

ment were illustrated by Mr Panting and the choir.

Officially the school closed with evensong at 7.30 p.m., this being sung entirely on S.E.C.M. lines. The Rev. G. F. Oulds presented the service, which included Ps. 103 (Parish Psalter) and hymns 697, 13 (2nd tune) and 679 A. and M., and Mr Panting presided at the organ. However, delegates continued with the good work in the Conference Hall till voices wearied.

Goodwill and enthusiasm were evident throughout the proceedings and it was decided to make the school an annual fixture.

During the last day's session an air-mail letter, bearing good wishes from the director, Dr. Sydney Nicholson, was received by Miss Rucroft, the organiser of the school, and made those present realise the bond of fellowship existing in the S.E.C.M.

Despite the inclement weather, which unfortunately prevented several long-distance people from attending, members found time to visit the natural amenities of the spa, and all appreciated the consideration and hospitality of Canon Turner, who had placed the Church and parish hall at their disposal.

A resolution was passed that the various New Zealand synods be approached to review the state of music in their respective dioceses and to support a trained church music commissioner from the College of St. Nicolas, who, it is hoped, will be available in 1937.

Miss Rucroft will sail for England in March to attend the Choir Festival at the Crystal Palace, and to pursue her studies at the College of St. Nicolas, and Mr Stuart Panting, Box 942, Auckland, will carry on the work of New Zealand representative.

## PAROCHIAL NOTES.

### ORMONDVILLE.

(S. B. R. Corbin.)

A most successful Garden Party was held at Mrs. A. Holden's residence, "Rakaiatai," on 5th February (having been postponed from 22nd January, owing to the King's death). The day started brilliantly fine, but shortly after 2 p.m. a heavy down-pour of rain forced the large crowds,

who had come from districts all around, to seek shelter.

Mrs Holden was indefatigable in providing comfort for the guests, who enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon.

Stalls and afternoon tea were arranged on the spacious verandas, and in the dining-room. Unfortunately, outside competitions had to be abandoned, but all made the most of opportunities offering elsewhere.

We tender our grateful thanks to Mrs. Holden, who never spared herself in her efforts to make the Party such a huge success, to Colonel Hartgill for opening the function, and all others who willingly gave their services.

During the Vicar's absence for 12 months, the work of the parish will be carried on by Rev. A. Niblock, who, with Mrs. Niblock, will take up residence at the vicarage on March 6th.

## DIOCESAN RETREAT FOR CLERGY AT TE AUTE.

The annual retreat for clergy was held this year at Te Aute College from 3rd to 7th February, and conducted by Canon H. Watson, Wellington, Diocesan Missioner.

An encouraging number were present, and the addresses, the outcome of much thoughtful study and experience, were most helpful and inspiring.

After such spiritual refreshment, together with the atmosphere of quiet, created by retreatants and the college's peaceful surroundings, we returned to our parishes, strengthened for the labours of another year.

## MELANESIAN MISSION TUCK BOXES.

Last year 67 white workers in the Melanesian Mission received tuck boxes, sent out by the Melanesian Mission Tuck Box Committee, but actually provided by the generosity of subscribers in Auckland, and throughout the North Island. That the little luxuries, books, tinned foods and jams, sweets, medical comforts, etc., were much appreciated is shown in the following extracts from a few of the many letters received:—(1) "Would you please convey our thanks to any others who helped in the work, in whatever way, whereby such a wonderful gift came

into our hands?" (2) "I am very grateful to you for your generous gift. It was my first experience of New Zealand brands of foods, and I think them very good." (3) "Such things are very acceptable in this rather isolated life." (4) "It happened, just at that time, that I was living on native food, and also had just had a rather bad bout of malaria, so the box came just when most needed. . . . Please thank all the senders whom you can." (5) "Not for one moment would you regret the time spent on us if you knew just how much we appreciate all you have done, and are doing for us." This year it is hoped to send out an even larger number of boxes as, we are glad to hear, the Mission Staff has increased. This can only be possible if the many kind friends of Melanesia will continue to give their support. Such expressions of appreciation as you have read above show that the effort is very worth while. As the Customs' requirements are very strict, and all details of prices must be given, the committee finds it better to buy all the goods. Any donations, however large or small, would be most welcome; also good books and clean old linen for bandages, for including in the boxes. As it is hoped to send the tuck boxes as an Easter present, would all, who are anxious to help, please send their donations to me as soon as possible.

(Mrs.) NELL I. HOUGHTON,  
St. Mark's Vicarage,  
9, Bassett Road,  
Remuera, Auckland, S.E. 2.

## THE CHURCH AND THE SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

### MEMORIAL TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

As an outcome of the great Church of England meeting at the Albert Hall, on November 5, the following Memorial, approved by the Archbishop of York before his departure for America, has been sent to the Prime Minister by the Bishop of London:—

To the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin,  
M.P., Prime Minister.

We, the undersigned, who were present, and pledged ourselves, in the Albert Hall on the evening of November 5, desire to call your