



Waiaapu Church Gazette

"No life is lost in the Life invisible."

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The Ideals and Work of the C.E.M.S.

In an address delivered to the members of the Waiaapu Synod at Napier Mr. J. Snell, vice-president of the C.E.M.S., said that he was offering to the clergy of the diocese no easy options. "My advice to those clergy who are looking for quick returns," said Mr. Snell, "is to concentrate on the Mothers' Union or the Girls' Friendly Society

"Any profits made in the C.E.M.S. will have to be ploughed back into the business for the first few years. But I will say this: If any vicar will embark on this work with courage and tenacity he will find it perhaps the most rewarding of all the activities in his parish, and for this reason that every man won from the world to the service of Our Lord and His Church is worth at least ten women for evidential purposes, though for no other."

The speaker conceded that in some respects the past history of the society had been unfortunate. The branches formed had been far too large and the calibre of the members too poor, with the result that within a few months the branch had in many cases become a further burden for the vicar to carry; but under the methods now adopted these weaknesses were avoided.

Small branches were advocated to start with, and the members were encouraged to embark on a course of self-education by means of suitable study books, amongst those mentioned being "God's Plan," by the former Bishop of Albans; "The Ten Commandments in the Twentieth

Century," by John Drewette, and "Thinking Out the Faith," by T. Grigg Smith, formerly Director of Religious Education for the Diocese of Manchester. All these books are supplied with suitable questions for discussion by the branch.

Mr. Snell referred to the urgent need of stepping up the level of both religious knowledge and spiritual zeal amongst the men of the Church, and dealt in rather drastic terms with the existing ignorance prevalent amongst the laity and the unfor-

tunate effect thereby created when the men of the Church found themselves confronted with the enthusiasm and knowledge displayed by members of other religious bodies.

No Apperceptive Hooks

He claimed that in the great majority of cases the result of listening to an unending stream of sermons and addresses over a course of years was practically nil, and urged that any system of adult religious education must be largely self-education of the men themselves under the guidance and with the support of the clergy.

"At the present time the best of Sermons are largely valueless," he said, "because there are no 'apperceptive hooks' in the men's mind on which to hang any shred of religious knowledge." The new methods adopted by the C.E.M.S. will put those 'apperceptive hooks' into the men's minds, with consequent benefit to both clergy and laity."

The speaker claimed that in spite of all difficulties the society had maintained its position, and even made some advance, during the war years. At the last Dominion Conference in Christchurch Archbishop West-Watson had set as the target for the present year the formation of 16 new branches, and it was encouraging to know that nine of such branches had already been formed and that there was every prospect that the total number set as a goal would be exceeded by March 31st next.

His recent visit to the Bay of Plenty district should result in the



Mr. J. Snell