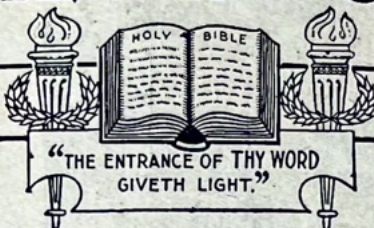


The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

A Journal Representing



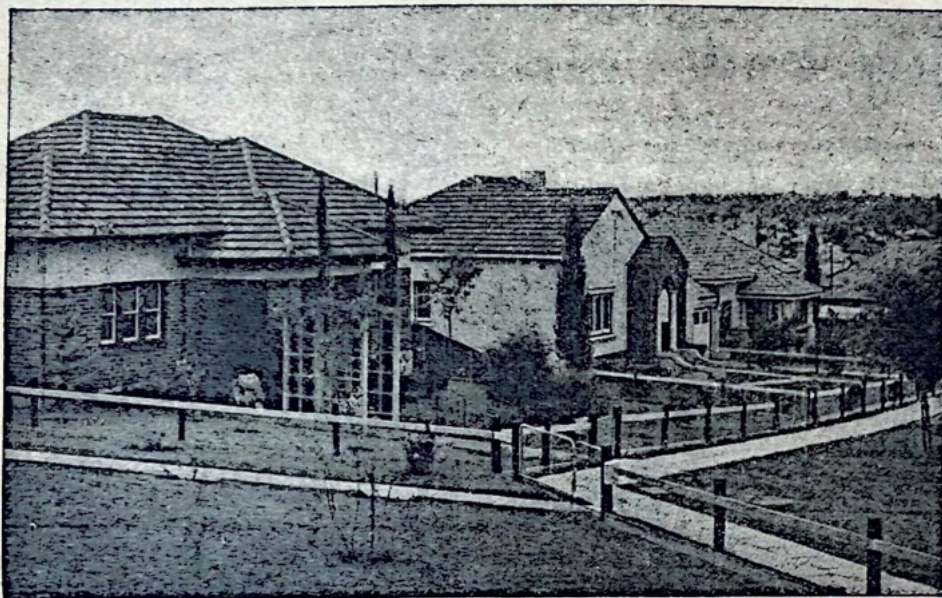
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Why Not Banish Slums?

HAVE you thought about the conditions under which many unfortunate fellow-Australians live? Despite our wide-open spaces and blue, sunny skies, there are many who live in the gloomy atmosphere of slums. So many of us live in our own little groove that we are not aware how others try to live. "Slums in Australia," some will exclaim, "do not exist!"

Here is a description of slum conditions taken from the book entitled "Housing the Australian Nation." The story has its setting in an inner suburb of a capital city. The house was one of three built of galvanised iron, but now rusted. It faced an unmade right-of-way. There were three rooms in the house. In the living room, the three daughters, the eldest being 19 years, slept on a wire mattress drawn close to a sofa. The mother and father and baby occupied a bedroom 9 ft. by 9 ft. A back verandah, converted into a sleep-out 9 ft. by 7 ft., contained a double bedstead in which four boys slept, aged 18, 16, 12 and 9 years. The mother had to wash in the backyard, boiling water in an old tub under which a fire was made. The husband had been employed as an unskilled laborer in an outer suburb. During the depression he lost his employment, and that began the descent which finished in that insanitary slum.

We might be tempted to argue and to say, "That is an isolated case." However our authority declares, "That story

is not singular. It is the story of thousands—poverty, shortage of houses at rents within the capacity of the poor to pay, and inevitably—slum." The report of the Housing Investigation and Slum Abolition Board, Victoria, 1936, stated, "A Christian system cannot be reconciled with a society that continues to tolerate these appalling conditions." How can the church remain silent when faced with such a dreadful picture of awful misery? Only ignorance of the facts will allow Christian men and women of character to sit by idle when so many are oppressed by unnecessary surroundings. Let us take a glimpse of some of the facts that will justify united action of the Christian church to encourage every effort to abolish slums and to provide better housing conditions.

Exploitation

SLUMS permit the exploiting of the poor. To save money the poor will seek cheaper rental. Instead of a house with six rooms at 25/- per week, they take a house of three rooms at 15/-. The capital values of slum houses are low and return up to 130 per cent. to their owners. The poor, under such conditions, cannot get full value for their money. Should Christians tolerate such injustice within society?

Drunkenness

WITHIN the slum areas the curse of the liquor traffic is revealed. A survey in one area showed that in the group questioned, 80 per cent. of the husbands and 30 per cent. of the wives were heavy drinkers. Within that area, five-eighths of a mile long and half a mile wide, there were 23 hotels and 5 wine shops. It is said that one of the chief wine saloons in the vicinity changes more £1 notes on pension days than any other shop in the district. What chance of making good have many of the children brought up in such homes and in such surroundings? Is it Christian to neglect those young people?

Disease

IF we compare the medical statistics of the outer suburbs with the inner suburbs, which contain slums, we see how health suffers in slum areas. A baby born in the inner suburbs has twice the possibility of dying under the age of twelve

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IN an ugly terrace of houses down a narrow, sunless alley, Mr. and Mrs. Newlywed have been fortunate enough to secure an unfurnished room with use of kitchen. Stumbling over the uneven flooring, we made our way into the room where the young mother was in bed with her first baby. The warm June sunshine did not reach the small, high window, and the room was almost dark. The light was switched on as we approached. Somehow the new walnut suite looked out of place, for the old distempered walls crush the life out of every effort to brighten this depressing room. On the bed was a blue satin cover—mute reminder of a young bride's hopes of home and happiness.

A tiny dark head moved against the white pillows, and the latest little backroom dweller uttered a cry of protest. And why not? Surely every child is entitled to God's free gifts of fresh air and sunshine. How much longer, in this sun-drenched land, will we tolerate the conditions which produce poor little back-room babies?

"AND how is little Rosie to-day?"
"She seems a little brighter, although her cough is still troublesome."

In spite of her cheerful tone, Mrs. Worthy looked pale and worried as she took us over to the clean white cot that stood under the bedroom window. A little girl with a thin white face and bright blue eyes lay back on the pillow.

"I think it's the house," the mother continued, pointing to the mildewed walls. "It's so damp." We turned at the sound of footsteps. There in the doorway stood a girl in her teens, her face hard and cynical beneath the heavy application of cheap cosmetics. With one long, impudent stare of defiance, she opened the door, and without a word let herself out into the street. "That's my eldest daughter," began the mother uneasily. "She was a good girl, but she's got into the wrong company. There's nothing for young people in these parts."

She leaned over the cot. "We are hoping," she said wistfully, "that little Rosie will always be good."

Rosie will be good, for her little feet will never tread life's rough and rugged way. The sands in her hour-glass are measured already by the twin spectres of malnutrition and unhealthy housing. This little flower is far too delicate to blossom in a foul and filthy slum. My thoughts were with the girl who had gone out into the streets, and I blushed with shame for a so-called Christian community which can see its young people go to the devil with self-righteous complacency and indifference.



In this bed slept four boys—aged 18, 16, 12 and 9.

It is time we cast away our much-vaunted righteousness as filthy rags; for what is respectability, after all, but the thin cloak that a favorable environment weaves about us?

Thank God that the mansions of the Father's house will not be given according to our works, lest some of us poor, vain creatures should boast and others, less fortunate, be excluded.

EVERY battle is costly, and in the dreary war that is waged in the slums sometimes the price paid is very high.

Mrs. Jones brought up her family in an old shanty that was little more than a second-rate barn. There is no need to dwell on the bitter struggles of those years. Her husband is dead now, her sons are in the Forces, and a newly-awakened Housing Commission has placed Mrs. Jones and her daughter in one of its new homes, fitted with every modern convenience. But with the strain of those

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Hovels That Are Homes

★ After visiting a slum-area, Marjorie Buckingham, of the church at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic., tells this story of pathetic reality. Behind the fictitious names are real individuals in need of help.

"SOME people will turn anything into a slum," says the arm-chair critic comfortably; but as we concluded a round in a congested industrial area in the company of the mission sister, our conviction was that some people will turn anything into a home. We were stirred by the brave efforts of dauntless little women who are trying to transform wretched hovels into habitable homes, and we are still haunted by the faces of those worn-out mothers who, with their pale and puny children, are bearing the burden of this social injustice.

WE stood inside the galvanised iron shack that is home to Mrs. Trilby and her four children. The curtains are faded, and the furniture has done good service, but everything is neat and clean.

Mrs. Trilby would be scarcely forty, but her hair is quite grey, and her face is thin and lined—perhaps because she has never been able to replace her teeth with dental plates. She has to do all her cooking on a broken stove, which has deteriorated into an open fireplace, and the washing is done in a rusty old copper that stands out in the yard, while the luxury of a kitchen sink is quite out of the question. Three little girls were playing in the backyard. Not even a blade of grass grows in this prison-like enclosure, for the sun never climbs over the high tin fence.

"There's not much room to play here," said the mother, "but I don't like them in the streets." It would have been a joy to take these little birds out of their gloomy cage, and set them down to romp and play in wide, green places, where the wind could whip the color into their cheeks.

Mrs. Trilby's invalid husband died a few months ago, and now she battles alone to maintain her unpretentious home.

