

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

(Incorporated)

Organised 1885

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The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

WELLINGTON, AUGUST 1, 1945.

A CHATTY HALF-HOUR
WITH THE EDITOR

It would be very nice if my readers could pop in to see me now and then, to talk over some of the little matters that do occasionally seem to need just that to put them into order. In my remote eyrie, far from the madding crowd, it is seldom indeed that this can happen; so, hoping earnestly that other motives than that of thrusting personal considerations before your long-suffering eyes will suggest themselves as the reason for this departure, we will proceed.

How about discussing the question of reports received just too late for the next issue?

I really do feel so sorry every month for the reporters whose reports arrive, sometimes in considerable numbers, on or about the 17th of the month. Often a little note accompanies them, hoping that they are not too late. Shall I outline what really happens about the reports?

Well, as they come in, by ones, twos, and sometimes by dozens each day, they are put into their districts, and as quickly as possible typed, ready for the printers. One or two sheets of paper are prepared for each district's reports, and one by one, they are filled up. By the fifteenth, the last day possible for them to be dealt with, they are all, including those arriving by that day's mail, ready to send off. Now, I am sure you will see how difficult and upsetting it would be to fish out the proper sheet, and add more reports, even if time as required for printing would allow of this to be done. **Moral:** Send in your report on the first, not the last possible day. Without in any way wishing to complain, I would point out that at the end of the time allowed for preparing the copy, the fewer reports

that need handling, the better. Oh, yes, of course I do know that some meetings are held very close to the fifteenth; and that it is difficult to get these in early. I am fully prepared for these to come in late; and don't mind in the least; but it is really true that many days elapse between some meetings and the arrival of the reports thereon. It is an excellent rule to have, to write it if possible the same day as the meeting is held. Apropos of this, I recall that now and then I am asked why reports have not appeared. This is a puzzle to me, but usually, if they do not appear in the issue intended, they do in the next. A check will be kept in future, so that a definite reply may be given to such inquiries.

Model reports were asked for at Dominion Convention. Now, what about them?

Anything stereotyped and robbed of its individual character and charm is not exactly pleasant reading. So I hesitate to set out a schedule. No two meetings are exactly alike, are they? I have sometimes wondered how it would work out to say that so many named Unions opened their meetings with a hymn, and so many others closed with the Benediction. How funny it would look, wouldn't it? No, I don't quite think that would be a good idea at all. Well, then, could we take it for granted that all meetings are thus opened and closed; and, unless some other method is used, or something special requires particular mention, eliminate those details? I think it is worth trying.

It is always nice to see the name of a dear friend in some far-away Union report; and a really useful purpose is served—that of serving as a means of communication between our members. So we welcome names in connection with actual Union life. Good judgment is shown when the reason of mentioning friends by name is worth while. In response to requests, we have agreed that tea hostesses' names may be included. It would be quite enough, however, to say: "Tea hostesses, Mesdames So-and-So," and not to tell us the very well-known and understood fact that "Afternoon tea was served." We know it was, is and will be. So, save the space and time and paper by letting readers take that as understood. It will make quite a difference if the forty or fifty reports have those few words less.

It is rather too much to give the outline of an address, or the text of a

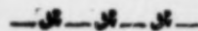
Temperance Fact in the little space of your report. Why do you not put the "Fact," if it is a really good one, separately from the report in the same envelope? It is no more trouble to you, but saves me quite a good deal of time if this is done. And, nothing pleases me more than to receive a well-arranged outline of an address. That goes into the "Specials," and is read by more people than if included in the regular report.

I don't think it is really necessary to give the book, chapter and verses of the devotional reading. Sometimes there may be special reason for doing so, but while it is of interest to those who hear, very few readers would make a point of looking it up. Space is valuable, again we say. Speakers' names, themes of addresses, readings given, plans of work made, special functions held, donations agreed upon, and the many intimate matters affecting the lives of our members, such as bereavements, illnesses, and matters of congratulation, are all suitable for inclusion.

I—to talk about space, and then fill up all this was "talk"! My excuse is that it is long overdue.

One little note in closing. There were only eight communications sent to me which had to be sent on to Mrs. Grigg this month. One or two came to Mrs. Grigg also which should have come to me first. Look up the January-February issue once again to make sure that your communication is sent to the proper place in the first instance.

THE EDITOR.

ON SIGNING ARTICLES FOR
PUBLICATION.

A valued correspondent recently suggested that interest would be added to the "White Ribbon" if all the writers therein signed articles sent in by them. A newspaper cutting was sent, in which it was stated that "the public is interested in the individual who pens an article, and likes to know whose is the hand that writes. There are, nevertheless, people in the community who have other things to consider, and it is these personal factors which compel them to seek the protection of a pen-name."

We should be very glad to hear from any of our readers who may have ideas, either way, on this point.

EDITOR