

Miss Elsie Andrews



To all who knew her personally, and those who knew of her work in the many fields of service in which she had taken a prominent part, the news of Miss Elsie Andrews' passing, announced briefly in our last issue, came as a great shock and grief. As one of our Dominion workers, our organisation had opportunities of meeting her and forming some small idea of the fineness of her character as well as of her brilliant intellect. As our Educational Officer for some years, she carried out excellent work in high schools, colleges and institutions of various kinds, addressing many hundreds of young people, and bringing before them the ideals of purity and temperance as the basis of good citizenship.

Miss Andrews was the youngest child of a family of 10, Huirangi being her birthplace, a few miles from New Plymouth. She was the grand-daughter of pioneers, who landed in New Plymouth in the "Timandra" in 1842. In the little book of poems, entitled "The Plymouth Ships," which Miss Andrews composed, and which were published last year, these good people are commemorated as "Simon and Jane."

At an early age, "Elsie" showed the promise of future ability. She won a Junior National Scholarship, topping the list for all New Zealand, and went then to the New Plymouth High School, where she spent what she called the happiest years of her life. She went into the teaching profession, and was well known always as a prominent personality in the N.Z. Teachers' Institute. She became a Life Member of the Educational Institute and also of the Women Teachers' Association. She held the highest offices in both of these organisations, and her name was familiar to all members of the profession.

Perhaps her work in connection with the Pan-Pacific Association brought

her into contact with more people outside the teaching ranks, and her unceasing efforts in the direction of promoting friendship and understanding among the peoples of the Pacific were among her major activities. She always felt that war was a thing to be outlawed, and that women would have to make themselves heard in the councils of their countries in order to end war.

Her active membership of the National Council of Women, of the U.N.A. and as a member of the New Plymouth High Schools Board of Governors, in addition to many smaller spheres of usefulness, made her life one of continuous work and service. Her extremely well-balanced mind, clarity of understanding, cultured tastes, and splendid character, with her benign and happy demeanour, made her one to be loved, esteemed, and respected by everyone who knew her. The W.C.T.U. has lost a most able counsellor, and public life generally will be much the poorer for her passing.

Her sisters and intimate friends suffer very keenly under the suddenness of their loss. Scarcely a month of illness, during which Miss Andrews continued happy and hopeful of recovery, preceded her departure. It is a matter for thankfulness that no long suffering added to the grief of those who were with her. Last year she wrote these words:

"Now at life's eventide clear sounds
the Call

O'er dale and hill, broad plain and
seaward foam;

Upon each wanderer's ear its echoes
fall,

And one by one, our family turns
home.

"So may I come, when toil and fret are
past,

Back to the earth which knew my
childhood's tread;

My dust to this dear dust return at
last,

My spirit re-unite with these my
dead."

And in the cemetery at Huirangi her dust now lies, so soon after these words, full of deep attachment to the scene of her early life and of the strong love of the family, which never lessened, were written.

Much more could be said of her, but any words would be inadequate to express all that her passing means to so many people. We give thanks for her life and example, her fearless attitude, in whatever company she found herself, towards the sins and follies of present-day life; and the benign, gracious spirit of understanding which shone through all the brilliance of her intellectual achievements. God grant that other women may rise to give as she has given, of all her gifts.

SPECIAL REPORTS

GATHERINGS AT PAPATOETOE

On August 18, the Papatoetoe Union held a special meeting. Invitations had been sent to various local organisations to be present to meet Mr. and Mrs. Lopdell. A very representative meeting resulted. Mr. Lopdell gave a very interesting and informative address. He told of the beginning of the W.C.T.U. in New Zealand and explained the work of the N.Z. Alliance, besides telling some of his many and varied experiences during his long term of office in the N.Z. Police Force. All agreed that this was a very well worthwhile meeting, and was greatly enjoyed.

RICCARTON CRADLE ROLL PARTY

On August 26 Riccarton Branch held its Annual Cradle Roll Party in the Methodist Sunday School, which was decorated with flowers. There was a very good attendance of 46 children with mothers. Mrs. Griffiths presided and welcomed all present. After Devotions, Mrs. Griffiths read the Preamble and told the mothers something about the aims and objects of the Union and the departments of work, giving Helen Keller's message: "Women's opportunity is NOW to push the world along in the right direction." She urged all to push hard for the remit from the Howard League for Penal Reform: "That talks for Peace should be broadcast as well as war talks," and that we should have a "Minister of Peace." She issued a challenge for us to work to make the world a safer and cleaner place for our young folk to live in, and to work in, urging the young mothers to join our ranks and to help the older ones who will have to step out. She spoke of the need for reform in radio programmes. This was a short, but very inspiring, talk. Several items were rendered. The children then played games while tea was served to the mothers; then while the children had tea at a long table in an adjoining room the mothers were entertained with a competition. The children's table was laden with good things, including the birthday cake which was nicely decorated. Each child had a paper hat. After tea all were lined up according to ages and presented with a very nice toy and some goodies. A parcel was sent to each absent child.

A vote of thanks and appreciation was proposed by a mother, Mrs. Henderson, and a very happy and successful afternoon was brought to a close with the Doxology.

TWENTY-FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY, TE KOPURU

Te Kopuru Union celebrated its 21st birthday at a party held in the Mission Hall, when the President, Mrs. H. O. Bickers, presided over a representative gathering. Members from the Darga-