

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE.

The North Canterbury District Executive met on Wednesday, July 28th, at 10.30 a.m., in the W.C.T.U. Rooms, Manchester Street. Mrs T. E. Taylor (President) presided over representatives from Spreydon, Riccarton, Christchurch, Rangiora, Sefton, Oxford, Papanui, Kaiapoi, Templeton, New Brighton, Springston, Lincoln, Opawa-Woolston, Brighton, North Brighton, and North Brighton Y's.

Before taking the business, votes of sympathy were passed with Mrs J. Cracroft Wilson on the death of her daughter, Miss Blackwell on the loss of her mother (the late Mrs G. H. Blackwell), who had been a member of the Kaiapoi Union since its formation, and also with Mrs Jackson on the serious illness of her husband.

Encouraging reports of work and increased membership were received from a number of Unions. Miss McLay had organised "Y" Branches at Rangiora and Christchurch, Study Circles and a Speakers' Class had been formed, and a Y Branch of 28 members had been organised by the North Brighton Adult Union. Styx reported a weekly L.T.L., good interest and attendance by the children. Successful Band of Hope meetings at New Brighton and Templeton; Mrs W. Rowntree addressed a large number of children at the latter. A large women's meeting was held at Weedons, Mrs T. E. Taylor giving an interesting and inspiring address.

Further arrangements were made for the Provincial Convention to be held at New Brighton on the 14th, 15th and 16th of September. Miss Henderson was asked to speak on "Anti-Gambling," and Miss B. Harband on "Work and Education Among the Young." Moral and Social Hygiene and Peace and Arbitration will also find a place on the syllabus for Convention.

It was resolved to forward thanks and congratulations to the Hon. F. J. Rolleston for introducing in his Bill power to appoint women Justices of the Peace, and the provision that the mother have equal rights of guardianship with the father; also for bringing in an amendment of the Police Offences Act, and an amendment of the Destitute Persons Act.

The Secretary was asked to forward the following resolution to the Government:—"The North Canterbury District W.C.T.U. Executive strongly pro-

test against what to them seems an unjustifiable increase in the price of bread."

WASTEFULNESS.

There are quite a number of women, members of W.C.T.U., usually considered to be thrifty, careful persons, who are at this moment guilty of the sin of wastefulness, but who would indignantly deny it if anyone taxed them with it. They are careful of their houses, their clothes, their money, their time, but there is one thing they have wasted, and that is the paper they wrote for the Union meeting. I hear an indignant snort from someone: "I was asked to write a paper, and I wrote it, but I *didn't* waste it. I took it to the meeting and read it. It was mentioned in the report in 'White Ribbon.'" Yes, my indignant friend, it was. That's how I knew you had wasted it. You had a perfectly good paper on some useful subject, and you read it once, and then—what? Did you lend it to a neighbouring Union to read at their meeting? "I didn't know they wanted it." Doubtless, nor did they, but some one of our little struggling country Unions would have blessed you for the loan of it to eke out the material they had got for their small, dull meeting. It's no use to say that it was not worth lending. If it did to read at your meeting, why wouldn't it do for some one else's? If it wasn't very learned and intellectual, it must have had some kind of thought in it, and even if it made them laugh, that wouldn't hurt, would it? You wouldn't be there to hear them. As one who has spent a good deal of time at small Union meetings, I must say I don't think they would laugh at it or you. They would be too grateful for the help of having some material for their work. No, I believe this waste occurs from thoughtlessness. A paper is written for a meeting, and is then thrown away. You cannot keep it in use for your own branch, because it has served its purpose there. You do not know to whom it would be helpful, so you throw it in the fire and think no more about it. Why not address it to Miss M. S. Powell, 120 Cliffs Road, St. Clair, Dunedin, stamp it, and throw it in the post instead? She knows who wants papers, though you don't. And you will be

able to borrow someone else's papers to help in your meetings. Every number of "White Ribbon" contains reports of papers read by members at meetings all over the country. Some people reporting in the July issue were so rich that they report, "Six very excellent papers were read" at one meeting. But most of these are then thrown away. "To what purpose is this waste?" The baby Unions and the little far away, struggling ones who have for years tried to hold together, and yet have such difficulty in providing subjects for their meetings, need the help of those who have the time to read or the more frequent opportunity of hearing speakers. You cannot go to them and speak to them, but you need not throw away what you have taken the trouble to write, when you no longer need it for your own meeting. They would be glad to have it. Give them the chance to get it.

ALICE F. WEBB.

SMALLPOX EPIDEMICS IN INDIA.

In the House of Commons, Mr Francis Broad drew attention to the serious epidemics of small-pox in Madras and Calcutta during recent years, although vaccination had been compulsory in these cities for the past 40 years and a high percentage of children were vaccinated. He suggested that as vaccination had not controlled small pox in Indian towns, all the Governments in India should be instructed to take steps to improve the sanitary conditions in the larger towns and provinces, in view of the fact that the passing of the Public Health Act of 1875 in England resulted in a great diminution of small pox and all other eruptive fevers.

LAW ENFORCEMENT.

"Force is my job, but public sentiment is another factor in pro. enforcement, and that's your job . . . There's a long fight ahead of us to break down the crime of disregarding our Constitution, that document sacred from beginning to end, and to break down the state of mind that permits such an attitude."

—"Governor Pinchot."