

The Australian Christian.

Circulating amongst Churches of Christ in the Australian Commonwealth, and New Zealand.

Vol. V.—No. 15.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1902.

Subscription, 6/- per annum.

N.S.W. Conference, 1902.

The Seventeenth Annual Conference of the associated churches of Christ of New South Wales was held in the Tabernacle, Metropolitan-rd., Enmore.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 26.

An essay on the "Scriptural Plan of Church Government" was read by Bro. Fischer. He dealt with the subject in a way suggestive of some action necessary to working on Scriptural lines, emphasising that elders and deacons should be appointed in each church in order to come into line with the church of Christ of apostolic days. The essay was discussed by G. P. Jones, R. C. Gilmour, T. Hawkins, A. Price, R. Verco, T. Bagley, W. Rootes, G. Arnott and L. Rossell, most being agreed that elders and deacons should be appointed, while some were opposed to it for the reason that there were so many failures when such course was pursued in regard to elders. Bro. Fischer was thanked for the able manner in which he presented the subject, and we hope later to forward it to the CHRISTIAN for publication.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

Shortly after 7.30 p.m., G. T. Walden took the chair to a not very large audience. The congregation having joined in a song of praise, Dr. Jas. Kingsbury led in prayer. Unfortunately, through the sickness of one and the inability of others to attend, the musical and recitative programme had to be abandoned, with the exception of a song kindly rendered by H. Walters, and congregational singing took its place. The chairman led off with an address in his usual inimitable style, prefacing his remarks with the suggestion that what we lacked in numbers we could make up in heartiness and enthusiasm. The Secretary read the reports of both the Victorian and New South Wales Committees, and a brief survey of the financial statements of both States. These were adopted by excellent speeches by T. B. Fischer of Rookwood and A. E. Illingworth of Petersham. Amongst the very excellent things said by the three speakers of the evening, we were pointed to the example of those missionary worthies of world-wide fame who had answered to the command "Go" in the past, and then to those living examples who have gone forth from the Austral land. The latter were aptly compared to the diver, who goes into the mighty deep and while

there is dependent on those above while he works hidden in the deep; so those hidden from our sight in the lands of darkness beyond depend upon us to supply the means of their present existence. Urgently and faithfully did the speakers press upon us who remain at home to sustain by our means, our sympathies and our prayers those whom we had sent forth. Fervent prayer for those in the field, for the mission cause, or for any object dear to our hearts, was such that it eventually and necessarily led to action. One of the speakers, when dwelling on the financial statement of the N. S. Wales Committee, drew attention to the fact that according to the membership the amount contributed per capita per week was about one farthing for sending the gospel to those sitting in darkness in the regions beyond our shores. At the conclusion of the addresses some of the members of the Chinese Class rendered an item of song, the congregation joining in the chorus. A further song of praise, prayer and the Benediction brought the meeting to a close.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 28.

ALL DAY CONFERENCE IN TABERNACLE.

MORNING SESSION.

At 9.30 a praise and prayer service was held, presided over by T. Hawkins, J. Kingsbury, R. C. Gilmour, and T. B. Fischer engaging in prayer. P. A. Dickson gave a short but very impressive address on the Great Commission, and giving words of encouragement for coming year's work, he said God had but one Son, and of him he made a missionary, and so we should endeavor to prosecute the work of the Master with all our might.

At 10.15 the President, Bro. McIndoe took the chair and welcomed the following visitors:—Bro. Rankine, South Australia; A. E. Illingworth; W. A. Oldfield, England; Bro. Boyce, Roma, Q.; W. J. Way and Bro. Wotherspoon, Lismore; Bros. Williams, Jones, Want, Nisbett and Sister Nisbett, Merewether; and any other visitors whose names were not known. Bros. Oldfield, Rankine, and Illingworth responded, and R. C. Gilmour spoke on behalf of Bro. Boyce.

ADMISSION OF CHURCH.

Canley Vale having applied for admission into the Association, they were received in as a church by unanimous vote.

The roll of delegates was then called, and was responded to as follows:—Enmore, 39; Petersham, 13; Marrickville, 3; Croydon, 2; Sydney, 22; Paddington, 8; Rookwood, 3; Lismore, 2; Prospect, 2; Merewether, 4; Canley Vale, 2. Many other members and friends were present, and took an interest in the proceedings.

