

"UP AND ON"

A post-war appeal for a revival of Band of Hope work.

By HAROLD BELLMAN,

Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

Honorary Secretary The North-West London Band of Hope Union.

"Foes in plenty we shall meet,
Hearts courageous scorn defeat,
So we press with eager feet
UP, AND ON.

Ever onward to the fight,
Ever upward to the Light,
Ever true to God and Right,—
UP!—AND ON!"

(John Oxenham).

LONDON:

UNITED KINGDOM BAND OF HOPE UNION,

59, 60, OLD BAILEY, E.C.4.

PRICE 2d.

DN - 255240
b/c - 3434112

C [Uni]

"UP AND ON."*

IT is probably true to state that, due partly to War-created conditions, the Band of Hope movement throughout the Country to-day is in a condition which demands the earnest attention of all those who, knowing the unquestioned success of the past, desire to see the cause gaining ground in the future.

A succession of legislative failures before the War may have done much to dishearten the Band of Hope worker. Then followed the fatal days of 1914 and 1915, with the suspension or total collapse of Society after Society, as male workers joined the Colours, leaving the Movement with inexperienced workers to cope with the unparalleled difficulties of darkened streets, commandeered meeting-places, and the like. All honour to the faithful and loyal women who stepped into the breach caused by enlistment, and "carried on" in the face of all these adverse conditions. The Movement owes them gratitude and homage for their service.

If the work we love is to hold its own in the coming days it is clear that an **Immediate Revival is imperative**. The circumstances admit of no delay! The existing Societies must be strengthened and enlarged. Collapsed Societies must be revived. New ground must be broken; new workers impressed, old methods (unless under fierce examination they stand the test) must be

* An address delivered at the Spring Meeting of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Band of Hope Union, Eastleigh, 1919.

remorselessly scrapped, and we must face to-morrow with boldness and courage, and with the determination to place the Band of Hope Banner on heights as yet unwon in the Grand March forward.

In the words of Matthew Arnold :—

“ Ye move through the ranks,
Recall the stragglers, refresh the outworn,
Praise, re-inspire the brave ! . . .
Strengthen the wavering line,
'Stablish, continue our march,
On to the bound of the waste !
On to the city of God.”

SHALL WE THEREFORE RE-EXAMINE OUR FAITH ?

We believe the great physicians in their fight against diseases such as consumption and cancer are confronted with problems which, in the providence of God, seem to baffle all human skill.

We can rejoice that in our fight against Strong Drink we have a sure and certain remedy in total abstinence from Alcohol.

We believe that children born in an alcoholic environment stand, by the laws of heredity, on the brink of a fearful abyss. Total abstinence as the handmaid of religion is not only desirable but a positive essential to such children.

We believe that Alcohol, the racial poison, bars the road to all effective social reform and national upliftment, and that the appalling total of our National Liquor Bill is the measure of the nation's handicap in the international race for commercial supremacy.

We believe that the Liquor traffic has no anchorage in the public conscience; that its evil trail is found in nearly every phase of national life, and that only the ignorance and folly of its dupes, and the selfishness and cupidity of its adherents, have prolonged the existence of a trade so wholly detrimental to the best interests of the Commonwealth.

We believe that a counsel of moderation in the consumption of Alcoholic liquor is akin to the counsel of moderation in drug taking and vice. **In the face of great perils there is only one way that is right, and all other ways are wrong,** and we hold that moderate drinking is a senseless gamble, with life and its prizes as the stake.

We are convinced that the educational path is the surest approach to the final solution of the liquor problem. We see in the Child—young, unspoiled and impressionable—the definite chance of creating a sober and enlightened democracy, and we address ourselves to the task of winning the coming generations for total abstinence.

We are thus charged with the duty of introducing hundreds of thousands of our future citizens to a life of moral effort.

ARE WE WORTHY OF THIS GREAT TRUST ?

Have we realized the responsibilities that are ours ? It becomes the imperative duty of every Band of Hope Worker to examine himself critically at this stage in the history of the Movement.

What is our condition ? Are we alive to the pregnant issues of this campaign ? Do we realise how much the future of England depends on our efforts ? Have we exhausted our fund of knowledge ? Are we creaking and warped ? Are we jogging along in the same old rut ? Remember that a grave is merely a rut with a lid on. Beware lest our ideals become buried therein.

Are we satisfied with our attainments ? If so, we are clearly either on the down grade or suffering from defective vision.

Do we despair of eventual success ? Are we discouraged at the failure of the politician to secure the passage into law of temperance legislation ? Remember that such failure is, in a limited measure, our failure, for we have failed to efficiently train a generation of sober and intelligent voters. The mighty rivers that are harnessed to great national services have their beginnings in a tiny trickle on the hillside. Before we can sweep away the pest of our land we must gain size, impetus, and direction.