"Young Tom is the man of the house now," she said, with an affectionate hand on the shoulder of the lad who had just emerged from the improvised sleep-out on the back verandah.

Fifteen-year-old Tom is really clever. He wants to be an architect, and several drawings he did at school are pinned up proudly on the smoky livingroom wall. But his mother could not afford to send him to a technical school, so he is working in a sheet-metal factory. Tom Trilby is only one of many lads whose ambitions are frustrated by economic necessity, but in addition, family responsibilities weigh heavily on his young shoulders. In some vague way he feels inferior, even in his own neighborhood. He meets other boys who buy new suits and patent leather shoes out of their money. Of course, he says nothing of this to his mother, but he bites his nails almost viciously, and spends his spare time in the dreary sleep-out with his head buried in a cheap magazine.

As we were leaving Tom lit a cigarette. "That's his only vice," said his mother apologetically. It is more. It is his only escape from the sordid realities that sicken his sensitive soul. But just around the corner there are several hotels and a flourishing betting school, and the danger is that when the cigarette loses its novelty he may be tempted to try other ways of escape.

Better Homes for Needy

THE character of the nation's dwellings is of importance to the community, and especially so to the children upon whom experimental influences are most marked. An obligation rests upon the State, and upon the church, to ensure that there are developed adequate housing schemes. It behoves everyone, therefore, to be able to express an enlightened opinion on this problem which, linked with home and family life, forms the chief determinant of that righteousness which alone exalts a nation.

A mass of literature is now available on housing problems, and a great deal of research has been conducted in regard to it, both in this country and overseas. It is probably the outstanding social problem to be solved in the immediate post-war years.

THE NEED FOR DWELLINGS

THE shortage of proper housing facilities in the Commonwealth is undoubtedly serious. Based upon estimates made by various independent assessors, it is in the region of 250,000 to 300,000 dwelling units. This estimate is supported by the Commonwealth Housing Commission which has recommended that a detailed housing survey should be undertaken shortly after the cessation of hostilities, but has in the meantime recommended that the target should be 50,000 dwelling units completed or under construction by the end of the first post-war year. This is in addition to urgent repairs necessary to prevent a further serious waste of national assets. Within three years of the end of the war the Commission has recommended that the building programme should be increased to 80,000 dwelling units per annum.

HOUSING AND THE SLUM PROBLEM

THE most pressing needs are for the abolition of the slum dwellings, and the creation of good homes for the low income groups in the community. Reports on slum problems draw attention to appalling conditions in our city areas. For example, the Housing Investigations and Slum Abolition Board of the State of Victoria made an inspection of 88,779 dwellings, and a special survey of 7330 houses was made, out of which only approximately 1000 houses were fit for human habitation. A similar problem exists in some country areas, although, of course, to a lesser extent. The report recorded that "hundreds of houses contain small rooms, low and water-stained ceilings, damp and decaying walls, leaking roofs and rotten floors. Many are badly lighted, rat infested, vermin infested, and without proper ventilation. Inadequate sunlight, dampness and lack of drainage render these shelters veritable plague spots, and heavy toll is being taken of the health of the occupants, particularly women and children." Illustrations of some of these areas show them to be lacking plumbing facilities, and water is drawn from a gully trap in the street.

It is interesting to note briefly the economics of the problem. The rentals for slum dwellings are frequently low, ranging in many cases from 13/- to 15/- per week. Some bring even less than 10/-, but the valuation is so low that the returns are not infrequently less than 100 per cent. An Opportunity Club digest, "Housing for Health," records that the average return from a slum home is far in excess of the ordinary house, and that one man owned no less than 166 slum houses.

SLUM RECLAMATION

THE Housing Investigation and Slum Abolition Board expressed the view that "if slum reclamation by and through the State achieves no more than the moral and physical salvation of the children within these areas it will have more than justified the financial sacrifice involved." From a Christian point of view this achievement is certainly worth while, and any scheme that would give the youth from these areas a better opportunity in life should be fully supported.

There appears to be no doubt that the benefits to the community by slum reclamation are sustained. In this connection the following examples are of particular interest. In Sydney, Archdeacon R. B. S. Hammond created a settlement by arranging for homes to the

value of approximately £200 to be built, in many cases with voluntary labor, for destitute families. A settlement trust assumed the rental obligations until the bread-winners obtained employment, and who then paid a low rental of from 5/- to 7/6 each week into a trust fund. By this means the dweller purchased the home in a few years with relatively small weekly payments.

The settlement is now valued at more than £30,000, and has its own church community hall, park, swimming pool, made roads and many other improvements. It is an experiment in building homes with gardens, in individual ownership and citizen building.

The third annual report of the Housing Commission in Victoria reported that "the most gratifying feature of rehousing has been the marked improvement in the health of the children. Housing officers are advised that money previously spent in medicines and hospital expenses under former sub-standard housing conditions is now devoted to extra food for the children whose appetites have been stimulated by their

new conditions. The tenants generally have responded well to their new environment. Housewives in the main keep the new homes clean and tidy. The menfolk have also contributed to the improvement. In most cases substantial efforts to establish and maintain gardens and lawns have been made, and rockwork, fish ponds and other work of a permanent ornamental nature in gardens have been carried out by the tenants."

Messrs. Oswald Barnett and W. O. Burt in their "Housing the Australian Nation" state that at least 98 per cent. of the families removed from slum and sub-standard houses to the new houses of the Commission have satisfactorily responded to their new environment. During the course of three years there have only been twelve evictions. During the same period the total rents due to the Commission amounted to £52,677/13/6.

Of this huge amount no less than 98 and two-thirds per cent. has been paid in cash. The amount of rent considered irrecoverable is one-sixth of one per cent. of the total rents."



HOUSING AND CRIME

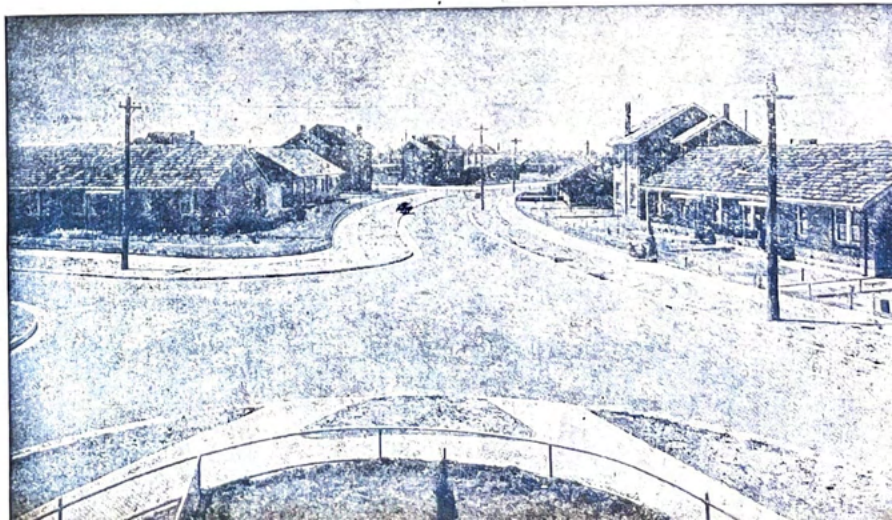
THE conclusions from reading social surveys in crime and delinquency is inescapable that the congested areas provide more than their share of criminals, both in delinquent children and adults. Poverty, vice and bad housing are close companions. Included in the summary of findings of a study of community problems of child delinquency in New York State in 1942 is the following: "The houses in which the families of the children lived were as a rule poorly located, in ill repair, without modern conveniences, and inadequate for the large families living in them. They permitted little physical comfort and practically no aesthetic satisfaction. Many of the houses were unfit for human habitation and dirty and disorderly in the extreme."

Whilst it would be folly to ignore the factors of poverty and excessive drinking associated with child delinquency, it can be asserted that every person living under the unhealthy, crowded and unsanitary conditions of the slum areas constitutes a danger to the community.

The Commonwealth and State Governments have set up the necessary departments to plan the means by which materials and manpower may be applied to the building of the housing units needed. Whilst the future may witness the building by State action of blocks of flats, garden village schemes, town planning developments and the like, there remains for the church some part in the arrangements that are made. In Britain the church has taken a leading

Please turn to page 388.

Portion of Fishermen's Bend Estate, Port Melbourne.



Baptists and Churches of Christ

In his Christian unity digest, "Unitas" reports on union moves in America and Great Britain; he also tells of activities in Australia.

AT the British Baptist Union Council, Dr. Gilbert Laws, on behalf of the representatives appointed to carry on conversations with a view to promoting understanding and fellowship between Baptists and the churches of Christ, submitted a report recommending action on the following lines:—

(1) The insertion in "The Baptist Handbook" of a note mentioning the conversations now proceeding, together with some particulars of the churches of Christ.

(2) That discussion concerning common witness be held in districts where such can be arranged.

(3) That, at the annual assemblies of the two bodies, appointed delegates shall carry and express fraternal greetings and good wishes.

(4) That in the "Baptist Times" and in "The Christian Advocate" articles shall be exchanged, and that the reading of both journals be encouraged in both bodies.

These recommendations, which had received the approval of the representative of the churches of Christ, as well as the Baptist Union, were unanimously adopted by the council.

In America

The following summary of the report of the Disciples and Baptist Union Committee, U.S.A., as it was presented by E. T. Dahlberg to the Northern American Baptist Convention in May, will interest readers.

