

## NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Incorporated)  
Organised 1885

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"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

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"THE WHITE RIBBON"

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Telephone 26-903.

## The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

WELLINGTON, JULY 1, 1946

## A HUMAN EXTINGUISHER

She came into my office today. Ugh! She has wealth, education, social position, and—many a beggar is more to be envied.

Her opening remark was an extinguisher: "How can you work in such sordid surroundings?" she asked. "I should simply die."

Now, my office is neither better nor worse than a thousand others in the city; but she only saw what she brought with her, and, apparently, that was sordid.

I asked about her health. "Oh, I shall never be well. I'm sure of that," she added.

I then asked how her husband was. "Oh, he's most difficult, most trying. If ever I want to be out, that man wants to be in, and if I want to be in, he wants to be out."

I think you and I, too, would want to be out when she was in, and in when she was out, if the Fates had been unkind enough to tie us for life to an extinguisher.

"How is your son?" I asked next. "Oh, he's wanting to study medicine and I've told him it's ridiculous. He'll never get through a five-year course; he'll get tired of it and throw it up, so what's the use of beginning? I've warned his father not to encourage him." Poor chap, to have an extinguisher for a mother.

Anxious to change the subject, "Well, what do you think about the political situation," I asked. "It's all one to me. I'm not interested. I'm sure they're all making as much as they can at the game."

I then asked her about her other son's beautiful children.

"Oh, they're all right, but their mother is a nasty little cat. I never could stand her. I've told my son so many and many a time." Doubtless

she had. That's the way with the discourager. She always tells.

"How can that be?" I asked. "Isn't she bringing her children up excellently?" "Well, I shouldn't say so," she replied. "Little J— is the best of them. She's very like our family. She takes after me." Heaven forbid that the winsome little girl I remember should ever "take after" the family extinguisher.

"I believe your husband is taking over larger responsibilities," I ventured. "Oh, yes; but not with my approval. I've told him how foolish he is; and he knows I don't approve."

Wondering why she had called, I asked her whether she would join a committee which is doing wonderful work for homeless children.

"No, my dear, no! Those women on committees never do any good. They are all on the make." When I expressed resentment at this statement, she said: "Oh, well, if they're not, they're just after the limelight, and it amounts to the same thing. I've no sympathy with organised charity. That I do, I do privately." And she might have added, "And that is precisely nothing."

My patience was becoming visibly extinguished, and she rose to go, but, with her hand on the door, said in sepulchral tones: "You are looking terribly overdone. You'll be in hospital soon, with nobody to blame but yourself."

She went; and I thought, "There goes one whom the world calls rich, yet she is poorer than a beggar; more to be pitied than she who begs her daily bread; a human extinguisher, whose chief claim to be remembered will be that she quenched hope, discouraged aspiration, and extinguished ambition in many hearts, minds and lives."

My room and my heart felt the better for her going.

—M. Preston Stanley, in the "Sydney Morning Herald"

## SUNDAY SPORT

At the time when greyhound racing was held in Palmerston North on Sundays, the following notice was posted one Sunday outside the leading Anglican Church:—

"Hitler is dead. The Devil is not. Are you coming to Church, or are you going to the Dogs?"

MRS. H. CECIL HEATH  
Is World's W.C.T.U. Secretary

The death of Mrs. Agnes E. Slack-Saunders, whom we will affectionately remember as Agnes Slack, left a vacancy in the office of secretary of the World's W.C.T.U. She had served the organisation for fifty years and was known by our members everywhere.

Article IV of the By-Laws of the World's W.C.T.U. is as follows: "The general officers are empowered to fill vacancies which occur among the general officers or superintendents in the interim of conventions."

You can appreciate that the officers felt it a great responsibility to name a new secretary. After careful consideration and much prayer a decision was made. The new secretary is Mrs. H. Cecil Heath, 2 Bolters Lane, Banstead, Surrey, England. Mrs. Heath is a Friend and has long been identified with the British Women's Total Abstinence Union. Her husband is general secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance and an outstanding Temperance advocate in England and other lands.

Mrs. Heath was a great friend of Agnes Slack, and her husband is one of the executors of the estate. We are assured that she is a fine speaker, has marked organising ability, is a gifted writer and an able secretary. Should she be re-elected at the Toronto conference, she is one of the younger women experienced in W.C.T.U. work, who would be able to serve during several terms of office.

We extend to Mrs. Heath a hearty welcome as she undertakes the work. She will edit the Bulletin, which was founded by Mrs. Slack-Saunders as a means of communication between the workers all around the world. We hope that every country will send her news that may be printed in the Bulletin, thus continuing the work begun nearly fifty years ago.

ELLA A. BOOLE,  
President, World's Woman's  
Christian Temperance Union.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Wellington Central: 1 new member.  
Nelson: 1 new member.  
Linwood: 3 by transfer.  
Spreydon: 1 by transfer.