

The W.C.T.U.
Ellen K. Simison

In view of the fact that the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union will convene in this city in October next; it may be of interest to the readers of "The Club Magazine" to know something more definite than is generally known of the work and aims of the largest organization in the world composed and conducted exclusively by women.

Long ago the clear sighted woman who founded the organization came to see the correlation and unity of all reforms and gradually the scope of the work has included much more. There is no wrong against which they have not lifted their voices and no good with which the W.C.T.U is not allied.

There are forty departments of work carried on by this body of women and these are grouped under six heads - 1. Organization. 2. Preventive 3. Educational. 4. Evangelistic. 5. Social. 6. Legal.

The first department is intended to systematize the work of the organizers, sending them to the most needy localities to introduce the methods of the organization.

The Preventive group includes the department of "Health and heredity" which aims to teach the best methods of daily living and the laws and force of heredity by the distribution of literature and by addresses given by women physicians, especially to mothers. The value of foods and their scientific preparation is taught - the teaching of eminent physicians who discard alcohol in medicine is presented whenever possible. Under the head of Educational are included, Scientific temperance, the teaching of which is obligatory in all but four states, physical culture, temperance teaching in Sunday Schools, the presentation of the cause to influential bodies, the training of workers, the education of employers to require total abstinence of their employees, especially on railroads, the school savings department which aims to instruct children in practical thrift. This department is in operation in Tacoma and the school children last year deposited hundreds of dollars in the bank.

Kindergartens are also a part of the educational work - The free kindergarten in this city was liberally assisted by the W.C.T.U of this city.

The Evangelistic department aims to train the workers spiritually, to secure the use of unfermented wine at the sacrament, to secure Christian houses for orphans, to carry the gospel to those in abuse houses and prisons and all who are in any way isolated. It seeks to teach the rewards of philosophy and religion for purity of thought and deed and to secure legislation for the protection of the young. It seeks the elevation of the press and to this end scrutinizes the literature on news stands and appeals to the authorities to enforce the laws in regard to the sale of impure reading matter or art.

The social work appeals to the conservative classes, and includes parlor meetings and the distribution of flowers to the sick - accompanied by literature published by the society.

The Legal department aims to secure prohibition by law to secure the ballot for women, to bring about the reign of peace on earth, first by educating the young to despise physical combat and second by petitions to governments. The science of government is studied, voters are appealed to and influenced in every possible way to combat the evil of society at the ballot box. No other method nor means is left untried to bring in the coming of His kingdom and it may be repeated that there is no evil against which the W.C.T.U. does not stand and no good with which it is not allied.

E.K.S.