If we have failed in the past it is because we have limited our efforts. We have had doubt's bandages

over our vision. We have concentrated on the child of the working classes, and have too often forgotten the child of the middle and upper classes.

We have been passive when we should have been active ; quiet when we should have been clamant ; retiring when we should have been advancing.

We have allowed other and less worthy movements to usurp our proper place in the Religious and Social order.

We want more vim, more publicity, more Divine dissatisfaction, a determination that the goal shall be reached and victory won in our lifetime.

What then is the immediate action required ?

We must verify our formulæ ! Having tested our faith and sounded our convictions, let us take up the work again with an inspired enthusiasm and a clear vision of the Movement as it must develop. We must kindle the embers of progress to scorch the battalions of reaction.

ON WHAT LINES SHALL OUR WORK DEVELOP ?

At the last Census (1911) the total number of children of school age (5 to 15) was 7,484,917. Those actually in attendance at the Day Schools—Elementary, Higher Elementary, and Secondary—totalled to just under 6,000,000. The membership in Bands of Hope and kindred Societies of young abstainers, according to the latest returns, is 3,061,774.

We thus see that about half the children in the schools of the United Kingdom appear to be enrolled as abstainers. Whilst this is highly gratifying, we are not satisfied with half; we aim at bringing **all** under our influence. If the child does not of its own volition attend to receive Temperance teaching, then Temperance teaching must be taken to the child.

Since 1889, the United Kingdom Band of Hope Union, and its auxiliaries, have been sending science lecturers into the Day Schools, to teach the effects of alcohol on the human body. The lessons are not Temperance addresses of the ordinary sort; if they were the Education Authorities would refuse permission for them to be given. They are delivered in the regular science course of hygiene, and teach—with the aid of scientific apparatus, blackboard, and diagrams—that the use of alcohol, even in small quantities, is injurious to the system.

These lectures are given to scholars in the upper Standards, of whom there are about 2,000,000. The average number of children actually in attendance at the lessons has been 330,000 per annum.

It is thus evident that by this means we only touch the fringe of the child-life of the Nation. **We should have as our goal the regular teaching of scientific Temperance lessons in every Day School in the land.** The existing Temperance Syllabus of the Board of Education is a document which marks a step in the right direction, but we must press for its systematic and regular use by teachers who are at once willing and competent to expound its teachings.

This will undoubtedly be best secured by influencing the Teachers, and educating them in the important truths covered by the Syllabus. Meetings of Teachers should be arranged in all populous centres, addressed by speakers of recognised ability. Suitable literature should also be supplied to them. Teaching given as the result of conviction will be far more effective than that given under compulsion, especially when the facts to be taught are contrary to the teacher's own opinions and habits.

Many of the Education Authorities have granted facilities for the School lectures, and as Temperance propagandists we are devoutly thankful for such valuable opportunities of influencing the child-mind in the right direction. At the same time we realise that a vast field remains untouched. Some Education Committees, having decided that the Syllabus may be used in their Schools, consider their duty at an end, and make no effort to see that the teachers avail themselves of the option. By judiciously approaching members privately, and by organising deputations of influential persons, much may be done in promoting the use of the Syllabus. It is important, however, that in dealing with Education Committees and officials, it should be remembered that they cannot identify themselves with any kind of sectional propaganda, and will not be ready to give a hearing to any Temperance organisation **as such. What abstainers can do they must do as citizens and ratepayers**, and what they should aim at securing is the dissemination of scientific knowledge rather than of general Temperance principles.

It may be objected that propaganda of the kind suggested is outside the province of the Band of Hope Worker. In my humble judgment the far-seeing and sincere worker will carry the fight for the child into his municipal and political life. The duty of the Band of Hope Worker is only half done when he has made the child ready for the State. The State has to be made ready for the child. We have been too insular in our work in the past. If we are to win for our Movement the high and lofty place it merits in the National life, we must subordinate all ordinary political considerations, and imitating the theory of "The Enemy" make "**The Child our Politics.**"

THE NORMAL CURRENT WORK.

While we are fighting for adequate teaching in the day schools and training colleges, we cannot afford to neglect our normal current work. In many churches the Band of Hope is merely a name, its control left to the faithful few who carry on despite discouragement and neglect. This must be altered and the Clergy and Ministry taught that nothing short of the best will suffice for the Band of Hope. The best type of worker, the brightest room, ample publicity from the Pulpit—all these are essentials to be pressed for.

The Children of our Band of Hope must understand that they are not abstainers as they are for Oxford or Cambridge on boat race day, when they wear the light or dark blue favours. **They are themselves the Crew** in a race against evil. The fact that the pledge they sign is taken for life and not merely for childhood must be constantly impressed.

