

DOMINION RECORDING SECRETARY

Mrs. V. Underhill

Space and other considerations have militated against our publishing the little sketch we feel it is pleasant to have, of each of our newly-appointed Dominion Officers. It is, therefore, with pleasure that we are able to present our readers with the following little picture of Mrs. Underhill, of Blenheim, who became Recording Secretary at this year's Convention held at Christchurch. She is a daughter of the late Mr. P. G. Saul and Mrs. E. Saul, early residents of Blenheim.

A fine record of service in the Temperance cause was begun in Band of Hope work; first as a member who recited and sang at the meetings; and who learned something of the evils of the Liquor traffic as regards women and children; storing up a great fund of sympathy with the victims of the drink habit, and with those dependent on them in the home. As a Christian Endeavourer and Bible Class member, a gradual equipment for service was built up; and in Sunday School teaching, responsibility was fully assumed.

As a worker at Licensing Polls, and in other ways, Mrs. Underhill assisted in Temperance work long before joining the W.C.T.U. Twenty years ago, in the early days of her married life, she accepted the invitation of the then Secretary, and later President, to become a member of the Blenheim Union. With a characteristic touch of humour, she says: "I had no reasonable excuse for not doing so."

This negative attitude was soon altered when the Union, realising that their new member was one to be glad of, gave her the positions, in turn, of both recording and corresponding secretary; the District also electing her for the same offices. As President of the Springlands Union she does great service, having held this office for several years. Her energy and ability, used so enthusiastically in our cause, had the natural result when, this year, she was unanimously elected to the position she now holds for the Dominion Union. Her clerical experience has been continued all through her married life, and technically she is admirably equipped for the calls she will need to answer.

A personality so happy, pleasing in every way, and so fitted to the task ahead, gives us full confidence in Mrs. Underhill's successful handling of the work so long and ably carried out by Miss Kirk, now our Dominion President.

In the many types of work done by her, including that of the Church to which she belongs, where she was a choir member, the local B.M.S., and the service she has given as a member of the school committee, of which she was secretary for four years, that of the W.C.T.U. has held first place.

Mrs. T. E. Taylor, in 1928, as Dominion President at the Napier Convention, gave great inspiration to Mrs. Underhill, and she speaks with great

TALKS, ADDRESSES AND READINGS

It is interesting to note the variety of subjects spoken upon; and the many speakers who address our monthly meetings. Many valuable contacts are made by keeping a good "look-out" for people who will speak on matters of which they have special knowledge. Sometimes they may be in our towns for only a few days, but will gladly speak for us if invited. Interest and variety are added to our meetings by this means. We are always glad to hear someone "new," however glad we may also be to hear our own old friends.

During the past month, some of the reporters state, there have been many good contributions to our meetings in this way. At South Invercargill, the **Rev. R. Thornby** gave a very interesting résumé of the life of our founder, Frances Willard. At the Winton meeting, **Mrs. Duncan**, a missionary from China, spoke on her work, telling of many instances of answered prayer.

At the Papanui meeting, **Mrs. Riseley**, of the Salvation Army, spoke on "Women to Remember," and told of the position of clergymen's wives from the Middle Ages to the present time, with special reference to Mrs. Wesley, Mrs. Tait, and Mrs. Booth. Mary of Bethany and Lot's wife were also named as referred to by Our Lord.

At the Lower Hutt meeting, the **Rev. Mr. Clement** gave a Temperance talk, referring to Air Force instances. One boy drank because another did, but no one who was "going up" drank at all that night. He said that if lemonade instead of beer had been provided, they would have been quite satisfied.

Mrs. Ogg, at the Wanganui meeting, read an account of the growth of prohibition in the U.S.A. since Repeal in 1933.

An outstanding address was given by **Mrs. Stephenson Craig** at the Hamilton, and later, the Cambridge meeting, on the very important subject of Gambling. She attacked convincingly every form of this evil thing, urging upon members the necessity of refraining from it, and also to "fight the good fight" in this, another place where a stumbling-block caused the weaker brothers and sisters to offend. The essence of her contention was that "if money were not a gift, it should be worked for." The spirit of getting something for nothing was demoralising in the extreme. The buying of raffle tickets by Church members was spoken of, and the custom was shown to be dangerous. The W.C.T.U. stood for the abolition of this great evil as well as that of the liquor traffic.

Mrs. Miller, at the Takapuna Union meeting, told of the horrors of the London blitz, which she saw, the story

appreciation of other Conventions she has been able to attend.

Our prayers and affectionate good wishes for her in the arduous task she has accepted, are sincere and earnest.

—THE EDITOR.

being very sad, but interesting. This Union is sending parcels to British Unions. A very interesting address was given by **Mrs. Williams**, L.W.R. Superintendent for the District, on her work, and "The Baby."

The Devotional talk given at the **Auckland Union** meeting was on the words, "Be not afraid of the mighty forces of evil against us. The battle is God's. Fight on in faith, trust in Him, keeping your eyes on the Lord." At the same meeting, **Ensign Newton** spoke very interestingly on a visit she and a sister Commandant paid to the East before the war. They had a wonderful time visiting many fine cities which have since been bombed, including Shanghai, Peking, Tokio and others. The Commandant, who had spent many years previously in China as a Salvation Army officer had the joy of meeting many who had been led to Christ through her influence.

At two successive meetings **Onehunga** had outstanding addresses. At the "Pay-up" Social on August 8th Mr. Pace spoke on the question of whether the Bible supports total abstinence, pointing out that alcohol has its uses, and is wonderful in commerce. New light is continually being thrown on the Bible, and discoveries provoking fresh thought are made each day. It is now known that wines in Bible times were diluted with twenty or thirty times the amount of water. Mr. Pace reminded listeners that most of the Palestine wine was pure grape juice put into bottles, and olive oil poured on the top to prevent fermentation.

On August 22nd, at a combined meeting of all the Onehunga Ladies' Guilds, the **Rev. C. Leadley** answered the question, "Why do we fight the liquor traffic?" giving four answers. 1. It is a moral evil. 2. It is a poison. 3. It masquerades as a medicine and is really a habit-forming drug. 4. It is a destroyer, and for financial gain. Continuing, the speaker said, "Who would say the British were wrong when they prohibited the Juggernaut procession? Yet the people of India had permitted it." The need for prayer was emphasised, and the truth reiterated that with God on our side, success must finally crown our efforts.

At the **Oamaru** meeting this month the **Rev. Mr. Stewart** gave a most challenging address, showing the downfall of nations and empires through drink and kindred evils. We need to take stock in New Zealand, where the drink bill has risen to £213,000,000.

The **Rev. Mr. Hoffman**, of Feilding, was speaker at the **Palmerston North** September meeting. Personality, he felt to be the greatest thing in the world, and it was marred by drink. It is a duty to avoid it for ourselves, for we are enjoined to "present our bodies, a living sacrifice," and also for others, for we must "do nothing to cause our brother to offend." Home life, the foundation of the nation, should be preserved at all costs. It is a woman's concern to maintain the sanctity of the home, and this could be achieved through faith and prayer.