

The White Ribbon

For God, and Home, and Humanity.

Thought for the Month...

"O madness! to think use of strongest wines, And strongest drinks our chief support of health, When God, with these forbidden, made choice to rear, His mighty champion, strong above compare, Whose drink was only from the liquid brook."
"Samson Agonistes."—Milton.

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THE CHILD:

The hope of the race.
The hope of the home.
The hope of the Church.
The hope of the State.
The hope of industry.
The hope of the professions.
and beware, also
The hope of the Liquor traffic.

will have noted the suggestion that Unions might offer prizes for the best efforts sent in for the Dominion Competitions from their own districts.

Then there is the very easy way of reaching children through the distribution of the "Y.P. Supplement." This is very widely carried out and it should not be beyond the means of any union to do something about it. The small price of 2/- per 100 should not debar any child from receiving at least an occasional copy. In some districts all the Sunday Schools are supplied with enough for all their scholars, and we know of one or two Unions who deliver them to children as they come out of Day Schools.

Let us make up our minds that we must do something for our children to fit them for the battles of life. Can we bear to think that the brewers, who seek to claim them as their future customers, shall meet with no opposition? Can we allow the powers of evil to work freely through the daily press, through the cinema, and through the bad example of so many people, and raise no hand of warning? If we can, we may as well close down. Here is our seed bed. When the tree is grown, little can be done in the way of training it, but as a seedling, it is capable of being greatly influenced.

Say the brewers:

"Create appetite for Beer in the boys and girls of today and they will be our customers in manhood and womanhood tomorrow."

Save the child and you will save the nation.

SOME CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

	Page
Among the Departments	2
President's Message	3
Gambling	4
Reports	5
Franchise Day	6
Dominion Officers' Meeting	7
Home Makers' Corner	8
Union of Bulletin News	9

"THE CHILDREN"

It is doubtful whether, in the world's history, there has ever been a time when children occupied so much of the thought, effort, and deep concern of humanity as they do now. The conditions resulting from the war, which are so terrible because so widespread, are considered more in relation to the children than in other aspects. The great appeal which has just closed, and to which such a ready response has been made, owes its success to the strong instinct that realises the truth that the preservation of the child is the preservation of the race. It is not merely pity for the sufferings of starving hosts of children that prompts action and sacrifice, but the acknowledgment, sometimes not recognised by the individual, of the pre-eminently important part the child of today must play in the drama of tomorrow. Everywhere, the same truth is claiming care for the physical, mental and spiritual development of the child. The future is his. Fear and dread of that future are felt on his behalf by those responsible for his preparation for his part therein; and more than anything, it is desired that he should be adequately equipped for the demands he will have to meet. Education, physical and mental, proceeded with as soon as he is fit to benefit therefrom. His food and clothing, home conditions and social environment are all becoming affairs of State. His religious outlook is almost determined for him, in some communities; though it is not considered so important in some countries as in others. But care is being taken of this most precious

possession, the child life of the different lands.

What has all this to do with us? Our children are mostly grown up by now. In what way can we be held responsible for the weal or woe of the children about us?

Well, we must all agree that there is something our organisation has to do for them which will not be undertaken by any other. If we do not realise this, we are not living up to our privileges. Gradually the duty of educating children in regard to alcohol and its dangers has come to be left in our hands. We must accept the position, with all the immense difficulties which surround it. If we are not able to do something about reaching the child, our Union meetings are not of great value in the Temperance cause.

How can we reach the child? So many activities claim his attention and time. We cannot force him to come to meetings; and we are weary with trying to induce the Education authorities to make this matter a part of his ordinary school curriculum.

True—up to a point. But here and there, Bands of Hope, L.T.L.'s and "Y" branches manage to work successfully. Have you tried, in your district, to do anything about it? Even if you fail, it is well worth while to try, if only to explore the possibilities.

You have all received the announcement posters for the Essay and Poster Competitions. Are you doing anything about them? Are you seeking to gain the co-operation of the teachers of Sunday Schools and Day Schools? It may surprise you to find how sympathetic many of them are. You