

## AMANAWA JINJA

From the main street of Hase a turning leads up to this now insignificant temple, arched by a large stone *torii*. Dedicated to the Sun-Goddess Amaterasu, the *Amanawa Shimmeigu* is a branch of the parent temples at Ise: the date of the original shrine is unknown, but it is considered of great antiquity and is probably the most ancient foundation in Kamakura. A record of that era states that Yoritomo, his consort Masako and his son Sanetomo (afterwards third *Shōgun*) frequently worshipped at this shrine, the temple being held in high esteem by his government. According to the *Azuma Kagami*, when the political power of Yoritomo was firmly established, on the 2nd of January in the second year of *Bunji* (1186) the *Shōgun* repaired to *Amanawa Jinja* for his ceremonial New Year visit: thus proving the temple to have been in existence before his time. In the October of the same year Yoritomo gave orders for the reconstruction and improvement of the building.

This small structure is supposed to contain the effigy of an antique deity which was possessed by Yoshiie, the great ancestor of Yoritomo; also a statue of Yoshiie himself; but inspection being prohibited, these facts are hard to verify. From the terrace upon which the shrine is situated a path winds up to the crest of the hill, with beautiful sea-views between the boughs of the fine old trees.



### Amanawa Jinja.

Shrine dedicated to the Sun-Goddess Amaterasu; this foundation is one of the most ancient in Kamakura.