

A PAGEANT OF MOTHERHOOD.

The Manger Scene With The Child Christ in Tableau

The Church Envoy gives an interesting report of a pageant of Motherhood presented by the branch of the Mothers' Union in the parish of Holy Cross, Dunedin. This pageant was original, the prologue in verse having been written by one of the members and the epilogue by a daughter of the Diocesan past president. Well-known lullabies were sung by members of the Mothers' Union who stood at the back of the stage.

After the announcement of the pageant the choir sang softly Schubert's "Cradle Song." While this was being sung an English mother dressed in a simple gown with a rose at her breast, walked down the centre of the hall to the stage and seated herself on a low stool by an old-fashioned cradle in the centre front of the stage. Gently she rocked the cradle and hummed softly. The choragus then spoke the prologue of the English mother. The choir sang "Golden Slumbers Kiss Your Eyes," an old English lullaby. The music changed and one of the member sang part of "The Skye Boat Song."

The Scottish mother appeared in her short tartan skirt and white blouse, carrying heather and blue-bells. She walked down the length of the hall to the stage, the English mother giving place to her on the low stool by the cradle. The choragus then spoke a eulogy of Scottish motherhood, after which the Scottish mother sang unaccompanied "Wee Willie Winkie." Again the music changed and the choir sang the second verse of "Sweet and Low."

"All Thro' the Night."

The Welsh mother then appeared and took her place by the cradle. After the speech by choragus, one of the members of the choir sang a verse of that beautiful Welsh air, "All Thro' the Night." In the same way came the Irish mother, the Maori mother, the Australian and Canadian mothers.

Some of the lullabies sung were "Danny Boy," "Hine, hine" (a Maori lullaby), "Curly-headed Baby," Brahms' lullaby. One mother knitted, another had some sewing, one picked up scattered toys, and in each case choragus spoke a suitable prologue.

After the Australian mother had appeared the curtain came down for a few minutes. When the curtain rose a tableau of the manger scene was set, the manger with the Christ child in the centre front. Immediately behind sat the Virgin mother wearing her soft blue hood, and behind her two children as angels. The mothers of the various countries were grouped round the Virgin mother, either standing or kneeling.

The choragus—
"But see—there comes from over all the earth

A mighty company to greet you here,
Servants of Christ who dwell in every land,
Proud to uphold His banner in their homes."

The choir then sang "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

The choragus—
"From Her great love and sweet humility

Gain inspiration for the years to be."

While the last words were being said the mothers stretched out their hands towards the manger.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MAORI MISSION HOUSES.

During Advent season the following parishes and schools—St. John's, St. Augustine's, St. Andrew's, Napier, St. Matthew's, Hastings, Hukarere and Girls' High School contributed gifts which were presented by the children at morning services for distribution by mission workers for Maori children in this Diocese.

Letters of grateful thanks have been received from the Superintendents, who have appreciated the gifts, which were better and more useful than in previous years.

The Hawke's Bay Motor Company kindly conveyed the gifts free of charge to the various mission houses.

F. E. DAVIS, Organiser.

The Children's Homes

The work of St. Hilda's and Abbotsford Homes needs very little commendation, because of all the charitable activities carried on by the Diocese this has the widest appeal. But it is the more needful to remind readers that the Church collections on the first Sunday in March are given to these Homes. Last year the collections amounted to £159 5s., but the cost of maintaining the Homes was well over £1000, and is not likely to get any less. There are 25 children at Abbotsford and 24 at St. Hilda's.

NURSE CARTER.

Nurse Carter has resigned her post as matron of St. Mary's Home and will leave at the end of March after completing 25 years of service there. It is a long time, and she will be sorely missed, not only in the Home, but in and about Napier generally. She has done, patiently and untiringly, a great work, and hundreds have reason to be grateful to her. Her friends have known for some time that she was looking forward to retirement and a period of the rest she has so richly earned.

The whole Diocese owes her a debt of gratitude which will not easily be paid. The future of the Home is under consideration. Recent legislation has created difficulties which have to be faced.

The radio has made the world one great neighbourhood; the Golden Rule would make it one great brotherhood.—Charles Vickery.

Calumny is the voice of one who hath neither a good heart nor a good understanding.

"A man who lives right, and is right has more power in his silence than another has by his words. Character is like bells which ring out sweet music and which, when touched accidentally even resound with sweet music."—Phillips Brooks.