

SOCIAL SERVICE.

WOMEN'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE UNION.

The Annual Meetings of the Women's Total Abstinence Union were held in London on May 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and were very successful.

The Annual Report states that thousands of visits had been paid to families of soldiers and sailors, clubs had been formed for the wives of soldiers and sailors, rooms had been opened for soldiers, assistance had been rendered in Y.M.C.A. canteens, concerts and entertainments for wounded soldiers had been organized, working parties had met for Red Cross and other work, and in many other respects much useful work had been accomplished.

On the evening of May 2nd the Hon. Mrs. Eliot Yorke welcomed the junior delegates at her residence, 17, Curzon Street, when a delightful meeting was held.

The Challenge Vase and Shield for the best year's work were presented to the Wandsworth and Earlsfield and the Brook Green Societies respectively. A number of Docwra Medals and Bars were also presented to members who had gained six new members during the year. Charming music and recitations added to the enjoyment of the guests.

On May 3rd the Prayer Meeting was presided over by Mrs. Castledine (Stratford-on-Avon). This was followed by a Conference, when Mrs. Colman, M.D., presided. Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, of Harrow, gave a powerful address on "Baby Saving," and made an impassioned appeal to each delegate to take up work on behalf of infant life in her own locality. Miss Bushe, of Cookstown (Ireland) read an interesting paper on "The Press as a Means of Promoting Temperance," and Mrs. E. Aisbitt Gibson followed with a very earnest address on the same subject.

The discussion on each paper was animated and useful.

A resolution was passed, expressing hearty thanks to the Editor of the *Spectator*, Sir Loe Strachey, for the articles on Temperance which have recently appeared in the journal, and for the exclusion of drink advertisements during the war.

The following resolution was moved by Miss Hilda Dillon (Chelsea), seconded by Mrs. W. R. Hood (Stamford Hill), and carried:—

"That while fully recognizing the valuable work of various departments of the Government and of the Central Control Board and the effect of its restrictions throughout the scheduled areas, nevertheless, in view of the waste and damage caused to the nation by the drink traffic at a time when its whole resources, moral and material, should be carefully husbanded, this meeting begs the Government to do all in its power still further to curtail the facilities for obtaining alcohol.

"This meeting also calls upon all patriotic citizens to help by precept and example to achieve the ideal of a sober nation."

BOOK OF THE WEEK.

"NOBODY."*

Sally Manvers was absolutely at the end of her tether—a quarter of a dollar being precisely the sum of her entire fortune.

She proceeded to spend this at a quick lunch restaurant. Ham and beans and a napoleon—what's the difference? she bullyragged her conscience. "I might as well be broke as the way I am." It was stiflingly hot in New York, and Sally, on repairing to the rooms which she shared with two other girls, took refuge on the roof garden. Selecting the soundest of the three deck chairs, all maimed, she fell into a sleep of exhaustion, deep and heavy, and was only awakened by a violent thunderstorm. Terrified by the lightning, she strove to re-enter the house by the way she had come, only to find it was fastened. It was a bare chance that the scuttle on some one of the adjacent roofs might at least not be fastened down. Panting and sobbing in her terror, she scrambled over roof after roof, till at last she found shelter. By timid steps, she descended and found herself in a luxuriously appointed, but apparently uninhabited, house. She surmised that it had been left in charge of faithless servants. Sally, who an hour ago, had found life dull, stale and forlorn, was now at the threshold of adventure in plenty. Nothing, indeed, lacked to excite envy in that hungry heart of hers. She found clothes presses containing wardrobes to cope with every emergency; frocks of silk, of lace, of satin, of linen; gowns for dinner, the theatre, the street, the opera. And against all this sybaritic store, the intruder had to set the figure mirrored by a great cheval glass—the counterfeit of a jaded shop girl in shabby, shapeless, sodden garments, her damp, dark hair framing a pinched and haggard face with wistful, careworn eyes. Her heart ached with a re-awakened sense of the cruel unfairness of life. Her flesh crept with the touch of her rain-soaked clothing; and in her thoughts, temptation stirred like a whispering serpent.

Her first move was to take a luxurious bath; and half-an-hour later she was deliciously dressed in garments of soft, white silk. She hummed softly to herself, whose heart had almost forgotten its birthright of song and laughter; never the least pang of conscience flawed the serene surface of her content.

Then very surprising things happened: on her further inspection of the premises, she came upon a young man in unromantic blue serge, whose purpose was apparently as clandestine as her own, for he was engaged in prising open a desk, and next proceeded to drill the safe. Sally, while gazing fascinated, had yet another experience—for a rival burglar of a lower type appeared on the scene, and, but for Sally's inter-

*By Louis Joseph Vance. (Hodder & Stoughton.)

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