The Secretary, Bro. Steer, read the minutes and proceedings of previous Conference, and on the motion of Bren. T. Morton and Stimson they were adopted.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters of greetings were read from Victorian and West Australian Conferences, from N.S.W. Sisters' Conference, from Bro. Rankine, conveying greetings of S. A. Conference; telegram received, fraternal greetings from Queensland Conference; from churches of Christ, Yorkshire, commending Bro. Oldfield to us; from Bro. Taylor Lambler, enclosing cheque for £2, being unable to be present owing to ill-health; from S.A. Conference, asking co-operation in the work at Broken Hill; and from W. J. Williams, Broken Hill. These were received on motion of F. Morton, and W. Spedding, the Secretary, stated he had responded to greetings. Broken Hill matter was left till dealing with future work, on motion of Bros. Logan and Stimson.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Brethren and Fellow Delegates,—We are here assembled upon the business of the King of kings. We have received our marching orders: "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and in response to that command we have gathered together to devise and arrange our plans of campaign. Every individual member of the body is responsible for carrying out the King's instructions right up to the extent of his or her ability and opportunity. We desire to specially emphasise this point to-day, and would like to be able to impress every member of the churches so that they might clearly understand that they personally are responsible for the work of extending the knowledge of the truth, and that by sending you brethren here as delegates they are not freed from further responsibility. I desire also to impress upon you brethren who are here as delegates that your responsibility does not begin and end with this Conference. Of course I know that you are all well aware of that fact already; still I

think that the work of the Committee would be greatly assisted if those who come here as delegates all showed a more lively interest than is sometimes the case, in what is being done during the year. You are not relieved of responsibility after the election. The Committee is appointed merely as a matter of convenience, because a small executive can always get through details more quickly than a very large one; hence ten brethren are selected. Their duty is to use every effort to extend the knowledge of the truth in this State. All the brethren cannot be members of the Committee, but all can assist in the work. Paul says, "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But how can they hear without a preacher? and how can they preach except they be sent?" Now all of us cannot be preachers, that is, we cannot all ascend the platform and preach to the people; but we can all assist to send those who can.

In order to send brethren the question of finance crops up. These brethren have got to be sustained, and have a right to be sustained, so that if you and I cannot go it is our duty to sustain those who do go and devote their lives to this the grandest of all labor. Therefore we urge upon you first of all to contribute yourselves as God has prospered you, and next that each of you in your respective assemblies become zealous advocates of mission work, and so stir up a spirit of zeal among the brethren that they also may be induced to give liberally and enable the Committee to spread out and occupy fields hitherto unoccupied.

During the past year we have held meetings among the city and suburban churches in order that the brethren might be kept in touch with our work and difficulties. I think it right that such should be the case. The brethren should learn from time to time how the work is progressing and what our difficulties are. Then when you understand try and assist us. If you can assist with money, send it along; if with counsel, send that. I am sure from what I know of the brethren that they will always gladly consider any suggestions which you may have to make. It may be that they will not always think wise to do as you suggest, but sometimes they will, and at other times, while your suggestion may not be carried out just as it occurred to you, it may after consideration lead to something that will materially assist. In this great work we are fellow-laborers with God. What a lofty idea! Let us rise to a true conception of the dignity of such a position. To be God's fellow-workers we must work as God directs us.

In the religious world to-day there is an idea current to the effect that so long as men are sincere it matters not how they go about the work or what methods they adopt in order to accomplish some point which they desire to reach. As churches of Christ we plead for a purer practice than this. We plead for a practice in accordance with the teaching of the Holy Spirit as revealed through the apostles of the Lord Jesus Christ. We in this plea assert that the New Testament is a complete guide for us individually as disciples and collectively as churches of Christ. But the New Testament deals with principles rather than with

details. The details are largely left to ourselves, only these details must never tend to violate any principle, obscure any truth, or substitute anything the Lord has not commanded for something which he has commanded, as is done by the substitution of sprinkling for immersion, where the figure of a burial is altogether lost sight of by what some call a mere expedient. The question of expediency must not be allowed to enter into such matters; but for example the penitent believer is commanded to be baptised, and he may suit his convenience as to whether he is baptised in a river, a pond, or a baptistery such as we have in this building. It is only in matters like this that the disciple can allow the question of expediency to arise, and the expedient adopted must be of such a nature that it shall not violate the teaching of the Holy Spirit, whether clearly expressed or implied. The question of expediency can only be allowed to arise in connection with doing something which the Lord requires us to do and not as a means of doing something that we are not taught to do. We must be very careful here, otherwise all sorts of innovations may be allowed to creep into the church.

