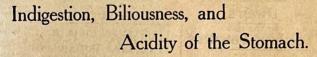
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## Power in Weakness.

2 Cor. 12: 7-10.

William Marsden.

Many and various have been the speculations on what was the apostle Paul's "thorn tions on what was the apostic Paul's "thorn in the flesh," or "stake in the flesh" as it ought to be. Although speculations are by ough no means certainties, experience has abundno mean abundantly demonstrated the ease with which they take that shape in the mind, gathering to take that shape in the mind, gathering to themselves in consequence an important and an influence to which they have no manner of right. The apostle's "stake in manner of light. The apostie's "stake in the flesh" has not escaped this experience. From the days of the early fathers down to From the days of the same pronounced upon our own times writers have pronounced upon it, giving their views with more or less certainty. But worse than the tendency to speculative dogmatism have been the reflecin some of the theories advanced. Roman Catholic writers have been the worst offenders with their prurient and unclean theory of a tormenting carnal desire. The monks of the middle ages in their lonely cells took comfort in thus finding the apostle afflicted with a weakness which made him a man of like passions with themselves. To-day this revolting view is the generally accepted teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. An appreciation of Paul's character, in its beauty d elevation, as so c'early revealed in his writings, ought always to have been a sufficient vindication against lewdness. And it is more than likely that this would have been so apart from the proneness in men to see in great leaders, especially moral and spiritual. the frailties of which they themselves are the franties of which appreciation of the apostle's words in verse 9, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weakness," would equally have saved him; for it is not within the range of possibility that he could have gloried in a carnal weakness. The early fathers more soberly, and with a proper regard for exegesis, decided the "stake in the flesh" to be some form of bodily ailment. And now again the commentators are back to the original theory—that of some severe and disabling physical malady. This is a conclusion warranted by the apostle himself in the text before us, and in the kindred reference, Galatians 4: 13-15, which provide the only facts in the case. We are told by Paul that his weakness was an infliction given to him as a counterpoise to, and to save him from, spirtual pride, a danger of the "exceeding greatness of the revelations" he had received; that it was an infirmity of the flesh the agony of which was as a stake running into the body; that it showed itself outwardly, and was repulsive to look upon; that he dreaded it as a hindrance to his work by making him

repellent to those who would see and hear him. An assumption remains, which may be considered a fair one, from the reference in the Galatian account, that the eyes were the seat of the affliction, or at any rate were a part of it.

a part of it.

Whatever the malady it took a loathsome and almost unbearable form, and to the apostle's sensitive mind was as a stake in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him. Three times he solemnly implored the Lord to remove the infirmity from him. Then came the answer. His gracious Master spoke to him: "My grace is sufficient for thee; power is made perfect in weakness." The



W. MARSDEN.

implored petition was ungranted, but the prayer was answered, and answered with infinite compassion, infinite insight, infinite wisdom. The affliction was to continue, but its meaning and purpose were explained. The words were a new light to the suffering servant. For the first time he understood. Never again would his petition be repeated. It had only been made because he saw in the affliction a dragging, useless hindrance to his work—that to which his Lord had called him. No doubt the pain was heavy to bear, but that meant less to him than did the success of the gospel. His Master knew the urgent need, and would surely listen to his repeated requests, and remove the dreadful embarrassment from him. When understanding came, Paul was a man made over again. Eternal issues were involved in the matter of his prayer, issues that involved first of all his own soul's welfare. The integrity of his spiritual life had been in jeopardy. That which he had looked upon as pulling .

him down, as crushing him, had been the saving of him. In this way the Lord had been guarding him against himself, saving him from a self-exaltation that would have soared above measure. It was all so new, so startling, so beyond his own computations, yet withal so full of divine regard for himself and promise for his heaven-given mission, that his whole being went out in full sur-render to his thrice beloved and all-loving Saviour. The apostle knew already somesaving of the wonderful power of Jesus in the saving of men from their sins, and the restoring of them to the life of God; he would surely know something of the uses of afflictions in the divine purpose; but what he did not know was that bodily weakness or any other hard experience could become the any other nare experience could become the soil out of which spiritual strength would grow to perfection. But knowing it now he is forever satisfied. To have the grace of is lorever satisfied. To have the grace of the Lord always sufficient in his affliction; to know that he was being kept from even a taint of self-pride; that he would grow from strength to strength till the highest was reached; that this would make him mighty to the pulling down of the ramparts of Satan and the freeing of sin-bolden men; and that each day he would be realising more and more, even to the end and beyond, the best that life held for him. Can it be woodered that he accepted, welcomed, rejoiced in, the very burden which but now had seemed so well-nigh fatal a drag?

