

SUPERINTENDENTS' LETTERS.

Dear Mrs Peryman,—

Would you be kind enough to publish in the next issue of the "White Ribbon" the following questions, which I have been asked by several "Y" Unions:—

Question: Are officers of the "Y" Branches allowed a seat in Convention if not an appointed delegate (i.e., as well as the appointed delegate)?

Answer: Officers of "Y" Unions can only attend Convention when appointed as delegate.

Question: How many delegates are we entitled to send to Convention?

Answer: One delegate for every hundred or fraction of one hundred members.

Question: What capitation fee do we pay?

Answer: Five shillings for every fifty or fraction of fifty members, to be paid to the Dominion Treasurer.

Note.—The Dominion Superintendent would like reports from all local Superintendents, or where no Superintendent, from Secretaries, by 31st December, so that she can have her report made up.—Yours in the work,

M. PIRRETT,

Dominion "Y" Superintendent.

GOOD CITIZENSHIP.

To the Unions scattered abroad throughout the Dominion:—

Dear Sisters,—

You may have noted that the Dominion Executive appointed me Dominion Superintendent of Good Citizenship in place of Mrs M. Judson, who for many years occupied the position so ably.

Will all Unions report all work done in this department as early as possible.

Ere this is published many of our Unions will have held their annual meetings, and be preparing for work for next year. Amongst your Superintendents have you appointed a Superintendent of Good Citizenship. If not, I would urge you to do so at once.

Perhaps many of our Unions do not realise what an important department this is. It is so comprehensive that it seems to include all other departments of our work. I cannot attempt to enumerate all the phases of civic life it covers, but will gladly assist local Superintendents when pos-

sible if they will write me.—Yours sincerely,

AGNES M. PHILLIPS.

Brecon Road,
Stratford, Taranaki.

PLAIN TALK.

Dr. Saleeby, the eminent English sociologist and eugenist, speaking at the world's gathering in Toronto, said that the living foundations of the Empire must be rebuilt from time to time, and added that the British Empire will be the first of a long line of Empires to do so if she proves herself capable of holding her power. Races are destroyed from inside factors even more surely than from such external agencies as war. "Only a nation which regards its young can renew its life." Speaking as a medical man, he said that drunkenness is the least of the evils of alcoholism. "Alcoholism leads to venereal diseases, those twin evils about which doctors have been shamefully silent too long." Alcohol had been invaluable during the war as a great source of energy. It is nothing but injurious to man, either in small or large doses. It is a racial poison. Its effect is seen in stunted offspring, rickets, tuberculosis, and other diseases.

"But are not the Germans a virile race, yet they are great drinkers?" This question roused the doctor.

"Do you know there was more infant mortality in Germany than in any other country. Tubercular rate is higher. No, the Germans are not a physically healthy race. If you want physique, go to the Dominion troops. You should have seen them when they marched through London—they stood out as men of fine physique. That is because they got plenty of good milk and wholesome food."

"Is Prohibition possible in Britain?"

"We have a long way to go. You see Labour is hostile. They think it is a trick of the capitalists to get more work out of them. The fact is the other way, for alcohol has been used to keep them subdued and contented with their conditions; it is an industrial narcotic. There could be nothing more beneficial to the working man than Prohibition. If it were brought about in some of the factory districts in the Midlands they wouldn't know they were in the same world."

WOMAN SUFFRAGE IN INDIA.

(To the Editor.)

Dear Madam,—It has been brought to my knowledge that steps are being taken by some thinking women in Sydney to unite in seeking direct communication between the women of Australasia and the women of India. It is recognised by all who have studied the trend of events in India during the last few years that the present strong desire for a measure of Indian Home Rule (including on all sides a united claim for an equally qualified Indian women voters) is the culmination of movements and emotions destined to exert the strongest influence on the future of the British Empire in the East, and on the welfare of India, for good or evil, as the action to-day of Imperial authority in London shall decide. It has been suggested that a cable from one or more national bodies of New Zealand women to Mr Montague, Secretary of State for India, urging the inclusion of Indian women in the Home Rule Bill, would evince at once a loyal desire for the consolidation of our Empire on the highest and noblest plane, and for the best interests of our Indian sisters. That these interests would work out for the common weal of India and the Indian Government no one can doubt who reads the Women's Press at Home, and sees what work has been already achieved, under great disadvantage, by the waking women of India, such as Mrs Sarojini Naidu, the leading young women of the Universities, and Miss Cornelia Sorabji. No greater earnest for lasting peace between East and West can be given than the uplift of Oriental women and achieved solidarity between them and the women of the West, on the ground of common good works.

It seems to me that an expression on the Indian Suffrage from our New Zealand W.C.T.U. would be timely and wise, if the matter is yet before the House of Parliament when these words are read. The great issue that fills all our hopes as I write forbids more lengthy discussion now. I am, etc.,

JESSIE MACKAY.

Christchurch, December 3, 1919.

Friendship should be kept with a threefold cord—two human hearts and God!—J. R. Miller.