"Your committee is convinced that there are many things the two conventions can already do in common. A fine step forward was taken two or three years ago in the publication jointly of the splendid Baptist and Disciples' hymnal. It would seem that other co-operative ventures of similar character could be promoted. Your committee would recommend, therefore:

"(1) That an inquiry be immediately instituted by the General Council as to the possibility of publishing one devotional booklet together. It would seem that the most natural place in the world to begin our approach to closer fellowship would be in the presence of our heavenly Father. Hence our strong plea for such an endeavor in the use of one common body of resource material, whereby we would learn to know the names of pastors, missionaries, and laymen of both conventions, all over the world.

"(2) That where possible, state conventions of the two Christian fellowships be held simultaneously, in the same community, with a joint session for an evening or a day, with a view to closer acquaintance with the personnel of the two bodies, and the inspiration and publicity possible for such a significant gathering.

"(3) That there be more joint meetings of local ministerial associations from the two groups, with exchange programmes.

"(4) That experiments be carried on in united evangelistic and educational effort. For instance, it would seem practical in some states to have one summer assembly for the youth fellowships.

"(5) That there be exchange professorships in the theological seminaries of the two churches, with a view to a better understanding of the history and doctrine of the two faiths.

"(6) That there be union services arranged in as many local communities as possible, with a view to natural growth in fellowship and understanding and mutual service. It would seem especially feasible to have joint evangelistic campaigns.

"In closing, we would encourage all our constituency to make an earnest study of the teachings and backgrounds of the two faiths that were formerly one faith. Members of your committee are already exchanging the denominational journals of the two churches, with mutual benefit.

"This report is presented with varying degrees of unity even within the committee, but we join in the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ, that we all might be one, in order that the world might believe that he was sent by the Father. It still remains to be answered in a more positive and definite way than has as yet been the case. We earnestly suggest that all our people unite in this prayer of our Lord, constantly, honestly, and at all seasons, so that increasingly we may represent the witness of a united church in a divided world."

Chaplain and Unity

A chaplain wrote in a personal letter: "Chaplain-General Allen Brooke is doing a wonderful job, and is one of the greatest Christian unity forces we have to-day. His organising ability and his gracious manner have made him a firm favorite with all the chaplains of the united churches, and with the church leaders also. He has risen to a wonderful opportunity in a wonderful way."

To University Students

Principal T. H. Scambler recently addressed a meeting of the Student Christian Movement at Melbourne University on the message of churches of Christ, and gained an interested hearing for the plea of Christian unity.

Creating Understanding

Congregational, Presbyterian and our own congregation at Camberwell, Vic., have planned a combined monthly week-night meeting, which later will probably embrace the Methodist church there. The purpose of these initial meetings is to provide opportunities for exchange of thought and fellowship of members, which it is hoped will lead to united Christian action in the community.

Better Homes For Needy

(Continued from page 387.)

part in rehousing problems, and the same view should be taken in this country that the church is interested in the manner in which the people shall be housed, the rentals they shall pay, the right of individual home ownership, and the control of land speculation which is associated generally with housing schemes.

The task in which we are engaged has placed additional emphasis on housing problems, and by causing shifts in the population has accentuated house shortages. In addition the mass employment of married women, and the possible developments of the post-war years, make it necessary that an increased consciousness of bad housing conditions shall be awakened, and these things no longer be tolerated.

Why Not Banish Slums?

(Continued from front page.)

months, three times the chance of catching an infectious disease, and four times the possibility of getting infantile paralysis.

We should do better if we were to try to prevent rather than spend all our efforts on attempting to cure disease. We agree that "anything done by the community to get rid of slums, and the money spent on the work, would be justified if the children from these areas got the chance to grow into decent citizens." Someone has said, "You cannot claim to worship Jesus in a church if you do not pity Jesus in a slum."

CRIME

IT is the ministry of the church to save young and old from sin. Conditions that allow crime to flourish are a menace. F. Oswald Barnett, to whom the community will be ever grateful for his research work concerning the problem of slums, has shown in his book "The Making of a Criminal" that, as people drift from the country and the outer suburbs into the slums, they are more liable to become criminal in their habits. It seems to suggest that the evil environment of slums affects the good morals of people and creates a bias toward a criminal outlook. Statistics show that a child born in slums has five times the possibility of becoming a youthful criminal than if he had been born in an outer area of the city. Here is enough proof to justify the Christian church setting out on a campaign that will sweep aside indifference toward the victims of slums.

Do slum-minded people make slums or do slums make people slum-minded? We have been inclined to think that the people who live in slums would turn good houses into slums. There are a few people who are like that, but do not let the few blind us to the fact that the majority of slum-dwellers can be changed by better surroundings. The rehousing schemes in Victoria have shown that 95 per cent. of the people re-housed have made good. They take a pride in their homes and gardens and find a new joy in life. About 1½ per cent. are problem cases needing special spiritual help. The re-housing scheme does not depend upon material environment alone for the saving of the people. It is recognised that a new community-feeling must be developed in new areas. It will be the duty and function of the church to provide the spiritual power to maintain the high moral tone of that community. There is always the danger of the house that has been set free of an evil spirit, then cleaned and ornamented, becoming possessed by it and worse demons. Only the Spirit of God, ministered by the Christian church, can provide the lasting solution of the problems of those rescued from slums.

A splendid lead has been given by men with Christian ideals. Let the whole church encourage and help them complete the task so that no slum area will remain under the blue Australian skies.

Hovels That Are Homes

(Continued from page 386.)

dreadful years, Mrs. Jones' reason has broken down, and she wanders about her new home like a bewildered, helpless child. Deliverance has come too late.

These things are a challenge to Christian people. The reproach of the Son of man still echoes down the years, "Woe unto you . . . hypocrites . . . you make long prayers . . . but you devour widows' houses . . ."

J. C. F. Pittman

Sermons and Worship

THE rough and not altogether accurate generalisation has been made that in their services Protestants magnify the sermon while Roman Catholics emphasise the worship aspect. Preaching and teaching are exercises of divine appointment, and are necessary for winning sinners and strengthening saints. We do well to reproduce the elements of worship sanctioned by the New Testament. These include things, such as our offerings to the Lord, which are not usually described as worship. Christians (who are all priests of the new covenant) do not sacrifice as Roman priests are declared to do, but offer both the sacrifice of praise and of the doing good and communicating which the apostle enjoined.

Sometimes Protestants do elevate the sermon to a position not warranted by the scriptures. I recall one of our own preachers who made a great fuss (he might have said he was righteously indignant) because "the preliminaries" of the worship service were not curtailed to give his address sufficient prominence. Amongst the "preliminaries" were prayers, scripture lessons and communion at the Lord's table! Fortunately few men would magnify the importance of their sermons thus. Not long since my attention was arrested by a sentence in what was advertised as "one of the very best" books on worship. Worship, it was said, "prepares the congregation for the sermon." Every speaker knows how hearts are prepared for messages by a spiritual atmosphere and worshipful attitude. So the sentence expresses truth. But the worship of the Almighty God is not to be reduced to the level of a preparatory introduction to any speech however eloquent or profound.

In Serving Others We Serve Christ

I read with much interest and pleasure the Social Service Number of "The Australian Christian" issued in preparation for the offering on August 20. It is well that we should all have impressed on our minds the implications of our faith. More than one writer in the special issue stressed the fact that there is but one gospel—few, if any, of our people have been guilty of the folly of supposing there are two gospels—and that in service of others we are demonstrating the reality of our faith. One striking word may be quoted, "There is no Christianity without service." That is a truth which everyone should remember. Jesus said that every disciple who serves is great and he who serves most is greatest. James, from whom one of the most practical of epistles has come, declares the worthlessness and futility of a faith divorced from works. The Apostle John lets us know that the man who will not help his brother man cannot possess the love of God. Paul, the apostle of faith, reminds us of the nature of acceptable spiritual sacrifices—the doing of good and communicating, the latter involving the sharing of our substance. The same apostle, in stressing the necessity of maintaining good works, represents the constant preaching of and insistence on the great fundamentals of the Christian faith not as a separate part of our task, but "to the end that" the practical result may be achieved. Faith and works of beneficence have been joined together by God. While no Christian can settle for another the precise way in which his beneficent works must be done, such works are the necessary fruit of true faith.

A. R. Main

A Romance of Industry

1944 SCRIPTURE EXAMINATIONS; SIX STATES COMPETING

AN annual Bible school examination to some is a casual event, to others an irksome affair, while to many teachers and scholars an occasion to be avoided because it requires diligence. However, those concerned with the beginning and the end of the examination know it to be a romance of industry. The examination that took place in July was commenced in January, when the board of examiners selected lessons and outlined questions. At further meetings 120 questions were tested for suitability to grade and any likelihood of ambiguity. The members of this board are all active in educational circles and vitally in touch with Sunday school work. One member of the board spent a large part of his annual vacation examining cross sections in each division of 1943 papers, and presented a report covering 24 pages of typewritten matter to the Victorian committee.

Publicity

The Federal Bible School Committee prepares a poster setting forth the lessons, scripture for ten divisions and the conditions. Frequent correspondence is required between the States to perfect the arrangements.

Entries

The examination provides seven scholars' and three teachers' divisions. The extent of the entries may be judged from the fact that it was necessary to print 5315 question papers, an increase of 708 over the previous year.

