

General Synod. We feel that, while many excellent institutions are doing noble work in the various dioceses, yet our Church people are often lacking in appreciation of the duty not only of salvaging the wreckage of our present social system, but of re-thinking and remaking that system in the light of the new factors which are constantly emerging in society, and which ought to be led captive to the law of Christ. We still hope that some kind of councils may be set up in the various dioceses which, without attempting to assume any control of institutions already established, may consider general questions of policy, openings for new work, and the response demanded from the Church to social needs and problems."

Witness Against War.

The committee had considered the resolutions of the Auckland Diocesan Synod in regard to war which had been laid before the General Synod, and cordially approved by them, the report adds. There was a danger lest the Church should be swayed from the consistency of its witness against war. The mere fact that organisation for peace had been for the time being submerged by the rising tide of re-armament did not change the essential contradiction which was offered by war to the teaching of Christ. It might be that it was a menace to peace for one country to remain under-armed when others were re-arming. "We can only say that such re-armament may be the lesser of two evils. So far from viewing it with any sort of complacency, the Church must keep insistently before her people the fact that the path which the world is following to-day is dictated by national exclusiveness, by fear and selfishness, and that such a path is not the high road to peace. Men do not gather figs of thistles."

"We welcome the greater leisure and the advance in wages which have so increased the amenities of life for many of our people," says the report, "and we look forward to seeing these advantages used for the spiritual, intellectual and artistic enrichment of the nation. At the moment the new leisure may be too often looked upon as only an extra opportunity for sport and recreation, but we believe that such a view is the result of narrowness of outlook and ignorance of

the resources and possibilities of life. We believe that in time the appreciation of the blessings of this leisure will more than counterbalance its dangers. It will be the function of the schools to develop a new educational policy to meet the new proportions of work and leisure; it will be the function of the Church to centre all recreations, occupations and interests on the life that is life indeed.

Poverty of Ideas.

There was a considerable body of evidence which went to show that much of the increased earnings of to-day was being spent in unproductive ways, the report added. Here again it was believed that such spending was as much due to poverty of ideas as to poverty of character. The understanding of the possibilities of right spending needed to be developed, and there were inducements to wrong spending which needed to be restricted.

"We think, for instance, that our people, and especially our young people, should be better protected from inducements to drink, and even to drink to excess. We should like to see the system of private profit extinguished. With a view to this we believe that a thorough investigation should be made in Great Britain and other countries of systems of liquor control by the State. We consider that in the conflict between continuance and prohibition this third alternative has never been fairly appreciated by our people. A dispassionate inquiry conducted by the Church might be of great use, and we recommend the subject to the notice of our Central Council for Social Problems.

"We wish to express our admiration of the courage with which the commission on abortion has faced those facts which must be to all New Zealanders both shocking and humiliating. We understand that the Mothers' Union was able to be of service to the commission in its investigations. There is no doubt that the economic conditions and the restlessness of modern life are contributory causes to this evil, but behind all lies the fact that many of our young people are looking in the wrong direction for satisfaction and peace, and are in danger of spiritual bankruptcy if not rightly guided," adds the report.

LIQUOR TRADE REFORM.

There was a long and interesting debate in General Synod on this subject, but unfortunately no conclusion was reached. The Bishop of Wellington told of an interesting and satisfactory experiment of a Church-managed public-house in his former parish in England, and Synod smiled when a lay member, who had not heard the Bishop, said that managing public-houses always had a bad effect on the character. After various amendments the motion was finally put in the form given below, but lost. The Bishops were nearly all in favour of it, and so were the clergy, but the laymen rejected it by a small majority.

"That whereas under the present laws a large percentage of the population are enjoying greater leisure, and whereas the spending power of the community in general has been largely increased, and whereas evidence is accumulating of the large increase in the consumption of intoxicating liquors, it is resolved by this Synod of the Church of the Province of New Zealand, commonly called the Church of England: (1) That the Government be urgently requested to take steps to provide facilities for the profitable use of the longer leisure hours now enjoyed by the people. (2) That urgent steps be taken more effectively to control the traffic in intoxicating beverages by—(a) Insisting on a higher standard of purity in the liquor sold to the public; (b) a more rigid control of the use of liquor (i.) in the King Country and other prohibited areas, (ii.) on private motor vehicles, and (iii.) on unlicensed premises where public entertainment is provided; (c) the immediate setting up of a commission to inquire into the results of the various systems of liquor control in vogue in the United Kingdom with a view to the taking over by the State of the whole of the liquor interests in New Zealand and so eliminating private profit from the trade."

BOARD OF MISSIONS NOTES.

HOME BASE.

Foundation for Missionary Service,
(By J. A. Tyndale-Biscoe.)

Every parish priest is confronted with the problem of holding Con-