In adopting any expedient we must consider the same in connection with its future results. Any expedient which amounts to even in a very small way levelling the church down to suit the inclinations of worldly minded people in order to induce them to enter must result in disaster. The proper place for such people is outside until their wills have been brought into subjection to the Head of the church, otherwise you will have a worldly church, and history will be repeated. Many a seemingly harmless method has been adopted which has afterwards led to great evil. Innovations do not come in their full-grown strength all at once. "First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." The germ grows and develops until those who were responsible for its introduction would be shocked if they saw what progress their infant had made. Another very awkward thing about this class of expedients is that they have a practice of paving the way for and introducing numerous others of their own sort, so that when these departures are entered upon there is absolutely no limit to the possibilities of the future. Let us be careful here, brethren. The Church of Rome was not built in a day—it grew gradually out of the church of Christ as founded under the Holy Spirit. It took hundreds of years to develop, and between one year and the next you could not have noticed a very marked difference. When the little apparently insignificant seeds were sown they began to develop, and gradually, little by little, through long centuries they grew, until had the apostles returned to earth I am sure they would not have recognised in the body professing to be the church of Christ the church which they under divine guidance had founded.

We should profit by the lessons of the past. Human nature is much the same to-day as it was eighteen or nineteen hundred years ago. Our tendencies and our ambitions are much the same. Therefore, while striving to advance the cause we love,

let us be careful to strive lawfully. To the law and the testimony let our eyes be turned. Back to Jerusalem! be our watchword and our practice; and marching on, with the eye of faith fixed steadfastly upon the Captain of our salvation, not all the hosts of sin and sectarianism shall be able to retard us.

I was very pleased on reading the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN of last week to learn the noble stand which Bro. Morro and the other preaching brethren took in connection with the Simultaneous Mission. They manfully refused to preach a mutilated gospel, and insisted on being permitted to reply to anxious enquirers in the words of inspired men, preferring loyalty to Christ rather than the praise of men; and because of that loyalty the Executive of the Mission removed Bro. Morro's name from the Committee and refused to allow the churches of Christ to co-operate in the Mission.

Our plea is a grand one. Let us demonstrate our faith in it by our actions. Our position is one of very great honor. Let us rise to it. Our Leader is King of kings and Lord of lords. Let us obey him, and victory is assured.

On the motion of Bren. Hawkins and Rossell, a vote of thanks was given to the President for his address.

MEMORIAM.

The President feelingly called attention to the memoriam and excellent picture of the late Dr. Joseph Kingsbury. Bro. Hawkins proposed, and R. C. Gilmour seconded, That we place on record our deep sympathy with the family of our departed Bro. Kingsbury on the loss they had sustained. This was unanimously carried by all standing up.

The Reports were then dealt with *seriatim*.

Seventeenth Annual Report.

MARCH 1.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In presenting our Annual Report we desire to state that we started the year resolved to keep our expenditure within our receipts, and at the same time not to curtail the work to accomplish that purpose. We have succeeded in our endeavor, but have not been able to reduce the deficit of last year as much as we hoped. We pray God that to-day you may in your counsels and actions place the incoming Committee upon a better financial position than we had.

We are pleased to note that two new church buildings have been erected this year—one at Paddington and the other at Petersham—chiefly through the efforts of Bros. T. Bagley and D. A. Ewers respectively.

It should be remembered that Bro. Ewers was engaged and brought from Victoria by the Conference Committee, September, 1896; and Bro. Bagley was also by the assistance of Conference Executive placed in the Woollahra District on his arrival from America, June 1st, 1898.

We congratulate our Petersham and Paddington brethren that their efforts have been so blessed.

In our Mission fields you will note decided activity, and in the larger churches of Enmore and Sydney the work is very encouraging. What we do earnestly pray for to-day is that while we may meet in different localities, we may know we are One Body, One Destiny, Christ, and that the strong should bear the infirmities of the weak.

Adopted on the motion of T. Morton, seconded by A. Barratt.

STATISTICS.

