

but we never say, "Oh, why do they come with their songs and cheer to be with us for only a few weeks?" We enjoy them, they enrich our lives, and bring gladness to our hearts. The training of a young life strengthens and brings conviction to everyone who comes under its influence."

The underlying thought plainly visible in all the reports of various other Temperance organisations similar in their aims to our own W.C.T.U., and in all the addresses given at Conventions in America and other countries, is the extreme importance of educating young people. The neglect of this work in past years has been largely responsible for the deplorable increase in the drinking habit among young people of both sexes to-day, and the proportion of new votes cast in favour of Prohibition at the recent poll was much less than has been the case in previous elections because of it. While trying to repair this neglect by increased energy in our young people's work, we must go further back still, and secure more teaching for the children on this most important subject.

In the schools of New Zealand since 1921 the teaching of scientific facts with regard to the influence of alcohol on the human body and mind, has been a compulsory subject on the school syllabus. Whilst we believe that conditions to-day are, as far as we can gather, better than formerly, there is much room for improvement in this matter in the State schools as a whole. The special teaching of the scientific facts about alcohol comes under the heading of "Health and Hygiene," and though scheduled as a compulsory subject, we believe we are right in saying that no specific time is allotted to it. The subject generally, and particularly the truth about the effect of alcohol on individuals, is of such vital importance to national health that despite objections as to the crowded syllabus, our opinion is that a definite amount of time should be set apart in each week for the teaching of these facts. Such teaching ought to be supplemented by our Unions in Band of Hope and L.T.L. work, for the children of to-day are the voters of to-morrow, and what is learned in childhood colours one's thoughts all through life.

LOCARNO PACT.

October 16th, 1925, will now be a notable day in our Peace Department, for what may prove to be a period of peace has been ushered in by the sign-

ing of the Locarno Pact, which is said to be the most important step along the universal peace highway since the Armistice terminated the Great World War. If the nations who are parties to this great covenant keep faith, the sword will be put aside for the modern equivalent for the reaping hook. We trust that this historic pact may be of great assistance in furthering the objects of the League of Nations, the prelude to general disarmament, and the abolition of war as a method of settling international disputes. Mr J. L. Garven writes in the "Observer":—"We may say that nearly seven years after the Armistice were spent in disagreements about architects' plans, at Locarno the foundation stone of European Peace was solidly laid."

While rejoicing in this happy issue, let us remember that we can assist with the building and help the group of nations to preserve law and order by education. Much may be done by definite teaching as to the need for and blessedness of Peace. There is still too much glorification of war in our schools, cinemas, literature, and life. Could not this be reversed, and teaching in the interests of Peace replace it in our schools and seats of learning? Thus the spirit of unity and amity among all the peoples of the earth would be spread, until Peace has been universally and permanently established.

AMERICAN POLITICS.

Will America go back?" is the oft reiterated question as the Press continue to publish so-called facts about the inefficacy of Prohibition. The news which comes by every mail from reliable sources enables us to say with increasing confidence, "never," and Miss Evangeline Booth's song, sung so lustily by thousands of our American White Ribboners, comes to memory—

"You can hear the chorus swelling

At Liquor's overthrow,
From Atlantic's sun-lit bosom

To the Western after-glow,
From the summer land of Dixie

To the borderland of snow,
From the throbbing heart vibrations

Of the nation's radio—

Shall America go back?

We answer, No, No, No!"

From a book entitled "Prohibition Has Justified Itself," published at the close of 1925, we find statements made by many of the foremost men of affairs—educators, physicians, leading manu-

facturers, railroad presidents, bankers, and others—statements which cannot be disputed, and which, according to our World's President, "are facts supported by a dry backbone, not fancies wobbling on a wet wishbone." It is impossible to give the briefest synopsis of the contents, but I cull the following as likely to be of the most interest to ourselves.

1. Health. One of the diagnosticians of the United States Health Department, Dr. Haven Emerson, of Columbia University, New York, believes that nothing has so directly contributed to the reduction of preventable deaths, and the improved health of the community, particularly that of women and children, as the closing of the saloons. In the three years following Prohibition enactment mortality rates have been lowered one million.

2. Education. School attendance has made a record increase because thousands of young people and children are now attending school who, under License, were forced to support drunken parents. Said Frank B. Trotter, President of the West Virginia University: "The fact that a boy now and then gets drunk amounts to nothing as compared with the fact that we are not making drunkards daily."

3. Business Prosperity. With no revenue from the Liquor Traffic, America has made good financially. Savings Bank deposits have greatly increased, investments by small wage-earners have risen by leaps and bounds. Other factors enter into the increased wealth of America to some extent, but Prohibition should have the major credit.

4. Happy Homes and Protected Children. In the areas of the cities formerly occupied by saloons one sees to-day, well-fed, well-clothed, happy, laughing children, who have every chance to become loyal citizens in the future. At the annual meeting of the Ladies' Union Aid Society, in Decorah, Iowa, it was stated that during the time of open saloons this Society's expenditure for children's clothing was 300 dollars a year, while last year it spent only 30 dollars. This is considered to be the best "dry" fact of all, and these facts speak for themselves.

OBITUARY.

The obituary list of the year contains many notable names. Among them that of the Rev. John Dawson. He was always a staunch friend of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and his passing is an irreparable loss