

"WITH THE MAORI ORGANISER IN MAORILAND"

Throughout the pas in the Rotorua district which I had the pleasure of visiting, the topic of interest was the W.C.T.U. Maori Girls' Hostel in Parnell. Sitting among the Maori women of the Health Leagues, I talked to them, showed a picture of the Hostel, answered questions, and invited them to come and see for themselves. The mothers of girls are deeply grateful to those who have made the various hostels possible for their girls, and for the assurance that when they themselves come to the city there will be a comfortable home and a warm welcome for them among their own folk.

Sitting in the sunshine in the outer court of a Maori meeting-house at one of the League meetings, I was telling the story of the Hostel Movement, when an old lady joined us, whose knowledge of English was not enough for her to follow without an interpreter, so the League Secretary acted in this capacity. Now and then, the old lady stopped, touched my knee and exclaimed "Kapai! Kapai!" (Good). She was tremendously excited by what she heard. It was easy to open out before these women a vision of the great world-wide work for God, Home and Humanity for which the W.C.T.U. stands, and is doing. The chief object of the Health League is to protect the child and the home, and in every way to promote the well-being of the Maori race. So, we are at one in our Aims and Objects.

We have long since recognised and waged war on the greatest known enemy of the Child, the Home and the Race, and these women are awakened now, too. But they are handicapped. To a great extent, they are voiceless. They have no vote on this great question, and their little ones, now very numerous, are quickly growing up to be an easy prey of the accursed Liquor Traffic. We must help them: **by Prayer.** Do make special prayer for our Maori sisters and the children. **By Education.** Petition the Education Department to enforce the teaching of Scientific Temperance in all Native Schools. **By Christian friendship.** Visit neighbouring pas; hold home meetings, distribute literature; speak kindly to all Maori people.

The Fish Car

During the progress of a meeting a car bumped up the hill on to the marae. A man descended, and asked if anyone could give him change for a half note. Little did he think he was interrupting a Temperance meeting! A woman produced a box and gave him change. "Do you want any fish? I have some in the car." The woman looked at me and glanced longingly at the car. I smiled, and said I would wait, and the meeting quietly melted away. "Fish" was irresistible in that

far-away pa. The fish were "parked" on the grass in the shade of the trees, was resumed. The pa is "timeless," and one enjoyed the feeling that no seats were re-filled, and the meeting one was in a hurry; no trains to catch; no hungry husbands awaiting dinner that was late because of the W.C.T.U.-ing of their wives.

Two mothers had walked one and a half miles in rain, one carrying a four-months-old baby in a blanket, the other had met her husband on the road, and had transferred the two-months-old baby to him to take home and care for. Well, it was League day, the women's day out.

Literature was distributed and aroused much interest, some pieces being in Maori. Several copies of "The White Ribbon," "Y.P. Supplement," and the "Challenge" were left in each pa, and eagerly received.

The Children

Children's gatherings were arranged for me to address and quite large numbers were contacted. What lovely, healthy, well-dressed children the majority were. They give such wonderful promise of a virile, clever race of excellent citizens in the next decade, rising in their young manhood and womanhood to fill the gap left by the many young heroes of the Maori Battalion.

One experiences a sense of heart-ache while talking to them. Will many of them escape the clutch of the Brewer and the Man-trap of the Hotel Bar? They listened so eagerly to talks on "Physical Fitness," "Good Citizenship," "The King of the Castle," etc., and the very definite warnings against alcohol. The power of God in their hearts, and the Wisdom which is from above encircling them, is our heart's desire for the children of the Maori race.

Mission Workers

Many Mission workers in settlements which I could not visit owing to lack of transport or petrol were contacted by letter, and supplies of literature sent. All workers tell the same story. The Liquor Traffic is one of the greatest evils among the Maoris, and the greatest hindrance to effective Christian work.

One thousand six hundred leaflets from our own literature department, supplies of "Y.P." Supplements, 1,500 leaflets, half in Maori, and a supply of very fine posters from the Auckland Council of Temperance Education have been sent out to a worker in the Bay of Plenty for widespread distribution. I have distributed about 700 pieces of Temperance literature and over fifty copies of the "Challenge."

Will every Union please consider ways in which they can help the Maori work?

CATHERINE M. McLAY,
Maori Organiser.

SPECIAL REPORTS

WANGANUI EAST CRADLE ROLL PARTY

On November 24th, Wanganui East held a Cradle Roll party. Owing to an epidemic of measles, the attendance was small, but those who came had a very happy time. Items by the children were followed by a treasure hunt in the grounds. As each one found a treasure they were given money to buy ice-creams for the others. Afternoon tea was provided for the mothers and soft drink for the children. Games were played indoors, the mothers taking part, to the great pleasure of the children. Sweets were finally dispensed and the afternoon came to a close.

REMUERA L.T.L. AND CRADLE ROLL CHRISTMAS PARTY

On December 1st a happy band of mothers and children attended the Christmas party held in the Remuera Methodist School Hall, for the L.T.L. and the Cradle Roll. The children conducted a Model Meeting, Trevor Marshall presiding.

The guests of honour were Mrs. Long, District President; Mrs. Prussing, Dominion Superintendent of L.T.L.; Mrs. Williams, District Superintendent of Little White Ribboners, and Miss Appleby, Organiser. Mrs. Long presented the children of the Remuera L.T.L. who won certificates for the Temperance Examination with a book each, given by the Mother Union, and their certificates. Mrs. Williams enrolled three children, and conducted the Little White Ribboners' Consecration Service. All guests and Remuera Officers were presented with bouquets. The children rendered a good programme of items.

The Christmas tree was soon stripped of the lovely presents, each child receiving one and a bag of sweets. Mrs. Kasper, the leader, was presented with flowers and a silver butter dish by the children. A vote of thanks to all helpers was passed.

MARLBOROUGH DISTRICT Women's Day of Prayer

The last Women's Day of Prayer for 1945 was held in St. Andrew's Hall, Blenheim, on Friday, November 30th. Sessions of hourly duration were held, beginning at 10 a.m., and were led by the following speakers: Mesdames W. J. Girling, W. B. Wilson, P. Stephens and J. Dunbar. The attendance was good, the singing bright, and many beautiful thoughts were expressed by the leaders. Prayers covered a wide variety of subjects, the sick and troubled being specially remembered, also those in the war-stricken lands. It is intended to continue these very helpful days of prayer next year.

BLENHEIM: TEMPERANCE EXAMINATIONS

The presentation of certificates gained in the Temperance Examinations took place at the home of Mrs. E. Leslie, who trained the children. A