

vices at Rakauoroa. We shall miss them very much, but we shall always remember them, and trust they will be happy in Gisborne.

Otoko.—This is quite a large settlement and the services ought to be good. There was a good congregation at the first service taken by the new Vicar, made up largely of the members of the different denominations, indeed, if it were not for them, there would sometimes be hardly any service at all. We have a good many Church of England people here, but there are very few communicants. It is only by obeying our Saviour's command, "Do this in remembrance of Me," that we can hope for life in our Church work. We trust that many of our own people will offer themselves for Confirmation. The Vicar has already enjoyed the kind hospitality of Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs MacLean, and also Mrs Bilham. We hope soon to have a Church committee in Otoko for helping forward everything in connection with our work. Services have been arranged as follows:—First Sunday in month: Sunday School 10 a.m., Matins 11 a.m., Holy Communion 12; Third Sunday in month, Sunday School 3.30 p.m., Evensong 7 p.m.

Whakarau.—This is quite a small settlement, but there are a few families who are a great help to our work, and we have arranged to have a monthly afternoon service at 2.30 on the second Sunday in the month.

Motu.—Here we have what will some day turn out to be a pleasure and health resort. Even now Mr Caulton's large new hotel is nearly always full up. Thanks to Mrs Ruby we have a bright hearty service here in the Schoolroom, but for the size of the place and the number of visitors staying there, Church attendance is very bad. Will Church people who are visiting Motu and may chance to read these lines, try and make a point of attending our services when we have them. We need a set of Communion linen at Motu; Miss Jennings has promised to work it if someone will be kind enough to present the linen.

Toa Toa.—This is a thriving dairying settlement between Opotiki and Motu. The Vicar went through there recently via Marumoko and Whitikau. Mr and Mrs Hening received him very hospitably and Mr Hening kindly drove him round and introduced him to the settlers. Mr and Mrs Pierrepont were kind enough to put him up for the night. There are quite a number of Church families here, and there ought really to be regular services. For the present, however, we hope to have a service in the morning of the fifth Sunday when it occurs. This will mean only once a quarter, but it will be a start.

Parishioners' Meeting.—The general meeting of parishioners was held on Thursday, February 10th, in the Matawai Hall. Unfortunately, owing to the races the train was late, and Mr Shaw, of Otoko, was unable to get up. Otherwise we had a representative meeting. The Vicar did not elect a warden. Mr C. C. Ruby, of Motu, was elected people's Church warden, and the following are the members of the Vestry: Messrs J. J. Emmerson (hon. sec.), F. H. Burke, E. H. Morton, O. Richmond (Motu), N. Shaw (Otoko). It was decided not to go into the matter of Church building for the time being, but to spend up to £55 in the erection of a cottage for the Vicar. The meeting was quite of the opinion that £50 a year or more could be raised towards the General Church Fund in annual subscriptions, about £15 being already promised in the room.

Visit of Rev. J. W. Robinson.—The Rev. J. W. Robinson, who was for two years stationed at Matawai, has been visiting the district. His many friends up here were glad to have this opportunity of meeting him again. He took the service at Matawai on Sunday evening, January 13th, and had a very good congregation.

Tauranga.

Vicar: Rev. Eric D. Rice, M.A.
Lay Readers: Messrs. C. J. Butcher,
T. R. Philpotts and F. A. Stevens.

The Sunday School prize-giving took place in the Parish Hall on February 16th, when the children had a very jolly evening with musical items, games and supper.

On Sunday morning, February 13, His Excellency the Governor and Lady Liverpool and suite attended service in Tauranga; the S. S. "Tutanekai" was kept in harbour from Saturday evening until midday on Sunday to enable him to do this. It is very gratifying to find those in the highest position in the land going to such trouble to keep Sunday holy, and to show publicly their recognition of the duty of worship to God.

The Harvest Festivals were to be held on Sexagesima Sunday, both at Tauranga and Gate Pa.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be a Celebration of Holy Communion at 6.45 a.m., and Communion Service with address at 7.30 p.m. A course of addresses will be given at regular week-night services during Lent, and there will be also children's services on Friday afternoons at a quarter to four. The children's self-denial offerings will, as usual, be given to the Church of England Waifs and Strays' Society, London.

The Vicar is holding Confirmation classes in town, at Gate Pa, and at Oropi, in preparation for the next visit of the Bishop on March 26th.

Opotiki.

Vicar: Rev. Thomas Fisher.

Since last issue of the "Gazette," we have spent our Christmas for 1915, and its use is recorded for each Church member; there are many difficulties and calls to pleasure at this season and in this country, but all their use is enriched by an honest response to the call of Christ's Holy Church to acknowledge God in prayer and sacrament. Probably some of us having got away from home for a few days made our Christmas Communion at other Churches. We had a blessed time and much spiritual refreshment.

The undying story of the Divine Childhood came back with unabated freshness, and especially evoked earnest gratitude this time as we thought of the many Christian lands which are denied the material comfort and peace we enjoy. May God help us to be worthy of the sad tale of cost which has been so faithfully paid out. To the many bereaved souls we would give the words of Divine compassion granted to Moses the much-tried and faithful servant of God: "My Presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."

The appearance of the Chancel of the Church is much improved by the installation of the new festal hangings of white linen; their beauty is somewhat missed in the morning hours by the excessive amount of light which streams through the middle east window, to the dazzling of many worshippers. May some devout person be moved to present a coloured window of stained glass, ere long, which will remedy this defect.

The Vicar received a very beautiful present to the Church from Miss Jessie Simpson, a friend in London, of a "fair linen cloth" for the Altar, made specially and embroidered by her own hand. Miss Simpson most kindly also sent a contribution to be used at the Vicar's discretion, which will be expended in a few skilled alterations, which can be made without touching the shape and appearance of the present Altar, so lovingly made by the Rev. F. W. Martin, a previous Vicar of Opotiki. This will give the celebrating minister greater freedom in his movements at the solemn service.

The last Sunday of the old year closed with a sad fatality in the deaths of Elder Graham and James Tressider, both men esteemed in the district. Together they died, and together they were laid to rest in the presence of many sympathisers and friends.

A special meeting of parishioners, held on January 17th, elected two gentlemen to fill vacancies—Messrs Wise and W. Reece;