But we must avoid any mistake. The apostle does not rejoice in weakness, but in the finishing, perfecting power of weakness. Weakness of itself will perfect nothing. There must be power as well as weakness. Paul understood this. The good result required the two in combination. The weakne s was the divine discipline; the power, struggling against and striving through weakness, was the gift of his Lord. The marvel was in the fact that weakness could be used to such mighty purpose. This being so, where weakness is and must be, then welcome weakness. Thus the apostle welcomed it, saying truly, "for when I am weak then am I strong"; and joining on to bodily weakness those other ills that press from withoutinjuries, necessities, persecutions, distressesand borne for Christ's sake.

The inestimable value of divine strength The inestimable value of divine strength working through the apostle's weaknesses is seen in the after results. Surely never another life is to be compared with the life of Paul. Is not this man, in bodily presence so painfully handicapped, a marvel of character and accomplishment? He compassed sea and

and with his immortal message, braving and enduring terrible bardships and dangers; he faced the might of the world, standing before kings and governors; he answered all gainsayers with a wisdom and power they could not withstand, winning myriads in contrition to the feet of Jesus; he gave to that vast holy life, which still holds the ground against the contending but barren theories of worldly philosophy. All this he did and more with a loftiness of life, a force, a passion, a purpose, that may only be explained as he himself explains it—"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." The merely human will not account for the sum of a life like this. It is a phenomenon that can only be understood in the grace and power of the Son of God. In this way we have an adequate cause for this outstanding life, a cause that demands no limitations nor toning down.

What food for reflection is provided in this soul-searching experience of Paul's! We see in him one who found in affliction the summum bonum of life. He found it in conquest over sin and self, in perfecting holiness. in merging himself in the life of God. He found it in the hard way, which he travelled so willingly, so unflinchingly, so long; but sustained by the comfort and power of his Lord; and never forgetting that suffering had its prerogatives. He won not thinking the cost heavy. Even after his accumulated sufferings, with his mind and heart surging as he dwells on the end in view, he can say, "For our light affliction, which is for the moment, worketh for us more and more exceedingly an eternal weight of glory. How blessed and how to be longed for is such exaltation!

The most practical outcome of a study such as this is in its application to individual needs. The God-given lessons of life are for all time, because for all time man will require them. Notwithstanding the generations of people that have come and gone since Paul, and the changes which time and place have effected, man remains the same, and life is still the same rough road-the necessary sequence to the unchanging tendencies in human nature. We cannot escape the rough road, nor would escape be to our good. Whilst the world lives upon, and profits by the ever-gathering experiences of its past, the essential things have no deep or settled place in its life. The primitive instincts of the race, even in so-called advanced peoples, are still equal to the worst savagery of the past. Moral and spiritual stagnation or decline may go hand in hand with material prosperity and advancement. When the great moral collapse comes, as it did come, we are proved to have lived in a fool's para. dise of moral security. Out of its sufferings the world is being called back to truer ideals. But ideals are of value only as they are reverenced in the hearts of men, and as they are operative in subduing evil passions in individual lives. And here, again, ideals in themselves fail of this result from lack of quickening power. They have never been known to come to maturity in the lives of men except under the life-giving impulse of belief in and subjection to the living God. This thought is capable of much development, but we must pass on to a conclusion.

It is evident that the Lord's words. Power is made perfect in weakness, are an axiom-a law of life, the having no place in the original text. It is not difficult to find examples of the operation of such a law in the lives of people about us. All the better elements of human nature are quickened by suffering, whilst objectionable traits are modified. Many a man, hard and self-sufficient in his strength, has learned compassion, considerateness, tenderness, and humility, in his affliction. There are those who remember with sweetness that which was bitter to endure. But it requires men of Paul's pattern to prove its sublime possibilities, with the grace and strength of the Lord of life for its foundation. That redemption meant the conquest of sin, and the conquest of the love of sin, as well as its pardon, was, to Paul, its wonder and its glory. To please Christ, to win against sin, became the mester pas-