The Time Factor

Victoria has the largest number of entries, and it requires two people sixteen hours to sort, parcel, seal and post packages of ques-

tions to supervisors. To sort and assemble examination papers in readiness for board of examiners is a task requiring the greater part of two days. The entry of names, candidates' numbers and later results in record book and the despatch of results to schools is easily a week's work for one individual. The preparation of certificates and seals is also an exacting task.

Board of Examiners

A staff of sixteen comprised the board of examiners in Victoria. It is estimated, from the total hours spent by the individuals on the board, that it would have required five weeks and one day for one man, working eight hours, seven days of the week, to have examined all the papers. The writer was closely associated with the board, and was impressed with the exactness which the examiners imposed upon themselves. Three examiners gave forty-five minutes to the review of six leading papers in one division. Another examiner gave seven hours in submitting the twenty leading papers to a careful analysis before giving his final decision.

Purposeful Industry

Youth work involves much activity. It is not always certain that the activity is contributing to purposeful gains. Time and concern spent in scripture examinations yields character-making dividends. Many deplore the lack of Bible knowledge. Examination is a process that encourages careful Bible study, creates standards of teaching and corrects laziness in school work. Wise teachers delight in the extra co-operation that the occasion provides with the scholar.—W.R.H.

LOVE DIVINE

"O LOVE divine, that stooped to share
Our sharpest pang, our bitterest care,
On thee we cast each earth-born care,
We smile at pain while thou art near!"

—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

WIFE

RUSKIN talks to young women of the etymology of the name wife. "What do you think the beautiful word 'wife' comes from?" he asks. "It means weaver. You must be house-wives or house-moths—remember that. In the deep sense, you must weave men's fortunes and embroider them, or feed upon them and bring them to decay. Wherever a true wife comes, home is always around her. The stars may be the canopy over her head, the glow-worm in the night's cold grass be the fire at her feet, but home is where she is, and for a noble woman it stretches far around her—better than houses ceiled with cedar or painted with vermillion, shedding their quiet light for those who else were homeless."

THE COMMONPLACE

"A COMMONPLACE life," we say, and we sigh;
But why should we sigh as we say?
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Makes up the commonplace day,
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms and the bird that sings.
But dark were the world and sad our lot
If the flowers failed and the sun shone not;
And God, who studies each separate soul,
Out of commonplace lives makes his beautiful whole.

Conductor.—"What street did you say you wanted?"

Inebriate.—"What streets have you?"

The Family Altar

TOPIC.—THE DISLOYALTY OF DIVISION

- Aug. 21—1 Cor. 1: 10-17.
- " 22—1 Cor. 3: 1-9.
- " 23—Eph. 2: 11-22.
- " 24—Eph. 4: 1-16.
- " 25—Phil. 2: 1-11.
- " 26—John 17: 1-19.
- " 27—Isaiah 42: 1-9; John 17: 20-26.

THE greatest incentive to Christian union is the knowledge that Christ prayed for it, and that its non-attainment is therefore dishonoring to him. The evils of sectarianism are now generally acknowledged. Christians are utterly sick of it, and deplore the unnecessary expenditure of time and talent and money in its upkeep, emphasising the fact that "united we stand and divided we fall." Yet the greatest argument for unity is that in striving for it we but follow the Saviour, who prayed for it and urged his disciples to practise it; remembering also that our divided condition is a sign of disloyalty to our Lord and Master, who has definitely announced that, if unity becomes a reality, "the world will believe."

Here and There

From H. C. Spratt, preacher of Kingaroy, Qld., we received the following telegram on Aug. 14:—"T. G. Mason" passed away at Nango on eleventh."

A. Anderson, secretary of Foreign Mission Board, asks us to request that treasurers of churches will remit annual offering amounts to State treasurers without delay.

R. L. Williams, B.A., B.D., of Camberwell, Victoria, has been appointed assistant secretary of the Victorian Social Service Department. He will take up his new duties in three months.

Cheltenham church, Vic., has agreed to release V. C. Stafford on two days a week to undertake special work with Young People's Department. Interior of the Bible school building has been repaired and painted. "Faithful Fishermen" campaign was launched on Aug. 13.

At Hobart, Tas., T. Street, formerly of aboriginal mission, Derby, W.A., was a welcome visitor. An enjoyable church social, organised by parents' and friends' association, was held on Aug. 7. Sunday, 6th was first anniversary of C. P. Hughes' ministry at Hobart. After evening service, members enjoyed a sing-song, and supper was served.

At South Yarra, Vic., on Aug. 13, there were good meetings and several visitors. F. Sansom, from Prahran, presided at worship service. E. Roffey spoke at both services. At night the C.E. held their anniversary, J.C.E. and S.C.E. members taking part, also Chaplain Jones, of R.A.A.F. Miss Taggerty, of Malvern-Caulfield, sang two solos. The church regrets the loss, by removal to Brunswick, of Mr. and Mrs. Kennon and family.

Dr. W. J. Moore, of Butler University, is serving now as a chaplain in the U.S.A. Army. Dr. Moore is an Australian who completed excellent courses of studies at Butler and Chicago Universities. Our brother was a teacher in the School of Religion prior to entering chaplaincy work. He was in membership at Middle Park, Victoria, and at Ann-st., Brisbane. We were delighted to have fellowship with Dr. Moore for a brief period.

On July 2, at Strathalbyn, S.A., H. Filmer was speaker at night; a mother of five children made the good confession. At morning meeting on July 9, Mr. Bowen visited on behalf of B. and F. Bible Society. A visit and address from Miss E. Vawser on July 6 were enjoyed. S. Riches was speaker for July 30. At night one was baptised, and two married ladies took their stand for Christ. The church appreciates Mr. Filmer as speaker, and K. Grosvenor for his solos. Interest is maintained in weekly united prayer meeting.

On evening of July 16, a Scout parade was held at Black Rock, Vic., at which approximately 125 were present. Roy Dawson and Bob Sercombe spoke. At close of gospel service on July 23 Mr. Burns gave a lantern lecture on occupied Europe. His messages in connection with the special effort were helpful and inspiring. July 29 was a memorable Temple day, when £200 was received. A prayer meeting closed the day, and a thanksgiving service was held on morning of July 30. At Ladies' Guild annual business meeting on July 27 reports showed a record year. All office-bearers were re-elected. Ladies' Guild celebrated ninth birthday on Aug. 3 with about 60 present. Overseas offering reached £50. Much sickness has prevailed amongst members. The removal from district of Mr. and Mrs. Grenfel is regretted.

After nineteen years as office assistant at The Austral Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd., Mrs. McLaren is leaving Melbourne in order to make her home in Adelaide. On Friday last presentations were made to her from staff and management. A. E. Kemp, chairman of the company, in making the gifts, spoke of Mrs. McLaren's efficient and wholehearted work in the interests of the firm, and wished her well as she departed to join her husband, who has been in the Services since war broke out. Miss I. Hollingworth, of the church at Parkdale, succeeds Mrs. McLaren at the Austral.

Replying to Mr. T. Moroney, Qld. secretary to the A.R.U., Senator Keane affirmed that liquor rationing aimed at reducing liquor abuses to save manpower. Commenting on this, "The Advocate," the organ of the A.R.U., doubts if it has achieved these objectives, and points out that at the height of our transport difficulties, and when we were being told that there was no transport to bring us the necessary supplies of clothing and food from southern States, we were hauling five train-loads of beer from Sydney to North Queensland two or three times a week.—"Clarion Call."

On Aug. 8 a well-attended church business meeting was held at Footscray, Vic., when the following officers were elected: Deacons, Messrs. K. Buckley, W. Easton, S. Harding, G. Jones, H. Middlemiss, D. McGregor and G. Swallow; secretary, H. E. Easton; treasurer, L. Coxhead; deaconesses, Mesdames I. Buckley, K. Buckley, W. Clencie, W. Easton, A. Hensen, H. Ivory and F. Lucke. It was resolved unanimously to invite D. C. Ritchie, at the close of his present four-year term, to continue with the church as preacher for another three years. On Sunday evening last, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Ritchie jointly conducted a lantern service. The Mission Band visited Gordon-st. Baptist Society on Aug. 10. Mrs. Ritchie's address was illustrated by lantern slides. Miss E. Sayer was soloist.

With the Forces

CPL. W. J. KENLEY, of Coburg church, Vic., writing in a personal letter to editor says: "In the ten months I've been with this isolated unit in the North-west of Australia, we have only had two visits from a padre. Consequently the need has been felt for a meeting of some kind for many weeks. Accordingly several of us gathered together this morning, and in the quietness of a perfect Sunday morning met to remember our Lord. Actually seven gathered for a half hour on the beach, and with the open sea stretching before us, let our thoughts dwell on the higher things of our thoughts. No less than six congregations were represented; Methodist, Presbyterian, Church of England, Lutheran, and myself from the church at Coburg. It is certainly a great thing when we can meet together thus, not worrying over petty differences, but with one accord meeting to remember our Lord and our God. The prayers of the brotherhood are earnestly solicited as we strive to set an example and be witnesses. We keep looking up to the Lord for guidance in all things. If we look around us we see sham and unreality, if we look within we see weakness and failure oftentimes; but if we look above we see him from whom we gain our strength and in whom we live. An interesting sermon on Acts 13: 26-41 was given by a member of the Baptist church, and we all felt it had done us good to gather thus and remember our Lord."

