

DIOCESAN NOTES

The annual Retreat for women will be held at Hukerere School, Napier, from January 28th to February 1st. Conductor: The Rev. W. H. Smith, Christchurch. Apply to Deaconess Esther Brand, The Deaconess House, Gisborne.

The Retreat for clergy will be conducted by the Rev. F. M. Kempthorne, Vicar of Ashurst. The conductor wishes for the prayers of the brethren.

The Bishop of Waikato will be the preacher at S. Andrew's Church, Port Ahuriri, on Sunday evening, December 2nd.

OBITUARY

FREDERICK MONTAGUE NELSON

It is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Mr. F. M. Nelson, second son of Mr. William Nelson, of Waikoko, who passed away very quietly and peacefully at his residence, Whakamarumaru, early in the morning of October 29th. During the last few years Mr. Nelson suffered one illness after another, all of which he bore with the greatest courage. His fortitude under the severest pain was wonderful; and he never lost the simple faith in God which he learned as a child. Mr. Nelson always took the keenest interest in public affairs, and was a staunch upholder of his church. One can hardly remember a service in Crownthorpe at which his seat was empty until ill-health prevented his attendance. His frank generous disposition won him a host of friends all over the province. He leaves a widow, four daughters and two sons to whom our deepest sympathy is extended. May he rest in peace.

BOARD OF MISSIONS

Miss Tobin.—It is a matter for profound thankfulness to God that not only has Miss Blanche Tobin been released, but she has not in any way been harmed by the bandits during her six weeks' imprisonment. Her capture led, right through the Dominion, to a great out-pouring of prayer on her behalf which has been answered.

North China's Needs.—Bishop Norris, of the North China S.P.G. Mission, is much concerned that the income of his Mission in New Zealand is not at present sufficient to support entirely the four New Zealand workers on his staff. The Bishop has

therefore been unable to accept the services of Nurse Grace Young of Auckland who has now been accepted by the Australian Board of Missions for the Diocese of Shantung.

Melanesia's Position.—The fact that the Melanesian Finance Board is hampered by a big deficit means that requests for things considered by the workers as being absolutely necessary have to be turned down for lack of funds. Recently a missionary ordered £20 worth of mosquito netting for the scholars in his school, and asked that the amount be deducted from his quarterly salary payment of £37 10s (the missionaries all receive £150 per annum), as he understood that there was no money available for the purpose. It is most unfair that workers have thus to spend their own money, but until the Mission has a larger income they must be denied many things really necessary for their work.

Workers in India.—Miss Sowry, of Palmerston North, has commenced work in Ellore, where Miss Smith, one of the most experienced N.Z.C.M.S. workers is stationed. Miss Richter on her return after her furlough was married in Madras Cathedral by the Bishop of Dornakal, to the Rev. E. Evtitt. The Bishop's eldest daughter was her bridesmaid, and the guests after the ceremony were entertained by the Bishop and Mrs. Azariah.

Polynesia's Need of Workers.—As was stated last month, the Bishop in Polynesia requires a kindergarten teacher for the Chinese school in Suva. Archdeacon Hands, the Vicar of Suva, needs a young colleague who will work among the young people in the parish and also take a share in the work among the Melanesian and Chinese communities. Full particulars concerning these two posts can be obtained from the Bishop's Commissary (Rev. F. B. Redgrave).

Chinese Mission in N.Z.—This Mission which has its headquarters in Wellington, has been carried on by three of the Chinese Christians, since the death of the Rev. Norman Mackenzie. Mr. Wong, a graduate of St. Paul's College, in Canton, who is very highly recommended by the Rev. E. Y. P. Lee (a former missionary) has taken over the charge of the work.

Reward Books.—As in former years the Board's Depot, 49 Ballance Street, Wellington, has a good selection of books suitable for Sunday School prizes. If superintendents will send their requirements stating the ages of the scholars, a satisfactory lot of books can be guaranteed.

Editorial Notices.

Please address all Editorial matter to The Editor, "Church Gazette," Puketapu.

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 from parishes must be sent to the Diocesan Secretary.

All Communications from Vicars and "Gazette" Agents 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.

Individual subscribers should pay their subscriptions to the parish agent for the "Gazette," or to the Vicar of the Parish.

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THE PRINCE OF PEACE

We should not think of the seasons of the year as merely commemorative; they have a deeper meaning than this. It was "in the fulness of time" that Jesus was born, something that has a deeper application than merely earth conditions. His coming was indeed conditioned by the preparation which had been going on in the world—historical sequences which led up to the Incarnation, such as a world empire; an universal language; the point to which philosophic thought had reached; the personality of the Blessed Virgin Mary—but only in-so-far as these preparations resulted from the deliberate intervention in human affairs of the Almighty long before the actual birth of our Lord. We mean that the Father of All as not as it were quietly waiting until such time as the human race should produce a maiden holy enough to become the Mother of God. Humanly speaking such would have been an impossibility. When all things were ready the Virgin Mary was sent into the world even as John the Baptist was sent. She was the product of all the ages; in her the race consciousness was most fully developed; she was the perfect flower of humanity. From before her birth she was watched over by the Holy Angels; the visit of the Blessed Archangel was not an overwhelming surprise. Her attitude "be it unto me even as thou wilt" was but the ready acceptance of the divine will which had always been hers; she had always known that she was set apart from birth.

It is this active participation of God in human affairs which people have