May 6, 1920 sion of his being. These are the condition of divine love operations of divine love operations. sion of his being. These are the cond for the operations of divine love. for the operations of divine love and matter then the roughness of the Wind A true sains road matter then the rouganess of the roads the end be reached? A true saint of conservellous corroboration of the Cod the end be reached; a true saint of the is a marvellous corroboration of this law product of the sustaining law. the control of the sustaining law the is the product of the sustaining law the is the product of Jesus, when the control of the control and superhuman power of Jesus. Out of weakness he has been made strong, with a strength. He did not show the strength of the s weakness he has been made strong, with weakness he has been made strong, with a perfect strength. He did not shup the perfect and found therein a low, the perfect strength. The way to victory. The way to victory. hard way, lightened the way to victory. The joy of Christ's presence, companionship and an companionship and an an arrangement of the property Christ's presence, compensation and all port is more than compensation for the up of for all who are prepared. port is more than compensation for the man of the way, for all who are prepared to walk the man with him. To thus go be walk of the way, tor an way are prepared to way with him. To thus go hand the way with Legus, assured of reals, and the way with nim.

the way with Jesus, assured of realising hand with Jesus, assured the highest of the hight of the highest of the highest of the highest of the highest o hand with Jesus, assured of realising the highest of the highest o high destiny, is surely the mighest of well tall privileges. Would it not be, too back tall privileges. Would it not be, too back thought to be a message, that tal privileges. Would it not be, too, that we had thought to be a messenger of what we had thought to be a messenger of Satan to buffet us, would prove to be a standard to point the way of the Satan to punet us, would prove to be angel's visit to point the way of imp

# New South Wales Conference,

Stuart Stevens.

The thirty-fifth annual Conference of the fortytwo churches in the State was held during Easter.

Mr. George Stimson presided efficiently over every session. Messages of greetings were received from the

various States and "the regions beyond," These were heartly received and suitably reciprocated. The church at Parramatta was admitted into the Conference.

Lieut, Col Forbes, D. C. M., Senior Chaplain of O. P. D., presented a claim on behalf of returned men by affirming that work was still possible upon the streets and in hospital visitation.

Considerable discussion followed the mention of "Conference with the Baptists." During the day Mr. C. Black, President of the Baptist Union, presented greetings.

ented greetings.

It was generally regretted that more brethren
were not available for pospel preaching Many
training classes were in vogue; and with a view to
providing a suitable course of study, a resolution was passed.

The "Book Depot" work, commenced last year, provoked many speeches of appreciation. hoped that this work will extend

Considerable disquietness was occasioned when "Statistics" showed a net decrease of 277 for the year. "Revision of Roll" column alone accounted for 557. Delegates did not comment publicly upon the fact. At present there are 3779 members in At last Conference 334 additions were reported, this year 581.

The erection of a suitable church home at Dumbleton and the formation of a church there was a

cause of considerable gratification. The State has now 3266 scholars and 454 teachers in its Bible Schools. During the year 72 scholars

became church members. The Foreign Missions Committee raised £1107 14/9 this year as against £1007/4/2 last year. The 50 per cent. rate of exchange to the fields was emphasised as a reason for increased gifts.

" A Visit to the Cradle of the World" was the title of a lecture by Mr. Cecil R. Hall at the Bible Schools demonstration.

Mr. H. E. King (Sec. China Inland Mission) told of their work at the Foreign Mission session. Bren, Whelan and Eaton delivered forceful addresses. Mr. John Hindle, who had just returned from a

tour of England, delivered a vigorous address at the Speakers' Session on "Some Impressions Gained during a Recent Visit to England.' The Conference Sermon by Bro. A. Eaton, on "Our Plea and the Present World Situation," delivered at the City Temple on Sunday afternoon,

was considered to be a masterly, timely utteract and worthy of the audience which enjoyed it ad worthy of the audience which enjoyed it.

The Home Missions Rally was a most successful.

Bro. Hutson, Vice Presiden. and wos ....
The Home Missions Kally was a most successed
gathering. Bro. Hutson, Vice-President, statements.
Bren. Stimson, Forbes, Rush and

chairman. Bren. Stimson, Forbes, Rush sate Payne delivered helpful speeches. The sisters were heartly praised for the tank tuous meals provided at each session on total OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

The following elections were made for the year. The following elections were made for the year-President, George Stimson; Vice-President, Addu-Hutson; Treasurer, W. H. Hall; Secretary, A. H. Gilman, A. Webber; Assistant-Sec., H. Gilmour, Executive and Home Missionary Committee

Executive and riome Aussionary Committee. Dr. E. A. Bardsley, J. Crawford, A. Eaton, E. Hilder, H. G. Harward, L. Rossell, J. Stimboo. Foreign Missions.—Chairman, J. Crawford, W Avenell, M. Blok, W. Crossman, J. Clydesdak, O. Avenell, M. Bios, W. Gale, J. Holt, Quan Maze Bible Schools.—Chairman, S. Stevens, T. P.