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Every Sunday at 3 p.m.

"THIS WAS HIS HOUR."

Studies of some of the great hours in our Master's ministry.

August 20—Crisis Hour.—C. G. Taylor, B.A.

August 27—The Revealing Hour.

—C. G. Taylor, B.A.

From Week to Week.

TOO often the church is silent on the evils of injustice and poverty. It took a long period to awaken the majority of Christians to the wickedness of slavery. Once aroused, the church played an important part in the campaign against the slave-traffic. The horrors associated with bad-housing conditions and slums have not disturbed the conscience of the church as a whole. A few Christian workers have been urging slum reform in Australia, over the past ten years. At last they are being rewarded by the great interest the State is taking in re-housing. Only if the Christian church as a whole is awakened will the evil be removed for the most part. It is not merely a question of new materials; for new hearts and new morals must play a part. The church must be ready to urge the need of removing slums and it must go into the new housing areas with a determination to guide the people to a new life so that the men and women will never slip back to slumways.

FOR the blocks used in this issue we are indebted to F. Oswald Barnett. We have already mentioned his zeal as a reformer. Only at considerable trouble was it possible for him to secure the necessary blocks, but he co-operated very kindly to make it possible for this special issue to go out. I trust that the articles of Miss Buckingham and Mr. Gilmour will awaken a keen interest in the efforts to save young and old from the evils of slum life. By passing your copy of the

paper on to others the truth will have a wider circulation. If you would like to study the slum-problem further there are two books I should like to recommend: "The Making of a Criminal," by F. Oswald Barnett, and "Re-housing the Australian Nation," by F. Oswald Barnett and W. O. Burt.

THE preacher moving among his people is soon made aware of the burden on the hearts of those keeping "the home-fires burning." Mothers and fathers are anxious about sons and daughters in the Services. Even although new advances bring the day of peace nearer, those moves involve sacrifices. There is also concern about the moral and spiritual welfare of the young people. Great opportunities and difficulties are presented to our chaplains. Parents look to these men who are ministering so helpfully in the Forces to help to maintain the influence of the Christian church among those on duty for their country. The chaplains ought to be remembered constantly in church prayers. The message most needed in this day for those at home and abroad is that God is not far from any one of us. Although life has the appearance of being fleeting and vain, faith in God gives meaning and reveals something permanent and eternal. Preachers who minister at home or in the Services must centre their messages upon the truth underlying Christ's words, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me."

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Perth.—On Aug. 4 a basketball match between deacons and Adelpian Class finished with scores 23 for both sides. On morning of Aug. 6 visitors included Mr. Morris (Gardiner, Vic.). A talk by Albany Br. encouraged all. At 7.30 p.m. a "parents' night" was held. There was a large and keenly interested gathering. J. K. Robinson was preacher. A duet was rendered by Miss Tilbee and Mrs. Ewers. Mr. Robinson gave first of "cameo comments" on Bible which will be a feature of gospel services. A happy day's proceedings closed with supper and social hour in church hall.

Subiaco.—Steady progress is being made in Bible school, and keen interest is shown in the house system. Teachers' preparation class for all grades has been restarted on Friday evenings under direction of the superintendent, Mr. Raymond. Junior and Intermediate Endeavor Societies are bright spots in young people's work; four new members have recently been added to junior society. Girls' Club maintains a high standard. L. Duff-Forbes gave an illustrated talk on the Jews to a good attendance on July 27, and preached an inspiring message the following Sunday morning. Mr. Raymond preached excellent sermons at both services on Aug. 6. 120 were present at night, with many interested non-members attending.

New South Wales

Chatswood.—Aug. 3 witnessed a return supper tendered the Seekers' Club by the mothers. A spirit of excellent fellowship was evinced. Meetings on Aug. 6 were marred by cold. Sgt. Chatfield, from the church at Unley, S.A., was welcomed as a visitor. F. Youens conducted both services.

Wollongong.—Sunday evening meetings at Berkeley-rd. continue. Mr. Stirling conducted first month's services. In Wollongong meetings were taken by A. R. Main, Capt. Hoepper, of Y.M.C.A., Chaplain Alcorn, and R. D. Main. On Aug. 6 Mr. Stirling baptised a young soldier, son of Mr. and Mrs. Barnett, who had made his confession the previous week. A. R. Main preached at Berkely-rd.

"HAPPY HOUR" SERVICE

YOUTH DIRECTOR'S SUCCESSFUL MISSION

DEXLEY NORTH.—Helpful messages on prayer were given by J. Grant (Beverly Hills) and J. Henderson to the church. Negro spirituals sung by Misses Cook and a solo by Miss N. Cook impressed at gospel service. "Happy Hour" conducted by R. Greenhalgh, youth director, had average attendance of 167 children. This session closed with "Happy Hour" gospel service, when 51 were present. Young People's Fellowship anniversary was held on Aug. 6, when Balfe Cavill was leader. Choir of 14, with Gwen Dowding as organist, rendered several fine messages in song. Phyllis Bowles sang a solo and Ken Dowding read the scripture. J. Henderson spoke. Mrs. C. R. Portch was received in from Kingsford. New building opens on Sept. 2.

Belmore.—Good work and progress continue in all departments, and meetings are well attended. On July 23 the preacher, Mr. Corlett, was welcomed after his stay in N.Z., and on 26th a special prayer meeting was held, followed by social welcome. On July 30 announcement was made of the death of F/Sgt. Allan Cheatle, and on Aug. 4 the funeral of

E. W. Kent took place after a service in chapel. Mr. Kent was one of the pioneers of Belmore church and a great worker for Bible school for many years. On Aug. 6 gospel service took the form of a memorial service to Allan Cheatle.

Canley Vale.—The church congratulates J. Clydesdale on attaining the age of 80 on July 18. Ladies' Church Aid gave him a surprise afternoon party and presented a birthday cake and gift, and the good wishes of all. He has been a tower of strength to the church for many years. A combined service with Loftus Park and Fairfield churches was held on Aug. 2, when two converts from Fairfield were baptised by A. Morris. Lloyd Jones (College of the Bible) spoke. Ladies' Church Aid celebrated 16th anniversary on Aug. 3. Mrs. Burns, Mosman, addressed a large congregation. There were several delightful messages in song, and the secretary reported a successful year's work. R. Wakeley, conference president, addressed morning meeting on Aug. 6.

Queensland

Mt. Walker.—Services continue in good spirit. Bible school shows steady progress, scholars taking keen interest. The new C.E. Society has grown in membership from 12 to 23 in four meetings, all work being of high order. The "West Moreton Evangel," which has had a new beginning, F. B. Stow being publicist, is very helpful, especially to isolated members. The allotted sum of £30 for car fund for circuit car has been collected. Foreign mission offering reached £20.

South Australia

Gawler.—The second of a series of special meetings to arouse interest in jubilee anniversary of church was held on July 30, Mr. Bartlett being speaker. At evening service Endeavorers helped. On August 3 the senior Endeavorers held a successful concert, proceeds being £11/7/6. Of twelve scholars who sat for scripture examination eleven passed.

Whyalla.—Prayer meetings have been commenced in homes with increased attendance. F.M. offering was £13/6/-. Fellowship has been enjoyed with E. Tanner, of Wollongong, N.S.W. On Aug. 6 a sunrise prayer meeting was held by young people, followed by young people's service at night. Opportunity was taken during morning service to say farewell to Mrs. Knight, who is leaving to reside in Melbourne, and a small token was presented by Mr. Matthews in appreciation of her fellowship and service with the church.

Fullarton.—Attendances for July showed a slight increase; choral items greatly assist gospel services. Endeavor society has resumed meetings on Sunday mornings. Bible school is trying to increase attendance with an increase campaign. On July 6 an evening was given in honor of Miss Winnie Young (church organist), who was married in the chapel to Pte. R. Barnes on July 22. Many friends were present on both occasions. On July 30 W. Pearl gave an inspiring address at morning service. H. A. Dunkerton spoke at all other services during month.

Prospect.—Bible school held annual meeting and election of officers. Reports showed school in good spirit. Officers elected: General superintendent, I. Durdin; secretary, H. C. Meadows; treasurer, M. Burtin; cradle roll, Mrs. R. Bradshaw; kindergarten, Mrs. A. Mackenzie; junior department, Miss E. Purdie; intermediate, A. Roberts. A. E. Brown was speaker on morning of Aug. 6. Bible class was addressed by A. Anderson; there was a good attendance. Fellowship tea was held, when a talk on tribes

of China was given. Evening service was inspiring. A. Anderson gave an excellent message. Fellowship was enjoyed with G. Burns, J. Rosser (on leave), R. Burns (Custon), P.B.P. and K.S.P. chapters are in good fellowship. Work in C.E. departments is in good spirits.

Bordertown.—A visit from Miss E. Vawser was appreciated. She addressed W.M. Band and gospel meetings. Young people have commenced midweek prayer and discussion meetings; these are held in private homes. C.E. meetings are helpful. On July 20, at annual church business meeting, reports showed steady progress in all auxiliaries. Bordertown-Mundalla F.M. offering was £205. Income for year for all purposes was £1020. Monthly socials are held in honor of boys home on leave. Sgts. E. Buckley and D. McDonald, A.I.F., and Cpl. R. Maddern (R.A.A.F.) have been home, and L.A.C. F. Verco, of Fremantle, W.A., has been a visitor. W. Russell officiated on July 14 at marriage of Miss E. Dinning to W. Maddern. Sgt. E. Buckley was married to Miss K. Easther.

SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY

EIGHTEEN CONFESSIONS DURING YEAR

FORESTVILLE.—Mr. Hammer has completed a year of successful ministry with the church, during which the gospel has been faithfully proclaimed, and members have been strengthened through exhortations at morning worship. There have been eighteen confessions in this period. In addition, a young girl confessed Christ at gospel meeting on Aug. 6. An inspiring address was given by Dr. E. R. Killmier on morning of July 30.

Semaphore.—At annual business meeting on July 18, encouraging reports were given by all auxiliaries. Treasurer reported increases in weekly offerings, and gifts to missions more than doubled. A new lighting service has been installed in chapel, with money in hand to meet all expenses. Deacons elected: P. W. Brooker, J. P. Brooker, D. Pearce, R. Sellick and L. Weeks; trustees, A. Samuels, J. P. Brooker; secretary, W. Lough; treasurer, P. Rodda. On July 20, local members of Toc H attended evening service, and men of church formed male choir. Mr. Ewers spoke. The church is grateful to him for carrying on with the work, although suffering from a broken rib, the result of a fall. Mission Band on Aug. 8 had Mrs. A. G. Nicholls, of C.I.M., as speaker. Miss Canton, a faithful member for many years, passed away after long illness.

Maylands.—Services during July were very good, and messages of K. Jones helpful. There were three decisions. S. E. Riches gave an interesting talk, and a lantern lecture on the Mission to Lepers. On July 22, church officers and wives entertained about 100 young people at an enjoyable social evening. Results of scripture examinations reveal that all who sat passed, and State prizes were gained by Mrs. Gwen Pettman and Miss Clarice Wilson. Attendance at school on July 23 was 297. About 40 teachers and workers joined in a hike on Aug. 5. C.E. work is in good heart, and young people are doing helpful work. The church at a business meeting decided to establish a memorial to late A. L. Read in the form of a fund, money of which will be passed over to Foreign Mission Board, to be held in perpetuity, and interest to go to work at Dhond. A fine response from members has resulted.

Victoria

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—All services were well attended on Aug. 13. 137 broke bread in morning; K. Barton spoke to Bible class, C. G. Taylor at 11 and 7.

Newmarket.—On Aug. 6 Mr. Warne, from East Kew, presided. On Aug. 13 Mr. Crisp, of Burnley, exchanged with Mr. Graham in morning. Y.W.L. has commenced at gospel meeting.

Ascot Vale.—Good Companions are all working hard, and have given £2 to Monbulk camp site. A Sunday school scholar made the good confession on Aug. 6. Four scholars gained honors in examination, and a number gained passes.

Portland.—Speakers, during July were A. Rivett, T. Robb, A. Crofts and T. Davey. Church has enjoyed fellowship with Don Rivett and Ken Butler, both home on leave from New Guinea. Offering for foreign missions was £1/11/6.

Kyneton.—Mrs. Ross is home from hospital. Y.W. League has been re-formed with Betty Fox leader. J. B. Baker, of the college, exchanged with A. McDonald on Aug. 6, and gave excellent addresses. Bible school entered enthusiastically into "Faithful Fishermen" campaign.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Delegation from Youth Department and a visit from A. A. Hughes have been received. F.M. offering was £23/18/2, and with duplex £1/15/4 and £126/18/6 remitted quarterly during year, totals £152/12/-—a record. W. W. Saunders continues his faithful and appreciated ministrations.

Surrey Hills.—The church enjoyed good meetings on Aug. 13. In morning G. J. Andrews gave a timely message. At 5 p.m. youth tea, A. E. Hurren delighted a large gathering with his talk. At 7 p.m. David Hibbert's address to a youthful assembly was appreciated. After-service sing-song and supper, facilitated by recent additions to kitchen equipment, brought a happy and helpful day to a close.

Warragul.—On Aug. 5 brethren gathered together for a working bee on chapel ground, where general cleaning up was done. Aug. 6 was an "every member present" Sunday, but attendances were not up to expectation owing to sickness. A. G. McDonald, from Kyneton, exchanged with J. Baker for the day. His addresses were appreciated. C. Waters has had to relinquish the position of secretary, and M. R. Byard has filled the vacancy.

PREACHER RESIGNS

AMERICAN CHAPLAIN FROM NEW BRITAIN SPEAKS

CAMBERWELL.—On Aug. 13 R. L. Williams addressed the church on social services. Chap. Moore, formerly of Middle Park and now with U.S.A. Forces, arrived from New Britain and spoke at gospel meeting. Attendances were very satisfactory and a fine spirit prevails. Activities of Bible school and auxiliaries are encouraging. The church regrets to announce the resignation of R. L. Williams, who is shortly to take up duties as associate secretary of Social Service Department.

Warrnambool.—Services are well attended, although there is much sickness. Mrs. F. Matthew is in hospital. Bible school has made a gift of 24 hymnbooks to the church, and an anonymous friend donated two Bibles for use of readers at morning services. Jim Cook has been elected president of young people's fellowship. T. V. Weir was elected president of Western District Christian Endeavor Union, and Mrs. T. V. Weir president of local branch of W.C.T.U. The church is grateful to Harold and Herbert Feary for willing service rendered in all departments. Bible school is practising for Children's Day.

Bentleigh.—R. J. Anderson continues to give very helpful messages. P. Luke was speaker on morning of July 16. Young people assisted in evening service on July 23, their singing being much enjoyed. Graham Ratten preached well. The Joy League is helping young people serve Christ. Of the twenty S.S. scholars who sat for annual examinations, eighteen passed, six gained honors, and Pat Hodson gained a fourth prize.

Hampton.—Sympathy is felt with Mr. and Mrs. Storey and family in the death of Mrs. Pike (nee Alma Storey) in Adelaide. On Aug. 12 a social gathering was held to express appreciation of the work of Mrs. McLaren in church and school, and presentations were made. She leaves shortly for S.A. C. L. Lang was speaker on Aug. 13. In morning a young lady was received into membership. At night the choir sang an anthem and Miss D. Lang a solo.

Middle Park.—Several members have been welcomed back after illness. On morning of Aug. 13, Chap. Capt. W. Moore, of U.S.A., a former member of the church, delivered an impressive address and expressed pleasure in renewing associations after 18 years in U.S.A. Prior to gospel service with Mr. Whiting as speaker, a youth tea was held. Reference was made to the home-call of Mrs. W. Goller, a past and loved member.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—On Aug. 1 Mission Band members were addressed by Miss Furman, U.S. churches of Christ missionary to India. On same day Mission Band officers for 1944-45 were elected, with Mrs. Nance-Kivell president. Recent Sunday services have been addressed by C. B. Nance-Kivell, and on evening of Aug. 13 there was a choral service—the life of Christ in music from the great cantatas—when the choir rendered selections from "Bethlehem," "Olivet to Calvary" and "Crucifixion."

Hartwell.—Good attendances continue. On Aug. 6 Miss M. Furman, American missionary of Disciples of Christ, spoke to Bible school, and later at the gospel service. Bible school has commenced practice for anniversary under leadership of Mr. Piper. On Aug. 13 C. J. Robinson spoke at both meetings. A number of Servicemen attended morning service. Renovations have been made to chapel platform. Y.P.S.C.E. has commenced meeting on Sunday mornings. J.C.E., under Mrs. K. Holmes' leadership, is progressing steadily with good attendances.

Oakleigh.—S. Neighbour spoke at both services on July 30, when J. Stephenson and H. Stevenson, home on leave, were present. Bible school attendance was 166. Miss Rowe, of China Inland Mission, gave address to P.B.P. chapter on Aug. 1. Sister Kieley, of Melbourne City Mission, was speaker at women's meeting on Aug. 9. S. Neighbour has accepted invitation to continue his ministry for further three years. A. A. Hughes gave a challenging address to a gathering representative of local churches on Aug. 13, meeting being arranged by Men's Fellowship.

Thornbury.—At annual business meeting of church reports showed the work was maintained at good level. Officers elected: Elder, F. N. Lee; deacons, L. Allison, R. Booth, F. Mitchell, E. Mounsey, C. Page and A. Thomson, deaconesses, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Shaw. In future deaconesses are to become members of officers' board. J. E. Searle indicated that he did not desire to continue as preacher after close of present term with church. Regret was expressed that he had decided to close his ministry. His six years with the church have been most successful. Church debt is now £775, and a plan is being prepared to pay this off by 25th anniversary in 1946. Many members are home on leave, and recently fellowship has been enjoyed with G. Beattie, M. Sainsbery, R. Sainsbery, H. Hince, G. Booth,

all of whom have been in New Guinea. Sunday school is preparing for anniversary.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—All work is in good heart, and attendances at gospel services are growing. On Aug. 13, 45 men attended fellowship tea, where an address was given by W. Albiston. H. M. Clipstone spoke at gospel meeting. Bible school secured five prizes in recent examinations, and 15 new scholars were added during July as result of house competition. Norman Lynch has been appointed secretary following resignation of H. Swenser, who served in that capacity for several years. Sympathy is extended to many members who have suffered bereavement, including Mr. and Mrs. Tidd, Thomas, Greenwood, Brodie, Roberts, Cross, Whitton and Eaton. Mr. Swenser, sen., is in hospital.

