

MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESAN COUNCIL.

A meeting of the above was held in the Diocesan Hall, Napier, on Friday, March 12th, at 2.15 p.m.

After the opening prayers and the minutes, the Council received with great regret the resignation, owing to her mother's serious illness, of Deaconess Mabel Henn, Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer. A message of appreciation and sympathy was sent to her, and the hope was expressed that she would be able to take up the work again.

No one being willing to be nominated, Deaconess E. Brand offered to carry on for the present as Secretary, provided that a Treasurer could be found in Napier. Mrs. H. Mayo's offer to add the duties of Diocesan Treasurer to those of Literature Secretary and Treasurer was gladly accepted. Both were elected pro tem.

There was some interesting correspondence from England. Mrs. Rowland enclosed the agenda of an "Invalids' Prayer Circle" Conference. The Council decided to adopt one suggestion made at that Conference, viz., "That on each Branch Committee one member be appointed to help the work and increase the number of members of the "Invalid's Prayer Circle."

The President drew attention to the transference of the Feast of the Annunciation — Day of Corporate Communion for the Mothers' Union — from March 25th (Maundy Thursday) to Tuesday, April 6th.

"Religion in the Home."

A set of addresses had been lent to the Secretary by the Christchurch Mothers' Union, and she had typed copies of each. These can be borrowed by the Branches for use at meetings, and the President hoped that every Branch would make use of as many as possible during the year, so that our members throughout the Diocese may have every help in carrying out one of the main objects of the Union.*

Mrs. Henley's report of the M.U. Banner Fund was received with much satisfaction. It was made in Christchurch, total cost £6 8s. It was dedicated by the Dean of Waiapu

on February 24th, and is kept in St. John's Church, Napier.

Mrs. Oxford gave a report of the Diocesan Library. Sixteen Branches had borrowed parcels of books. Secretaries were reminded that the time for keeping books is three months; if kept longer, a fine is imposed.

A donation for the purchase of new books by Anthony Deane was promised by Mrs. Y. Y. Anderson, and a similar amount by Mrs. H. W. Williams. The Library has no reserve fund for the purchase of books.

*Titles of Addresses on "Religion in the Home."

- I. The Children's Prayers.
 - II. I Believe in God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - III. I Believe in the Holy Ghost.
 - IV. Children's Questions.
 - V. The Vocation of a Mother.
 - VI. Teaching the New Testament.
- Will Secretaries please apply to—

DEACONESS ESTHER BRAND,
305 Market Street South,
Hastings,

for a copy of either of these Addresses and return it as soon as it has been read at the meeting.

GENERAL SYNOD.

The usual triennial Session begins at Hamilton on Thursday, April 8th. This is the first meeting ever held in the Diocese of Waikato. A great many subjects, some of them most important, will come up for discussion and settlement. At the last Session, held at Napier, a very elaborate Canon was passed setting up machinery for the election of Bishops. This was referred to the several Diocesan Synods and was approved by only one of them. What to do next, is the question. No one is much in love with the old method; it has too many weak spots. One of the Wellington Laymembers, Mr H. A. Huggins, contributes the following suggestions, which are well worth consideration. He proposes—

1. That when a See has become, or is about to become, vacant, a special meeting of Diocesan Synod be summoned.
2. That at such Synod the mind of the members be ascertained on all general matters, such as—

whether the Bishop should be chosen from within New Zealand, or from overseas; whether there are outstanding clergy whom Synod wishes considered; other special desires of Synod; and the income and pension proposed to be given.

3. Having indicated the mind of Synod upon the general requirements of the Diocese, further full enquiry and selection to be delegated to a body consisting of seven clergy and seven laity, elected by the Synod especially for that purpose at the close of the Session.
4. That this body should forthwith obtain reliable information, and carefully consider the nomination of a name or names to be submitted to the Bench of Bishops, always having due regard to the expressed wishes of Synod, and authorised to ask advice of the Bishops if found necessary.
5. That the Bench of Bishops assemble in the same city at the same time, and be available for consultation (if desired), and, being provided with all known information, there and then approve or disapprove of the name submitted.
6. That if the Bench of Bishops should disapprove, further names should be submitted until approval is obtained.
7. That the final decision be conveyed to the one selected for the bishopric by the Diocese in which the vacancy has occurred.
8. That provision be made for a second and third choice in order to avoid the expense of further Synods.

Such a method would not deprive Diocesan Synods of initiative. It would certainly deprive them of the personal selection, the very factor about which so many difficulties arise.

DIOCESAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER.

O God, who has bidden us to worship Thee in spirit and in truth, overshadow us with the power of Thy Holy Spirit, let Thy mercy and the grace of Thy salvation come upon us, that our prayer may be directed