Bible Schools.—Chairman, S. Stevens; T. B. wards, P. Gilmore, S. Gole, C. Hall, S. Morris, N Matthews, W. Roffey, A. Smith. Temperance, -A. Carter, C. Cook, A. Fisher, W. Grant, S. B. Hibbard, E. Lewis.

W. Grant, S. B. Histori, L. Lewis, L. Hutson, A. Hutson, A. Batton, M. Blok, J. Crawford, F. Gilmore, C. S. Hibbard, E. Johnson, L. Rossell, A. H. Webber

RESOLUTIONS.

The following resolutions were passed:-

"That this Conference pledge itself to support in

"That this Conference pleage itself to support a conjunction with the Baptist and Congregated bodies, Chaplain Riley, who has been set apart byte Chaplains Committee for street patrol and hospia visitation for one year." "That the Faculty of the College be asked to

arrange for a course of study which may be followed by the training classes of the different States, see cessful students in these classes to be awarded certificates of proficiency.' That this Conference expresses its profound

thankfulness to God for all his blessings de past thirteen years of the work of the Colleged the Bible, and its sincere appreciation of the faithful services of the Faculty and Board of Management This Conference looks forward with every confidence to the work of the Institution in years to come."

That a General Conference between Conference of the Churches of Christ and the Baptist Union be arranged on the basis of one to every fifty members or part thereof of each individual church. That New South Wales pledges its support lor

the upkeep of one lady student during her tern of study in preparation for Foreign Mission service." "That we request the Federal Foreign Missionan

Committee to prepare something more suitable for Children's Day exercises."
Children's Day exercises."
That the Conference Executive take into consideration the advisability of commencing work sideration the Jews in Svdney."

sideration the advisability of commencing work amongst the Jews in Sydney.' That this Conference whilst regretting the com-pensation clause in the 'New Liquor Act,' recom-mend the brotherhood to vote for Prohibition at the mend the brothernood to vote for Prohibition at the coming referendum, believing it will be better to pay to eliminate the traffic than leave it to destroy our to eliminate.

to summer the constitution of Conference, we are to smeand the constitution of Conference, we are to smeand the constitution of Conference, we are to smean the constitution of Conference, we are to smean the constitution of Conference, we are to smean the constitution of Conference, and the Conference of Conf

at Burwood.

The Book Depot and Home Missions Office in the city has justified itself, in that it has been a means the distinction and the distinction of the distinc city mas justimed itself, in that it has been a means of propagating the distinctive message of the Church of Christ.

of Christ.

The gross additions to our membership were 581, although a rigid revision of roll has very seriously affected our State figures.

fected our State ngures. The fund to conduct an aggressive evangelistic The friginal to conduct an aggressive eyangelistic campaign was inaugurated at a men's dinner in the city Temple on August 10th, 1919, and a special City Temple on August 10th, 1919, and a special the Churches was made on September 7. appeal on the city of t of some large amounts, it was decided to aim at

the end of May.

The Committee subsidised thirteen fields, ten in the city and three outside the city. Auburn is now seeding a new church home. Bro. Forbes is having good success. Merewether reports fourteen baptisms good success. Sucrevenue reports fourteen baptisms for year. This was the first year of Bro. Martin's work. The church has become self-supporting Bro. Gale said Paddington presented a bright prospect—seven baptisms. Wagga and Invereil reported drought baptisms. Wagga and invereit reported drought and consequently many problems. At South Ken-ington the work is full of promise. Bro. Robbins commences there imediately after Conference. Mosman reports thirteen baptisms for the year, M. J. Blok is preacher. Rockdale reports 59 baptisms. This work is two years old; and has a membership This work is two years old, and has a membership of 110. A church home is urgently needed, S. Stevens, preacher. Bro. Eagle concludes at Brakineville. The present property is to be sold, and another site and home to be obtained. Bro. S. R. Hibbard has recently commenced at St. Peters and reports five baptisms.

