

Convention Assembles

At the famous and beautiful home of such gatherings, Asbury Park, after many months of careful preparation by the Hostess Country, and anxious planning by the attending delegates, on Thursday afternoon, June 5th, hundreds of women wearing the White Ribbon Bow thronged the streets, wending their way towards the First Methodist Church for the opening event of the Convention, the International Worship Service. So many were the worshippers that the very large church could not accommodate them all; and the sight of so many women representing so many lands, but "one in Christ" was deeply moving. Mrs. Anna Brattstrom, of Sweden, and Mrs. Clara Macoubrey, U.S.A., conducted the service. Many prayers were offered, delegates from China, Guatemala, South America, India, being among those taking part publicly. Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, U.S.A. president, closed the service; and, with a sense of gratitude for "journeying mercies" more deep than usual because of the new and various modes of travel employed; and a strong sense of comradeship in a common, divinely imposed task, the delegates streamed out, and made their way to the First Baptist Church, for the "Get Acquainted" Reception.

THE RECEPTION

The story of this reception is really thrilling. It occupies three pages in the "Union Signal" and is positively amazing. The decorations, the table settings, the "delicious, home-made cookies," of which there were several thousands, the beverages, and the excellent arrangements for the comfort of the guests are all described with a wealth of detail which any New Zealander would enjoy reading. Suffice it to say here that the perfect organization of every part of this enormous reception was something at which to marvel, and reflected the greatest credit on the Department of Non-alcoholic Food Products, in whose hands the whole responsibility had been placed. The story of the cold drinks alone is fascinating, 1,200 servings of these having been used, in addition to the 720 servings of tea in another room. Sur' delightful details of gifts, brightly coloured napkins, flags, as are given just make one wonder more and more. For "getting acquainted," there was every opportunity, and Mrs. Ella Boole, shaking hands with hundreds of delegates, stood the test magnificently during the three hours of its duration.

WELCOME NIGHT

In the evening a mighty gathering assembled in the great Convention Hall, on three sides of which the

Atlantic laps the foundation piers. Great singing, congregational and choral, was an impressive feature of the occasion. Greetings from leading U.S.A. citizens, including Congressman J. R. Bryson, were given, and Mrs. Leigh Colvin gave a typically warm-hearted and cordial welcome in the name of her thousands of helpers, to those who travelled so far to the U.S.A. Replies were made by delegates from Sweden, Scotland, and Canada.

CONVENTION CALLED TO ORDER

We are on familiar ground at once when we learn that Mrs. Ella Boole's gavel "called Convention to order." From now on the story is of Departmental Reports, Officers' Reports, and exactly such an agenda as that with which we are so familiar is dealt with. The difference is that while we deal with our great work in terms of our own little land, here it is dealt with in terms of the whole round world. News from remote places with unfamiliar names, from the great lands of China and India, create intense interest. Beautiful national dresses worn by some delegates add brightness to the scene. Great addresses are given by the president, Mrs. Boole, the secretary, Mrs. Cecil Heath, and also by eminent men, including Dr. Daniel Poling, Brig.-General Frank E. Stoner among others.

SOME OUTSTANDING FEATURES

As always some events stand out as being peculiarly noteworthy. The Peace Night is one of these. Mrs. Cecil Heath's address on this occasion is fully reported, and is a very great contribution to the study of this tremendous question. Another is Mrs. Liu's address on the work in China, read in the writer's absence by Mrs. Chou. How moving and how amazing this story is! The Presidential address, given by Mrs. Ella Boole, who is now to lay down the office she has held with such distinction for the past 16 years, is truly remarkable. At the advanced age of 89 this intrepid woman reveals a mental vigour, a fearlessness, and an inspired belief in the rightness of our cause, which combine to fill all hearers and readers with admiration and wonder. "Methods of dealing with the drink habit," dealt with in a Forum led by Mrs. Wheatley, English president, and contributed to by Miss Dorothy Staunton, English "W.R." editor, Mr. H. Cecil Heath, Mrs. Agnes Charteris, Mrs. Allie Aro-Englund, and Dr. D. Leigh Colvin, must have been of unusual value.

YOUTH WORK

The Saturday morning was spent in hearing of, and planning for, youth work. Miss Lenadell Wiggins was able to prove by speakers from China, Mexico, Canada, and Ireland, that work among children CAN be done anywhere; that the doing of it is basic to our work, and the only material on which our Unions can be built with real stability. The Ocean Grove L.T.L. gave an item in conclusion of this session.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President, Mrs. J. Forrester-Paton; President Emeritus, Mrs. Ella Boole; Hon. Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. H. Cecil Heath; Hon. Recording Secretary, Mrs. C. Hillock; Honorary Treasurer, Mrs. M. C. Munns; Vice-presidents, Mrs. D. Leigh Colvin, Miss Isabelle McCorkindale, Mrs. Allie Aro-Englund.

Those of us who remember Miss McCorkindale's visit to New Zealand some years ago will share in Australia's pleasure at the distinction she has gained.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

This was conducted by the superintendent of the Flower Missions Department, Miss Sadie A. Hall. As names were read of many comrades now passed on, Miss Hilda Rose, the young delegate sent to the Convention through the legacy of Mrs. Agnes Slack-Saunders, touched a blossom in a large bowl of white flowers.

TWO-MINUTE MESSAGES FROM FAR AND NEAR

On the final evening two-minute messages were given through the microphone. This was a delightful feature. Practically every country had a message to give; and we note with interest that Mrs. Mackie, N.Z. delegate, spoke for us. A red rose was raised as a signal when the allotted two minutes was up. That sounds rather pleasant.

THE INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Mrs. Boole handed to Mrs. Forrester-Paton the gavel of office.

(Continued on page 7)