

The Waipapu Church Gazette

EDITORIAL.

Your new editor is beginning his work under difficulties, in hospital as a matter of fact, and he hopes that this will be an excuse for any imperfections. There is no need for any declaration of policy. It was once said that a Diocesan Magazine must be either dull or scurrilous. I hope to avoid both evils and to make it useful and interesting. But to do this requires the co-operation of a great many people, especially the vicars. The best Diocesan Gazettes are those which have the most parish notes. Not that they are enough, but they do help the circulation more than anything else. Of course readers have a right to expect to read something of the activities of the Church in the other Dioceses of our country, in the Mission Field and in England. Articles by clergy or laymen will be welcome. Will all concerned, including the editors of exchanges, please take notice that all communications should be addressed to the Editor, 18 Colenso Avenue, Napier?

CALENDAR.

- Dec. 1.—First Sunday in Advent.
- Dec. 8.—Second Sunday in Advent.
- Dec. 15.—Third Sunday in Advent.
- Dec. 18, 20, 21.—Ember Days.
- Dec. 21.—S. Thomas, A.M.
- Dec. 22.—Fourth Sunday in Advent.
- Dec. 25.—Christmas Day.
- Dec. 26.—S. Stephen, M.
- Dec. 27.—S. John, A.Ev.
- Dec. 28.—Holy Innocents.
- Dec. 29.—Sunday after Christmas.

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

The annual festival of the Girls' Friendly Society candidates was held in All Saints' Schoolroom, Taradale, on Saturday. Mrs Angell had arranged a very pleasant afternoon for her 20 candidates and visitors from Napier and Hastings. Several games and competitions took place, prizes being given to winners. A most delicious afternoon tea was provided. Miss Rainbow, Hastings, gave a very happy talk to the candidates. Deaconess Mabel B. Holmes thanked Mrs Angell on behalf of Hastings Girls' Friendly Society visitors, and Miss M. S. White gave thanks on behalf of Napier Girls' Friendly Society visitors.

FAREWELL BY G.F.S.

MRS AND MISS GOLDSMITH

Mrs and Miss Goldsmith, who are leaving Napier early next week for their new home at Nelson, were entertained by the Girls' Friendly Society Lodge house committee on Wednesday afternoon to afternoon tea, to which they had invited some old friends of Mrs. and Miss Goldsmith in order to farewell them. A very happy time passed all too quickly.

The G.F.S. Lodge presented Mrs Goldsmith with a picture of new Napier and the house committee presented Miss Goldsmith with Charles Dickens' "Life of Christ."

Mrs Goldsmith, for nine years, has every Friday, hail or shine, sent flowers for decorating the G.F.S. Lodge, and the lodge committee gave her very grateful thanks for her kindly actions.

G.F.S. DIAMOND JUBILEE.

ANNUAL DIOCESAN FESTIVAL SERMON AT ST. MATTHEW'S

On Wednesday evening, 30th October, 1935, the annual diocesan festival of the Girls' Friendly Society was celebrated, the occasion being a very special one, as this is the year of the G.F.S. diamond jubilee. There were present about 70 associates, members and friends, and the gathering was a most pleasant one.

Canon Mortimer-Jones conducted the service in St. Matthew's Church, keeping very much to the solemn service of thanksgiving and re-dedication as given in Westminster Abbey on June 27, when the diamond jubilee was celebrated in London. He also read the sermon preached by the Archbishop of York, Dr. Temple, saying:—

"We are giving thanks for service rendered and witness borne during 60 years by the Girls' Friendly Society. Our thanksgiving, like all Christian thanksgiving, must first take our minds back—to the memory of the foundress and those who were immediately associated with her—to all those who through these 60 years, have given faithful service.

"It is the pure in heart who see God, and it is the vision of God that gives us purity of heart. Are we not then shut up into a 'vicious' circle?"

To put the same point in the language of two mystical sayings: 'We become what we see,' and 'We see what we are.' And then it is asked, 'How are we to grow if we only see what we are already, and can only become that which we see? Are we not condemned to stay for ever in whatever state we find ourselves to be?' That would be so if our whole life were conducted always upon the same level—if we were, in fact, fully formed characters, with no divergencies of interests or hopes. But it is not so. By the use of our best moments and by putting our utmost into the development of the best elements in our own nature, we become more capable of beholding, and through that vision acquire a more perfect purity of heart, through which, again, we receive the vision in still fuller measure.

"There is a false turning that can be taken in supposing that we become more spiritual as we neglect that which is material. It is the error of all the great Eastern religions, but Christianity will have none of it, for it teaches that that is the more spiritual which exhibits itself in the most perfect control of the material. Within the central words of the Gospel itself is the proclamation that 'The Word has made flesh'; and the purity of heart which is the counterpart of the vision of the glory of God must show itself, not in neglect of the body or lack of care as to what may become of it, but in the making of it the most perfect instrument that it can be for the service of God. 'Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?'"

"And so we are thinking to-day of a trio of great thoughts—the holiness of God, the purity of human life, and friendship based upon that purity when understood as associated with that holiness. And for this reason the directly spiritual basis of this society is fundamental. It will lose all this character if ever it yields to the temptation to become chiefly a social agency for the promotion indeed of moral ideals, but without worship and constant dependence upon God for the strength with which these ideals are to be made actual. But if the Society holds these three thoughts firmly together, each bound up with the other—human friendship, purity of life, holiness—then it will form a regiment