In view of the special mission work to be con-ducted in the State, the committee consider the time opportune for all of our churches to give special emphasis to our distinctive position by regular preaching, special meetings, and distribu-

tion of literature

tion of literature.

For the Peace Offering there was given £1443/13/4.

The total for the Conference year, including the above, was £2876/7/11. Last year the total was £1863/18. The actual debit balance was £223/0/7.

Concrisi Bro. C. Rush, there is the following:

"Your committee desire to record their appreciation of the fine work done by our Organizing Secretary. As Organizer he has overcome many difficulties and carried the work on well."

"The Home Mission Committee recommend to our churches be urged to pay their evangelists a sum of not less than £5 per week.

BIBLE SCHOOLS.

New schools have been commenced at Loftus Park, Parramatta and Blakehurst.

The work of supporting a cot in the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children is still maintained,

£36/2/1 being raised for that purpose during the Although the influenza epidemic prevailed for months and our schools were closed for a consider-

able period, a creditable examination was conducted. The income of the committee for the year was £148/4/2.

THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST CHAPEL EXTENSION FUND, LTD.

"This fund has aided six congregations in their land or building operations since its inception in 1913-14, and at present has a paid up capital of

£722/17/7, practically all of which is on loan or arranged to be loaned to our various churches.

During the year the loan to Hamilton church h been repaid and land has been purchased for the church at Dumbleton. The erection of a building on this land has been approved, and the newly established cause at Dumbleton will be meeting in a building entirely owned by the brotherhood, a fact rendered possible by the existence of such a Fund."

## Here and There

Two confessed Christ last Sunday at Balaklava,

Five confessions at Norwood, S.A., last Sunday, Bro. Beiler preaching.

Bordertown, S.A., held a very successful Bible School Anniversary on May 2.

At Echuca, Vic., a young girl confessed Christ on Sunday, Bro. L. E. Clay preaching. Australian brethren are reminded of the next big

offering-Foreign Missions, July 4. G. T. Walden passed through Melbourne en route from Tasmania to Adelaide on Tuesday.

One confession at Horsham, Vic., and two decisions at Haven last week, Bro. Bassard preaching. At Wahroonga, N.S.W., on Sunday a young lady made the good confession, Bro. Johnson preaching.

We regret to learn that Bro. F. J. Sivyer, B.A., preacher of the Moreland church, Vic., is seriously ill.

The monthly meeting of the Victorian C.B. Committee will be held at Lygon-st, chapel on Monday, May 10.

The secretary of the Belmore church, N.S.W., is now Mr. Alf. Morton, "Ebenezer," Allen-avenue, Pelmore.

The secretary of the church at Hastings, N.Z., now is Matthew H. Biggs, Havelock North, Hawkes Bay, N.Z.

Encouraging meetings are being held at Grote-st., S.A. A lad from the Bible School confessed Christ

on April 25. Bro. Lionel Johnston made a good start at Preston, Vic., last Sunday. His address is Hutton-st. (west), Thornbury.

Elliott, Q., had a successful Bible School picnic on April 24. Bro. Larsen's visits and addresses

are much appreciated. A man and his wife confessed Christ at Wagga, N.S.W., last Sunday. Interest in the mission to begin May 30 is growing.

Two confessions at Brunswick, Vic., on Sunday last, Bro. Corlett preaching. Good Church doubled quota for Bible Schools.

A great rush of reports at the last caused unusual compression in a number of cases and unavoidable postponement in others. We are sorry.

Bro, and Sister E. Clegg have left Fremantle, W.A., after twenty years of service, for Victoria. The work in Fremantle continues to progress.

We hear of good Bible School day services in South Australia and Victoria. A number of decisions are reported and many good offerings were made.

P. R. Baker has made a good start at Launceston. Bro. Walden's visit was much appreciated. The officers are planning for progressive work amongst the young.

A young lady was received into fellowship at Swanston st. last Sunday morning. In the evening three young ladies confessed Christ, Bro. Blakemore preaching.

The church at Gardiner, Vic., is progressing. combined School and Church service last Sunday 68 were present and £6/2/2 was given for Bible School Offering.

The Lochiel Sunday School, S.A., celebrated its anniversary on April 11th and 14th. Bro. Cuttrins's messages were much appreciated. Special singing was rendered by the scholars. The work continues steadily. A preacher for the district is hoped for.

