

# PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

1945 has been the most momentous year in the history of the world as world matters go. Scientists have released energy in the atomic bomb which has staggered the nations. Germany and Japan have surrendered to the United Nations.

Prisoners of war who have survived the cruelties of those terrible years are being returned to their homes, thousands of service men and women are returning, and thousands of hearts are aching for those who have given their lives for their country and will not return. Hospitals are filled with sick and wounded men. We must ever remember the people who are so deeply hurt through the devastation of war.

Paul wrote, "As ye are partakers of the suffering so shall ye be also of the consolation." To be true to those who suffer, we suffer with them, may they all find consolation in Christ. Paul also says, "Ye also helping together by prayer." He knew the power of prayer. When sorrow and trouble was surging around him, the prayers of fellow-believers was as an anchor to his soul. We are helping every stricken heart when we pray for them and prayer will help to bring peace and concord when unrest and dissatisfaction seem to rule in the heart of nations. We praise God that victory has come. What an untold blessing that wars have ceased. No war has even been so terrible, but God overruled and 1945 has been the year of deliverance from bondage which would have been worse than death. May we ever give thanks for the cessation of hostilities and pray without ceasing for the sick in body and mind and for goodwill to come throughout the nations. Pray that Christ may be at the head of the Conference being held in London. With His guidance, right decisions will be made, without Him the efforts of men will be futile. How did we in New Zealand celebrate the great news that wars had ceased? Thank God there were thanksgiving services. Men and women lifted up hearts and voices in praise to God who curbed the wrath of men and brought into subjection those who thought to dominate the world with tyranny. A vast number celebrated this victory in a very different manner. It is to the everlasting shame of New Zealand that the liquor traffic was allowed to run riot. The disgraceful scenes in some of the cities cannot be overlooked nor can they be forgotten. Hotel bars poured out a flood of intoxicating liquor. Drunken revelry and bestial self-indulgence by men and women and youths of both sexes, many just in their 'teens, was the order of the day. Some people were killed, whilst hundreds were taken to hospitals as the result of broken bottles and glasses being thrown about, also by motor accidents and assaults.

In Auckland alone twenty tons of broken bottles were collected from the streets, besides thousands of unbroken bottles. Shall any right-minded citizen forget these things and vote for the continuance of a trade which makes such a disgusting orgy possible. Let no one forget until the day dawns when the drink traffic shall be in sub-



**Mrs. J. Hiatt, Retiring President.**

(A photo of Miss C. E. Kirk, J.P. will appear in the next issue.)

It is with great regret that we record the retirement of our beloved President, Mrs. Hiatt. For so many years we have been helped and guided by her and always her forthrightness, wisdom and tolerance have been an example to us; her patience in Convention, together with her gentle kindness, will be long remembered with deep appreciation. Our Union is most fortunate in the fact that Mrs. Hiatt has been willing to take office as Dominion Vice-President; with three new officers we stand in great need of her advice and experience. We lovingly wish her and her sister a "good rest" and renewed strength; we pray that God will very abundantly bless them and lead them through their sorrow to great joy.

jection and surrender as Germany and Japan have done. Let us turn from this picture of shame to the New Testament with its ringing cry of victory. Thanks be to God Who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus Christ was crucified by Roman soldiers it looked like defeat, but victory over sin, destruction and death was won. God so loved that He gave His Son, and love won. Love,

not force, is the conqueror and ever will be. It was love for those being lost through drink that brought the W.C.T.U. into being, and it is love that will keep our organisation in action until the liquor traffic is dethroned. Love is indestructible. May every member have a victorious faith in the right of the cause which was born in the spirit of love and which is the responsibility of each until the day of victory. It is drink we are fighting. There is a movement amongst a section of the people in favour of control of some kind. Serve liquor under the best of auspices and the worst features of the liquor trade will disappear, they say. Bishop Henry C. Potter dedicated a saloon in the city of New York with a religious service which closed with the doxology. A sign was put up on the building, "Yes—this is the place dedicated by Bishop Potter. You are welcome." The opening of the saloon attracted nation-wide attention. Reporters thronged the model saloon to report results. One of the papers said: "There is just as much drunkenness in a drink taken at a canonised bar as at a regular whisky shelf." Quoting from "The American Issue," it says, "The conditions finally became so bad that in disgust the company sold out to a man who announced, 'This saloon is going to be run as a saloon should be run—as a gin mill. It is no use trying to play with the Lord and run with the devil.' We cannot choose between two evils, i.e., continuance or control."

"Alcohol is a poison. In a drop, in a pint, or in a gallon, in every quantity it is a poison. Plainly the quantity cannot alter its chemical constitution," is the verdict of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Richards, in evidence before the Royal Commission in Auckland, said: "Alcohol is a potent poison to human tissues. In small doses it gives rise to a general feeling of well-being with a lack of regard for scruples. The subject becomes more self-confident and less shy, at the same time he exhibits less self-control, and the emotional side of his character becomes more pronounced; the jovial man becomes hilarious, the choleric pugnacious—all lose their natural dignity. In large doses, speech becomes thick and muttering and the movement ungainly. This condition is followed by stupor and sleep, frequently the victim passes into unconsciousness and coma and death follow."

Let no one be persuaded to accept the idea that State or trust control, or prayers over drink, will make it any better for human consumption. It is beverage alcohol that we oppose with all the strength we possess. This is the victory that overcometh the world, with all its deadly evils, even our faith. Is our faith a victorious faith,