We are pleased to report an increase of church members this year. The total additions have been:—

By faith and obedience, 158; by letter, 43; baptised believers, 43; restored, 13; total, 257. The losses were:—By letter, 74; death, 12; removal or revision of roll, 116; total, 202; leaving a nett increase of 55, and a present membership of 1739, as against 1684 of 1901. The Lord's Day Schools show scholars 1583, as against 1471 last year, a gain of 112. Teachers, 141, as against 134 of 1901, an increase of 7. The additions to church from Lord's Day Schools were 69

With register, adopted on the motion of T. Morton, seconded by G. T. Walden.

FINANCE.

As in previous years your Committee have felt the pressure of a deficit. At the same time, owing to the good management of our Treasurer, Bro. J. Stimson, in fixing Bank Overdraft and keeping us correctly and fully posted as to our financial position, we were the better able to meet the necessity and act accordingly. Local needs in some cases have prevented churches contributing as much as they did in previous years. But the churches assisted have responded to the suggestion to raise as much as possible towards the support of an evangelist, hence Merewether now contributes £1/15 per week as against £1/7/6 last year. Lismore raises about £2/10 per week, £1/15 of which goes towards evangelist's salary, the balance, 15/-, in hire of hall and incidental expenses. A chapel here is sadly needed.

The Combined Districts of Rookwood and Canley Vale, raise respectively £1 and 10/- per week towards an evangelist. One point we would note here, that a comparative small proportion of church members contribute to Home Mission Work, and we would like representatives to assist in solving this state of affairs to-day. In some way members should be brought in touch frequently throughout the year with Home Mission matters.

As will be seen by Balance Sheet we have received £357/13/10, and expended £318/16/6, leaving a credit on current year of £38/17/4, thus reducing the debt of last year, £60/13/8, to £21/16/4. Home Mission Day Collection, 1st Lord's day in December, amounted to £28/14 as against £39/9/2 of last year. Our Treasurer's Balance Sheet will give details of receipts and expenditure.

With balance sheet, adopted on the motion of G. T. Walden, seconded by L. Rossell.

CHANGES ON COMMITTEE.

Bro. Walden who was elected Vice-President, could not take the position, and Bro. Chapple, next in vote, was appointed Vice-President by Committee, Bro. A. Morris filling vacant position. Bro. Rofe, Asst. Sec., found that he could not attend meetings as regular as he thought it incumbent upon members to do, and so he resigned. Bro. R. Verco was appointed in his stead Asst. Sec.

Adopted on the motion of R. Steer, seconded by G. Arnott.

RE FEDERAL CAPITAL SITE AND SUSTAINING CAUSE THERE.

The Special Committee appointed re this matter have formulated the following suggestions, copies of which have been sent to Conference Committees of each State.

PROPOSITION re FEDERAL CHAPEL SITE AND SUSTAINING CAUSE.

1. That it be a recommendation to the State Conferences that a Lord's Day Collection in all churches in the Commonwealth be taken up on the first Lord's day in September, or such other time as may be arranged and devoted to a fund for establishing and maintaining a church in the Federal Capital.
2. That all members of the church of Christ in the Commonwealth be asked to contribute towards initiating and sustaining cause in the Federal Capital.
3. That each State issue a special appeal to all brethren at their discretion.
4. That all monies collected in any of the States be deposited in the Savings Bank of such State in the names of two brethren to be appointed at Conference Committee of that State, and so bear interest until required.
5. When site of Federal Capital shall be decided on, the Conference Committee of each State shall appoint one representative. Such representatives shall form a committee, into whose hands all monies collected shall then be transferred, and who shall make all necessary arrangements in connection with establishing the work in the Federal Capital.

6. That the above recommendations be conveyed to Conferences in all the States.

R. STEER, Sec., N.S.W.

It will be seen that a slight alteration was made by Conference in the foregoing, the words "at least 1s. per annum" being omitted in clause 2, and the word "all" being substituted for "prominent" in clause 3.

Our Mission Fields.

LISMORE.

Your Committee in dealing with the work in this field decided to re-engage Bro. Way, the church there being also unanimous that he should remain. Bro. Way's work extends outside Lismore, and from reports you will note that the Cause is steadily growing. During the year 27 have been added to the church, the nett increase being 20, and the present membership 111. The great need of this field is a chapel. Now the question is how this can best be obtained. It would probably mean that the church would be able to relieve the Committee of financial responsibility in a shorter space of time. Their present outlay for hired hall would pay interest on sum needed for a building of their own. Is there any brother who can solve this, so that in the coming Conference year a building may be erected at Lismore? Bro. Way will no doubt be able to post you in all particulars.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Halliday, seconded by Bro. Whately.

