

Dec. Mrs Lill's, President, resignation owing to ill health was accepted with regret. Resolved to place on record her good work, also she be made a Life Member with the position of Patroness. The report was read from the different departments, and election of officers:—President, Mrs Robinson; Vice-Presidents, Mrs Gennings and Hight; Secretary, Mrs Hopwood; Assistant Secretary, Mrs Watson; Treasurer, Mrs Wakelin; Cradle Roll, Mrs Gill; Visiting Members, Mrs Carrel and Hitchings; Temperance, Mrs Stevenson; Home Meetings and Sunday Observance, Mrs Hight; Seamen's Day, Mrs Baylis. The Secretary attended an Executive meeting at Oamaru, December 7th.

A WOMAN'S PRAYER.

Lord send an angel with dear homely ways—

One not too bright for my tired eyes to see;

One not too splendid. In life's drabs and grays,

Fagged hearts sometimes crave just rest's harmony.

Send one to help, who knows the frets and fears,

The dozen odds and ends which line the brow;

Send one who understands a woman's tears:

And, Lord, in pity send that angel now.

God heard. The angel sent to ease the load

Was just a woman neighbour down the road.

HEAVEN IS NOT REACHED AT A SINGLE BOUND.

Heaven is not reached at a single bound,

But we build the ladder by which we rise

From the lowly earth to the vaulted skies,

And we mount to its summit round by round.

I count this thing to be grandly true:

That a noble deed is a step toward God,—

Lifting the soul from the common clod

To a purer air and a broader view.

J. G. HOLLAND.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed in this column).

FREE, COMPULSORY, SECULAR.

(To the Editress.)

Madam,—Your article on the above, regarding education, is open to query on the secular question.

I take this liberty because I have had some little experience on this matter. Our school had Bible readings for a time. The children's attitude was (1) making fun, (2) quoting the phonographic parts, and (3) complete indifference. The readings were discontinued.

Next, the Presbyterian pastor gave lessons once a month. I was the only one who ever asked or answered any questions. All the rest just acted like a mob of sheep.

That was half a century ago. Recently there was a camp in this district of Bible students. Having fine scenery and views on my place, I invited the girls to come and enjoy themselves, and provided an abundance of ripe fruit. I was most unpleasantly disappointed at the complete lack of good manners (the Golden Rule). They acted more like hoodlums than Bible students should be expected to do. Though there was an abundance of ripe fruit provided, they went through the orchard, laying hands on anything they saw, picked green fruit, and threw it away because it was not nice, or pelted one another, and most carefully refrained from being amenable to their officers.

Now I think good manners, the Golden Rule should be the first teaching. Manners are the same all the world over. Habits may be anyone's. There would be a great roar at anyone putting a knife into his mouth when eating; but that is not manners, merely personal habit. But consideration for others seems to be a lost art in our bustling days, and a man is usually looked on with suspicion or contempt that tries to consider his neighbours. A man to be imposed on, if possible.

I think it comes from a wrong presentation of the Bible message. They say we are a short time here, and a long time dead, but act as if this were our only time, because the message has not been logically put to them. Surely the Great Creator of the Universe can be logical!

Sir Oliver Lodge says Genesis is only poetry. But the poet or writer must have had extraordinary knowledge or inspiration to perceive that happiness, Eden, was full trust in the Creator, but submission of self. But try our own way, selfishness, our strong right arm, so-called progress, eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, be great people regardless of all the attendant misery it entails, and regardless of the fact that they cannot discover anything that is not already in the Universe always has been.—Yours truly,

SAM A. BROWN.

(We much regret that any students should behave as our correspondent writes, but does not this prove that an hour or two's instruction on the Sabbath cannot take the place of the Bible banished from our schools, and alas! in too many cases from our homes also?—Ed. "W.R.")

Resolved: "That recognising that civilisation is founded on respect for law, and that in reverence and regard for law lie the safety of our country and the welfare of the people, the National Republican Club (of New York, 2000 members) deplores the widespread violation of the Prohibition laws, and commends President Harding for his earnest efforts to secure the enforcement of and obedience to the Federal Prohibition law."

APITI, meets first Thursday, in the Library, at 2.30. Pres., Mrs Gill; Vice-Pres., Mrs Haynes and Mrs Murray; Treas., Mrs S. Gould; Sec., Miss F. Malcolm.

BALCLUTHA, 1st Tuesday, 3 p.m., P.W.M.U. Classroom, S.S. Hall. Pres., Mrs Cations, John Street; Rec. Sec., Mrs R. R. Gregor, Glasgow Street; Cor. Sec., Mrs J. Geggie, Rosebank; Treas., Miss Tosh, Toshvale; W.R. Agent, Mrs E. McLean, Renfrew Street.

AUCKLAND, second Tuesday, Central Mission Hall, Albert Street. Devotional meeting, 2.15 p.m. Pres., Mrs Cook, 17 Esplanade Road, Mt. Eden; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Dewar, Pompallier Terrace, Ponsonby; Rec. Sec., Mrs J. W. Taylor, Sentinel Road, Ponsonby; Treas., Mrs Dowling, 6 Pompallier Terrace; W.R. Agent, Miss Mears, 90 Dominion Road.

AUCKLAND Y's, 1st Thursday each month, 7.30 p.m., in Mrs Lee-Cowie's Gospel Temperance Hall, East Street. Pres., Miss C. M. McLay, Alma Street, Northcote; Vice-Pres., Mrs Lee-Cowie, Miss Pyle, Miss A. Pudney, Mr Polson; Cor. Sec., Miss N. Barry, 1 Haydn Avenue, Royal Oak; Rec. Sec., Miss A. McLay, Alma Street, Northcote; Treas., Mr Thos. Thomson, Y.M.C.A., Auckland; Supt., Mrs Kasper, 2 Turner Street, Auckland.