

## Mothers' Union.

### Diocesan Festival.

The yearly Festival of the Mothers' Union was held in conjunction with the G.F.S. on Wednesday, Nov. 6th. In spite of a very showery day, numbers came from many branches up the line by train, and with the Napier branches assembled at the Cathedral, where, after prayers, Canon Garland, of the Bible in State Schools League, gave an address, saying that the objects of the League would be so enormously aided by the mothers of New Zealand that it was as if God would not work without the co-operation of His earthly fellow-workers—that surely the women of the M.U. would not fail to rise up and help the children of New Zealand to their heritage of the Bible, now denied to them in the day schools, when they realised that if they did not aid, they were preventing God Himself in His own work. We dare not fight against God. After the address, all proceeded up to Bishops Court, where the Bishop and Mrs. Averill gave a most kindly welcome and afternoon tea. About 300 altogether were present.

### Reports of Branches.

#### CATHEDRAL BRANCH.

There have been very successful meetings of this Branch this past year, the attendance being good, and addresses helpful, particularly one by Mrs. Munroe on "Work among the Maoris," and one by Mrs. Herbert Williams on "Sympathy between Husbands and Wives." The number of members is about 65, and several have left the district.

A. RUDDOCK,  
Cathedral Secretary.

#### HASTINGS BRANCH.

This Union still keeps up the monthly meeting. The Mothers' Union Intercession paper is being used at the service in Church. Interesting papers have been read on "Women's Work To-day" and "Women's Work Among the Maoris." Our mothers are also interesting themselves in Miss St. Hill's work at Stratford, London, and it is hoped to be able to send an annual contribution to that work.

The Union has also started a Sewing Guild, as they felt that much useful work could be done to

assist parish organisations. At their stall in the Sale of Work they realised £50.

The Union has decided to give something towards the furnishings of the new portion of the Church, and the Sewing Guild will materially assist towards this.

Several new members have been admitted this past year, though some of the members are not regular at services or meetings. Yet the Union as a whole is exercising a wide influence in this district, and has done much to bring together those who otherwise would never meet. On the whole we can congratulate ourselves on having had a prosperous year.

EDITH A. MILLER,  
Hon. Secretary.

#### HAVELOCK BRANCH.

The Mothers' Union in Havelock has met regularly twice a month during the winter. The first Thursday in the month service was held in the Church, when addresses were given by the Vicar on "The Virgin Mary," "The Marriage Customs in the East," "The Holy Communion," and "The Creeds." Mr. Brocklehurst addressed us once in Church on the subject of "Prayer." And on October 3rd the Bishop gave us an address on "Woman's Influence in the World," which was much appreciated by the mothers, also members of Hastings and other places who were invited to be present that day.

The third Thursday of each month the Union met in the Schoolroom, when addresses were given by the Vicar on several Thursdays. Mr. Mutter gave an address on "The Material Tendencies of the Age, and the means Mothers can take to check it in their Children and Homes." Mrs. Lewis came over from Hastings and read an address on "Woman's Work," which was discussed at some length. On a later day Miss Rose Gardiner sent in a paper on the same subject, and Mrs. Reginald Gardiner also read a paper on the same subject. During the session 6 new members have been admitted to the Union, which has now 34 members and 4 associates. The attendance has been fairly good, and the members seem much interested in the addresses.

A new Council was elected at the beginning of the season, consisting of Mrs. FitzRoy (President), Mesdames Smart and Rich,

and Miss Gardiner (members), and Mrs. Crosse (Secretary and Treasurer). Mrs. Rich acted as Secretary and Treasurer for two months while Mrs. Crosse was away. I have collected all the subscriptions except 5. Three of these are members who for various reasons have not attended any meetings this year.

D. A. T. CROSSE.

#### GISBORNE BRANCH.

We have pleasure in reporting that the Gisborne Branch of the Mothers' Union is making steady progress, and the number of members is increasing. The monthly meetings are always well attended, and our members include many of the real working classes, who are rather difficult to secure here. Their lives are so very busy and tiring, they seem to shrink from making any outside efforts, and the shop people cannot leave their businesses in very many cases. Still, we have met with success fairly frequently, and we are sure the Union has taken a firm hold on the women enrolled. Our members now number 95.

ANNIE DE LAUTOUR,  
President.

L. A. HENDERSON,  
Secretary.

#### TE AUTE BRANCH.

The monthly meetings were begun on April 3rd, and have been held each month since.

The average attendance has been 8 to 12 members.

One afternoon special papers were read, and information given on the Bible in Schools work.

The other afternoons the devotional part of the meeting was followed by reading of a lighter kind and afternoon tea. We have also sold several Bibles to members during the year.

Two new members are attending the meetings, and will be admitted when it is possible.

LUCY F. WARREN,  
Secretary.

Te Aute, Oct. 14, 1912.

#### WAIPUKURAU BRANCH.

During the year our membership has remained about the same. We have quite a number of members (considering the size of our town), but the attendance is generally small. There are no arrears, and