

Kibblewhite and G. Cameron as assistants. Owing to Miss Sed's departure from Invercargill, her resignation was accepted. Mrs Norman James was appointed Delegate to the Dominion Convention.

AUCKLAND.

Jan. 7th. This meeting was held in the open air at Point Erin Park. There was a splendid attendance of members and friends. A number of well-known hymns and choruses were sung, and a few recitations and solos were rendered by some of our younger members. Mrs Lee-Cowie gave a most interesting account of the founding of the W.C.T.U. in America, and traced its history until it was established in New Zealand. As this meeting was so successful, it was decided to hold one in the Park each week for a month. Two new members joined.

Feb. 4th. Our usual monthly meeting was again held in the open air at Point Erin Park. There was a good attendance. It was reported that the intervening Open Air Meetings had been fairly well attended. Quite a number of our members stated how much they had enjoyed these meetings, and the fellowship they had had with each other. Six members joined at these meetings. It was also reported that a Jumble Sale, held on 28th ult., had realised a sum of about £17. The meeting approved the formation of an L.T.L. for the benefit of the younger members of our Branch, and the Secretary was appointed Leader. A number of Committees were set up, and Superintendents appointed. The Meeting unanimously appointed our President, Miss C. M. MacLay, Delegate to the 1926 Convention. Thereafter, Mrs Lee-Cowie gave an interesting and instructive Temperance address, and Mr Leckie followed with some reminiscences of the recent Tent Campaign in Auckland. Three new members joined.

MASTERTON.

Feb. 4th. Mrs Cocker presided; attendance very good, two new members enrolled. Committee set up to go into matter of organising work among the young people reported satisfactory preliminary arrangements. Election of Officers as follows:—President, Mrs J. Cocker; Vice-President, Mesdames Futter, Ross, Reid, Weymouth, Bothwell, King; Secretary, Mrs S. J. Smith; Treasurer, Mrs R. Jamieson; W.R. Agent, Mrs Weston; Home Meetings Convenor, Mrs W. Judd; Backbocks Superintendent, Mrs Malcolm McGregor; Mesdames Bothwell, McIvor, Pearse; Organist, Miss Jones. Mrs S. J. Smith, appointed Delegate to Annual Convention. Cradle Roll Department, Mrs Reid, Convenor.

PHYSICAL PURITY.

POWERFUL PLEA FOR PROHIBITION.

The following are extracts from an address delivered by Dr. Annie Besant to a great open-air crowd in Madras, India. The address was on the "Value of Purity," and was mainly an earnest plea for prohibition. The address was listened to by about ten thousand people, loud speakers in front of the platform making the speaker's voice audible by all. The somewhat new point of view will help to dissipate the absurd notion that prohibition is merely a fad of fanatics.

"One of the strongest reasons for the kind of social legislation with which prohibition is concerned, the getting rid of strong drink from a community, and the importance of it to the whole community, is seen from the standpoint of individual physical purity in the

way that science has taught us to regard it during some years past, so that each of us has begun to understand that our own personal condition of body is not a matter which concerns ourselves alone, but concerns the society in which we live.

Science has shown us by the use of the microscope and then by study along lines which few of us can follow accurately in detail, but in which all of us can see and realise the effect, that every one of us, in our physical body, is either a source of health or of spreading disease in the community. Our outside physical bodies, which seem to continue very much the same year after year with only the natural changes that come with growing, are in a continual state of change, that from each of these bodies there passes outward a multitude of minute invisible particles which, falling on people around us, on furniture of our houses, on public vehicles in which people travel from place to place, spread around us, according to the state of our physical bodies, a stream of life-giving forces, of health-giving forces, or they may send around us a stream of forces that lessens the vitality of others and makes them less strong to resist disease. And that thus each of us in our everyday life in the places to which we go, in the articles we use, is affecting our neighbours. As we walk along the street, we send out these invisible particles. They pass on the people, they pass on the vehicles, omnibuses, the cars in which we may travel, and those who touch those cars, etc., are affected by what we have left behind us, invisible to our eyes, but carrying with them the tendency to increasing health or the danger of spreading disease."

"No one goes out of a crowd with exactly the same physical body as he came into it. You know how a dog follows his master by the scent that his nose is sharp enough to follow, that yours and mine are not able in that way to smell out the track of a man. Imagine for a moment that your eyes were as acute as the scent of the dog, then you would be able to see that which the dog smells, and you could follow the track of a person by the particles that have fallen from his body on those who pass him on the vehicles he was using, leaving the physical trail behind him which affects everyone who touches it by the communication of a part of those

minute fragments of himself which have fallen upon him."

"Take the case of a drunkard or even of a man who is called a moderate drinker. His body becomes impregnated with the particles of alcohol, and his body becomes affected by the fact that he drinks alcohol. As he goes about any part of the city, or as he lives in his house, he affects all those things around him with the particles of his body which are poisoned by alcoholic drink. If these particles fall on a sober person, those particles cannot multiply and so will become sterile and will not increase in number; but if they fall upon a body that is physically weak, if they fall upon a body accustomed to drink, they stimulate the desire for intoxicants and tend to make him crave for that which is so absolutely against his health and his welfare, so that the society in which we, all of us live, has the right to protect itself against the poison which is spreading through the air, not only by drink, but by the people who take intoxicants, who first poison their bodies and then send these poisoned particles as a fountain throws out spray, and, falling on the bodies of others, diminish their vitality, lessen their health and power of resisting disease."

"You have along this line of argument a very strong argument for the prohibition of intoxicating drinks, so that there may not be a continual menace to the health of the community by this shedding of injurious matter by those who consume strong drink."

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.

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, 8 Bourne Street, Mt. Eden; 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, 8 Bourne Street, Mt. Eden; Treas., Mr Thos. Thompson, Y.M.C.A. Auckland; Supt., Mrs Kasper, 2 Turner Street, Auckland.

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.