Coburg.—Several members of Services have enjoyed fellowship with church whilst on leave. Much sickness prevails among members and scholars of Bible school. For morning service on Aug. 6, W. Wakefield exchanged with



The Coburg Chapel.

W. Jackel, of Essendon. Bible school reports enrolling of 14 new scholars during past four weeks. The school also rejoices at success of the 18 entrants at examination. W. Anderson, who was in Daylesford Hospital, is convalescing at his own home.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—Progress continues in work through faithful ministry of A. Graham. Messrs. Saunders, Pfeifer, McLeod and Wilkie have assisted. Junior Endeavor continues to progress, also Sunday school. Ladies' Guild is doing good work. Mr. Searle has been seriously ill in New Guinea.

Doncaster.—On evening of Aug. 6, Mr. Banks exchanged with Mr. Allison, of East Doncaster church. The annual meeting of local W.C.T.U. was held in chapel. There was a good attendance, the speaker being Major Pratt, of Salvation Army. A number of our young people attended the youth department's talent quest held in Balwyn chapel on evening of 12th inst. In recent Bible school examination scholars secured 1 prize, 2 honors, 5 merits, 1 pass certificates.

Gardenvale.—Attendances are maintained and messages of Mr. Anderson and visiting speakers have been appreciated. The church extends sympathy to Mrs. Baker, whose husband was called home after long illness. On Aug. 6 the bi-monthly young people's fellowship tea was held, at which 64 representatives of Gardenvale, Bentleigh and Brighton were present under leadership of Mr. Huntsman. Also present were Mr. McKelvie and Mr. Dewey, American missionaries, and after tea Mr. McKelvie rendered a solo and Mr. Dewey gave an interesting talk on missionary work in India. At gospel service young people from the three churches took part, and at conclusion of Mr. Sumpton's address three Bible school boys made the good confession.

Prahran.—Monthly pleasant Saturday evening was held on Aug. 5, 65 being present. These functions, under leadership of Mr. Burns, are popular. On same day Miss Olive Halvorsen and L/Cpl. Mangan (A.I.F.) were married by Mr. Burns. A small but appreciative gathering enjoyed a visit from Mr. Funston (social service chairman), who spoke at mid-week service on Aug. 9. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Hough in the loss of her brother-in-law. On Sunday, 13th, Mr. Grainger, of Reservoir, addressed a well-attended meeting; Mr. Burns was evening speaker. Solos by Miss Taggart were much appreciated. Congratulations are extended to Miss Evelyn Jones on gaining second prize in senior scholars' section at recent S.S. examinations.

Gardiner.—Mr. Scambler spoke at both services on Aug. 6. Mrs. Beament and Miss Fashan were present at morning service after long absence through illness. Sunday school has commenced practice for anniversary with L. Piper as song leader. Glen Jones was soloist at gospel service. At K.S.P. 2nd Degree on 8th, the guest speaker was a representative from Town Planning Commission. K.S.P. club's 14th anniversary was celebrated on 12th and 13th in a social with Phi Betas on Saturday, and on Sunday club members assisted in services, forming a male choir for evening service. Ken Patterson, from College of the Bible, and T. H. Scambler were speakers. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Archer were present at morning service after illness. The Men's Fellowship, inaugurated on 13th by a tea, was addressed by A. L. Gibson. 35 men were present.

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To rent, furnished rooms to accommodate four or five people, or furnished cottage, for Christmas over New Year, anywhere from Mentone to Carrum, handy to beach. Please send full particulars to R.E., c/o this office.

The Australian Christian

August 16, 1944

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DEATHS

DAVIE.—On July 28, at her residence, Seaclyff, S.A., Catherine Jane, widow of the late Henry Hardy Davies, and loved mother of Katie, Laurie, Muriel, Effie and Harry. Aged 79 years.

FLOATE.—On Aug. 7, at Ballarat, Alice Catherine, dearly beloved wife of Norman Floate, of 38 Peel-st. north, dearly loved daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Thompson. (Late of Buninyong.) Loved sister of Violet (dec.); aged 47 years.

SCOTT.—On August 2, at Dunolly Hospital, Walter John, loved brother of William (deceased) and Mary, loving uncle of May (Mrs. Jackel), Pearl, Albert, Clara (Mrs. Nightingale), Ray, Gwen and Joyce.

We loved thee well, but Jesus loved thee best,
Good-night, dear uncle, good-night.
Our loved one at rest.

IN MEMORIAM

NICHOLLS.—In loving memory of Charles Nicholls, who passed away August 15, 1941.
"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away."

SAUNDERS.—In loving memory of my dear husband, Edward, who passed away Aug. 12, 1939; also his eldest daughter, Amy, Aug. 20, 1938.

How joyful is the hope that lingers,
When loved ones cross death's sea,
That we when all earth's toils are ended,
With them shall ever be.
—A. M. Saunders (Box Hill).

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST 27 (Sunday).—Doncaster church 81st anniversary. Morning speaker, Mr. R. Williams; evening Mr. R. A. Banks. Wed., Aug. 30, public meeting in chapel. Speaker, Mr. B. J. Combridge. Programme arranged. Supper to follow. Past members welcomed.

GARDENVALE CHURCH OF CHRIST.
SPECIAL EVERY-MEMBER-PRESENT DAY.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 20.

11 a.m., Every Member Present.
7 p.m., Special Families' Service.

Preacher, R. J. Anderson.
Subject, "Is the Young Man Safe?"

All past members and friends are cordially invited to be present.

FIRST POPULAR CONCERT.
METHODIST CHURCH HALL,

Cr. Carlisle and Chapel-sts, St. Kilda.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26.

Malvern Church of Christ Girls' Choir; Wm. Laird, famous baritone; Malvern Concert Orchestra.

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Sponsored by St. Kilda church of Christ.

MARGARET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST,
LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA.

SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,
SEPTEMBER 3 to 10.

Guest Speaker: C. G. Taylor, B.A.

Sept. 3, 11 a.m., Stanton H. Wilson.

7 p.m., C. G. Taylor. Service broadcast over National Stations 7NT, 7ZR.

Monday-Friday (4th to 8th) Special "Week of Witness." Services at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, 6 p.m., Fellowship—Tea.

Sunday, 10th, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.,
C. G. Taylor, B.A.

Former members and isolated members specially invited. Greetings may be sent to J. P. Foot, 112 Margaret-st., Launceston.

COLLINGWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST BIBLE SCHOOL.

SEPTEMBER 3—

3 p.m., Mr. G. Andrews.

7 p.m., Mr. T. A. Fitzgerald.

SEPTEMBER 10—

3 p.m., Mr. W. Hibburt.

7 p.m., Mr. L. Brooker.

All old friends cordially invited.

SECOND POPULAR CONCERT,

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9,

MALVERN CHURCH OF CHRIST CHAPEL,
Cr. Alma and Dandenong-rds.

Wm. Laird, baritone; Malvern Church of Christ Girls' Choir; Malvern Concert Orchestra, and other popular artists.

Tickets from Claude Gadge, 27 Northcott-rd. Armadale. U3029.

MIDDLE PARK CHURCH OF CHRIST.

SPECIAL HOME-COMING DAY,

SEPTEMBER 17.

11 a.m., W. Graham.

3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon; speaker, L. Williams.

7 p.m., H. Swain.

Past members and friends cordially invited. Hospitality provided. Please notify H. A. Annetts, 109 Graham-st., Albert Park, S.C.6, by Sept. 2.

PEEL ST. CHURCH OF CHRIST (BALLARAT).

75th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

SAT., SEPT 23, and SUNDAY, SEPT 24.

Speaker, Mr. Doug. Nichols.

Sat., 5.45, Family Tea.

8 p.m., Fellowship Evening.

Sunday, 11, Every Member Present.

3 p.m., Pleasant Sunday Afternoon.

7, Evangelistic Service.

Past members and friends cordially invited. Greetings may be sent to P. Graham, 16 Magpie st., Ballarat East.

TRACTS are an effective means of making the gospel message known. Send stamps or postal note from 1/-, and we will post full value in assorted tracts. **THE AUSTRAL.**

EVANGELISM THE NEED OF THE HOUR!

CENTRAL THEATRE—Little Collins St.—SUNDAY NIGHT, 8.30.

Community Song Service at 8.

A PROGRAMME FOR NON-CHURCHGOERS.

Messages by Leading Evangelists and Business Men.

To reach the Sunday night City strollers, this adventure is being sponsored by the Campaigners for Christ, the Evangelisation Society of Australia, and Mildmay (Melbourne). The prayer and help of Christian friends everywhere is earnestly sought.

NO COLLECTION.

Communications to Mildmay Centre, 262 Flinders Lane.