Verbal reports were given by Bren. Way and Wotherspoon, and were considered satisfactory.

MEREWETHER.

Bro. Pond having decided not to accept re-engagement at Merewether, the church asked that Bro. L. A. Williams be engaged, they offering the sum of £1/10/- per week towards salary, and more if possible. Bro. Williams accepted offer, and commenced labors there on 1st August last. The report from church to-day will show you that his efforts have not been in vain. After three months' work the church asked that Bro. Williams' engagement be further extended, and offered to increase their contributions from 30/- to 35/- per week. The additions during Bro. Williams' labors in this field have been 26, and present membership after revising roll is 69. We hope the time is not far distant when Merewether will be able to fully support a preacher. It is needless to say that their act in increasing contributions encouraged us in our work.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Rose, seconded by Bro. Barratt.

Bren. Williams, Want, and Nesbitt spoke relative to Merewether.

ROOKWOOD AND CANLEY VALE.

After Bro. Williams' departure from Rookwood, the Committee arranged for speakers for gospel meetings at Rookwood and Canley Vale, and we desire to express our thanks to all who assisted. In one of his visits to Canley Vale, your secretary suggested that the two above fields should combine with the assistance of the Committee to have an Evangelist, the result being that in August Rookwood offered £1 and Canley Vale 10/- per week toward salary. Acting upon this, your Committee engaged Bro. T. B. Fischer, of Adelaide, South Australia, and he commenced his labors there on Dec. 1st.

Bro. Fischer has succeeded in uniting a number of immersed with the church at Canley Vale. At Rookwood the work is going on steadily; Bro. Fischer will tell you more in his report. The present membership of Rookwood is 53, and Canley Vale, 13. We desire to place on record that our Bro. G. Stimson held the Fort at Canley Vale in church and Sunday school for some considerable time.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Lea, seconded by Bro. Stimson.

Bren. Fischer and Stimson spoke relative to Rookwood and Canley Vale.

MOREE AND MUNGINDI.

Bro. D. C. McCallum has been laboring here for 15 months, and has been re-engaged up to the end of

June. At Moree there has been an increase of 17 members since our last report. The brethren there raised whole of Evangelist's salary, notwithstanding the adverse circumstances of present drought. We pray they may have the satisfaction of knowing that precious souls have been saved, and we hope some means may be adopted to continue work.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Lea, seconded by Bro. Stimson.

COWRA.

Brethren to the number of 16 are meeting here to break bread, and are desirous of assuming the aggressive. They made an appeal for an Evangelist to assist in a Mission, but we were not able to respond, as preachers could not go. We desire to record our sympathy with them, and hope this year the incoming Committee will arrange a visit to encourage our kindred in Christ at Cowra.

Adopted on the motion of Bro. Stimson, seconded by R. Steer.

Bro. Steer spoke relative to the work at Cowra.

FUTURE WORK.

In speaking of this, we would say it will all depend upon funds available. We would certainly advise that the present work at Lismore, Merewether, Rookwood, Canley Vale, Moree, and Mungindi be continued, and if possible, that an Evangelist be sent to the Manning River. We would also recommend to the consideration of the brethren, the possibility of starting Causes in one or more of the suburbs of Sydney. This might be done, if the churches having Evangelists were to co-operate and allow preachers to conduct such Missions by turns. We trust these recommendations may be so received and acted upon that good results will follow. We must all be determined to sustain and uphold the incoming Committee in their work to the best of our ability.

On the motion of Bro. Spedding, seconded by R. Steer, it was left in the hands of the incoming Committee.

Broken Hill matters were dealt with under future work, and were spoken to by Bren. Halliday, Rankine, and Gilmour. On the motion of Bro. Price, seconded by Bro. Hawkins, it was referred to incoming Committee.

SUMMARY OF HOME MISSION WORK.

Bro. Way has been engaged the whole year at Lismore.

Bro. Pond at Merewether till end of April. Bro. Williams at Rookwood till end of July, and at Merewether from August 1st.

Bro. T. B. Fischer at Rookwood, from the 1st December.

Bro. McCallum at Moree, Mungindi, for whole of year.

Additions in Mission Fields were—gross, 75; losses, 44; nett gain, 31.

We would urge that continued effort be the policy in all fields.

HOME MISSION MEETINGS.

We have held in various churches in city and suburbs during the year Home Mission meetings, our object being to put our brethren in possession of matters concerning Home Mission work. We would suggest to the incoming Committee that these meetings be continued.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION.

