

John's Dorcas Society for the winter 1916, the committee are gratified to note that each season is marked by increased usefulness in this branch of Church work. Our membership has increased, showing a keener interest in the society and consequently more garments have been made and distributed. The attendance has been good, and all have worked in harmony, with one object in view, that of the welfare of the society. The receipts totalled £24 15s 2d including a balance of 10s 2½d from last year, and £12 from the Foster Fund. The expenditure amounted to £23 19s including £2 towards the renovation of the rooms in which meetings are held, leaving a balance of 15s 4½d with which to commence the year's work.

The first meeting was held on May 2nd, and work continued steadily on until Sept. 19th. We have to report the removal to Wellington of one of our most enthusiastic members, Mrs Burdekin, and as a token of appreciation of her work whilst in our midst, the members presented her with a travelling clock; she carries with her the best wishes of all members of the society. The thanks of the society are due to the Foster Fund Trustees for their annual grant, to Mesdames Miller, Lascelles, and Duncan for the cutting out of garments, and to the ladies who kindly provided afternoon tea.

The Secretary reports having written to Trustees of Foster Fund re an additional grant. A reply was received stating should the society become short of funds during the year, the trustees were prepared to consider further application for an increased grant. During the year 250 garments were made and distributed.

In conclusion the committee appeal to all for hearty co-operation in the work, as, on account of the war and consequent high cost of living, many find it difficult to procure even the necessary clothing, and it is anticipated that the coming winter will bring with it many urgent calls for our help. We feel that our mission to help others will call for self-denying service, and in return will reap a harvest of grateful thanks from the many who have been helped and comforted."

FLORENCE ASHCROFT,
Hon. Sec. and Treas.

S. Augustine's, Napier.

Vicar: Rev. Eric D. Rice, M.A.

The Ascension Day Services were better attended than last year, but there are still a good many who do not realise the importance of this beautiful Festival, when the faithful come to see their best Friend as He leaves the world, and to rejoice in His triumph and coronation. The Bishop preached an inspiring sermon at the evening service which was fully choral.

The Rev. John Hobbs has given two splendid addresses during the month, one to the Mothers' Union on "A mother's attitude to her son," and to the G.F.S. on "A woman from a man's point of view." At the latter meeting many members showed their lack of appreciation by their absence, but they missed a most enjoyable evening.

Mr Hobbs has also been a great help to our C.E.M.S. in the enthusiastic way he has undertaken his membership. The Society made its corporate communion at 8 a.m. on the Sunday after Ascension.

On April 28th our G.F.S. took charge of the Napier Red Cross Shop and cleared the very creditable amount of £62. Miss White was again indefatigable.

We gladly welcome the Misses Ellery, Turville and Taggart on our Sunday School teaching staff. We now want three men to complete the staff. A very enjoyable evening was spent in April at the Sunday School Prize-giving, when the scholars provided a most creditable programme. We were very glad to see so many parents present. Miss Faulknor presented the prizes to the infants, and Mrs Rice to the seniors. Only three scholars got full marks for the year, viz., Doris Turville, Effie Taylor and Meta Stephens.

A Jumble Sale will be held by the G.F.S. on Wednesday, June 20th, for which we appeal for support. The proceeds will go towards paying the balance of £15 on the electric lighting of the Church, and other old accounts which have been overlooked somehow for a year or more.

The financial year closes at the end of June, and we shall need to give liberally during the month in order to catch up the £25, which is our overdraft at present. With prayer and everyone doing what they can, there will be no doubt about the result.

Owing to the uncertainty of getting the *Dawn of Day* from England, it will not be enclosed in the GAZETTE during the year beginning July; the subscriptions therefore will be reduced from 3/- to 2/-. All outstanding subscriptions should be paid in June.

Puketapu.

Vicar: Rev. M. W. Butterfield, B.A., B.D.

Parishioners are reminded of the change in our Service list. In future the Puketapu Sundays will be the second Sunday in the month and the evening of the fourth. The first Sunday will be given to Puketitiri, Patoka and Rissington, the third Sunday to Matapiro, Whakamarumaru and Whanawhana, and the fourth Sunday morning and afternoons to Mangawhare and Sherendon.

A few GAZETTE subscriptions have not yet been collected, the Vicar will collect from subscribers whom he can see personally, will others please forward subscriptions and donations by post.

The Vicar is grateful to a parishioner who is always coming to his assistance but who wishes to be anonymous for a generous donation towards prizes for the Puketapu Religious Instruction Class that is held every Wednesday morning in the Puketapu Public School.

Mr R. W. Simpson is to visit this Parish on June 23rd on behalf of the Military Affairs Committee. We hope he will receive substantial assistance towards the funds for our Chaplains' work in the Camps and at the Front. Some of our parishioners are among the most generous in New Zealand where war funds are concerned; this one is of the first importance, and is moreover an effort of our own Church.

Opotiki.

Vicar: Rev. Thomas Fisher.

Harvest Festival held on April 29th was favoured with fair weather and good attendances. The Harvest Social and Sale of Gifts took place on Tuesday, May 1st, and was a success, both in its carrying out and in results.

The first Winter Social was held on May 17th, and the interest and attendance augur well for the series. We missed many faces, and our thoughts were with them many a time; several new neighbours took active part, Mrs Wilson repeating her kindness of last year, by presiding at the piano.

The Boy Scouts are now settling down to work under Mr Moffitt's direction, and the boys say they have good times, on their outdoor days particularly.

It is very gratifying that a desire has been expressed to revive the Girls' Friendly Society, Opotiki Branch; a good start was made at the first meeting, and many more promised to attend the Tuesday evening meetings.

The Services have been much affected by the many wet Sundays we have had, some are careful enough to count them; let us hope the remaining months of Winter will make amends.

The Opotiki parishioners will be interested to know that by the kindly help of Archdeacon Tuke who comes here for the Whitsunday Services, the Vicar of Opotiki will be able to shew our sympathetic interest in the "Mission" which commences on that Sunday at Whakatane, by being present for its opening services. Let us not forget to pray for much grace and blessing to them.

The Vestry are now able to report the sale of the Vicarage house and land over the Obara River; this sets the Parish free to carry out its plan of re-erecting a satisfactory Vicarage on the old Mission Land restored to us by Parliament last July. Pending this re-building the Vicar will occupy Mr George Shalfoon's house in St. John Street, the telephone being connected for the time necessary.

There is much reason for gratification at this being accomplished, and it is the earnest hope of all concerned that the early Summer will find the long borne burden of trying to secure a suitable house and land in the midst of the parishioners quite at an end, and in a few years the debt quite extinguished.

Tauranga.

Vicar: Archdeacon Tuke.

Lay Readers: Messrs. C. J. Butcher,
F. A. Stevens.

Before this issue is circulated I am hoping to visit Opotiki and Whakatane. Archdeacon Ruddock very kindly consented to take my Whit-Sunday Services to set me free for this visit. This will enable me to take the Services on Whit-Sunday at Opotiki for the Vicar, who will be able then to attend the Mission at Whakatane, where I hope also to spend a day or two on the return journey. The Mission is being taken by the Rev. C. G. Mutter. We pray that much blessing may attend it.

Our annual Confirmation will be held on