

days only, died after a day's illness from pneumonia, and on the following Friday, after a very short illness, Rachael Conn, aged five, was taken off by the dreaded diphtheria.

Our little Church looks so nice with its fresh coat of paint. We are hoping that the revenue of the past, or at least of the past and present year, may cover the cost of this and other no less necessary improvements. The interior is having a good oiling at the hands of a body of volunteers. Painters will soon invade the Vicarage, a special canvass having been made for the general improvement of this property.

The settlers in the Te Matai Bush are putting up a hall for school and other purposes, in which no doubt our services will be held in future, an advance, doubtless, but one which will leave to memory those congenial gatherings when about 30 of us assembled in Mrs. Thomas's kitchen, bright and hearty services which have appealed to us all, and which must not be permitted to lose their fervour by removal. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas will retain our gratitude for inaugurating them.

I notice so many correspondents remind subscribers who are backward with their half-crowns. Te Puke circulated 39 copies, all paid for, and several of this year's subscriptions are already to hand. Oh! what a lot of trouble is saved by a little thought!

And the Diocese will be able to meet its Bishop on his return with an honest face, for it has the money to pay his modest stipend.—  
Yours sincerely,  
J. HOBBS.

### Ormondville.

Vicar: Rev. M. Cookerill, B.A.

On Saturday evening, July 13th, in the local Institute, a pleasing function took place, in the form of the presentation by the residents of a handsome lady's handbag, containing a number of sovereigns, to Mr. and Mrs. W. Lucas, as a farewell mark of esteem and goodwill. Mr. Lucas, after many years' residence in the Waikopiro block, is leaving for Mangatera, Mr. Parr, from that place, occupying the property and orchard vacated by Mr. Lucas.

### Rotorua.

Vicar: Ven. Archdeacon Tisdall, M.A.

Curate: Rev. Percy C. Davis.

Our July meeting of the C.E.M.S. was wholly a business meeting, when a large number of matters that had accumulated were disposed of, in particular the settling up of the accounts connected with the Military Institute conducted by us. The expenses came somewhat heavier than we expected, but we are hoping for a liberal contribution from our brethren of the Hamilton branch. One other matter we arranged was the holding of a men's social early in August, and the arrangements for Mr. Watts-Ditchfield's visit were also discussed. Mr. J. O. Fannin, our

Secretary, was appointed delegate to the Diocesan Conference.

The Union monthly meeting was well attended last month. Various short papers on "Forbearance," "Patience," and "Sympathy," were read by members.

The Ladies' Sewing Guild held a successful entertainment in our Parish Hall on the evening of July 17th. Though the weather was awful, yet the hall was packed to see the various tableaux and living pictures that had been arranged by Mrs. F. H. Batten, who has a decided genius in these matters. The financial results were very satisfactory.

Before these notes appear, our annual meeting will have been held. The Vestry's report and the statement of accounts for the past year have been printed and distributed among the Church members. The total receipts amount to £697, of which amount £125 was raised for debt extinction purposes, and of this latter amount over £100 was the result of straight-out giving. The expenditure side shows a credit balance of £21.

The Mamaku statement of accounts shows that £270 has been raised there during the year for Church purposes. Of this amount £119 was expended on the new Church.

Altogether from the financial point of view we have a great deal to be thankful for.

### Gisborne.

Vicar: Rev. J. Dawson Thomas.

Church Extension. — Matters move rapidly in connection with our scheme of extending and building up the Church in the Parish. At Kaiti, on a splendid site about a mile from the centre, a fine Church Hall, seating about 300 people, is building, and should be completed in about two months. Immediately on completion it will be unofficially opened. The formal opening will take place when the Bishop visits us after Synod. We prophesy with confidence that it will speedily become a strong centre of Church life. At S. John's Hall, in the suburb of Mangapapa there is already a fine work being done. Although S. John's has not yet, up to the time of writing, celebrated its first anniversary, the success of the Church there is assured. It is quite inspiring to see Sunday after Sunday a fine band of young working men attending and joining heartily in the services. At the wish of the people there, the Vicar has arranged to hold a regular Sunday morning service. Some handsome and useful gifts have been made to S. John's, and an offer has been made by some of the men to line the hall with oiled rimu. We hope soon to be able to report that at Te Hapara, another rising suburb, a section of land will be secured for Church purposes. Regular Sunday evening services are conducted in the school-room in this suburb, but we shall not be satisfied until we have a

building of our own for social gatherings as well as services.

The New Parish Church.—Our big Central Parish Church is slowly but surely raising itself. A portion of the roof is already in position. We are able to see now what a truly magnificent site we have for our centre. The Church itself, although built in severely plain Gothic lines, has a beauty and a dignity all its own. When finished, it will be a very handsome building.

A Spring Carnival.—A very large and representative committee is hard at work preparing for a carnival to be held in the Theatre in September, in aid of the Parish Church Building Fund. The enthusiasm and hard work that are already being put into the matter is very heartening. Nothing on so large a scale for helping the Church has been attempted in the Parish heretofore. There is nothing like a big Church building venture to bring out latent enthusiasm.

The C.E.M.S.—Our branch keeps pegging away at its appointed tasks. Whilst it is only beginning to "feel its feet" in the Parish, the Society is doing really capital work. A "free and easy" social for homeless and friendless seamen and others is held every week. The members take regular Sunday duty at the Church doors, welcoming strangers and finding them a seat and a book. Our indefatigable Secretary has for some time been busy getting men enrolled on the membership roll. He is also endeavouring to get the name and address of every man attending the Church. Men are notoriously shy in revealing their identity, but it is striking what a little tact and persuasion can do. To our C.E.M.S. belongs the credit of the very large congregation of men that assemblies on Sunday evenings. So many have frankly stated that they come because there is always a handshake and friendly welcome to be met with at the door. We would not be without our Men's Society for wealth untold.

S. Oswald's Guild.—The enthusiasm of our C.E.M.S. is apparently infectious. A large band of boys in their early teens asked to be allowed to do something. We formed a branch of the above Guild, and set the boys the task of collecting for materials and games for their club room. It was really quite remarkable how they took up the thankless task of collecting money, and also the success they achieved. The Guild will be a fine feeder for the C.E.M.S.

Assistant Curate.—There is as yet no word whatever as to the coming from England of our promised assistant priest. The delay is something of a tax on our patience, but we feel confident that ere long an assistant will be forthcoming from somewhere. We are fortunate in having such good friends as the Rev. F. W. Chatterton and the Rev. M. W. Butterfield, who take regular Sunday duty. Our lay readers also are a real source of strength to us.