

## "HOW BRIGHT THESE GLORIOUS SPIRITS SHINE"

Familiar words come rushing into the mind with the thought that once again our Day of Memories is close upon us. Some of the hymns we love best are those which dwell on the theme of the continued life in the higher sphere, of those who lived greatly in this one. Though no picture of that wider, freer, happier world they inhabit is other than allegorically presented, we have a deeply grounded belief in the continuation of service as the keynote of all real joy. Nothing else would seem to justify the continuation of life.

The imagery of the white-robed, palm-waving, singing and praising souls, beautiful beyond our power of realisation, is not fully satisfying. Rightly or wrongly, the idea of continued power to serve the God Who has brought them through the peril, toil and pain seems inseparable from that of life Eternal. Eternal Rest, comforting though it may seem to the weary soul, does not present a wholly desirable end to the joy of living. If that Rest means the cessation of fear, danger, frustration, and suffering, how welcome it will be is impossible to say; but if it involves uninterrupted idleness, there are not many active, eager souls who will feel it to be all they desire. Something immortal within us cries out for the opportunity of serving still; untrammelled by the things of time and sense. The glorious inspiration of the lives of these who have reached the further shore sheds its pure light on the path we tread; and sometimes, we feel a sense of nearness, of the intimate presence of our dear ones who have won through to that "other side," which is more than fancy or imagination. It gives assurance and strength in the time of perplexity, adds confidence when the steps would falter, and it is not too much to wonder whether this is not one of the ways in which "they serve Him day and night."

With the day come personal memories for many; hallowed and blessed.

As we recall loved names, and think of great work done for the cause we still espouse, let us draw all the inspiration possible from our contemplation of past effort. Let us see anew the vision which was theirs; the vision of freed prisoners, of healed spirits, of pure civic and individual life. And as we think and gaze, let the altar flame of dedication to our cause rise higher and clearer. "So shall we join the Choir invisible."

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mrs. Toomer, Dominion Corresponding Secretary, writes:—

"Dear Editor,

I have received so many letters from various Union Officers, all expressing such very kind wishes to me in regard to my new office, that I was wondering if you could thank them for me through the 'W.R.' There are so many of them that it would cost quite a fortune in stamps to answer them individually, let alone time.

"Their messages have been so exceptionally kind, and I have appreciated them immensely. Such kindness always makes one feel so glad to be able to do the work allotted to one. 'A little pat on the back,' so to speak, does one good.

Yours sincerely,

C. TOOMER."

We are glad to publish Mrs. Toomer's appreciation in her own words, and would add our own good wishes to those already expressed to her, and all our Dominion Officers, for the coming year.—Ed.

Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith, Dominion Treasurer, has a special notice for Union Treasurers at the foot of her quarterly report. We call special attention to this in order to save time and postage through sending to the wrong person.

"WHITE RIBBON" reporters are again reminded that all reports must be in the hands of the Editor by the FIFTEENTH of the month to ensure publication in the next issue.

**Please note:** Names of "tea hostesses" may be included in reports in future.

**Thanks are due** to those Union Secretaries and Reporters who have remembered that all money, alterations to names in Union advertisements, and lists of officers' names should be sent to **Mrs. Grigg, 1 Mallam Street, Karori, Wellington**, and **not** to the Editor.

## AUCKLAND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

A monthly Prayer Meeting will be held on first Mondays from 10.0 a.m. to noon, and from 1.0 to 2.0 p.m., prior to the monthly Executive meeting, for the work in connection with the coming Poll. Meeting place, the Temperance Room. Everybody welcome.

## LIST OF NEW SUBSCRIBERS TO "THE WHITE RIBBON"

From 1st February to 10th June, 1946

Maungakarama, 2; Mt. Eden, 3; Warkworth, 2; Waiuku, 1; Eden, 4; Ponsonby, 1; Wanganui, 1; Hastings, 4; Wairoa, 1; Dannevirke, 5; Nelson,

## NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN

### MANAWATU BRANCH

The annual report states that there were fifteen affiliated societies, with twenty delegates and twelve associate members.

Two special meetings had been held during the year; at one of which Messrs. Macky and Oliver, of Auckland, had spoken on the proposed Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; while at the other Sister Canning, of Dannevirke, had spoken on a suggested scheme of homes for the aged.

Subjects of discussion during the year had been: Bars in dance halls, extra buses for factory workers, a housing scheme for the aged, the milk question, the 40-hour week, Sunday sport, CORSO, the Chapel of Remembrance (in the new Wellington Cathedral), food parcels for Britain, the "O. and G." Chair, and voluntary rationing.

Manawatu Branch had been informed that one or two women's societies in Wellington had suggested that bars in dance halls might be a check on illicit drinking at dancing, but were glad to know that this was NOT the opinion of the N.C.W. of N.Z.

In connection with the forty-hour week, the following remit was sent forward to Headquarters: "That as business firms, offices, factories, etc., are required to observe the forty-hour week, and the Saturday holiday, the Government be asked that there be no differentiation made in the case of hotels; that bars be closed on Saturday, and not open for more than forty hours per week."

As greyhound races had been held in Palmerston North several times on a Sunday, it was agreed after discussion that a letter should be sent to the City Council asking that the races be held on Saturdays instead of Sundays. Members were to discuss the subject with their societies, and to come to next monthly meeting prepared to sign a letter to the City Council. But, before the month was up, a Court case was held, in which the greyhound club was charged with and found guilty of illegal trading on Sundays. As the races have since been held on Saturdays, the proposed letter was not sent; but they had been prepared to make a stand over the breaking of the Sabbath.

Other things were mentioned in the report, but space forbids further details at the present time.

1; Blenheim, 3; Oxford, 3; Styx, 2; Woolston, 2; Riccarton, 8; Christchurch, 5; Linwood, 4; Spreydon, 1; Christchurch Central "Y's," 5; Waimate, 2; Oamaru, 1; Dunedin, 7; Port Chalmers, 1; North Invercargill, 1; Winton, 1; Maori Department, 3.

**Total: 74.**