



The

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Social Work.

S. Mary's Home, Napier.

President and Visitor: The Right Rev. the Bishop.

Trustees: The Bishop, Archdeacon D. Ruddock, Archdeacon H. W. Williams, Canon Mayne, Dr. E. A. W. Henley, Mr F. W. Williams, Mr J. H. Sheath.

House Committee: Archdeacon Ruddock, Canon Mayne, Dr. Henley, Mr T. B. Bear (Treasurer), Mrs Sedgwick, Mrs Ruddock, Mrs Thorp, Mrs Murdoch, Mrs T. H. Williams, Mrs Richmond, Deaconess Esther Brand (Secretary).

Treasurer: Mr Bruce Bear.

Superintendent and Organising Secretary: Deaconess Esther Brand.

Central Committee: President, the Bishop; Secretary, Deaconess Esther Brand.

Delegates: Mrs Henley (Cathedral Parish), Mrs Thorp (S. Augustine's), Mrs W. J. Knight (Dannevirke), Mrs Fowler (Hastings), Mrs Richmond (Havelock North), Mrs Kinross White (Ormondville), Mrs Gordon Williams (Otane), Mrs Sheath (Patutahi), Mrs F. Hutchinson, jun. (Puketapu), Mrs C. H. Maclean (Rotorua), Miss Dunnaue (Taradale), Mrs Sedgwick (Takapanu), Mrs F. W. Williams (Tolaga Bay), Mrs Harding (Waipukurau), Miss E. Williams (Waipiro Bay), Mrs Ruddock (Weber), Mrs J. H. Williams (Woodville), Miss Johnson (Wai-pawa), and Mrs Munro.

Social Work.

The annual meeting of the Central Committee for the Diocesan Social Work was held at S. Mary's

Home, Napier, on Tuesday, June 6th, at 2.30 p.m.

Present: The Bishop (in the chair), Archdeacon Ruddock, Deaconess Esther, and the following ladies representing Parochial Committees—Mrs Henley, Mrs Thorp, Mrs Fowler, Mrs Lush, Mrs C. H. Maclean, Mrs Ruddock, Mrs Sedgwick, Mrs Gordon Williams, Miss Edith Williams, and Mrs Kinross White.

The report and balance sheet were read and adopted.

Archdeacon Ruddock explained with regard to the "Nursery" mentioned in the report, that the scheme had been placed before the Trustees, and had their full sympathy and approval, but that they could not undertake any more building until the present building debt was cleared off. Mrs Henley proposed that a separate fund be started called "S. Mary's Nursery Fund," for which subscriptions might be earmarked and that the money should be invested in the Post Office Savings Bank.

The proposal was carried unanimously and several subscriptions promised on the spot.

The Nursery, when built and furnished, will be self-supporting, as the mothers pay 10/- a week for their babies. It will serve a two-fold purpose: (1) to give the little ones, by careful training and right feeding, "a good start in life; (2) to keep in constant touch with the mothers for two or three years after they leave the Home. It will not be possible or desirable to keep all the babies, but in some cases it will be the greatest possible help.

The ladies on the House Committee were re-elected by the meeting, as also the former trustees and treasurer by the Board of Trustees,

Report of S. Mary's Home from May, 1915-1916.

Since the opening of the Home on May 31st, 1915, six girls have come under our care, five from different parts of the Diocese, one from outside. Two of these have now gone out again into the world, and two will be leaving shortly. With regard to all we have cause for thankfulness; only those who really know them can tell what an influence on their character those quiet months have had. No more can be said in a report, but the fact must be noted, for it is the main object of our work. One was confirmed in December, and one privately before Easter by Bishop Williams, in the absence of the Bishop of the Diocese.

At present we have in the Home six babies. The sunny verandah is a splendid day nursery in fine weather, and they thrive in the open air, but if we are to continue to keep some of the children when their mothers leave, it will be absolutely necessary to have a nursery built. This is the direction in which we see most need of development; good foster mothers are difficult to find and by keeping the children for a year or two we remain in close touch with their mothers who pay for their maintenance and come constantly to see them. As soon as the existing debt on the building can be cleared off, we hope to take this step forward. Meanwhile we want the scheme to be known, for it will surely appeal to those who have the welfare of the little ones at heart. It is satisfactory to record that in most of the cases the fathers of the children are being made to contribute, and for this we owe many thanks to our honorary solicitor, Mr Ivan Logan.