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Springfield Armory Hill
Woman's Christian
Temperance
Union



Organized June 11, 1888
Incorporated May 8, 1913

Springfield : Massachusetts

"THE Woman's Christian Temperance Union is an organization of Christian Women banded together for the protection of the home, the abolition of the liquor traffic and the triumph of Christ's Golden Rule in custom and in law."

In order to do more efficient service, the work is divided into different departments, each in charge of a superintendent, who if she so desires, has assistants.

In the Armory Hill Union for example, there is a Young Peoples Branch which is mothered by the Union; they elect their own officers and carry on their meetings and social gatherings, making out the reports of their work for the annual conventions.

The work among the children is carried on by means of the Loyal Temperance Legions, several of these Legions having been formed in the different city churches; besides the regular meetings where the children learn to sing and recite temperance songs and selections. Social gatherings, sleigh-rides etc. are arranged for them.

The Sunday School work is in charge of a superintendent who gives out Literature prepared especially for this department.

The Anti-Narcotics department has put into the public schools, blotters prepared for that work, also given out leaflets. These blotters have met with a cordial reception and in this way many children have been reached and we hope much good accomplished.

By the co-operation with Missionary Societies we hope to be able to bring our work before the ladies, so that they may know what we are doing along these lines. If it can be so arranged it is planned to take charge of the program for one meeting. By sending for and distributing the temperance literature, by using in our meetings and by getting the members to subscribe for our State and National papers, we are trying to educate them regarding what is being done in the temperance work both at

home and abroad. The press work helps along these lines, as it lets the people know what we are doing locally.

The Scientific Temperance Instruction in our schools, is receiving more time and being more efficiently done than formally; the Gulick Series of books have proved a great help to this department.

The Evangelistic and Almshouse Branch is reaching many, bringing cheer and comfort, both bodily and spiritually to many who otherwise perhaps might not be reached. The visiting at the Almshouse each week by some of our ladies; the delicacies given the inmates, the reading matter distributed, the words of sympathy and the prayers uttered bring many bright hours into the lives which otherwise might be dull and cheerless. Following along in these lines comes the Prison and Jail work by which it is possible to reach those who have gone wrong and to speak the words which may influence them to try to lead a better life.

By means of the Purity Work we try to say the right word in the right way to the young people, which may help them as they go among those who might try to lead them astray. Also to tell the mothers how they may tell the story of life to their children in such a manner as will always be a protection to them.

Each year, in the fall, barrels are packed with literature, comfort bags are made and filled and sent to the men in the lumber camps and also to the sailors. These bags are made of some strong material and the contents are; bandages of different widths, medicated cotton, salve, sticking plaster, soap, white and black thread, needles, thimble, buttons, buckles, scissors, a Bible or Testament, a W. C. T. U. pledge card and a letter. Where the men are so far from stores as many of them are, these things prove very useful.

Often during the year we meet either in the

afternoon or evening for a social time, music and readings are provided and light refreshments served. We sometimes celebrate in this manner, the birthdays of W. C. T. U. workers. At some of these gatherings articles are brought to be sent to some special department of the State work, as for instance the Frances E. Willard Settlement at Boston or Llewsac Lodge.

We also send letters and signed petitions to our legislators to induce them to use their influence for temperance. The department of Franchise also comes in our work as we believe women should be allowed to vote.

Perhaps one of our best means of reaching the people is through our Flower Mission Work; we try to remember our sick and shut-in members with flowers, a call or the word of sympathy written on a post card. In June we meet and make bouquets which are carried to the public institutions and given to the inmates. At Thanksgiving we provide a dinner, with all the fixings for a table of twelve at the American International College, which is much appreciated by those who partake.

County Conventions are held three times during the year, to which delegates are sent. Speakers from other parts of the State come to us and we discuss ways in which we can do better work as well as report what has been done.

We help send a Missionary to the lumber camps, contribute to the Medical Temperance Hospital, the Frances E. Willard Memorial Fund and to "The Good Will," a home for girls opened during 1912 at 38 Hall Street but now at 52 Wellington Street. "The Good Will" is in charge of a Superintendent and the aim is to reach those who are in need of a home.

In all these ways and many others we try to accomplish as much as we can for God and Home and Every Land.