

AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS

ORGANISING DEPARTMENT

HERE AND THERE WITH THE MAORI ORGANISER— CATHERINE McLAY

Continuing in Hawke's Bay, and after some very interesting experiences in Dannevirke, I turned northward, en route to Napier. At Waipawa, Mrs. Bibby met me, entertained me to dinner, and motored me to a meeting of the P.W.M.U. at Otane. After the address, three new members were enrolled for the Waipawa Union, and feeling that the break had been worth while, I caught the train at the little station and reached Napier that night.

Resting there for four days, I addressed the B.W.M.U., and also a Youth Rally of about 100 on the Sunday evening, and met the Executive of the local W.C.T.U.

Proceeding by railcar to Wairoa, I chummed up with two very nice Maori girls, and through one of them made some helpful contacts in scattered Maori districts, where literature is now being sent. Next day, Wairoa Union held a very good meeting for me, at which the possibility of forming a Maori Union was explored, a few Maori ladies being present. In the evening a film meeting was held, and an address given to about 35 young people and some adults. "Y" work was suggested, but could not be undertaken at present. A fine Maori meeting, with films was held at Takatima Pa. Literature distributed to Y.P., and much interest shown. Several visits were paid to lapsed members and others; and some new members promised. Help given to new officers.

Going on to Gisborne, five days were profitably spent. On Saturday morning I was invited to a meeting of the District Maori Tribal Committee, and asked to speak on our work, especially the Maori Hostel Movement in Auckland. Great interest was shown, questions asked, and appreciation expressed. The Welfare Officer, a very fine Maori gentleman, told the meeting he had signed the pledge 40 years ago, on a visit by Mrs. Hera Munro to his school, and that he had kept it. The local Union was met and addressed. Bible Classes, Youth Rally, Girls' Club, League of Mothers, Home League, were addressed, two new members and promises gained, and visits paid. Frequent earthquakes created and maintained an atmosphere of expectancy.

I was very interested to meet the Presbyterian minister, who had recently arrived from Clydebank, Glasgow. The Bible Classes in his church were the largest I have contacted, and very fine training is being given the young people for service—local preaching, etc. Time did not permit of introducing "Y" work, but their programme is very full. I was also interested to find that the Methodist minister is our ex-president from Karori. I met quite a few ex-

members, girls now married, and have linked them up with local W.C.T.U.'s.

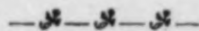
I have introduced the "Y.P. Supplement" to several Maori ministers and deaconesses for distribution to children. In one Maori Sunday School I addressed, one little girl had with her several Supplements, neatly bound into a folder, and apparently brings them every Sunday in expectation of another to add.

Returning to Napier, which was my headquarters, I had a busy week, commencing with a Morning Tea talk to girls in a steam laundry. Smoking is so prevalent among girls today that I felt constrained to deal with it very plainly, pointing out the terrible consequences of the habit. Several have thanked me, and some have said, "I often wish I had never started." There is great need for "nicotine education." The expert advertisements are the curse of the young people.

A very fine gathering of Maori girls at Hukarere College was addressed; at least 110 being present. There is a large "Y" branch with most efficient young officers. I spoke for an hour, with a lull, at half-time, during which the girls gave beautiful Maori items. A talk was given to a small group of Maori Y.W.C.A. club. Temperance talks given at Sunday School, Bible Class, Torchbearers, "Y's," women's meetings. Sixteen new members were gained for the Union, mostly through personal visits.

I am deeply indebted to my many kind friends and hostesses throughout Hawke's Bay for the loving care and sympathetic help given to me, which made the work possible.

At present I am combining General Organising with Maori. In the August or September issue, I shall contribute an article on "Maori Work in the King Country," which might be useful to read on Maori Day.



OTOROHANGA UNION RE-ORGANISED

A very fine meeting of 35 Maori and 10 pakeha ladies was held in the Methodist Church at Otorohanga on June 11th, to consider the re-organisation of the Union. It was decided to re-organise a joint Union of pakeha and Maori members.

On June 24th, a further meeting was held, the Union being re-formed, there being thirteen Maori and seven pakeha members enrolled, 20 in all.

The Officers elected are:—President, Mrs. Kenny; Secretary, Miss N. Rogers; Treasurer, Mrs. J. C. Clark; Cradle Roll Superintendent, Mrs. Hukutai; Seamen's Work, Mrs. Wharenuui.



NEW UNION ORGANISED AT TE KUITI

Miss C. M. McLay reports a new Pakeha Union formed at a meeting held in the Presbyterian Church at

FLASHLIGHTS

Speaking at the Auckland Union July meeting, Captain and Mrs. McCallum told of their work during the recent "Commando" raid on Wellington hotels. They explained that the two-fold purpose was to find the reasons for non-attendance at Church, and also to turn the hearts of the people to God. Mrs. McCallum and her lady friends conducted a singing campaign. The "raid" was considered a great success. With the personal messages and the sweet singing, better desires were started in the hearts of the listeners and definite cases of conversion were recorded.

At the June meeting of Hastings Union, Mrs. Lewis spoke on the "White Ribbon." Among other things, she said:—

"The 'White Ribbon' is for our use. Make it ours. Do not glance through it while drinking a cup of tea. Rather study the articles, and become able to pass on the facts. Get other people interested in it to swell the number of its subscribers. When sending reports, articles and facts, write on one side of the paper only.

Speaking at the Hastings Union meeting in May, the Rev. Mr. Cattanch took for his subject, "The Church in Russia." He said that Religion and Communism could not go hand in hand, but believed the Church had become popular of late years because we had heard of it behind the army and the government. Russia was so vast, and so different, that we could not compare our Church and religion with theirs. There was no religious instruction for the young. The homes which should be a centre of religious instruction, had no home life as we know it.

At the Sydenham Union's July meeting, Mrs. H. Graham gave a very helpful address, reminding her hearers that:—**God Can, God Is, God Hears, God Has, God Does.** The speaker endeavoured to show that in our time of need our Father is ever ready to help in a personal way, if we only have faith in His power to do so; that very often our work in the Temperance Cause does not produce the results we desire, simply because we are not willing to avail ourselves of God's promises—and if we can only realise that God's care is always round about us, protecting us each day, we shall be able to go forward bravely, facing whatever the future may hold.

Te Kuiti, on June 23rd. A good deal of spadework had been done previously, many women contacted and possibilities explored. The Rev. R. Maddock, Presbyterian minister, presided. The officers elected are: President, Mrs. Christensen; Vice-President, Mrs. Stratford; Treasurer, Mrs. Hamilton.

Eight members were initiated.