

"AMONG THE DEPARTMENTS"

GROUPS AT CONVENTION

A feature of Convention this year was the study of departmental reports by the "Group Method." Suitable leaders were appointed for the several Groups, which were composed of members interested in perhaps other departments, but whom it was hoped to interest in fields hitherto unexplored.

It was intriguing to notice the animation and brightness of the members when they returned after the Groups were called in. Their "Findings" are given below.

CONVENTION GROUP FINDINGS

I—Scientific Temperance. Leader, Mrs. Mountjoy.

1. Every Union should procure copies of Scientific Temperance booklets for use in our Unions and wherever possible.

2. Perhaps change time of examinations to avoid clashing with school examinations.

II—Sunday School and Bible Class Temperance. Leader, Rev. J. Chambers.

1. It is the responsibility of W.C.T. Unions to keep abreast of work being done in their own districts; and either address Sunday Schools themselves or see that it is done by someone else.

2. Bible Classes might be reached through cards printed with date and place of "Y" meetings, distributed by "Y" members.

3. Girls' Life Brigade and Boys' Brigade good field for work.

III—Anti-Gambling Department. Leader, Mrs. Pirrett.

1. Auckland is the only district to appoint a superintendent for this department. Other districts are urged to consider the matter.

2. That it is illegal to raffle liquor.

3. That where anything detrimental to temperance and social work occurs Unions are asked to contact their local M.P. and the Minister of Internal Affairs.

4. That Pukehuia Superintendent be commended on using her influence to stop raffles for a Christmas party. The straight-out giving method adopted in this place proved most successful.

5. We urge the teaching of anti-gambling to Sunday School scholars and in Temperance Societies.

6. We ask that Church and Public Schools be asked to refrain from promoting raffles or Art Unions as a means of raising funds.

7. We recommend that Unions have a special day devoted to discussion of anti-gambling.

8. We suggest that Unions approach ministers in their respective districts to bring the evil of gambling before their congregations.

9. That the anti-gambling paper by Mrs. Pirrett be prepared by the Literature Department for the use of Unions.

IV—Good Citizenship, Flower, and Philanthropic Department. Leader, Miss C. McLay.

We feel that there is over-lapping in this department. The work is carried out by Church and other organisations. We feel that work on the ravages of the drink traffic and the curse of gambling should have priority in all W.C.T.U. activities.

V—Backblocks, Literature, Library, and Bulletin. Leader, Miss Lovell-Smith.

1. Recommendations: "That branches establish a "scattered members" department which will keep in touch with absent and far away members.

2. That District Nurses and Maori Welfare Officers be supplied with literature, and their assistance in distribution be sought.

3. That papers, magazines, and books be sent to Public Works Camps.

4. That Educational Films be offered to Y.M.C.A. for use in their camps.

5. That branches supply Sunday Schools with the "Y.P." Supplement of the "White Ribbon."

6. The World "White Ribbon Bulletin" was recommended to Unions as containing interesting facts about the work in other countries.

VI—"Methods" Department. Leader, Mrs. Hugh Kasper.

1. All work under W.C.T.U. comes under "Methods" Department. As the departmental work is the life-blood of the Union as many as possible of the departments should be worked.

2. Start with L.W.R., go on to L.T.L., and then to "Y" branch. A handful of children meeting in a private home of one of the members may be the beginning.

3. Departmental superintendents are urged to write in a book all they do and learn about their department, and to pass this on to their successors.

4. Especially should we study our Constitution. If small districts cannot hold Schools of Methods, Study Groups should be set up to instruct new officers and leaders.

5. We suggest that all Dominion Superintendents be supplied with Questionnaires, every Union to receive one with direct questions to be answered.

6. Helps to work in every department can be procured at the Literature Table, such as "Helps to Officers," W.C.T.U. Booklet, "Special Services and Prayers for Notable Days," L.T.L. Manual, L.W.R. Consecration Service.

7. It was recommended that literature from the United States be procured.

8. We suggest that Notable Days Programmes be well organised before the meetings.

VII—Suggestions re "White Ribbon." Leader, Mrs. Kasper.

1. Appoint a faithful and keen District Superintendent.

2. Appoint a diligent and capable Agent in every Union.

3. When a new member is enrolled, a "White Ribbon" should be presented to her.

4. The paper should be placed in all

Public Libraries, given to public officials and those in authority, especially to Ministers and Social Workers, whose influence is far-reaching.

5. Pay annual subscriptions as Christmas and New Year gifts.

6. Arrange for a joint subscription for two or three members if necessary.

7. A subscription may be paid by the Union for a copy to circulate among the members.

8. A clear and concise presentation of the value of the "W.R." might be given frequently at Union meetings, at every Convention and School of Methods.

9. Above all note the expirations so as to secure renewals. It is so easy to lose subscribers if this is not done.

10. Monthly payments for papers help to increase the circulation.

VIII—L.W.R., L.T.L., and Band of Hope. Leader, Miss V. Jamieson.

1. It is important to appoint District Superintendents, who should send their reports to Dominion Superintendent before December 15.

2. The words "Union Membership" should be used instead of "Adult Membership" in announcing Banner awards.

3. It is important to secure the mothers' signatures to C.R. cards before enrolling the children.

4. The value of personal contact by visits to mothers and sick C.R. members should be noted.

5. Letters to eight-year-olds are very important. The main object of our Youth Work is to secure temperance teaching through our departments in sequence.

6. Films should be extensively used in our Bands of Hope.

IX—"Y" Department. Talk by Miss C. M. McLay.

"For Our Encouragement."

In 1926 our work was at a low ebb, with about seven "Y" branches in the Dominion. In answer to prayer an organiser was appointed in 1927, and the number rose to 55 branches. Two new Unions also were formed. The Churches were sympathetic at first, but later Ministers were inclined to keep their young people in their own church. "Y's" are drawn from all Churches. The lack of Bands of Hope is one of the causes of the lack of interest in "Y" branches. It is of interest to note that many ex-"Y" members are now Union members. Between 80 and 90 ex-"Y's" are now Missionaries. Much use was made in "Y" work of Margaret Baker's "Here's Health to You." (?th edition).

There have been signs of a renaissance in the rise of Belmont and Brooklyn branches. Good results have followed the distribution of the "Y" Handbook to the Maori Colleges, Hukarere, Turakina, New Plymouth, Rangiatea, Rangimarie, Ohinemutu, Hamilton-Rahui, without charge. (Much condensed.)

X—Health and Nutrition Department. Leader, Mrs. Kasper.

1. Hygiene refers to good sanitary conditions.

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