

# The White Ribbon

FOR GOD AND HOME AND HUMANITY

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## WOMEN AT WORK.

Miss Willard once said: "Women will sweeten and clean every place they enter, and they will enter every place in the wide world." How truly prophetic were her words! Doors are opening everywhere, and it is for the women of to-day to obey the words of our distinguished leader and to "enter every open door."

Even in these lonely, lovely islands in the far-off Pacific, though we may not be leading the procession through those open doors, yet we are not by any means in the rear.

Women have been elected to School Committees, to Local Bodies, and in all positions they have so ably done their part, that they have been not only elected, but re-elected, and that more than once.

It is about 16 years since Legislation was passed allowing women to be elected upon our Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards. Nelson immediately took advantage of the new Legislation, and two White Ribboners were elected upon their H. and C.A. Board, viz., Mrs R. Watson and Mrs C. Y. Fell. Though this partnership has been dissolved by Mrs Fell's absence in the Old Country, Mrs Watson has been continuously a member of this Board for over 15 years. Lately, she has been joined by another White Ribboner, Mrs Moffatt, of Motueka. Mrs Moffatt was the first President of the Motueka Union, and some of our readers may remember her as representing that branch at the last Napier Convention.

During our recent visit to Nelson, we spent half a day with Mrs Watson,

and were much impressed with the opportunities for serving and helping our weaker, poorer sisters, such a position as this confers upon a worker. With Mrs Watson, we visited Nelson's new Hospital, one of the finest and most up-to-date South of the line. How beautiful were its sunny balconies with their rows of beds, every patient so cheery in spite of their suffering. The wards are

to harbour dust, let alone a lively microbe, all were rounded and easily accessible to the dust mop.

The operating theatre, the room with its special table for dealing with fractures, the St. Helen's Department, one and all, contained all the very latest that science had devised for the relief of suffering humanity. But, the pathos of the suffering was there, and we welcomed the thought of research for the prevention of disease, which, is, to our mind, even more important than to cure. We wonder if the almond-eyed Celestial is not a wiser man than his Western brother, when he pays his physician a regular salary so long as he is in health, but no salary while he is sick. While this might turn medical research more to preventing disease, it would be distinctly unfair to the doctor if the patient refused to obey his medical adviser's prohibitions. Every week a poultry farm sends a gift of eggs for returned soldiers in hospital. Mrs Watson takes these up and delivers them personally to the soldiers. We spoke to the patients as we passed along, and every now and then, when she was in doubt, we heard her cheery voice, "Are you a returned man?"



MRS WATSON.

(Member of Nelson H. & C. A. Board.)

large, light, sunny, well-aired, cheery rooms, but, of course, during the daytime, they are largely deserted in favour of the yet sunnier balconies. One thing which took our housewifely eye, as we trod the long corridors, was the narrow bevelled skirting board, not a corner anywhere

Mrs Watson gives practically all her time to this work. One room in her house is full of clothing, etc., given by friends. Here those in need of aid can apply and be comfortably fitted out. During lunch, the 'phone rang an urgent call, an elderly woman lay sick in a rented room, none of her own to attend upon her, would Mrs Watson go and see her.