We regret to say that, through having to concentrate our minds upon General Work, we were not able to give attention to matter of Jubilee Celebration, and would advise a Special Committee.

Resolved to appoint a Sub-Committee.

THANKS.

We desire to thank the collectors for Home Mission Work, and also those who have so generously contributed.

We are grateful to the Office-Bearers of the Sydney church for use of Building for Committee meetings, and also the churches for their request to hold Home Mission meetings.

We thank our Heavenly Father who helped us, and we pray we may all realise the importance of this work.

STATISTICAL REGISTER, MARCH 1st, 1902.

LOCATION OF CHURCH	Church Additions, 1901.					Church Losses 1901.			Membership, 1902.			Lord's Day School				Church Additions from Lord's Day School.	Seating Capacity of Meeting House.	EVANGELIST.
	1901. Membership.	Faith and Obedience.	Letter.	Baptised Believers.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Removal or Revision of Roll	1902. Membership.	Increase.	Decrease.	1901 Scholars.	1902 Scholars	1901 Teachers	1902 Teachers.			
Bungawalbyn ..	21	3						3	21			23	22	3	3	3	80	a T. B. Fischer.
a Canley Vale ..				13					13			30	30	3	2	200		
Chatham ..	38	1							39	1		14	18	2	2	100	F. Collins.	
Corowa ..	62	9	2			4		18	51		11	32	29	3	3	200		
*Croydon ..	8								8			12	12				G. T. Walden. A. E. Illingworth.	
Enmore ..	541	37	3	2		15	2	5	561	20		441	501	33	33	16		550
Petersham ..	147	7	3	3		7	3	2	148	1		140	171	16	15	3	300	
Marrickville ..	58	3				2		2	57		1	100	83	11	9	3	150	
Junee ..	9								9								W. J. Way. L. A. Williams.	
Lismore ..	91	22	1	1	3			7	111	20		56	70	7	7	10		300
Merewether ..	65	11	9		6	3	2	17	69	4		100	136	10	12	3	200	
b Moree ..	31	17		2				2	48	17		29	34	3	4	12	200	
*b Mungundi ..	9								9			13	13	3	3	100	b D. C. McCallum.	
Prospect ..	10	4	2	1				1	16	6		21		1			a T. B. Fischer. P. A. Dickson.	
a Rookwood ..	59	2	5	2		9		15	44		15	110	94	10	13	2		160
Sydney ..	332	24	9		1	34	3	27	302		30	150	145	18	19	15	500	
*Wagga ..	19								19								200	
Wingham ..	16					1			18	2							100	
Woollahra ..	148	18	9	3		1	4		173	25		200	225	17	16	2	300	
Isolated Brethren Estimated at ..	20			16					36	16								T. Bagley.
	1684	158	43	43	13	74	12	104	1752	125	57	1471	1583	134	141	69	3640	



Increase of Church Members, 55. Increase Scholars, Lord's Day School, 112.

* Wagga, Croydon and Mungindi sent no report. Figures same as last year.

a These Churches form a District, T. B. Fischer, Evangelist. b D. C. McCallum labored between two.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee have held 14 meetings during the year, the attendance as follows:—

W. Macindoe ..	14	L. Rossell ..	13
*G. T. Walden ..	0	P. A. Dickson ..	10
J. Stimson ..	14	J. Chapple ..	5
R. Steer ..	14	G. Arnott ..	9
A. C. A. Rofe ..	3	B. A. Morris ..	9
A. Price ..	14	B. R. Verco ..	9

*Resigned, April 26th. a*Resigned, June 28th.
bAppointed June 28th.

- W. MACINDOE, President.
- J. CHAPPLE, Vice-President.
- R. STEER, Secretary.
- R. VERCO, Assistant Sec.
- J. STIMSON, Treasurer.

- COMMITTEE
- P. A. DICKSON.
 - A. PRICE.
 - L. ROSSELL.
 - G. ARNOTT.
 - A. MORRIS.

These reports were adopted on motion of Bro. Hawkins, seconded by Bro. Lea.

On the motion of Bro. Steer, seconded by Bro. Rossell, the reports were adopted as a whole, with letters from churches.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY COMMITTEE.

- 1st—That this Conference make a recommendation to the City and Suburban Churches, that they allow their Evangelists to assist Country Churches as Conference Committee may suggest, a fortnight each year.
- 2nd—That this Conference express its disapproval of repeated use of the term "Rev." being applied to Evangelists of Church of Christ in newspapers and printed programmes.

