

very happy Easter, and our little church was beautifully decorated for the Festival. Our Garden Fete, which had to be held in the Parish Hall owing to the weather, was a great success, and the hall will be painted before long.

WOODVILLE.

Another severe loss to the parish is the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Jaine and four children to Masterton. Mr. Jaine, for several years, was superintendent of the Sunday School and Vestry, from which he resigned some time ago, he has lately done good work as Scout Master to the local troop. Mrs. Jaine, as member of the Guild, for some time secretary and treasurer, will be a severe loss, and the children have all had their part in the Church life of the parish—Keith as Reader at the children's monthly service and Sunday School teacher, Evan as soloist in the children's choir, and the others in Sunday School. A parish send-off was accorded them on Easter Saturday, and a small purse presented to the family. Another family, Mrs. Turner and her sons, have left their farm, and are seeking better avenues of work. We shall miss them sorely. Another family also, Mr. and Mrs. Brice, have left for Ashhurst. We shall miss Peggy, a loyal little member of the children's choir and Sunday School.

The attendance at the Lenten services was disappointing, but on Good Friday better. Easter Day attendance exceeded expectations, and just on 100 made their Easter Communion, others intend doing so next Sunday.

VALUE OF THE CATHOLIC REVIVAL.

NONCONFORMIST TRIBUTE.

"The religious excuse for Non-conformity, whether in the seventeenth century or at the time of the Evangelical revival, was that the Established Church did not provide the Christian fellowship, the spiritual discipline, the pure preaching needed by the soul. It would not be true to say that to-day the tables have been turned, but it is true that we lose many to the Church of England, because they find there, as they do not find with us, the spiritual direction, the adoring worship, the super-

natural faith they need.

"Much as we may regret and dislike the ecclesiasticism and not infrequently the mannerisms of Anglo-Catholicism and the Oxford Movement, there can be not doubt that by its firm insistence upon supernatural religion, its passionate devotion to our Lord, its concern for the way of holiness, it has caused a renaissance of deep religion in the Church of England. Paradoxically, it has in some degree done for the country what Nonconformity did in days gone by."—(From "Church Times.")

THE THREE HOUSES.

I seemed to see a great house, the largest in the town, and it was filled with hundreds of sufferers. It was a House of Pain, where were gathered together the sick, the maimed, the impotent. But I remembered that, large as the House was, it could not contain nearly all the sufferers. There were as many outside, and I began to realise more clearly than ever before the pain that is in the world. What a mystery it is! Nor is it strange that we get impatient and even resentful against God (may He forgive us) for allowing it all. Again and again that great "Why?" comes up in our hearts, and there is no clear answer. Time was when men were satisfied to say it is all punishment for sin. I fear it sometimes is, but speaking generally the Book of Job and the 13th chapter of St. Luke have killed that idea. The plain truth is—we don't know. And we have to fall back, as so often, on our dear Lord's words:—"What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

I saw another house, a House of Skilled Healing, where men of long training and growing experience give themselves day after day to the healing of all manner of sickness and disease. They have at their command all the inventions and discoveries in medicine and surgery. And very many these are. When we talk boastfully of the triumphs of science, I think we sometimes forget the most important of all. From Lister down to our own day, there is a great company of those who have made their contribution to the healing of disease and the assuag-

ing of human pain. The art of medicine is ancient and honourable, but the physicians and surgeons of to-day have a thousand methods at their disposal that their predecessors never knew. Is not that a far greater achievement than being able to fly to Gisborne in an hour, listen to a concert at Sydney, or destroy your enemies by poison gas?

Then I saw a third house where women are busy all through the year and through every hour of the twenty-four in ministering patiently and untiringly to the needs of others. Go when you will, day or night, you will find them at work, irksome, trying, unpleasant as it sometimes is, it makes no difference to them in the House of Patient Tendence. Why do they do it so unsparingly? There are always many motives—joy in doing a thing well, love of your fellows, sympathy with suffering, and, in many, the best motive of all, for they can say with St. Paul "the love of Christ constraineth us."

I saw the House of Pain, the House of Skilled Healing, the House of Patient Tendence, and behold they were all one house. Civilisation has many faults, but there is something of Christianity about it, and it has everywhere brought hospitals, even where men repudiate our Holy Faith. The French used to call them God's Hotels. It is a good name.

GIRLS' BIBLE CLASS UNION.

The Annual Diocesan Meeting of the A.G.B.C.U. was held in Hastings on March 19th. We had a happy gathering of leaders and members, 34 being present, our Bishop had tea with us, Mrs. Williams was unable to be present, and Miss Ursula Williams, our Dominion President, was away transacting Bible Class business in another Diocese.

At 7 p.m. we had a service in church, the preacher being the Bishop of the Diocese, his text taken from Romans 3, verses 1 and 2. He gave us a general survey of the Books of the Bible, and of how these had been put together for us, this was a big subject, dealt with in a masterly manner, yet simple enough for us to grasp in a short time. At 8 p.m. we were again in the hall, when our meeting commenced, the Diocesan President in the chair. The Bishop re-