

child. I am assisting three families at present where the husband for different reasons does not contribute one penny towards the maintenance of his wife and children. One of the women has eight children under fourteen years of age, the second four, and the third three little ones. In such cases I find the Foster and Colenso Trusts invaluable, but the biggest difficulty is to get clothing for the children. I should be very glad to receive parcels for this purpose.—I am, etc.,

F. B. REDGRAVE,
St. Andrew's Vicarage, Napier.

NEED OF A CENTRAL FUND.

Sir,—In England some time ago, it was considered 'an urgent need,' that a Central Church Fund should be founded, without which, National Reconstruction could be only half done. Such a fund is now being provided. The object of the fund is:—To strengthen the spiritual leadership of the Church, by enabling her to provide for adequate training, remuneration, and superannuation for the clergy, foreign missions, upkeep of churches, and expenses of divine services.

The preparation of the above appeal was entrusted to a Central Board of Finance; whose first aim was to create a new atmosphere in the matter of giving "as shall render the continuance of wearisome begging wholly unnecessary."

Should not such a fund as this commend itself to business men of the Church in New Zealand?

I firmly believe that the Church of England, in this country, stands alone in not already possessing some such fund.

Half the time of already overburdened clergy is taken up in trying to support varied appeals from all quarters. They could be relieved of this work by a Central Board of Finance.—I am, etc.,

DOUGLAS B. MALCOLM.
The Vicarage, Porangahau, H.B.

Jerusalem and the East.

Funds are urgently needed by the Bishop in Jerusalem for the restoration of schools, payment of chaplains and the Bishopric Endowment Fund. Large numbers of Jews will soon be flocking to Jerusalem, our schools are already overcrowded, our relations with the Eastern Church in Palestine are daily improving. Here among the original scenes of our Lord's ministry are arising opportunities for promoting a unity with the Eastern Church which may have most far reaching consequences in

furtherance of the unity of all Christendom and the fulfilment of our Lord's Prayer (St. John 17).

Donations should be sent to the Diocesan Treasurer, Box 227, Napier, or through The Ven. Archdeacon Williams, Hon. Sec. Jerusalem and East Mission Fund.

Money and Responsibility.

On reading in the daily press of the large sums of money left by people at their death one is appalled and saddened to see how seldom anything is left for Church or charitable purposes. Especially, perhaps, is this noticeable in regard to people belonging to our branch of the Church of God. Presbyterian laymen set a noble example by the way in which they make provision for helping to carry on the good works in which they have been interested during their lifetime. Within the past six months the Presbyterian Church and institutions, in Otago alone, have received legacies which amount to far more than our own Church has had left to it, for its work, during the past ten years. And, in their lifetime, the Presbyterian laity are wonderful in the way in which they give towards the carrying on of Church and philanthropic activities. Think of the Glendining Home, the Ross Home, Balmacewen College, and Knox College! What have our people done in comparison with these noble gifts from men who loved the Author and Giver of all good things, and realised that they were, and are, but stewards who would sooner or later have to give an account of their stewardship?

The duty of giving is evidently forgotten by most of our wealthy people, and why is it? When we ask them for money, do we not often go to them with apologies on our lips instead of boldly telling them their duty in the matter? What says the Apostle Paul?—"Charge them who are rich in this world, that they be ready to give, and glad to distribute; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may attain eternal life" (I. Tim. vi.). And in the Epistle to the Hebrews we read: "To do good, and to distribute, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews xiii., 16).

But the duty of giving is, after all, a matter of degree, and each one of us has a responsibility in this matter. "Be merciful after thy power. If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give of that little; for so gatherest thou thyself a good reward in the day of necessity." And we do

not know when our necessity will arise. It may be in this world or the next. Let each one of us make this a personal matter and ask ourselves: "Are we doing as much as we should, or are we only giving that which costs us no real self-denial? Or, "Out of the thousands or hundreds that God has blessed me with, how much do I owe to Him? Have I given as much as I possibly can, or only as much as will save me from being called mean?"

The responsibility for carrying on the work of the Church rests on rich and poor alike, but especially on the rich. Many new activities have sprung into being during recent years, but all of them are waiting to expand as soon as the necessary money can be found. Surely there are some of them we can help more, now, or after our death, by a legacy, than we have done in the past.—"Church Envoy."

News and Notes.

PLEASE NOTE:—In future all parochial notes and news items **MUST** reach the editor by the 18th of the month, otherwise it is impossible to publish the "Gazette" punctually.

The "Hawke's Bay Herald" states that the Rev. J. Hobbs has accepted duty as assistant priest in the parish of Palmerston North and is to have charge of the work at Terrace End.

During the past six years the Roman Catholics in Wellington have contributed, in only four churches, £4323 in pennies for the support of their schools.

The paragraph about Mrs. K. E. Maclean, which appeared in last month's "Gazette" was not correct, the doctors having given no definite opinion as yet.

In theory the nationalisation of industries can be amply justified, but the socialistic state requires a standard of public and private morality which has not yet been revealed in any community in the world. The average man must be so highly developed that he will be ready to sacrifice personal gain and enjoyment for the good of the community and official life must be freed from all corruption, self-indulgence or greed. Rodbertus, the greatest philosopher of modern socialism, was so impressed by this fact that he thought the world must wait for at least five hundred years for the advent of the socialistic commonwealth. At any rate, it is fairly clear that the world is not ripe for it now.—Mr Justice Pring.