

Social Work.

The annual meeting of the Central Committee was held in the Cathedral Library on Friday, May 16th, at 11.30 a.m. The Bishop presided, and there was a good attendance.

The annual report and balance-sheet were read and adopted. The latter showed a steady increase in the support received. Appended is a list of contributions from the parishes:—

Subscriptions, donations and offerings.—Cathedral parish, £53 7s 3d; St. Augustines, Napier, £24 3s 10d; Dannevirke, £5 5s; Gisborne, £8; Hastings, £41 2s 9d; Havelock North, £27 5s 6d; Otane, £76 15s; Ormondville, £14 2s; Opotiki, £11 1s 3d; Puketapu, £27 2s 6d; Patutahi, £8 13s; Takapau, £10 5s; Te Karaka, £1; Taradale, £6 2s 6d; Tolaga Bay, £20; Waipiro Bay £66 12s 9d; Wairoa, £6 16s 4d; Woodville, £5 9s 6d; Waiapawa, £6 14s; miscellaneous, £33 7s 9d; total, £452 17s 11d.

Mrs Stace explained that the absence of subscriptions from Waipukurau was due to the epidemic, which upset all their plans, but that the parish intended to redeem its character in the coming year.

The gifts in kind are largely responsible for the low housekeeping bills.

The report mentioned the addition made to the Home during the past year, the boon to the mothers that the nursery had proved to be, and the good health of the children. Also that there were two ladies training for Church workers, and that the Home had had the pleasure of a long visit from Nurse Sanders on her first furlough from Melanesia.

Resolutions of gratitude for the interest and work of Archdeacon Rud dock and the late Dr. E. A. W. Hen ley were passed unanimously.

Standing Committee.

The Diocesan Standing Committee met on May 16th.

A sub-committee was appointed to examine ways and means for the payment of the salary of a Diocesan organiser; another to draw up a financial budget for the year. Mr Bull was asked to arrange for leasing the Burlington road property, one offer for which had been received.

The Standing Committee decided to accept the gift of 6 acres at Wai-pawa from Messrs W. H. and H. M. Rathbone as a site for a Children's Home or Orphanage.

The Bishop reported the resignation of the Rev. F. E. Simeox of the cure of Porangahau, and of Mr F. W. Williams of his seat as a member of the Board of Diocesan Trustees.

The Bishop reported the return of Canon Lush, Rev. Wepiha Wainohu, and Rev. Pene Hakiwai and the expected return of the Rev. E. D. Rice, Chaplains to the Forces.

The Bishop reported re the Waipiro Bay sub-division that the vestry had agreed to the division and had promised to continue the stipend of the Rev. J. Pigott, at its present rate, as vicar of the southern half of the old district. The vestrymen of the new northern district had agreed to provide £250 per annum towards the support of a brotherhood to work the district, with its centre at Opotiki. The Bishop has arranged with his commissary, Canon H. H. Foster, M.A., Warden of St. Paul's College, Burgh, Lincolnshire, to come out and establish the brotherhood; Canon Foster will bring out a priest with him and, when the brotherhood is established, St. Paul's College will be responsible for keeping it manned.

A resolution was passed expressing the gratitude of the diocese and its thankfulness to Almighty God for the safe return of the chaplains, welcoming them home and congratulating them on their excellent work.

The resignation of Mr Cook as a member of the Standing Committee was accepted with regret. Mr Cook has been transferred to Auckland.

The resignation of Mr J. B. Fielder from the Pension Board was received with regret.

The Rev. W. J. Simkin was appointed to the Pension Board in Mr Fielder's place.

Mr Turner Williams was elected member of the Board of Diocesan Trustees.

The Bishop was authorised to give the trustees of the estate of the late Bishop Williams a discharge for the legacy and accrued interest of £7393 3s 2d received from them for the following objects:—General Church Endowment, £2464 7s 9d; Support of Archdeacons, £2464 7s 8d; (the foregoing endowments to be equitably divided in the event of a sub-division of the diocese), in addition to these, £1232 3s 11d for the erection and maintenance of a rescue home and £1232 3s 10d for provision for religious education in Secondary Schools in New Zealand with preference for work in the Diocese of Waiapu.

Two Roman Catholic congregations in America have recently come over in a body to the Catholic Church of America. One is an Italian congregation in Ohio of 240 communicants, together with its priest, who still remains as rector; the other a Polish congregation and its priest in Pennsylvania.

Girls' Friendly Society.

(Letter received by Mrs Sedgwick).

Dear President,—I write to remind you that our Annual Day for Special Thanksgiving for the blessing that has rested on the G.F.S. and our united Intercessions is fixed for Thursday, June 19th. On that day or on the preceding or following Sunday, special remembrance of the Society will be made in many of our cathedrals and churches throughout the Empire.

Although the fighting and sorrows of the last few years are over and before our anniversary time comes we hope the final peace may be in sight, the great upheaval caused by the conflict has left the whole world in a state of great unrest. Therefore the call to us in the G.F.S. is stronger than ever. We hear of reconstruction on every side and we must not lag behind. It is difficult to see what the outcome of it all will be, but our work based on principles which are eternal is clear and we must go forward with the times, never forgetting that we have the highest standard to maintain and point to in our endeavors to understand the changes which are sweeping over all modern life. The object of our Society makes our aim clear and as our Intercessions go up on our Anniversary Day we can but ask for strength to live up to these ideals.

Any Associates coming to England from over the seas will receive a hearty welcome. We hope they will either write to or call on, the Secretary at the G.F.S. Central Office, so that we may know of their arrival.

With my kind regards and good wishes.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

(Signed) C. V. CUNLIFFE,
President of the G.F.S. Central Council.

At a Council meeting held on May 21st at Bishops court, Napier, the Sunday preceding June 19th (Trinity Sunday) was chosen for the Corporate Communion in connection with the G.F.S. Annual Day of Thanksgiving and Intercession. The evening service will be held on Thursday, June 19th.

Church Reform.

The main reasons for the slow progress of Church Reform in England are: (1) All reforms must be submitted to Parliament, which consists of men of any religion or none, and which may so mutilate and transform a bill, that the Church may have foisted upon her legislation far different from what she desires. It is utterly unsafe to bring reform bills into Parliament.