

letter a short prayer of which 200,000 copies have been given to the soldiers, on cards small enough to be placed in their caps. The prayer adapted for our use will run thus,—
May I ask for its large use?—

Almighty and Most Merciful Father,
Watch over our defenders;
Forgive them their sins;
Grant them Thy Grace;
Give them Thy Power;
For Jesus Christ's Sake; Amen.

I should like to close this letter with the expression of very sincere thanks to my kind Hastings friends, who made my short visit to old scenes such a joy to me.

Yours very sincerely,

J. HOBBS.

Otane-cum-Pukehou, cum-Elsthorpe.

Vicar: Rev. G. W. Davidson.

On Synod Sunday the parish had the welcome change of a town clergyman in the person of the Rev. O. Dean, of Port Ahuriri. The visitor was kindly motored to Elsthorpe and back by Mr John Howard who is always so ready to help the Vicar in this way besides taking the Vicarage party trips from time to time.

Deaconess Esther Brand has paid two visits to the parish and has won many sympathisers and helpers in her social and rescue work schemes now being started in Napier. Pukehou-Te Aute Mothers' Union are preparing a gift afternoon for the new Deaconess Home. Elsthorpe talks of a "dry stores afternoon," and Otane will do something of the same kind or join with Pukehou-Te Aute. Mrs Gordon Williams is our representative on the Central Committee, Mrs Keith most generously resigning in her favour.

A meeting in connection with the Bible in Schools' League was held, and the Vicar is to try and arrange a combined public meeting if possible.

War Intercessions are held regularly at the different centres, one every week being arranged for Te Aute each Friday through the kindness of the Rev. J. A. McNickle and Rev. A. Williams. All these services are really well attended.

Our Verger, Mr Megson, has been obliged to resign his Vergership. We are all sorry that falling health is the cause, but when one has reached the age of 84, it is time to rest. His wife, aged 80, has quite chirped up again after her illness, and is "at it again" with her missionary box. The old one is so worn out that the Vicar has procured a new one for her.

We have to record the removal of a very useful family from Elsthorpe centre—the Smith family. Mrs Smith has been our organist, and she and her husband and his brother were regular communicants, and in every way did all they could for Christ

and His Church at Elsthorpe. The ladies of the district of Elsthorpe made her a presentation. The Vicar also gave the boys a present. Miss Gilmour has taken over the duties of organist, and glad we are that she so kindly comes the long distance regularly. Miss Saxton also acts when required. We shall all be glad to hear good things of Mr and Mrs Smith in their new life at Pahiatua.

We have to record the death of old Mrs Brock, who for many years was a regular communicant and worker at Otane, and who of late years has been somewhat of an invalid. Mr Cheer also has been called to his rest. Reference was made to both at the following Sunday services.

Puketapu.

Vicar: Rev. Percy Davis.

A meeting was held at the Vicarage Puketapu, on the afternoon of Friday, October 2nd., on behalf of the Women's Social Work.

Deaconess Esther Brand gave a short account of the Order of Deaconesses in the Primitive Church. It had arisen to meet the needs of the community, and for the same reason the office had been revived in the English Church just over fifty years ago, when Bishop Tait ordained Elizabeth Ferard—the foundress of the West London Deaconesses' Institution. Since then the number of Deaconesses had been slowly but steadily increasing, and it was hoped that the movement would take root in this Diocese, and that there would be established before long a centre of training for Church workers and Deaconesses. She then spoke of the Preventive and Rescue Work which was being organised, and asked for support for the refuge which would be opened in Napier in a few months. Mrs Frank Hutchinson, jun., the representative for the district, would be glad to receive subscriptions, or promises of gifts towards the furnishing of the house.

Havelock-cum-Clive.

Vicar: Rev. J. A. Lush, B.A.

Curate: Rev. Lionel Mackay, B.A.

The Patronal Festival of S. Luke's was kept on October 18th. There was a Choral Celebration of the Holy Eucharist at eleven o'clock, at which service the preacher was the Bishop of the Diocese. The preacher at the evening service was the Rev. Canon Mayne. There was a retiring offertory during the day for the Plunket Society, when about £3 was collected in the boxes at the door, to be devoted to this object.

There was a very good attendance at the last meeting of the Mothers' Union when Mrs Munro gave an interesting talk on Maori work. At the meeting on November 5th, Dea-

coness Brand will be present to speak on the Social Work of the Diocese. All who are interested are invited to attend.

The usual meetings of the C.E.M.S. were held during the month for Bible study and to discuss Mahomedanism. At the next meeting on November 3rd Mr Tanner will speak on evolution, which will be followed by the usual discussion.

There has been a good attendance at the last two meetings of the S. Oswald's Guild, which is the Junior Branch of the C.E.M.S. George McKeesick has been appointed Secretary.

A meeting of the Vestry was held during the month and as a result the greater part of the Vicarage paddock has been let for grazing, while the Vicarage has been improved by a new window and alterations to the kitchen range.

The rite of Confirmation was administered at S. Mark's, Clive on Tuesday, October 13th, when twelve candidates were presented to the Bishop for the laying on of hands. We trust that we shall see many more coming forward to take their part in the active work of the Church. After the service a supper was provided at the hall by the ladies' committee, to which a number of the parishioners came to take the opportunity of meeting the Bishop. It is hoped that later on we may have a social to welcome the Bishop and Mrs Sedgwick, and that we may be able then to let him know something more of the work of the Church in Clive.

Taradale.

Vicar: Rev. A. P. Clarke.

Most of the subscribers to the Church "Gazette" have paid up, but there are still a few from whom the Vicar would be glad to hear.

The Rev. Robinson in the morning and the Rev. G. D. Wilson in the evening, occupied the pulpit in All Saints' Church on Synod Sunday, each of them preaching helpful sermons. The Vicar and parishioners are very grateful to these two clergymen for denying themselves a rest from preaching.

Our Annual Missionary Sale of Work was held in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, October 8th, and proved a marked success. Months of self-denying preparation produced splendid results. The various helpers worked with a will and most harmoniously.

It is gratifying that notwithstanding so many pressing demands upon the purse at the present time God's work has not been allowed to suffer.

The Vicar is most thankful that a permanent teaching staff has now been obtained for the Greenmeadows Sunday School, and that the School continues to prosper.