

dation for 500 men, and yet it was by no means large enough for the calls upon it. Afterwards it was moved to El Ferdan, and at the present time is being used as a Garrison Church at Kantara, although retaining still the recreative side of its purpose. I have said it was not nearly large enough. Mr Wyatt tells me it was the only building of its kind in the neighbourhood, and was requisitioned for all sorts of purposes. Under the auspices of the Church Army, evening prayers were said daily, whilst at given periods celebrations of the Holy Eucharist were given. These were well attended by troops from the various divisions.

Mr Wyatt told me that on Sundays as many as thirteen services were held in the Hut in one day, of which six were C. of E. The others were held by other denominations. These good folk had no place of their own, and as the Bournemouth Hut was the only building, and the broiling sun made open-air services an impossibility, the C. of E. authorities lent the Hut to the others.

Some idea of the extent to which the Hut was used may be gathered from the fact that between 1,500 and 2,000 letters were written and posted in the Hut letterbox a day! The lending library consisted of 2,000 volumes of all the popular authors, and was extensively used. Every night the Hut was crowded, so much so that when a concert was given it was necessary to give three performances before all the crowd could be accommodated. It is also interesting to note that whilst Mr Wyatt was in charge three Confirmation services were held by the Bishop of Jerusalem. General officers, staff officers, regimental officers, were frequent visitors to the Hut, and many of these left behind them records of their appreciation. The Chaplains to the Forces were also generous in their praise.

One Chaplain wrote:—We owe a great debt to the Bournemouth Hut at Suez, which extended liberal hospitality to our C.E.M.S. gatherings and to Confirmation candidates. . . . It can truly be said that the presence of the Church Army in our midst, by contributing so largely to the means at our disposal, doubled the usefulness of the Chaplain's work.

A Brigadier-General wrote: I had some experience of their work in Suez, where the Bournemouth Hut was of the very greatest value to men in a place singularly devoid of healthy places of pastime and amusement.

The Hut and all that it afforded was much appreciated by the men, as its crowded appearance shows. Mr. Wyatt, who was in charge, was always most willing to place the Hut at disposal for any special purpose, such as concerts or lectures—in fact, his effort was to make it of general use and of real benefit to the soldiers. It was well managed and well kept.

So much for the Top-notchers. Now for specimens of Thomas Atkins' remarks in the Visitors' Book:—"A glimpse of English comfort," "A soldier's friend out of civilisation," "A rest and real contentment," "An oasis we are all thankful for," "Reminder of the old home," "Nearest home for 3,000 miles," "Home from home," "For God, the King, and country," "The ever open door," "A refresher in Egypt," "An Englishman's home."

Some of course, unburdened themselves in less serious vein. I found such remarks as these:—"Just A1, 'nuff sed," "Home in the desert for dodging the column," "Always merry and bright," "People who understand what is wanted on active service," "Some place," "A home of luxury in the wilds for Tommy," "It's a bit of alright here," "The best hut under the sun of Egypt," "A pool in the desert," "Absolutely it," "Aladdin rejuvenated," "A boon to the boys in this great wilderness," "I cleaned the windows on Good Friday, cleanliness being next to Godliness," "The place is an unexpected Paradise to me," "All thanks due to those who organised the erection of this hut."

The Editor of the *Church Envoy*, Dunedin, has succeeded in a wonderful way in inducing the Parochial correspondents of the paper to cut out superfluous verbiage and gush from their parochial reports. Considering the great difficulties under which we labour for lack of space we wish we had the same persuasive power with some of our parochial reporters—in our little eight paged GAZETTE we cannot possibly spare room for effusive compliments to the kind hosts and hostesses of the clergy when they make their parochial visits. We have no doubt all the ladies at parochial concerts sing divinely, and the matrons make delicious coffee and cakes and so on, but we really have no room to chronicle these facts—nor even the vagaries of the weather—in the Church GAZETTE. We all know the weather is sometimes unkind and the roads muddy, etc., etc., but if every vicar

sent us a weather and hospitality report every month three GAZETTES would not hold it all. *Verbum Sapienti satis est.*

## Parochial News.

Parochial Notes MUST be in hand by the 22nd, to ensure publication.

Havelock and Opotiki Notes too late for insertion.—Ed.

### S. Augustine's, Napier.

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

The Annual Meeting of parishioners will be held this month, and all parishioners, including women, are urged to attend and thereby show their interest in the welfare of the Church of which they are a part. The meeting is not just for the clergy and Church officers, but the attendance of all is a spiritual duty surely, if they realise what the Church is. It is not just a business meeting, but spiritual matters may be discussed; the Vicar will give a survey of the life of the Church for the past year, with plans for the future. The meeting will be followed by a social gathering.

During the past month the Vicar was away taking a Mission at Takapau; during his absence the services were very kindly taken by the Rev. J. Hobbs, to whom we are very grateful.

By arrangement with St. Paul's Gymnastic Club a gymnasium for young men is held in the Schoolroom every Friday evening, and is much appreciated by some of our young men. New members will be gladly welcomed; the subscription is 5/- for those over 16, and 2/6 for those under 16.

About thirty members of our G.F.S. are attending the Physical Culture classes taken by a professional Instructor, and are most energetic and enthusiastic. A good number did not take any part in the Annual G.F.S. Festival on June 21st. Our branch, has a splendid syllabus of meetings arranged for the year, and members are urged to show their appreciation by attending regularly, and realising their responsibility as members of this world-wide society for developing the highest Christian character.

Lately, several names on our "Honours List" have had to be transferred to the number who have given their lives for us in the war: the latest name is Herbert Kaye, who grew up in the parish, and is well-known for his steady and estimable character. We offer our sympathy and prayers for his family in their sorrow.

### Rotorua.

Vicar: Rev. K. E. Maclean, B.A.

The Right Rev. Bishop Sedgwick paid a visit to Rotorua during the first week in June. He arrived by motor from Taupo, accompanied by the Vicar on Friday, June 1st, and proceeded to the Mission House at Whakarewarewa. On the following Sunday his Lordship held an early celebration of the Holy Communion in St. Luke's Church, where, despite the extremely cold weather, there was a considerable number of communicants. At mid-day he held a celebration and preached in the Maori Church at Ohinemutu,