

THE MINISTRY OF HEALING.

Parochial Secretaries for Prayer Circle groups:—

The Cathedral Parish: Deaconess Isabel, Deaconess House, 8 Station St., Napier.

St. Augustine's: Joint Secretaries, Miss Savory, 7 Shamrock St. Napier, and Nurse Oppenheim, Nurses' Home, Public Hospital.

St. Matthews, Hastings: Joint Secretaries, Deaconess Holmes, 207 Nelson St. South, and Mrs. M. Warrick.

Havelock North: Miss Gardiner, Sesame Cottage.

Taradale: Miss Harris, C/o Mr. H. Harris, Pakowhai.

Gisborne: Miss Eileen Davies, 22 Rawiri St.

Waipawa: Joint Secretaries, Mrs. Anderson, Ruataniwha St., and Mrs. J. MacGregor, Windsor Hill.

Groups of Prayer Circles have also been formed, and secretaries appointed, in the following parishes; but no information has so far been sent in to the Gazette or to the Central Secretary:—Rotorua, Tauranga, Opotiki, Te Karaka, Wearenga-a-hika, Tolaga Bay, Patutahi, Wairoa, Waipukurau, Woodville, Ormondville, Otane, Takapau Dannevirke.

Mr. Hickson has written to say "I would suggest that you get into direct communication with the local secretaries in each parish, and get from them full information as to their activities, and the number of members and groups they have, and any information they can give as to results since their circles were formed; how often they meet together in their homes for united intercession, and in church; also if sufferers are receiving the laying on of hands in Church by the Parish Priest when desired. Any such information will be of great interest, and a means of stimulating interest throughout the Diocese, and beyond it, as well as a means of keeping the movement alive, and incidentally increasing the circulation of the Gazette."

Will the clergy of the parishes, from which no information has been sent giving names and addresses of secretaries of groups please read the page in the August issue as well as in this one, and supply me with the necessary information.

"Bricks can not be made without straw."

"In the Cathedral Parish there are six Prayer Circles. All the members

are keen, and meet regularly every week, and every month all circles meet together at the Cathedral when a report of the sick who are being prayed for is read. Thanksgivings are offered and a devotional address is given to help the intercessors in their work."

Last March Mr. Hickson held a Spiritual Healing service in St. Augustine's Church when many received the Laying on of hands.

In the evening there was a meeting for those interested in the mission, and to see what could be done to keep the work going.

"It was finally settled to have a Prayer Circle, which became six circles. They were formed at once, the leaders coming forward most willingly, and have had them every week."

A report of activities in St. Matthew's Parish, Hastings, has already been printed in the Gazette.

"Since then the usual monthly reports of those who are being prayed for and who have received the Laying on of hands, were read during the service of Holy Communion on Thursday, July 25th.

"On August 1st we had the service of Laying on of hands immediately after the Holy Communion service was finished. We had fewer coming forward, nine only, two of whom were people who had found prayer so helpful in their sickness, and who wished to receive a greater blessing. There were a fair number of Intercessors at each of these services, probably owing to the prevailing sickness (flu) our members were lessened. Generally speaking all are keen and we trust that all taking part in this Healing Ministry will gather keener interest, and the patients and Intercessors receive greater blessing Spiritually."

Havelock North.

"We have five small groups of four to six members, meeting every week except the second week in the month, when they all meet in church. The Vicar gives an address and if any sick persons wish to have the Laying on of hands they are able to attend."

Taradale.

"We have a fairly strong circle. We have not had any meetings in the Church for Prayer Circles. A good many are unable to attend on account of long distances, and in some cases of ill health.

Waipawa.

"We hold meetings every Monday at 7.30 p.m. at the Vicarage and at the Methodist minister's house alternately. We have only one group of Intercessors consisting of eight members."

Gisborne.

"We are divided into five groups of Intercessors each group consisting of from four to eleven members. The list of patients is divided among these groups for daily individual intercession, and weekly or fortnightly group intercession. Besides these groups there are individual intercessors, who are unable for some reason or another to join a group. These also receive a list of patients' names; and the lists for all groups are changed every month. There is besides a weekly service of intercession held in the Church, these services being well attended. At the end of each quarter a combined intercession Prayer Circle of all the groups is held in the Church, so far, of course, only one of these has been held and was very well attended. The second will be held at the end of August. This combined group takes the same form of procedure as the small groups, only that the whole list of names is gone through, each name held in silent prayer. Thanksgivings are offered when desired, fifteen names being sent in last time."

Results.

Here are some of the reports sent in, omitting the names of patients and parishes:—

1. We have had no startling healing of those prayed for; but some are better, and others feel strength and help coming to them and are grateful for it, so we feel encouraged in our work. One lady who has been very ill, and the doctor says is incurable, has made some progress and is better. I am sure the page in the Gazette will help to keep the interest keen and will unite us all in interest and prayer.

2. We have only one group of intercessors, consisting of eight members.

We have had two outstanding cases of blessing since we commenced our meetings. One is that of an elderly man, who has been very ill with several complications, and I am glad to say he is now, comparatively speaking, well.

Another case is that of a young woman with very serious heart trouble, and at one time it seemed impossible humanly speaking, that she could possibly recover, but in answer to