

It is poll year and we are in the minority, but we are builders together with God. When Noah was building the Ark he was the laughing stock of his neighbours. He was held up to ridicule for years, but he toiled on in building and he continued to warn the people of the danger ahead. He was very much in the minority, but he won. He was doing God's bidding. Britain was in the minority when war was declared, but through great tribulation Britain came out victorious. God came to her aid and she became a majority. We may be in the minority in taking up the cudgels against beverage alcohol, but if we enthrone Christ in our hearts and in our work there is no defeat, for He shall reign and all shall be brought into subjection to Him.

One of the attractions for drinking alcohol is the feeling of importance which it gives. And how folk like to be important. Christ pointed the way to an essentially important life. Whosoever giveth a cup of cold water, whosoever doeth a kind and helpful action to one of the least, shall be **great** in the Kingdom of Heaven. He took a child and set him in the midst and said, "Whosoever shall hurt one of these little ones, it were better that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he was cast into the sea." Christ's view of the importance of the child. How infinitely small the feeling of importance through self-indulgence compared with Christ's standards of greatness. Every person who is injured by drink, physically, morally or spiritually is a loss to the State. The State needs them. We need them. We are dependent one upon another. How earnestly we should labour to establish Y branches in every community. Youth will be reached by youth. Many of us move in Church circles and do not meet with those who sponsor sherry parties, who think that an afternoon or evening gathering is not complete unless sherry or some alcoholic beverage is handed round. Our Y members will meet youth at social functions, in colleges, in work-rooms, etc., and their witness will help others. It takes great courage to decline drink when the host and hostess urge it upon the guest, who is made to feel that his or her refusal will be considered a discourtesy. Young people who have not been taught the harmful effect of alcohol are easy victims. The scenes which were enacted on V.E. and V.J. Days could not happen if our young people had the information which is the right of every person entering into society, and this is why it is so essential to establish Y branches in every community. Now that the war is over, our young men are returning from overseas in ever-increasing numbers. Is the war over for them? Do they not meet another enemy as soon as they step on their home soil? An enemy which destroys both physical fitness and moral stability. Those of us who remember World War No. 1 know that after the war there was an

increase in moral and civil crimes. Alcohol played an important part in this degeneration, and alcohol has a greater hold on New Zealand at the close of this present war than it had then. We prayed for our servicemen whilst they were absent, we have a duty towards them now. May we ever remember Christ's judgment of which are the important things of life and prove by our disinterested service that we want the very best for those who have returned from the war, and let us be more determined than ever that the liquor traffic, which hurts and destroys manhood and womanhood, must go. We have a vote. Use it as God would have us use it, in voting for a candidate who will stand for righteousness and who will oppose beverage alcohol in every shape and form.

Where Sugar Went In Britain

Since the war began 4,200,000 tons of grain have gone to the breweries and 1,008,000lb. of sugar. If at the outbreak of the war the manufacture of beer had been restricted to 50 per cent. there would have been a store of 2,000,000 tons of grain and 250,000 tons of sugar for the feeding of the starving people of Europe.

This is the year when we can do exploits for righteousness. The challenge of evil never ceases. When Christians everywhere are roused up from sleep they will realise that the challenge to the Christian is to redeem human character and purify human society.

When General John Nicholson, bravest of the brave, marched his column to the relief of Delhi during the Indian Mutiny the need of the besieged was so urgent that he would give his men neither rest nor respite. One day, when the sun was scorching fiercely down upon the desert, they came to a grove of trees and begged for a rest, and he gave them leave to rest. The exhausted men tumbled off their horses and slept where they fell. The first man to wake looked round upon his sleeping comrades and noticed at the head of the ranks, just where they had last seen him, and still astride his horse—John Nicholson. He had not left the saddle, he had not slept. He was waiting for his men to be ready. Quickly the word was passed round, slumbering forms were shaken awake and soon every man was in his saddle, and when they were ready Nicholson led them on. Do we sometimes think, in our battle against the drink menace, that God has gone to sleep, that Jesus Christ has forgotten the world for which He died. The true state of affairs is that Christ our Lord is waiting at the head of His army, waiting for us, for Christians everywhere to be ready. It is we who are asleep. It is the Christian community which must be aroused. New values must be set up. Manufacturing and selling destructive commodities for

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DEATH OF MRS. AGNES SLACK-SAUNDERS

The following letter has just been received:—

Dear Mrs. Christian,

Mrs. Agnes E. Slack-Saunders, for more than fifty years Hon. Secretary, World's W.C.T.U., died on January 16th, 1946, at her home in Golder's Green, London. I have no further information as yet, as this came by cable.

The next number of the "Bulletin" will be a memorial number.

Sincerely yours,

ELLA BOOLE,

Pres., World's W.C.T.U.

Tribute from the President, World's Women's Christian Temperance Union

My first meeting with Agnes E. Slack was in 1896. Miss Willard, who was the guest of Lady Henry Somerset at Eastnor Castle, England, was not well enough to return to the United States. She had asked the new Corresponding Secretary of the World's W.C.T.U. to take her engagements for the summer and fall conventions. Madame Demorest, Mrs. Mary T. Burt and I, with a group of New York members, met Miss Slack at the dock when she arrived on the "Paris." It was her first visit to the United States and her first public address was in the auditorium at Chautauqua. She was greeted by a great crowd which gave her the "Chautauqua Salute," which she called a "handkerchief salute." She was young, attractive in person, vigorous in her presentation of the temperance cause, and her English ways greatly pleased her hearers.

I saw her "in action" at ten World's Conventions, the first in Edinburgh in 1900 and the last in Washington, D.C., in 1937. In every convention she was an outstanding figure, intense, enthusiastic and keenly alert to every phase of the convention.

Since 1931 we have been closely associated, and scarcely a week has passed in which we have not exchanged letters. We have been friends as well as officers. Miss Slack was a guest in our home several times. We found her an interesting conversationalist with a fund of experience and wide acquaintance with prominent people in every country she has visited. She was home-loving and hospitable. She loved her home in Golder's Green, which had been bombed in 1939, and she was not able to return to it until last November. We are glad that she had one year of happiness during the war years when she lived at Kettering with her husband, Mr. Charles Saunders. His death was a great sorrow to her for they were good companions with many interests in common.

Mrs. Agnes E. Slack-Saunders had been Honorary Secretary of the World's Women's Christian Temperance Union for fifty years, a wonderful record of faithful service which few can duplicate or even approach in any organisation of men and women.