

## New Zealand Mothers' Union.

### OBJECTS:

1. To uphold the sanctity of marriage.
2. To awaken in mothers of all classes a sense of their great responsibility in the training of their boys and girls the future fathers and mothers of the Dominion.
3. To organise in every place a band of mothers, who will unite in prayer, and seek by their own example to lead their families in purity and holiness of life.

### DIOCESAN COUNCIL:

President—Mrs Averill, Bishopscourt.

Secretary & Treasurer—

Mrs F. W. Williams, Hukarere-rd, Napier.

Members of Council—

Mrs Mitford Taylor, Mrs A. W. Lascelles.

### BRANCHES:

Cathedral Parish, Gisborne, Havelock, Rotorua, Te Aute, Waipukurau.

## WAIPUKURAU.

The inaugural meeting of the Waipukurau branch of the Mother's Union took place on Friday, October 7th, at 3 p.m., in St. Mary's Schoolroom, officers being: Branch President, Mrs Gilbertson; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Nicholson; Hon. Sec., Mrs Elvey; Committee, Mesdames Scruby, Slatford, Logan, Reid, and Hopkirk. It was decided that meetings be held on the last Thursday in the month at 2.30 p.m. in the schoolroom. Seventeen members were enrolled, and more names were handed in. It is hoped that the Mother's Union will do a good work amongst the mothers of our Parish, as the meeting was very enthusiastic throughout. After minor discussions *re* arrangements of afternoons, the meeting terminated, to meet again on Thursday, October 27th.

## ROTORUA.

### Anniversary Meeting.

The first anniversary meeting of the local branch of the Mother's Union was held on the afternoon of Friday, October 14th, and was very well attended. The Vicar presided, and was supported by the Rev. F. A. Bennett, the Rev. J. D. McArthur (Methodist), and Dr. Leslie Crooke. The Rev. Thomas Scon (Presbyterian) was unavoidably absent. The secretary (Miss Griffin) read a most encouraging report of the first year's work. Miss Griffin is presently leaving for a short visit to India. During her absence Mrs J. Halkett will act as secretary.

## "WAKE UP, AUSTRALIAN MOTHERS."

### King George's Call to Women.

Address by Bishop of North Queensland.

At his third Accession Court, His Majesty King George V., in reply to an address from the Convocation of York, said "The foundations of national glory are set in the homes of the people. They will only remain unshaken while the family life of our race and nation is strong, simple and pure." The King writes his own speeches it is said. Any one who has heard him speak will believe that he is sincere. And it is common knowledge that he not only believes, but practices what he speaks about the sanctity of family life. But the following paragraph from an American magazine is worth treasuring by every loyal Australian. "Scandal has passed him by," the writer says of our King. "He gives no opening whatever. His home life is as pure, as unpretentious, as much a matter of intimate homely joys as that of any household in the land." This is true, every word of it. And it is worth preserving, because we in Australia are often sceptical about mere talking. We read so many speeches to which Hamlet's cynical definition is applicable. They are "words, words, words," and nothing else. But we are ever ready to appreciate action, and—so at least they said of our soldiers in South Africa—we can follow a leader in whose sincerity we trust. Shall we not follow King George's lead? And by greater care of our family life, preserve and strengthen the foundations of our national glory? A great leader of England's Imperial policy wrote to me the other day saying "The King is already showing that Australia is greatly in his thoughts." Can it fail to strengthen the King's hand to know that Australians are ready to follow his personal leadership in what so truly is for the welfare of the people committed to his charge?

I am not among those who are for ever bewailing the evils of their own times. In the boys and girls of Australia there is some of the best material in the world for British citizenship. The hardships of life, particularly in the Northern bush, develop in them self-reliance, fortitude, and adaptability of character. Children who in England would be in the nursery, here are mustering horses and cattle. But these same boys and girls, from the very freedom of their

lives, are laid open to more temptations than are possible in the sheltered English life. They are often more unfitted to withstand temptations, because the home counts naturally for less under cloudless Southern skies than it does where bleak wet winters drive the children indoors. And when children have seldom submitted their wills to the reason of another, they are not often as men and women capable of directing their wilful passionate lives according to the dictates of their own reason. "The parents are at fault," it will be said. Yes, the parents are often at fault. But why not spend our best endeavors in Australia on the parents of the coming generation? They are children still, merry, self-reliant, troublesome, but they will soon be men and women. And now they can be trained to become in the future good husbands or wives, good fathers or mothers. Without doubt the one person who can best train each child for future responsibility is the mother—and, above all, the mother whose children have not yet grown above her shoulder height. The souls of the children are so tender, it has been said, that they carry for ever the first shadow that falls over them—the shadow of a mother. Then, wake up! Australian mothers, to the country's need. See to it that the "family life of our race and nation is strong, simple and pure." This is a work that none can do so well as you. In many cases none can do it but you. It need not necessitate wandering from house to house. It can be done just where you are at home among your own children. But it must be done in deeds as well as in words. It must be stimulated by self-sacrifice, love, and lofty ideals for your children and for your country.—

*To be continued.*

## First Impressions of an East Coast District.

The Vicar (Mr S. Wilson and their party), arrived at Waipiro Bay on July 6th. They were much indebted to Captain Skinner for unfailing kindness during the voyage, and not least for landing their effects with such promptness, that all their belongings, books, furniture, etc., were under cover at the Vicarage on the day of their arrival. Surely this establishes a record for promptness in landing on this coast? The landing was effected in the most perfect East Coast weather. They had not long to wait, only a very few days, for quite