Dhond Hospital

WRITING from Mahabeshwar just prior to her return to Dhond, Miss L. Foreman says: "I had a notice from the hospital washer-woman yesterday that she is going back to her village. To-day I heard that another of our nurses is to be married. Changes and more changes! I have taught three women one after the other to do the washing, and now I will have to start over again. The difficulty is to get someone willing to learn. They are very busy down at the hospital. We were able to put on a married nurse for this month to help while I am away. I heard of an Indian

Christian staff-nurse who had been at a mission hospital, now closed. I wrote to her, asking if she would come to us, but have not had a reply yet. Nurses used to city life do not like going to small country hospitals. Then, too, we have no room in which a staff nurse can live. She would have to live with our untrained staff and the woman who lives with them as protector! The home consists of two rooms only. Under these conditions I don't think a trained nurse would stay. Maybe, someday, we will have a better and bigger home for our nurses; we plan for this. The plans submitted to builders brought forth quotations that astounded us. Last week we had a very helpful convention for five days. Three mornings we had a Bible class for 1½ hours and studied the Acts, especially references to the Holy Spirit. In the evenings a devotional service was held for half an hour, and this was followed by one hour of Bible teaching. We all felt refreshed in spirit. We have so little opportunity for fellowship with those of our own tongue. Each Sunday evening a gospel service is held in one of the mission bungalows, and this is followed by tea and sandwiches, then a song service. Several Service men attend each week and many have been converted. They enjoy singing the good old English hymns and choruses, and it does one good to hear them. Then, too, they like to talk about their home folk."

THE GREATEST FORCE ON EARTH

THE unreleased power inherent in the Christian church is the greatest unused resource available in the world at this late hour for the winning of the war. That such a potential for overcoming evil with good should be so long unknown and pent up is becoming well nigh the major tragedy on the blood-stained canvas of the distressing contemporary scene. The appalling ignorance of the non-Christian constituency as to what the truth of Christ is all about is bad enough. The far more lamentable condition is a combination of the unawareness of most Christians as to the place and purpose of the truth that makes men free in the present cataclysm and the limited, if not dubious, effectiveness of the fellowship of those who claim to follow Jesus in using the "weapons of our warfare." We spend far more time and energy in crying out against

the grievous and vicious sins of Nazism, Fascism and Shinto militarism than we do in bold, concerted, spiritual offensive against these enemies of Christ. We shall be defeated in this terrible conflict, no matter what the military outcome may be, unless those who comprise the "beloved community" awake, arise, prize the "beloved community" awake, arise, understand and act. The church must win this war. And we have reason to believe that campaigns for literacy and Christian literature are effective spearheads in the attack. As expressed by Rufus Jones: "The real battle, now as always, is in the soul. What is happening



The Hospital at Dhond.

to minds is more important than what is happening to buildings or to ships."

What illumination for a dark time! What compelling demand upon Christian faith! What a plea for the truth that makes men free. We had better show greater concern about the "war beneath the war." Fundamentally "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." As a matter of life or death, the church must win this war. More terrible than an army with banners is an idea whose time has come.

To-day the Christian church claims some 650,000,000 enrolled members. Here is a force powerful enough for any task, if directed to a single purpose. When Christians were numbered but by thousands they "turned the world upside down." Now in the face of mad confusion and terrific opposition, in a world weary and torn asunder, there is the imperative necessity that the world church use widely and valiantly the major and most powerful of the "weapons of its warfare"—the propagation of

the truth of Christ through literacy and literature.

Few people realize that one thousand million people now illiterate will probably become literate this century. They who teach this billion win their hearts. "The most direct way I

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-rd., Tranmere, S.A. Please make M.O.'s payable Adelaide.

know to lead a man to Christ," says Lauback, "is to sit down beside him with your heart full of love and sweetly and patiently teach him to read." And then—are we going to give him that reading? Will it be clear or not? Will it be of Christ or atheism? Will it be of love or hate? Whatsoever is sown in the mind the world will reap. What will happen when this oppressed two-thirds shall speak after the silence of the centuries?

The answer is in how you and I see and act—as individuals, societies, boards, the church—how we see and accept the obligations and opportunities in what we call "world literacy and Christian literature." or, if you will, how bravely and boldly in this our day of warfare we Christians wield, and teach others to wield, the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."—"National Missionary Council Review."

Australian Churches of Christ Foreign Mission Board Inc.

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Queensland:—H. W. Hermann, Milman-st., Eagle Junction, N.3.

Western Australia:—R. Duckett, 53 Litchfield-st., Victoria Park.

Tasmania:—G. J. Foot, 31 Proctors-rd., Hobart.

A. Anderson, Federal Secretary, 261 Magill Road, Tranmere, S.A.

SAVING IS URGENT

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Evils of 10 o'clock Closing in Tasmania

*Stanton H. Wilson, of Tasmania, tells of evils
of late closing of hotels, and of Bible
school campaign.*

WE read that our Minister for Health recently made a statement in Melbourne to the effect that since 10 p.m. closing had been introduced in Tasmania, he had not seen a drunken man on the streets. We have no right to question the truth of Mr. Howroyd's statement—after all he only spoke for himself. Yet we regret the wrong impression which this remark might have had on those who have not seen for themselves the diabolical consequences of the 10 p.m. closing of hotels. Mr. Howroyd's remark is to be the more regretted since it came from one who holds the position of Minister of Health. Christians and all lovers of decency appreciated the excellent counter-publicity which the Hobart Temperance Alliance gave to Mr. Howroyd's observation—or lack of it.

Bible School Campaign

After a conference at which the foreign mission and home mission appeals received an increase of fifty and eighty per cent. respectively, it is good now to report that this year's annual offering for youth work shows a ninety per cent. increase over last year. Ten churches showed an increase. This liberal giving indicates an all-round quickening of interest in brotherhood work.

The youth department is now conducting a three-months' campaign, with July for "efficiency," August for "increase," and September for "evangelism" in Bible schools throughout the State. A booklet entitled "Sunday School Teachers in Particular" was written and supplied anonymously to the department for distribution to all Bible school teachers. Since this production was so well received in Tasmania, and the supply was so liberal, three hundred copies were donated to the youth department of our churches in Western Australia. The Tasmanian committee is now having a booklet prepared to be issued in September to help teachers in personal and Bible school evangelism.

"Scattered on the Hills"

The recent centenary celebrations of the Anglican Church of St. John the Baptist at West Hobart recalled the words which Bishop Nixon used of this area one hundred years ago. The bishop described the people as "scattered on the hills, as sheep having no shepherd." Those hills are to-day densely populated. In this district is situated the West Hobart chapel, a neat brick building, well furnished, excellently appointed, and free of debt. The church also has a manse in an ideal position. In this neighborhood a wonderful opportunity awaits pastoral oversight and aggressive evangelism. Bishop Nixon's word is unfortunately true of the West Hobart church, for they are a people "having no shepherd." The church is hopeful that its present negotiations with a brother in another State will result in a preacher coming to lead them in accepting the challenge of this promising field.

Home Mission Work

This is most encouraging. Speaking brethren from Hobart have been helping the church at Geeveston. Tasmanians rejoice to hear of the anticipated arrival of Harold Steele, from Cottesloe, W.A., to labor with the churches at Dover and Geeveston. Mr. Steele's experience in W.A., and his qualifications as former secretary of a State youth department, will make him a valuable asset to the preaching ranks in Tasmania. Before training at Glen Iris, Mr. Steele held a responsible position in the Hydro-

Electric Commission in Hobart. Mr. and Mrs. Steele plan to be here early in January next. Mr. Hill, whose ministry is being wonderfully blessed at Devonport, expects to leave there in a few weeks to labor at Dover and Geeveston until Mr. Steele's arrival.

Brethren at Highcroft, with H.M. aid, are helping the church at Nubeena. The Highcroft church and the brotherhood sustained a great loss in the home-call of Elwick Smith recently.

The church at Invermay is having splendid services with encouraging attendances. Here, as at West Hobart, "the field is white unto harvest."

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The offering will indicate a brotherhood's appreciation of 21 years' Christian service.

—Will. H. Clay, 241 Flinders-lane, Melbourne.

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- (1) To make strong churches stronger.
- (2) To make weak churches self-supporting.
- (3) To start at least one new church each year.
- (4) To save souls anywhere, in every way, and at all times.

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Pencils and Persons

(Judges 5: 14)

DISPLAYING an interesting variety of pencils,
Mr. Stanbury led us to observe, and talk.
In pencils as in persons, "the heart's the thing";
"the Lord looketh on the heart." Hence the
instruction, "Keep thine heart with all dili-
gence, for out of it are the issues of life." A
sharpened pencil suggests a certain grace of
readiness about some persons; such as Paul
who could truly say, "I am ready!" Moreover,
it is significant that a satisfactory pencil does
credit to the maker's name which it bears.

In conclusion, Mr. Stanbury said, "Pencils
and persons need the Master hand." After a
speech, Lord Radstock caught his train, just
as it was going. A military officer running
alongside, said, "I heard you speak, but tell
me, how can a fellow keep straight and up-
right?" In haste Radstock laid a pencil across
his hand, asking, "Can that pencil stand up-
right?" "No," was the reply. Then the hand
grasped the pencil. "But you are holding it
now," said the officer. "Yes," said Radstock,
"your life is like that pencil—helpless, but
Christ is the hand that can hold you." It was
25 years before they met again, in India. The
officer recalled the pencil incident at Woolwich
and declared that prompted the putting of his
life in the hands of Christ.—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

*What a charm hath home—that
magic word, embodying sentiments the
most holy and pure!*

—J. W. Barker.

PREACHERS' PROVIDENT FUND

With which is incorporated the Aged and Infirm
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August 16, 1944

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