

FOR DISTRICT OFFICERS

It sometimes happens that circumstances arise in a district with which the officers find themselves unable to deal. If you find this is happening in your district, will you write and ask us for any help or information you think we may be able to give you? Our reason for asking this is that what is your problem may very easily be that of another district officer, and an answer published in a regular column devoted to Union working, may be more useful than an individual letter. If the latter is indicated as the best sort of response to an enquiry, it will certainly be sent.

At a recently held officers' meeting (Dominion), the matter of procedure regarding "Lapsed" Unions was discussed at some length. As the result of this conversation the following points were made clear.

1.—That it is the duty of the officers of the Lapsed Union to REPORT the fact of the Union's having closed down to the District Secretary. If any hope exists that the Union may be resuscitated, the DISTRICT OFFICERS should make some effort to do this. A Lapsed Union is a tragedy and a grief to all who have the cause at heart.

2.—IF and WHEN it is decided that all efforts to keep the Union in action are unavailing, it is the duty of the District Secretary to REPORT to (a) The Dominion Corresponding Secretary (Mrs. Toomer); and (b) To the Business Manager of the "White Ribbon" (Mrs. Grigg). Mrs. Toomer needs to know so that she will not include "Lapsed Unions" in the Handbook for the ensuing year. Mrs. Grigg needs to know the position regarding the "W.R." subscribers; and the Agent for the Union that once was. A very desirable thing is for the Agent to be asked to continue to act, for most of the subscribers will probably wish to continue to receive the paper even if their meetings are no longer held. The District Officers should assure themselves that these matters are in order, as they are the link between the Union and Dominion Officers, except when the Union Officers themselves make the necessary contact. Unfortunately, when a Union lapses, it is because for various reasons, its officers are unable to do the work belonging to their office, so it is unlikely that they will be able to see to these details.

3. The question of property in the shape of hymn-books, text-books etc., and money, belonging to Lapsed Unions was considered, and the following points were made clear:—

(a) Such property and effects should be handed to the District Secretary to be held for the use of any Union in the District requiring it. If not required in the District, it is to be sent to Dominion Headquarters.

(b) Any moneys remaining in hand should be sent at once to the Dominion Treasurer (Miss Lovell-Smith). In the event of a Lapsed Union being re-started, proper adjustments will be made.

SHALL I BECOME AN ALCOHOLIC?

Most of my friends drink and it is the accepted practice in my social set. Sometimes, we drink a good deal over weekends and holidays. Not enough to get drunk, you understand; just to be sociable.

But the other day, I saw a statement that upset my complacency. I read that there are, in the United States, over 600,000 alcoholics.

All at once, I realized that probably most of them were once social drinkers even as I.

What are my chances of slipping from my present status of "social" drinker to "chronic" drinker or alcoholic?

I read that one of the tests for alcoholism is the need for a drink the morning after a big party.

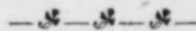
Another is the practice of drinking alone.

A third is the inability to get by certain hours—such as eleven or five o'clock—without a "bracer" or by certain places such as a favourite cocktail lounge or the "eighteenth hole" without indulging. All these seem indications of a growing habituation to drink.

Then all at once I thought:

"Why not stop before any of these signs begin to show?"

And now I know I shan't be an alcoholic because I've quit drinking alcoholic beverages for keeps!



THE ATTACK ON THE HOME

In 1937, Mr. Ralph Kettering, Secretary of the American Brewers' Association, wrote an article in the *Brewers' Journal*, urging "a concentrated campaign to sell beer to the housewife." He sought the brewers' co-operation in the placing of beer "in its rightful place, alongside of the bread and other foodstuffs, in the pantry of the homes."

"Why not," he asked, "place beer on the family marketing list so that the good housewife, with market basket on arm, will consider her family shopping incomplete unless there is an ample supply of beer for the week-end for all the family?" After listing a number of people who, a hundred and more years ago, used beer as a regular thing, he went on to say: "Why not encourage good will, public approval and a happy future by going to the very heart of the problem in enlisting the housewife on our side and, through her, the family and the on-coming generation? Let her fight the battles as she surely will when once we have convinced her of the healthful, necessary qualities of good beer."

That was ten years ago. In the article below, from the Canadian "White Ribbon Tidings," we are told of the repercussions in Canada. Here is something we may have to face in New Zealand. The organisation of the campaign did not stay in U.S.A.

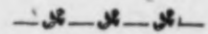
GROCERY SALE

Gradually the Ontario campaign for grocery sale of beer is taking form. It began in whispered rumours. Then it was set forth as the climax and conclusion of a brewer's booklet that was widely circulated. Finally it was openly sponsored by a powerful morning newspaper that leans in the wet direction. It will not be surprising if grocery sale is vigorously advocated by private members and possibly sponsored by the government at the next session of the Ontario Legislature. Stranger things have happened.

Why is grocery sale of beer and wine especially dangerous? It makes another industry an ally and partner in the liquor business. It familiarizes women and children with purchasing drink and classifies it as a food instead of a drug. It leads to drinking on credit—in Ireland many a grocery sale of beer was entered as cheese, and the auditors marvelled at the extent of the cheese consumption. Worst of all, it leads to home drinking and children are indirectly taught that drinking is a normal custom.

Many grocers would refuse to sell beer. They want to have nothing to do with it. Other grocers who see easy money to be made through a larger percentage of profits than on other goods, in the long run will discover that money spent on drink reduces spending power for staple groceries. Beer selling groceries may expect to forfeit the custom of families deeply concerned to have Canada become a sober nation.

—"The Temperance Advocate."



SPARKLETS

A member of the *Springlands Union* expressed concern because children were playing with gas masks, and pretending that war was going on. She felt that the idea of Peace, not War, should be encouraged in children's play.

At the *Epsom-Green Lane* meeting, the Rev. A. S. Wilson said that as Christians we need to be "Cheer spreaders," as was St. Paul. "A little faith in a Big Christ releases great power."

Read at the *Brooklyn* meeting:—"The late Sir Wilfred Grenfell, missionary doctor to the fishermen round Labrador, wrote in his autobiography—'I learned to hate the liquor traffic with a loathing of the soul. I met peers of the realm, honoured with titles because they had grown rich in the degradation of my friends. I saw lives damned, cruelties of every kind perpetrated, gaols and hospitals filled, misery, want, starvation, murder, all caused by men who fattened off the profits and posed as gentlemen. I have seen men driven from the profession of priests of God, making the Church a stench in the nostrils of men, all through alcohol, alcohol, alcohol! I have seen men's mouths closed, whose business in life it was to speak out against the accursed trade.'"