

NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

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"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

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"THE WHITE RIBBON"

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The White Ribbon.

"For God, and Home, and Humanity"

WELLINGTON, NOVEMBER 1, 1946.

THE VALUE OF "THE WHITE RIBBON" TO ME

By A. D. GRIGG

An article is only of value to us in so far as we can make use of it; for example, our food, or what we purchase to eat, only if it is food that agrees with us and provides nourishment for our bodies; our clothing, only as it is useful and suitable for our wear and our occupation; our books, furniture, pictures, china and all that goes to provide the comforts of our home, only as we make use of them to give us good living, good work, good leisure and all that makes for the best in life.

So, only as we value our "White Ribbon" can it be of value to us.

What value is "The White Ribbon" to each of our unions? As individual unions, does it not give us an incentive to more combined co-operative work for the cause to which we are pledged? Does it not help to hold our whole organisation together and unite us in a common bond, because in its pages we see and learn what the rest of us are doing?

It can be of value to us as individual members of a union, but only as we as individual members of our union make use of it. Do we use it to gain inspiration? Do we find in it something that draws us nearer to God, that inspires us to do better in our homes, that gives us zeal to serve others? Or do we let it lie unopened for days upon our table and then glance hurriedly through it without taking in much of what is written therein?

And if we have gained from it, do we not want others to share our gain? Do not the President's letter each month, the special articles and pithy paragraphs that appear, do not the Scientific Temperance facts and articles

create in us a desire to do more toward educating others towards abstinence? As our Editor says in the June issue, "no one would dream of searching its pages for anything which would have effects other than uplifting. Casual readers are in no doubt as to the reason for its existence. No uncertain trumpet note trembles through it; but a definite call to service for God, Home, and Humanity is heard, constantly and urgently."

What does our pledge say,—"I promise to do all in my power to discourage the use of and traffic in the same by others . . ." How can we discourage others? Surely by showing them the faults of alcohol. And there our paper gives us material in plenty, if we will use it.



MRS. A. D. GRIGG

Take one issue, for instance, say the May one with a photo and biographical notes of our new President. Is there not someone in the W.D.F.U., the W.I. or some similar women's organisation to whom you may introduce our President, or a friend in the country to whom you may send it with a letter saying we have a new President, or just a note saying as a W.C.T.U. member I want you to meet our new President?

But I think in sending away this

copy as suggested, I would slip out the Y.P. Supplement and keep that by me to hand to a child on the road, or the boy who delivers the paper, or the girl who makes a nuisance of herself batting her ball over into my garden. You will notice the Y.P. Supplement is now on a separate sheet and quite easy to remove from the paper.

From time to time we have paragraphs in the paper from different departments of our work; in the May issue one from our Peace Superintendent with this specially striking line, "We must build friendships, not warships." Be more friendly—go out of our way to do the thing that makes friendship. The other day when I stepped from the front exit of a tramcar I carefully shut the door behind the motorman, and was surprised to hear, "Oh, thank you; not many people bother to do that!" I answered that I always made a point of shutting the door if I was the last one or the only one getting off, and I always expected the motorman to give me time to shut the door and get off the tramcar before he started it again. But the point is the friendly contact made with that motorman—the human note struck, and who knows where it may lead. Our Departmental Superintendent's article gives us food for thought in our relations with others, and even the best of us need to be reminded that we don't own the whole world.

Gambling

Does not the small paragraph on page three of the May number remind us to cut from the papers and send to the Superintendent of the Anti-gambling Department some striking letters that have appeared in the Press recently? Knowing that those making a business of gambling are asking for greater opportunities to do so, is it not our duty to help our Superintendent by giving her material on which to base anti-gambling propaganda? * Gambling cost this country almost as much as drinking last year. Twenty-five or twenty-six million pounds spent on liquor or gambled away for that which returns no good.

Another interesting and thought-provoking article is that on page four of the same number, re R.K.O. Pictures reply to a letter from the Nelson Union stating that the producers try to minimise excesses in drinking scenes in films. Is there not a point for each one of us, as individuals in the community, to take note of the number of