

SPECIAL REPORTS

HENDERSON UNION

A very interesting event was held recently at the Henderson Public School, when the annual presentation of prizes for the best Temperance Essays were awarded.

For the past twenty years arrangements have been made with the Headmaster of the school who instructs the children from Standards 4, 5 and 6 on Temperance, literature being provided by the Secretary of the W.C.T.U.

The essays are written during school time and judged by a reliable person appointed by the Union. Two special prizes and seven other prizes are awarded each year. The Auckland Union sends a donation to help to provide these prizes.

A very cordial welcome was extended by the Headmaster to the President, Mrs. Chadwick, the Secretary, Mrs. Leman, Mrs. J. W. Long, and other members.

Mrs. Long expressed the thanks of the District and Local Officers for the co-operation and assistance given by the Headmaster in the Temperance education of so many children year after year in the Henderson district, especially in view of the cultivation of grapes and manufacture of wine in the Henderson district.

Mrs. Chadwick spoke to the children, congratulating them on this year's effort. The fifty-four essays were well written and many of them deserved special commendation. The story of Mr. Preston, who introduced the word "teetotal," was told and captured the attention of every child. Mrs. Long spoke on Good Citizenship, and gave the children some high ideals to live up to, especially as total abstainers.

The prizes were presented by Mrs. Long, and the afternoon was brought to a close at the school. Afternoon tea was served at the Church Hall by members of the Union. Prize Essays will appear in the January-February "Beacon."

MARLBOROUGH WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

The final meeting for the Women's Day of Prayer was held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Friday, November 29th. Sessions commenced at 10 a.m. and the following ladies were leaders:—Mesdames Dunbar and Ford in the morning, and V. Powell and P. Stephens in the afternoon. Fair attendance. Helpful messages were given, and prayers offered by leaders and members of the congregation. Next year's meetings are to recommence with the World Women's Day of Prayer.

STALL AT A. & P. SHOW Malborough District

As a Publicity Effort in connection with Poll work a Stall was held at the show, which was one of the best for years. The effort was arranged by the District Executive and was in charge of Mrs. Underhill, Mrs. Forbes and Miss Tarrant. Contributions were received from members throughout the

District and Home produce and cakes did not stay long on the counter. Arum Lilies, Iceland Poppies and other flowers served as decoration and also provided funds as they were sold. Several Posters from Headquarters hung inside "the shop" and were read by hundreds of people. In each parcel copies of the W.R. and Beacon together with our campaign leaflets were enclosed. These were also given out to young people. The booklets "Keeping Fit" and "Non-Alcoholic Drinks" were sold young boys buying the "Keeping Fit" books after looking through them. Several people showed their interest and sympathy by leaving the change on certain purchases, others gave words of encouragement. One lady kindly told us that she noticed that the Temperance people went to sleep in between the Polls and woke up just before!! We found that she was right up against the liquor traffic but had never joined the Union, although she told us what we ought to do!!! While we did not set out to make money, owing to the kindness of several gentlemen, our expenses were light and we had several pounds in hand, besides spending a very interesting day, and we hope, profitable to our cause.

R.M.U.

ANNUAL MEETING,

CHRISTCHURCH

The fifty-ninth annual meeting of the Christchurch Union was of unusual interest. Miss C. Henderson presided and welcomed a visitor, Mrs. Kippenberger, who brought greetings from the Waimate Union, and Mrs. Hawke, a member just returned from a trip to England.

Mrs. Hawke brought greetings from the National British Women's Temperance Association and from the Peckham Union.

Christmas greetings were sent to Mesdames Judkins, Patchett and Whetter, and a gift to Mrs. E. Wood, in appreciation of her willing service to the Union for so many years.

Posies were presented to the President, Miss Henderson, and the Misses Gordon and Thomas.

The annual report reviewed the many activities of the Union during the year, especially mentioning that many thousands of leaflets had been distributed before the election.

The financial statement read by the Treasurer was considered very satisfactory.

The following officers were then elected for the ensuing year:—President, Miss Henderson, J.P.; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames James, Gardner-Miller, Lennon, F. C. Prices, Misses Gordon, Blackwell and Bishop; Hon. Secretary, Miss M. M. Thomas; Hon. Treasurer, Miss M. B. Lovell-Smith; Hon. Assistant Treasurer, Miss E. Gordon.

FLORAL AFTERNOON, NELSON

Nelson's final meeting for the year took the form of a Floral Afternoon, which was held in the Baptist School-room,

The President, Mrs. Toomer, welcomed a good attendance of members and friends, some of whom are not able to attend the regular meetings. Basing her talk on the command, "Hold Fast," Mrs. Toomer said this required time, courage, and endurance.

Mrs. K. Wood and Miss Tucker entertained with a piano duet, and Mrs. Sherrat sang two very pleasing solos.

There was a beautiful display of flowers, the competition results being:—Shoulder Spray—1—Mrs. F. Cooke, 2—Miss Dyson; Posy—1—Mrs. Kidson Senr., 2—Mrs. Neal and Miss Russell (equal); Vase of Flowers—1—Mrs. C. Knapp, 2—Miss Russell.

Mrs. Walker thanked Mrs. Toomer in the name of the Union for her splendid service as President, and presented her with flowers.

Afternoon tea was served and at the close of the meeting flowers were taken to sick members and to the hospital.

A collection was taken in aid of the Maori Hostel and the meeting closed with the Benediction.

NINETEENTH BIRTHDAY PARTY.

Linwood Union.

The Linwood W.C.T.U. held a Garden Party in honour of their nineteenth birthday at "Kavington," the home of the President, Mrs. C. R. N. Mackie.

Miss C. E. Kirk, Guest Speaker, journeyed from Wellington to be present on this auspicious occasion. Prior to the address, Miss Averil Teague presented Miss Kirk with a shoulder spray of pink roses, a loving thought from the Linwood Band of Hope members. Miss Kirk presented the hostess with a beautiful spray of dark red roses and bronze pansies, which was greatly appreciated.

The special address was very educational, and was enjoyed by all present. It was pleasing to know that on the following day, Mrs. Mackie's telephone was unusually busy, many kind folk who had listened to the address, and had taken time to think about it, ringing to congratulate Miss Kirk.

Miss Snell, our musical director, arranged a very fine programme, for which we thank her again.

During the afternoon, the Musical Trio (Strings), gave several bright items. A most amusing play was presented by Mrs. Pashley and Dorothy Cooper, elocutionary items being given by Mesdames Middleton and Collins, both of whom were encored. Avia Hill gave a character solo and recitation very beautifully (a Woolston Band of Hope member), and Averil Teague also gave a character solo, "Little old Lady," which was much enjoyed. Averil is a Linwood Band of Hope member.

Mrs. Douglas' two solos gave much pleasure. A buffet tea was an easy way of handling the refreshments.

The beautiful cake, the gift of the president, was cut by our Dominion President, who brought greetings to the Union. Mrs. Rodgeron, of the Blenheim Union also cut the cake with greetings from our Blenheim sisters,