The first was spoken to by Bros. Hall, Steer, Spedding, Gilmour and Way, and adopted.

Second.—Bro. Price moved, and Bro. Hawkins seconded, That it be adopted. After a very lively debate by Bros. Price, Hawkins, Spedding, Gilmour, Halliday, Hall and Walden, it was carried.

Aged Preachers' Fund.

As instructed by the last Conference of Churches, we desire to submit herewith, our report on the question of an Aged Preachers' Fund.

We have to bring under your notice two schemes, the one having our unanimous endorsement as practical and likely to meet with the general approval of the Conference, the other as worthy of discussion (although not having our unanimous endorsement), as practical.

The first proposal is the creation of a central collecting and distributing board, with sub-committees in each Colony or State, and under these, a collector in each church. Funds collected under this system to be distributed according to need, to applicants applying through their respective churches. Such a scheme to be effective, should be Australasian in extent. The general Board might be appointed by the Victorian Conference and sit in Melbourne, as being the most central.

The sub-committees should be elected by the Conferences of the respective States.

These committees should suggest to each church the appointment of a collector whom the church would make responsible to the local Conference Treasurer, who in his turn, would hand over such payments to the Melbourne Board.

An aged, or otherwise incapacitated preacher, wishing to receive the benefits, would apply through the local church, with whom he holds fellowship, who would approve the application and send it direct to the Central Board. The amount of benefit would be assessed according to circumstances.

Under this system the Aged Preachers would practically become paid elders, and the churches receiving their services, would naturally feel under an obligation to contribute more largely, and to that extent, relieve the central fund.

The alternative scheme suggests that the money hitherto annually expended outside the church funds on life insurance should instead be devoted to the formation of a general church benevolent fund for the relief of all cases of need, the surplus to be used for evangelistic work.

The scheme as fully outlined is apparently statistically sound and shows a large surplus for all purposes, the difficulties being in the practical application. It takes as granted that God exercises

the greater care over the faithful Christian who trusts in him. It aims at securing to the church the enormous amount of money now going out for the support of canvassers, clerks, directors and offices of insurance societies. It suggests that all brethren should at least contribute to the general fund to the extent of £15 per annum before insuring their lives in an insurance society.

The order of precedence as to benefits is arranged as follows:—Aged widows, superannuated evangelists, head of houses, juniors, active evangelists, that is to say the surplus is devoted to the employment of evangelists and to other gospel work.

The author reckons that on a moderate estimate the margin for evangelistic purposes would be £3000 if Victoria and New South Wales heartily co-operated, but as in the previous case, the scheme should be at least Federal, if not Australasian.

In conclusion, we might state that we have suggested to the outgoing Conference Committee, that an advance copy of this report be sent to the Secretary of the Victorian Conference, in case they should desire to consider it in conjunction with any schemes proposed in that State.

- JAMES HUNTER.
- E. GOLE.
- ALAN PRICE.

Resolved on the motion of D. Hall, seconded by L. Rossell, that it be referred to the incoming Committee.

Letters from Churches.

The following digest of letters sent by the Churches should prove of general interest, as it enables us to understand more of the difficulties and triumphs of the Cause than we can glean from the bare statistics:—

COROWA.—The secretary informs us "Bro. Collins has proved himself to be a splendid organiser, a thoroughly efficient worker, and capable preacher." Although a number of active members have left the district, the spiritual tone of the church has deepened through the labors of Bro. Collins.

An Endeavor Society has been organised, and

collectors have been appointed for Home and Foreign Mission funds.
The church has arranged with Bro. Collins to remain for another 12 months, after expiration of present term.

ENMORE.—The attendance at the Lord's day morning and Wednesday night meetings is good, while the evangelistic services draw large audiences. There are over 560 members on the Enmore roll, a nett increase of 20. During the year the church has raised for Home Mission work, £75, divided as follows: Petersham, £40; Conference Committee, £29; and Marrickville, £6. For other purposes outside of local church work, there was contributed £42, and for its own church work, £509, making altogether a total of £626.

The number of scholars in the Lord's day school has grown from 441 to 501. Of these, 43 competed in the S.S. Union examination, 37 passing.

The Dorcas Society has done a lot of good work, and the Band of Hope continues in its useful career.

