prepared to come to Fiji and perform the duties referred to in your letter, and, if so, to state the terms on which she would be prepared to be appointed.—I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

R. RANKINE,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honorary Secretary, the Committee of Enquiry into the Social and Moral Conditions of Indian Women in Fiji, Sydney.

TO "WHITE RIBBON" AGENTS.

The Business Manager desires to thank all agents and others who have helped by sending in their subscriptions promptly. In order that every Union may have a chance to send its subscriptions we will not close our books until January 14th, and any subscriptions sent in before that date will be included in this year's balance-sheet. Knowing how busy all are with the poll, and later on with Xmas festivities, we have decided to give a fortnight's grace.

We have again to thank our generous friend for a donation of £3/2/-, and a lady for 2/6.