Geelong, Vic., had good meetings on May 2 Feeling reference was made to the death of F. E Thomas, at whose funeral service Bro. Schwab assisted

Three lads decided for Christ at North Richmond on 2nd inst., Bro. J. E. Allan preaching. A large number of Bible School scholars attended the worship service.

Eighty were in Glenhuntly, Vic., Bible School, last Sunday. A similar number was present at night. Best day yet. The church will be formally organised next Sunday.

Those who did not have a share last Sunday in the Bible School Annual Offering will be able to do so next Lord's Day. In most churches the offering is kept open over two Sundays.

A young woman confessed Christ at Williamtown. S.A., on April 11, Bro. Blackburn preaching. Bro. Blackburn preached farewell sermons on 18th. He is taking up the work at Tumby Bay.

South Yarra, Vic., anniversary passed off very successfully. On Bible School night, the chapel was crowded. W. H. Hinrichsen has been recrowded. engaged for another twelve months. In place of Bro. Thomas, who was absent at

ng at the funeral of his brother, C. M. Gordon spoke at Lygon st. last Sunday night. The church expresses deepest sympathy with bereaved friends. A baptismal service was held at Stawell, Vic., on

May 2. The social to departing and incoming preachers and their wives was most successful. Bro. Wakefield has created a very good impression. There was one decision for Christ at Nth. Carlton. Vic., last Sunday. Bro. R. K. Whately recently accepted a short engagement to labor with the church. A growing interest is manifested in the

Bro. J. McKenzie, M.A., from Canada, preached at South Melbourne on April 25. He will take services there for a few months. On May 2 there was one confession at the close of an address by Bro.

Northeast. Bro. Taylor has made a good start at Kadina, S.A. One lady was received into membership on April 25. Bro. and Sister Nightingale, on leaving, received many beautiful and costly gifts. Their work was much blessed and appreciated.

On March 28, Lipson Sunday School, S.A., celebrated its anniversary very successfully. Bro. Harkness, from Adelaide, conducted services afternoon and evening; his addresses were much appreciated by good congregations. The brethren hope to

have Bro. Blackburn with them shortly. Meetings are keeping up well at Hurstville, S.W. During April several have been baptised, some of whom were from Dumbleton. At special Anzac service on 25th ult., Bro. Crossman preached, nd one young man made the good confession. Week of prayer and self-denial commenced on May 2.

A. J. Ingham writes re Wallaroo mission :- "The meetings are fine, and interest is growing. The whole town is talking about our plea. Chandler's whose town is taiking about our piea. Chandler's exposition of our position has been masterly. The second week closed with a total of 20 decisions. Many more will soon follow. There were 11 adults came in two nights."

Good meetings at Belmore, N.S.W., on April 25. Mrs. Hall was received by letter from Hobart. An in memoriam service was held at night to the late Sister Hawkins, Bro. Hutson preaching. A splen-did welcome to Bro. Walden, F.M. Secretary, and a farewell to Bro. and Sister Black, our new missionaries, were given last week.

Moonta, S.A., Bible School Anniversary was a record success. Chapel overcrowded. Hundreds turned away at evening service. Good addresses by Geo. P. Cuttriss. It was decided on May 2 to invite Bro. Chandler back for seven days' mis-sion in chapel. Invitation is accepted, and mission commences 13th and finishes 19th May.

Very many friends will learn with deep regret of the death of Bro. Henry Lyall, an old and esteemed member of Swanston-st. church. He passed away member of Swanston-st courts. The passed away on Sunday last at the age of 87 years. He was a colonist of 63 years' standing. Another of our pioneers, a man of sterling character, a lover of the Bible and the church, a brother true to conviction, has been taken from us. In our next issue we hope to give a more extended notice.

It is with very deep sorrow that we report the death of Bro. F. E. Thomas, brother of J. E. Thomas, preacher of Lygon-st, church. He passed away on Friday last at the early age of 33 years. He was taken ill while speaking at West Hawthorn Baptist Church on the previous Sunday. Recovering somewhat, he resumed his teaching work on Monday at Scotch College, but became worse. An operation resulted, but unfortunately it was too late to avail. Our sincere sympathy is with all the bereaved ones.

Cabled reports of last week tell of rejoicing among the Jews because "Israel is again a nation "Enthusiastic Zionist celebrations are being held at the People's Palace in London. A mass meeting of Jews carried a resolution of thanks to the British and Allied Governments for having embodied Mr. Balfour's declaration, that Palestine would be restored to the Jews, in the Peace Treaty. Max Nordau (president of the Zionist Congress), who was the chief speaker, said: "The dream of our lives has come Israel is again a nation amongst the nations.

