

On November 15th a Reunion Social was held for teachers of the Parish, in Holy Trinity Sunday School. The Superintendent and teachers from the three suburban churches also being present. Musical items were rendered by several, and a competition was taken part in. A short address was also given to those present by Deaconess Esther Brand on "The qualifications of a Sunday School Teacher." After the address the teachers joined in an interesting discussion on Sunday School work, and a committee was formed to make arrangements for a concert to be held shortly in aid of Sunday School funds. Supper was kindly provided by members of the church.

Woodville. The Spiritual Healing Mission: Eight persons went from this Parish to the Palmerston North Healing Mission, twenty-five to the Napier Mission, and one to the Wellington Mission. A parishioner was also at the Auckland Mission. In all thirty-five persons. The blessings spiritual and bodily have been most marked and real. Of these the spiritual are the more pronounced. Very nearly all those who went to the various Missions have testified to great spiritual blessing.

With regard to the bodily healing, four out of the eight who went to Palmerston North have received much physical strengthening, in every case, from the nature of their trouble, only time can tell whether the healing is complete. Another has received considerable physical benefit, but believes he received it apart from the Mission, and not through the laying on of hands.

Of the twenty-five who went to Napier, fifteen have so far received either complete or partial healing, of these four believe themselves to be completely cured. The one who attended the Auckland Mission has been very greatly benefited it is not known here whether the cure is complete. Exact details of all these cases and partial cures will be in the hands of the Diocesan authorities before this appears in print.

A Christmas Poem.

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and Angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.
—Christina Rossetti.

Editorial Notices.

Please address all Editorial matter to The Editor, "Church Gazette," Box 29, Waipawa.

Literary Matter should reach the Editor on or before the 15th of the month. News Items, including Parish Notes, on or before the 18th of the month.

All Business Communications must be sent to the Diocesan Secretary. All communications regarding subscriptions to the "Church Gazette," and all notices of alteration in number of copies required should be sent to the Diocesan Secretary, Box 227, Napier.

Waipapu Church Gazette.

Saturday, December 1st, 1923.

Holidays and Charity.

We wish our readers a very Happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year. The season at which Christmas falls is ideal for holiday-making and many ordinarily consistent church people are tempted to leave their homes for out-of-the-way places before Christmas Day, and so to miss their Christmas Communion. Christmas can be no joyful Christian feast to us unless we keep it in a Christian manner. All its charm is wrapt up in devotion to the Infant Saviour, and people who deliberately cut themselves and their families off from the religious observances of our Lord's Birthday are not only themselves losing more than they realise, but are robbing their children of a religious idea and experience that is of inestimable value to them. All the social and family joys of this festival should centre in the Christmas adoration of the new-born King, and the reception of the Blessed Sacrament on Christmas Day. So only can they be sanctified by God's blessing. We venture to appeal to our readers at this time to give a thought for the poor and needy and for the destitute lambs of Christ's flock. Our own Orphanage at Otane is already well provided for by numerous friends who never forget it on Christmas Day. Mr Whibley has already, as always, been battling for his Christmas dinners for children under the care of the Church Army, but besides these there are, first of all, people sometimes at our very doors, poor and friendless, whose Christmas may be brightened by thoughtful and friendly interest, and who may thus catch a glimpse of the Christ spirit; and then there are the Church of England

Homes for Waifs and Strays (Old Town Hall, Kennington, London, S.E. 11), which are urgently appealing for funds all the year round. We can never make up our minds which is the more deserving, the Church Army general fund or the Waifs and Strays' special work. We cannot do wrong in sending a Christmas gift to either or both.

The Caranaki Pilgrimage.

One of the pilgrims from New Plymouth to Palmerston North for the healing mission describes the pilgrimage in the Auckland "Church Gazette." Following is a short extract:—

That night we attended the Intercession service in All Saints' Church, which was packed to the doors. The Rev. G. H. Gavin, Vicar of Waitara, gave the address. There is no need to describe the Mission service itself next day, as it followed the lines now so familiar to all of our people. But we must be allowed to say that although we had come away from our diocese we were never allowed to feel in the least strangers. The Bishop of Wellington was kindness itself, and the vicar of All Saints seemed ever anxious to associate us with him and his colleagues in all the varied activities of the mission. Our grateful thanks to all of them. Loud too are the expressions of gratitude from all our patients at the wonderful outpouring of kindness and sympathy from the people of Palmerston North.

As may be imagined the return journey was like a triumphal progress. It is impossible to describe the feelings of all our company, nearly 270 all told. The greatest happiness was everywhere evident and every one had received some blessings from the great experience.

Here was one who had made the outward journey in the most awful pain and with stiff limbs, now able to walk and without the slightest trace of pain. Another who had been deaf for years could hear her father's greeting at Stratford. A third who had with the greatest difficulty been taken on the train but three days since, insisted on walking down the entire length of the platform at Inglewood with but two sticks to help her.

Time and space would fail to tell of all the blessings received. Everywhere again the crowds gathered and at Hawera more refreshments from our kind friends. At New Plymouth an enormous number of people had assembled. They filled the station and overflowed into the street.