Recruiting must be stimulated and every source tapped, with resort to personal visitation.

There is a vast field, only imperfectly worked for Band of Hope purposes, in the Sunday School Movement.

Although the majority of Bands of Hope are nominally connected with Sunday Schools, it can scarcely be said that they influence the bulk of the scholars. Large numbers, for various reasons, do not attend the Band of Hope meetings. Enquiries also show that, even prior to the blight of war, more than 25 per cent. of the Sunday Schools made no organised effort to train the scholars in abstinence principles.

We must diligently seek and obtain a greater degree of co-operation until every Sabbath Scholar is brought under the influence of temperance teaching, and pressed to enrol in the ranks of the Temperance Army.

The weekly programme must be thoughtfully planned with an eye both to the definite Educational phase and also to the recreation side—always giving preference to the former.

We must keep pace with the development of Elementary Education, and offer only mental fare of the best to our members; a lesser standard will provoke the childrens' amusement or contempt.

The members must be taught the exact Science of the total abstinence movement. The casual, indefinite, type of address represents wasted effort and lost opportunity.

THE URGENT PROBLEM OF THE ADOLESCENT MUST ALSO BE FACED.

Let it be frankly admitted that tens of thousands of our members, while early in their teens, drift away

from the Movement at the most critical and formative period of life, mainly because we have failed to provide for their continued education and membership. The temperance Benefit Societies have happily bridged the gap in their own organisations. Are we not capable of stopping the wastage in our own ranks? If the formation of a Senior Society or League of Young Abstainers is impracticable, then in God's name let us devise a method of passing our adolescents forward systematically to Temperance Approved Societies in every case where such a course is practicable. In this way, at least, many thousands now lost would be retained.

I opened by suggesting that the war-created conditions were largely responsible for the reduced efficiency of the Movement to-day. May be the conditions thus brought about are a blessing in disguise. This will be the case if we face our problems frankly and sincerely, ready to admit our weakness, and determined to renew our strength, to make good the wastage, and resolved to address ourselves to building up the fabric of a healthy virile purposeful movement.

Just as the French Revolution gave impetus and direction to the Sunday School Movement, so may this terrible period of destruction and wastage lead to the revival of effort in the Movement that aims at the Salvation of the State through the agency of the Child.

. "You shall see it ended,

This mighty work to which your souls are set ;
 If from beyond—then with the vision splendid,
 You shall smile back and never know regret."

BOOKLETS FOR WORKERS.

“Up and On!”—A post-war Appeal for a revival of Band of Hope work. By Harold Bellman, F.S.S. (Hon. Sec., N.W. London B.H. Union). Every worker should read and circulate this. Price 2d. [Postage $\frac{1}{2}$ d.]

Elements of Success in the Band of Hope.—Seven practical papers by experienced workers, dealing with the Management of Societies, Speaking to Children, Reciting, Singing, &c.—Price 1d. [Postage $\frac{1}{2}$ d.]

Conductors' Difficulties.—Four papers by well-known Band of Hope Union Secretaries.

Lack of Order (J. Barnett). **Lack of Workers** (Ll. M. Cooke).

Lack of Funds (H. Bellman). **Lack of Variety** (W. Machin).

Printed together in clear type, handy size. Price 1d. [Postage $\frac{1}{2}$ d.]

Outdoor Demonstrations.—Suggestions for making them effective. By L. Page (Sec. S. Wales and Monmouthshire B.H. Union). A valuable collection of practical hints, with photo illustrations of striking features in processions, mottoes, and instructions.—Price 1d. net. [Postage $\frac{1}{2}$ d.]

How to Work a Competitive Examination.—A Practical Guide for the use of Unions and Bands of Hope, with specimen circulars, forms, &c. By Charles Wakely. Price 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. net. [Postage $\frac{1}{2}$ d.]

THE BAND OF HOPE CHRONICLE.

If you are an earnest worker, determined to make your Society successful, **you cannot afford** to be without this Magazine. At the small expenditure of **one penny per month** you will secure a veritable **gold mine** of helpful material for the preparation of Addresses and for every branch of your work. If you cannot obtain it readily from your Bookseller, send 1/6 to the **Trade Manager**, for a year's supply by post.

TEMPERANCE SPEAKERS & WORKERS

Should write for Catalogues containing particulars of **Banners & Bannerettes, Lanterns and Slides, Temperance Music, Diagrams and Charts, Recitations, Dialogues, Books for Prizes or Libraries, Medals, Badges and Mounts, Rubber Stamps, Fountain Pens**, and every requisite for Temperance Work.

Write for full particulars to the Trade Manager:

UNITED KINGDOM BAND OF HOPE UNION,

59 & 60, OLD BAILEY, LONDON, E.C. 4.