

SPECIALS.

BLUFF.

Twenty-fifth Anniversary.

A very successful function was held in Willard Hall on Wednesday, March 17th, the occasion being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Bluff Branch of the W.C.T.U. The hall, which had been decorated with flowers, etc., presented a very pretty appearance. There was a large attendance of ladies and representatives from the Central, South, and North Invercargill Branches.

In the absence of the President (Mrs Donaldson), who is on a visit to the Home Land, Mrs McGregor (President pro tem.) presided over the large gathering. After a few introductory remarks and the singing of the Doxology, the President read the Hundredth Psalm and engaged in prayer.

The minutes of the first meeting held in the Presbyterian Church twenty-five years ago, were read by the Secretary (Miss Mitchell), who has held that position for the twenty-five years.

Congratulatory letters and several apologies were read by Mrs W. H. Johnstone. One containing a donation from Mrs Harper, the only one left of the five Invercargill members who came to Bluff to start the Union. It was largely due to Mrs Harper, who, along with Mrs Mitchell, our oldest member, that the Union was established in Bluff.

Afternoon tea was then served, great interest being taken in the birthday cake, which had place of honour on a table in the centre of the hall. The cake, which was adorned with twenty-five candles, and bearing the following inscription: "Bluff W.C.T.U., 1901 to 1926; for God, Home, and Humanity," was made by one of the members (Mrs Barber), and iced by one of the local bakers (Mr Weir), whose mother, since passed to her rest, joined the Union at the first meeting.

Addresses were given by Mesdames Lillicrap and McKenzie (Central), Miss Dewar (North), and Mrs Dawson (South). Mrs McKenzie, in her address, emphasised the fact that we should never forget the brave women who pioneered the work of the Unions.

Musical items were rendered by Mesdames Adair, J. Walker, Sheadman, Creagh, Miss McKenzie, and Mrs Wesley (Invercargill).

The cake, which was cut by Mrs Mitchell, proved most delicious. What

was left was then cut by Mrs J. Walker (the only member remaining at the present time who joined at the first meeting), and sold for threepence a slice.

Several donations were received towards the funds of the Union.

Two competitions brought a very enjoyable meeting to a close.

NORTH CANTERBURY DISTRICT.

The Executive met on Wednesday, April 7th, at W.C.T.U. Rooms, Manchester Street. Mrs T. E. Taylor presided over representatives from Sefton, Rangiora, Cheviot, Oxford, Kaiapoi, Styx, Belfast, Papanui, Springston, Lincoln, Riccarton, Sydenham, Opawa, New Brighton, Lyttelton, Templeton, Grey-mouth, Spreydon, and Christchurch.

Mrs W. J. Williams led the devotions, after which the members' temperance pledge was repeated.

A letter of thanks and appreciation was received from Mrs West-Watson in answer to a letter of welcome from the District officers.

The reports from the several Unions showed increased membership, a new Union being organised at Styx, with 17 members. Mrs Richards reported that 27 letters had been written to scattered members, and 12 copies of the "White Ribbon" had been sent; answers had been received from 12. Decided to leave the matter of collecting fees in the hands of Mrs Richards.

Fifteen Superintendents of Departments were present by invitation of the Executive, representing Cradle Roll, L.T.L., Band of Hope, Notable Days, Legal and Parliamentary, Peace and Arbitration, and Scientific Temperance. Several Superintendents reported on their work, full discussion and questions following. In this way, it was felt that Unions new to the work would gain a fuller insight and interest in the different departments.

Temperance prize essays were fully discussed, a number of Unions reporting on this work. It was decided that No. 13 be the subject for the temperance essay, and it was suggested that prizes be offered to the lower standards also.

The Kaiapoi Union is hoping to open a new hall in the near future, part of which is to be used as a rest room.

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT.

March 31. The District officers visited Seddon and formed a Union.

Mrs Grigg (President) presided, and on account of the very wet afternoon the attendance was small, but there is every hope of a bright and active Union working here. Mrs Grigg spoke a few words on the forming of a Union. The initiation service was read, five ladies joining.

The election of officers then took place: Pres., Mrs Kimberly; Vice-Pres., Mesdames Riley and Gainsford; Sec., Mrs R. Cameron; Treas., Mrs C. Hammond; W.R. Agent and Press Reporter, Miss Cameron.

Mrs Grigg then said a few words on the origin and history of the W.C.T.U.

MARRIAGE BAN ON DRUNKARDS.

Dr. T. B. Hyslop, the distinguished alienist, who was for some years medical superintendent of Bethlem Hospital, has published a book discussing problems of insanity that may well become the centre of discussion and perhaps controversy among both medical men and the laity.

Alcoholism is one of the subjects dealt with in the book, which is entitled "The Borderland." Dr. Hyslop says:—

"We see so many evidences of degeneration resulting from alcoholism in parents that I am strongly of opinion that just as the habitual drunkard is deprived of his liberty . . . so the existence of the alcoholic habit should be considered as a bar to matrimony.

"Any person who has made alcohol a necessity, or is unable to resist the temptation to indulge in alcohol, may attain to a certain degree of success in mind or in pocket, but, biologically considered, the world would have been the better had he not born into it; and, needless to say, the marriage of such an one is, in my opinion, a biological sin, and ought to be barred by law.

For practical purposes, three convictions for drunkenness should debar such persons from the risk of polluting the community by the propagation of degenerates." of degenerates."