

### WITH OUR ORGANISERS.

Miss Bradshaw has visited Featherston, Greytown and Carterton, gained new members, and helped Unions in many ways; also many new "White Ribbon" subscribers were gained. She is now working in the Manawatu end of the Wellington District.

Miss McLay has been busy in the Waikato and Taupo districts. She writes thus of her work there:—

#### WITH THE MAORIS AT TAUPO.

"During the past week I have had the privilege of addressing the children in various native schools in the neighbourhood of Lake Taupo. I accompanied Sister Jessie, Presbyterian missionary to the Maoris, on her visits to the schools to give the weekly Bible lesson. It was very gratifying to find that the Nelson system is carried out there, and the children eagerly look forward to the Bible lesson.

"The Maoris, like most other children, delight in story-telling, and it was a pleasure to watch their eager, interested faces as they followed the stories teaching of the evils of the 'waipiro' (drink), and, in their young enthusiasm, agreed to keep it out of their lives.

"In close contact with these children one feels the tremendous possibilities for good or evil in their lives. By nature simple, loving, generous, most of them followers, not leaders, they present a problem which the Christian Church and the W.C.T.U. would do well to tackle with increased intensity.

"I found no Band of Hope or Temperance work being carried on, and, although the Maoris have no vote, their habits and lives are telling, and will continue to tell, in the communities of which they form a part. It is very desirable that these children should be trained in Christian Temperance principles. They are quick to learn, and very impressionable. In one of the schools the oldest girls were learning to make their own frocks, and showed wonderful aptitude and great interest, especially in the colour schemes.

"At Whakarewarewa there is a fairly large school, and the other morning I met the children at the Mission House, just after breakfast, and we had a Temperance lesson. When the school whistle sounded, a smart flute and kettle-drum band appeared, and the children formed into a square and stood at the salute while the band played the National Anthem. Then they had some deep-breathing exercises, after which

they marched into school to the strains of a bright marching tune.

"The women in the paha welcomed the distribution of temperance and medical literature in the Maori language."

Miss Burls is still in Nelson and Marlborough districts. She has gained 80 new members, and has organised a Union at Ngatimoti. Officers: Pres., Mrs Haycock; Sec. and Treas., Mrs Arthur Guy; and 18 members. At Takaka, with 27 members. Officers: Pres., Mrs B. K. Thompson; Sec. and Treas., Mrs A. Taylor. At Collingwood, 27 members. Pres., Mrs Jamieson; Sec. and Treas., Miss Walker. Miss Burls writes: "Last month was probably the wettest month that I have experienced in New Zealand, and in many districts the roads were impassable."

### MARTHA M. ALLEN.

The "Union Signal" pays the following tribute to the work of Martha M. Allen.

Most valuable was the contribution to the temperance cause made by our promoted comrade, Mrs Martha M. Allen, whose heavenly home-going was announced in the latest issue of The Union Signal." With keen intellect, broad sympathies and a high type of courage she undertook, as far back as 1897, a public campaign against fraudulent patent medicines, especially those containing large quantities of alcohol, and was instrumental in interesting in the fight "Collier's Weekly" and "The Ladies' Home Journal." The department of the W.C.T.U. of which she was the head put copies of the "Great American Fraud" pamphlet into thousands of public libraries, and sent out thousands of copies to persons of influence. The agitation begotten was a great aid in securing the passage of the National Pure Food Law which requires the statement, on the label, of the presence of opiates and the percentage of alcohol. Through the Medical Temperance department Mrs Allen began a crusade against the use of whisky in the treatment of tuberculosis of the lungs, aided by a few experts in that disease who did not believe in the whisky treatment. A poster prepared by Mrs Allen was used by different boards of health in campaigns against tuberculosis and was

enlarged and used in the great International Tuberculosis Congress held in Washington. Appeals to physicians widely circulated by Mrs Allen and her associates had much to do with securing the passage of strong resolutions by the American Medical Association in 1917. These resolutions had a large influence in the gaining of national prohibition. The book, "Alcohol a Dangerous and Unnecessary Medicine," written by Mrs Allen, was placed by a philanthropic friend in all medical libraries of the United States and Canada. The agitation kept up by the department under Mrs Allen, with its appeals to physicians and its circulation among them of the best and latest findings against alcohol by practitioners and research workers, has resulted in a great change in hospital practice and in the teaching in medical colleges. Very little alcoholic liquor is now used in the hospitals of this country, and in some of the largest no alcoholic liquor has been used since the advent of national prohibition. The best medical schools no longer teach that alcohol is a useful or indispensable medicine, and many warn against its use. To quote Mrs Allen's own words, "When this department began its work, whisky was looked upon as the sheet anchor of the profession in the treatment of pneumonia and typhoid fever. Now it is a completely discredited drug in all infectious diseases. Whisky and brandy were omitted from the U.S. Pharmacopoeia after this department had sent a memorial to all the members of the pharmacopoeial convention of 1910 asking for this action and assigning as reasons why such action should be taken that the best physicians were not using this agent any longer."

Mrs Allen's influence extended far beyond the limits of her own country, and as superintendent of Medical Temperance in the World's W.C.T.U., she has directed the white ribboners of many countries. She represented the United States government at the World Congress Against Alcoholism in London in 1909, and gave one of the addresses. She attended many World's conventions.

"Only fools are certain, Tommy, wise men hesitate."

"Are you sure, uncle?"

"Yes, my boy; certain of it."

—"Tatler."