

people who do come for the Church's guidance have many other voices offering to lead. How urgent is the need for definite, convincing, and genuine instruction. Even in what we sometimes call the spiritual sphere clergy have not all the knowledge to themselves. The lay people very often have their contribution to make.

It is clear that the position must present many problems, but it also presents many hopes and possibilities. Some through more knowledge may have made shipwreck of the Faith. But if the Church's teaching is adequate it will hold and attract those who are sincere in their profession. The one thing required is a more "efficient" Church, a more "efficient" ministry, that the word may go forth with authority. I think that it is true to say that men are afraid not so much of dogma as of dogmatism, that they do not so much turn away from authority as look for its credentials. The authority that is needed is not one which will kill initiative and thought, but encourage the seeking after ever fuller truth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The priest should be able to interpret to men the life of the spirit, just as the scientist may interpret the life of the physical universe.

We are forced then again to see the importance of the personnel of the ministry. No parish priest can be expert in every form of knowledge. It is all important that in his teaching he should give confidence, he can only do this when he shows an appreciation of truth wherever it may be found and when behind his words there is obviously a background of solid and reliable thinking. Again, we cannot escape the personal side, if the priest is to help others to sort out their lives he must first have sorted out his own. "There is nothing which makes a stronger intellectual reaction than holiness."

The Church has a really big task before it and it is a task which simply has to be faced.

We have already at different gatherings discussed the need of a different kind of training for the ministry. Again it would seem as though one of the main difficulties is to get the right type of trained teacher to take charge of this work. We should not forget that we have always an ex-

ample before us of the world's Greatest Teacher. It may be that we have not always studied His methods of teaching as we might have done.

I recognise fully that the solution of our difficulties does not lie in the hands of the clergy alone. If there are bad teachers there are also bad scholars. At the same time it is clear that the clergy must make a forward move. We cannot be content with Sunday Schools and Bible Classes, important though they are and well worth the attention of one of our meetings, we have to consider adult education and try to see how it can be done effectively.

The priest must be a man of prayer. He must also be a deceiver. He must also be a teacher. He must be a Christian. We often smilingly talk about the conversion of the clergy. Are we not perilously near to tragedy here? It is so terribly easy to allow the care of the Churches to come between Christ and us.

We must start our quest for victory on our knees.

### CLERGY RETREAT.

The Rangitikei Clerical Association has arranged its annual Retreat for Clergy to take place from Monday, May 11th, to Friday, May 15th. By kind permission of the Headmaster the Retreat will be held at Huntly School, Marton, and the conductor will be Canon H. Watson, Wellington Diocesan Missioner.

By reason of its central position Marton has in the past proved a most convenient centre for the holding of a Retreat, and the amenities of Huntly School are too well known to require further description.

Copies of the programme and other information concerning the Retreat may be obtained from the Secretary, Rev. H. S. Kenney, The Vicarage, Foxton.

### TOLAGA BAY NOTES.

Canon Hall came up from Gisborne and instituted the new Vicar on Friday, March 6th. There was a fair attendance of parishioners in spite of the extreme wetness of the evening. We are glad that the Canon and his party reached home safely before the large slip occurred on the Gisborne road. The Ladies' Guild and Social

Club have held their annual meetings, and have mapped out their activities for the coming year. A garden fete is to be held at the Vicarage on Thursday, April 16th, to provide funds for the painting of the Parish Hall, a very necessary object. We extend to Mr and Mrs Hughan our sympathy in the loss of their baby boy. If any reader of this paper has an organ which they do not need, we should be very glad to have it for use in the little church at Wharekaka.

### N.Z. ANGLICAN G.B.C.U. LONE MEMBERS' SCHEME.

In a diocese such as Waiapu there must be quite a number of girls in their teens who have not had an opportunity to attend Sunday School or Bible Classes. This refers particularly to girls living in homes in country districts remote from Church and Vicarage, and in some cases where there is a church but no regular Sunday Service.

To meet this need the New Zealand Anglican Girls' Bible Class Union have formed the Lone Members' Scheme. This is a Correspondence Bible Class, by joining which girls may study in their own homes, and yet participate in all the privileges of membership and fellowship enjoyed by ordinary Bible Class members.

The scheme was started in 1930, since when twenty girls have joined up from the Waiapu Diocese. The present membership is eleven and this would seem a very poor total if compared with the very large area of isolated country which this diocese covers.

Parishes represented in this membership include Puketapu, Port Ahuriri, Waipukurau, Havelock N., Te Karaka, Porangahau and Tokomaru Bay. We would ask readers to assist by getting the Lone Members' Scheme more widely known and by sending in names of girls who would probably become members.

Inquiries for further information should be sent to the Secretary, E. Warren, 510 Nelson Street, Hastings.

### THE MODERN SPIRIT OF MELANESIA

The day has passed when those who have any knowledge of affairs in the Pacific rave and rant against missions. The observer of to-day