

Girls' Friendly Society.

Nineteenth Annual Reports and Balance Sheets, and Reports of Branches, 1921.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The 19th annual meeting of the Girls' Friendly Society was held on Wednesday, October 26th, in St. Augustine's Schoolroom. The Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Waiapu presided. The Very Rev. the Dean and Canon Rice were present, also a fair number of Associates.

After the general business, the Bishop, in summing up, said he wished first to congratulate the Lodge on the work it was doing; it was a great help, especially to young girls. He felt sure that in the matron they had the right one in charge, so much depended on personality in carrying out the work generally.

He wished to say again how much he hoped that Central Rule I. would be altered. He was sure it militated against some branches restarting, whilst some of the leading parishes would not even commence.

He hoped it would be well taken up at Conference. Whether a strong resolution from Conference would lead to what we want, he was unable to say. He reminded us that we cease to belong to the G.F.S. if we attempt to alter the Rule, and that it meant forfeiting money left to the G.F.S.

He urged the secretaries and leaders of the branches to aim at the deepening of the life of the girls, he thought there was a danger of the meetings becoming too much of a recreation, especially in these days when everything was becoming so superficial.

If the G.F.S. would set itself the task of solving the problem, they would be doing a great work.

The Annual Festival takes place on December 3rd, service St. John's Cathedral at 7.30, to be followed by tea at Bishopscourt.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs Sedgwick; vice-presi-

dents, Mrs Ruddock, Mrs Mayne, Mrs Hansard, Mrs Herbert Williams, and Mrs Stopford; secretary, Mrs Murdoch; treasurer, Miss Mayne; auditor, Mr Hansard; literature associate, Miss Mitford Taylor. Elected members of Council:—Deaconess Esther Brand, Mrs Fannin, Mrs Rankin, Mrs Simkin, Mrs Anderson, Miss Pallot, Miss King, Miss Twigg, Miss Rainbow. House Committee for Lodge:—Mrs Hansard, Mrs Rice, Mrs Simkin, Miss Twigg, Miss Pallot, Miss E. Maclean, Miss White.

After the annual meeting the executive were elected as follows:—Deaconess Esther Brand, Mrs Rice and Miss Twigg, with the president and vice-president ex-officio.

DIOCESAN REPORT OF THE GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The work of the G.F.S. is steadily going on in the Diocese, and we get satisfactory reports from the seven branches.

There are 149 Associates (69 honorary, 80 working). Fourteen of these are Diocesan Associates whose services are a great value to the Society, as they undertake to befriend Members who come to the Diocese from different parts of the world. The members number 193, three having been commended from England. There are 61 Senior Candidates, and 10 Married Helpers.

On November 20th the Annual Festival was held at Havelock North, commencing with a Service in St. Luke's Church, when Canon Lush gave a most suitable address, basing his remarks on S. Luke's Church banner. During the Service two Members were presented with prizes for the Bible Research Papers. The Offertory which amounted to £4 9s, was

given to the Napier G.F.S. Lodge. After the Service all were entertained in the Vicarage garden, tea being provided by the Havelock Branch.

The Annual (world-wide) Intercession and Thanksgiving Services were held on the 16th June. At the Cathedral there were two Celebrations of Holy Communion and Evensong, when the very Rev. Dean of Waiapu preached. Services were also held on the same day in other Branches. The Offertories at the Services were given to the Hastings Branch for their proposed G.F.S. Lodge.

During the year the Members have been working in groups for the Bible Study Papers, and a prize for the best groups will be given at the Festival.

The Branches report that many helpful addresses have been given on Mothercraft, General Nursing, Child-study, the Melanesian Mission and its work, on the Aims and Objects of the Society, and on Meditation.

Social Evenings have been held, when Games, Physical Culture, Music, etc., have been much enjoyed.

Donations have been received from the Branches for the following objects:—The G.F.S. Lodge, Napier; St. Mary's Home; Church of England Waifs and Strays Society; the Melanesian Mission; and various other Parish Requirements.

Mrs Wallis, wife of a former Bishop of Wellington, who is a resident in England, has consented to Represent New Zealand on the Imperial Council, and Deaconess Christian Synge the Diocese of Waiapu.

A most satisfactory Report has been received from the Napier Lodge; and it is pleasing to hear that the fund for the Hastings Lodge has now reached £350.

CATHERINE STOPFORD,
Diocesan Secretary.