The publishers of Austral Graded Lessons, atter careful examination, have decided to award the prizes for the Hand-Work Competition or last year as follows: Scholars over 11 years—First Prize, Les. Allen, Hampton. Vic., 21/r. Second Prize, Crace Ledwell, Hobart, Tas., 15/r. Third Prize, Lorna Jean Kearney, Mile Bud, S.A., 10/r; Mary Mocbus, Mildura, Vic.; Ido Occkayne, Hobart, Tas.; J. Wilkins, Northcote, Vic, 5]- each. Scholars under 11 years-First Prize, Bert Trivett, Lygonst., Vic., 17/6. Second Prize, Florrie Stokes, Haw-thorne, Queensland, 12/6. Third Prize, Jessie Flood, Ascot Vale, Vic., 7/6. Mabel Woodward, Kadina, S.A., Ernest Southgate, Hobart, Tas.; Daphne Meyer, Berwick, Vic., 5/- each.

In addition to the awards made by the publishers of Austral Graded Lessons in connection with the 1919 Hand Work Competition, the following awards have been made by the Victorian Bible School Dept. for the best six books from the States:-Dept. for the best six books from the States:— Scholars over 11 years First Prize, Les. Allen, Hampton, 10!— Second Prize, Mary Moebus, Mil-dura, 6!— Third Prize, J. Wilkins, Northcote, 4!— Scholars under 11 years - First Prize, Bert Trivett, Lygon-st., 10]. Second Prize, Jessie Flood, Ascot Vale, 6]. Third Prize, Daphne Meyer, Berwick, 4].

At the annual Conference of the Australian Alli-ance Prohibition Council held in Melbourne last week a motion was agreed to, expressing opposition to the proposals of legislative treatment of the fermented wine industry separate from that of other branches of the liquor traffic. Attention was directed branches of the induor traine. Attention was directed to the fact that in the pre-war year the Australian exports of wine were only £106,030 out of total exports amounting to £75,000,000. It was decided to inform the World's League against alcoholism that Australia is in a position to finance its own social efforts, and suggesting that any money allocated to Australia for the American effort for world propaganda should be diverted elsewhere. It was urged that engagements of oversea speakers should be under taken by the central council of the league. The following was agreed to:—"That this council respectfully urges that the three-fifths majority demand-ed by the Victorian local option law is unreasonable. unjust, and undemocratic, and earnestly hopes that effort to be made in the coming session of the Legislature to abolish this provision may be successful, thus bringing Victoria into line with the more democratic States." The following office bearers were The following office bearers v elected - President, Mr. R.B.S. Hammond (N.S.W), vice-president. Mr. W. G. Clegg (N.S.W.), Major Smeaton, M.H.A. (S.A.), Mr. W. Finlayson, M.L.C. (Q), Mr. W. Osborne (Tas.), Mr. Crean (W.A.), and Mr. Greenwood. M.L.A. (Vic.); treasurer, Mr. H. R. Francis (Vic.) ; hon, secretary, Mr. S. Mauger (Vic.).

Bro. J. E. Thomas on a recent Sunday evening after church service attended the Melbourne Town Hall, where a concert arranged by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne was being held, and delivered a short address on "The Christ the World Needs." This interested a large number of people and was most cordially received. Many, including the Lord Mayor, thanked Bro Thomas warmly for his message. The public press gave the following interesting outline of the message:

Mr. Thomas said that however great and uplifting the influence of environment might be it could never

be a sufficient answer to the world's need. There might be many changes wrought in our surround-ings that might have a helpful effect on our thoughts and emotions, yet it was possible for us to remain the same as we were in spite of them all. Music was one of the most beautiful of the divine arts, and was one of the most beautiful of the divine arts, and it had quickened thoughts and aspirations, and had led men to higher things. In peace and in war music had had its holy minstry, and led men to think of the most sacred things that moved human hearts to better ideals. Yet no art could ever have a sufficient answer to the needs of men. It was that need Christ had to offer, and that was the crowning glory of Christianity. It was said that men had lost faith in the Church. That might be in a measure due to the fact that in some instances the Church had failed to faithfully represent the Christ of the Church. Whenever the Church became a political organization or a social institution, or even a purveyor of ethical ideals, it missed its opportunity nd failed to answer the needs of human hearts. While there might be many who had lost confidence in the Church there were but few who had lost their faith in Christ. He was still the answer to the world's need. Industrial unrest, social impurity, political inefficiency, and indifference, materialism, nd selfishness left us with a tremendous struggle still before us ere we came to a true and lasting peace, and that could only come through a personal peace, and that could only come unrough a personal Christ. If men were only willing to put into practice the teachings of Christ, they would find the solution of every problem that confronted them. Our supreme source of strength was in that Christ Who ever lived and ever loved, and Who would lead us to the one great far-off divine event to which the whole creation moved.

### West Australian Sisters' Conference. The Conference was held on Wednesday, Mar. 31.

The business sessions were under the capable direction of Mrs. G. Elliott. The attendance at the morning session excelled

former years. Welcome greetings were extended by Mrs. Stirling, and Mrs. Buckingham, of Brookton, and Mrs. Young, from South Australia, responded.
Miss M. Wilson presented a comprehensive report of the year's work; this together with depart-

mental reports showed that committees had been active and progressive throughout the whole year. The sisters had made over 90 quilts and a case of garments for the orphans of India.

Enthusiastic discussion was prompted by the following resolutions:
1.—"That this Conference desires that all money

contributed for Home Missions by the sisters should be given through the weekly envelopes, and the same be credited to them."

2 -" That Conference resolve to do all in its power to stem the tide of the Liquor Traffic, to power to seem the true of the Liquor Araline, to support in every way possible all institutions that are out to fight this iniquitous evil until we win a glorious prohibition."

3.—"That this Conference, recognising the

worldly spirit of our age, and the many attractions that draw our girls and young women away from the path of virtue and the church, urges that a special effort be made to encourage every young sister to take an intelligent interest in the church nd perform consistently some useful work in the life of the church."

The President's message to Conference was received with merited praise. It was full of rallying

The election of officers resulted as follows:-Pres. Pres., Mrs. H. Berry; Vice-Pres., Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. D. R. Stirling, and Mrs. G. Elliott: Sec., Miss M. Wilson; Asst. Sec., Miss A. McGregor; Treas., Mrs. C. A. G. Payne; Superintendents, Mrs. Jeffery, H.M.; Mrs. Winch, F.M.; Mrs. Robinson, sen., Prayer; Mrs. Preston, Dorcas; Mrs. D. M. Wilson, Hospital; Mrs. Lucraft, Mission Bands; ott, Obituary ; Mrs. Robinson, Isolated Correspondent.

pondent.
The evening session was held in conjunction with
the State F.M. Committee. D. R. Stirling addressed the meeting on "An Urgent Appeal." W.
R. Hibburt on "The Church's Need of Missionary Enterprise."

The sessions were brightened throughout the day by solos contributed by Mesdames Hibburt and Horn and Misses G. Rigg and Davis; and a duet by Misses A. Stephenson and M. Dickens.

DEATH.

LYALL—On the 2nd May, at "Linding are a construct, North McLay and the serior of the firm of Lyall area, then the firm of Lyall area, then the serior of the firm of Lyall area, the serior of long; of Mrs. F. G. Simpson, Mrs. E<sup>ren</sup>, father of Mrs. C. G. Lawson, and Robert R., Isabel R., and Henry J<sub>2m</sub>, dark populations Mrs. W. B. Renton, ors. C. G. Lawson, R. b. Alexander R., Isabel R., and Henry damer R. aged 87 years. A colonist for 63 years. A colonist for 63 years. A colonist for 63 years. aged 87 years. A colonist for 63 years. Melbourne General Cemetery, May 3, 1920.

## IN MEMORIAM

DUNN.—In loving memory of Captain Fraction of Captain Captain

the late r. G. Duling memory of our beloved wand brother, Major H. V. Gould, 2nd Pield Con pa and brother, Major H. V. Gould, 2nd Pield Con pa Engineers, A.I.F., died of wounds, Ebbliogha, Prance, May 8, 1918.

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MAY 16 & 19.—Cheltenham Church Annive MAY 16 & 17, Mudge's Black (also celebrating the beginning of Mr. Mudge's Black (also celebrating the beginning of Mr. Mudge the year of ministry with the church). Sends 1, 19 Cept 1 Cept 1 Cept 1 Cept 1 Cept 2 Cept

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