The Senior Endeavor Society has a membership of 38, and a Junior Endeavor Society has been started.

PETERSHAM.—Report not received in time for printer. There is a bright prospect ahead of this church, a neat and commodious meeting house having been recently completed, and Bro. Illingworth having been engaged to carry on the work of preaching the gospel here. We look for great things at Petersham.

MARRICKVILLE.—The secretary writes: "During the year closed, we have made but little numerical progress." Since Bro. Colbourne's departure for South Australia, the work of preaching was carried on for six months by Bro. Chapple, and since then various brethren have preached for one month each, assisted by members of the Bible Students' class.

LISMORE.—The work in this district is going along satisfactorily. Bro. Way is doing a grand work. Since he commenced to labor in Lismore the membership has grown from 47 to 111. "The accession of Bro. Way in our midst has been a source of growing satisfaction to us, and the utmost confidence exists between himself and the church." During the year 27 have been added, and the nett increase has been 20.

MANNING RIVER.—Little numerical progress is being made here. "We are going along just about the same, our membership showing but little increase." The cash receipts for the year amounted to £45/10/6, as follows: Home Missions, £3/11/-; Foreign Missions, £9/3; Rescue Home, £2/7/9; and Hospital, £1/10/-. Balance was deposited in the Savings Bank on account of Building and Evangelist Fund.

MEREWETHER.—We did not receive a report from the secretary in time for the printer, but know from the monthly reports from time to time that meetings are being well attended. The church and Bro. Williams are working harmoniously together, with good success, as indicated by the additions, which total 26 since 1st August.

MOREE.—Bro. McCallum has continued his labors in this field throughout the year, and expects to leave early in July. The additions (mostly from the Lord's day school), number 19, with a nett increase of 17. "During the year the debt on the building has been reduced by £20, the present debt being £25."

ROOKWOOD.—"Since Bro. Fischer's arrival the work has been going on steadily, and we feel sure that God will accept and abundantly bless his whole-hearted services. The meetings are all well attended, and a public interest is manifest. Good work is being done in the Bible class and Lord's day school. Two of the scholars have obeyed the Lord, and united with the church. The sisters carry on the Dorcas Society with good results. Our number was somewhat decreased, but we are again on the increase, and we trust it may ever be so."

SYDNEY.—The secretary says: "There is nothing particularly striking to report. The church is working most harmoniously, and during the year has contributed a sum of not less than £500 for all purposes. Sisters Mrs. Morrison, Misses Leck, Elliott, J. Hen-

derson and Studdy, deserve special commendation for their efficient and painstaking efforts as collectors for the Home Mission funds. Notwithstanding that 23 have been added during the year, the membership shows a considerable decrease, which is accounted for by the fact that the roll has been revised, the first time for several years."

PADDINGTON.—The report is one of progress. "We began the year with 148 members. Our total increase has been 30, and our nett gain 25. Present membership 173." During the year a fine meeting house has been built, which will accommodate 300. The gospel meetings are well attended, and we are working, praying for, and expecting great success in the coming year. The Lord's day school is in a very healthy state, and a Christian Endeavor Society has been started.

CANLEYVALE.—"Since Bro. Fischer's arrival a church has been established, and although small in numbers at present, we hope to increase shortly, as there are some immersed believers in the district who will very likely join with us. We are at present contributing 10/- per week toward the Evangelist's salary, and as our numbers increase, we hope to augment our contribution."

The total membership is 13.

BUNGAWALBYN.—No numerical progress has been made, but the brethren are living in harmony and doing their best to carry on the work.

At this stage an adjournment was made for lunch, 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. the Afternoon Session commenced with a Prayer and Praise Service, led by Bro. Rossell. At 2.30 the President took the chair, and business was resumed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

PRESIDENT.—G. T. Walden.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—A. Price.

SECRETARY.—C. A. Rofe.

ASST. SECRETARY.—R. Steer.

TREASURER.—J. Stimson.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—L. Rossell, W. McIndoe, T. Bagley, P. A. Dickson and W. J. Edwards.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.—D. R. Hall, A. E. Illingworth, G. Logan, T. Morton, G. T. Walden, W. J. Williams.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.—E. Gole, G. T. Walden, J. Hunter, T. Bagley, Mrs. E. Bagley, Miss McPherson.

Conference Report of Sunday School Union.

21ST FEBRUARY, 1902.

The Committee has pleasure in presenting to the Conference the usual Report on the work performed during the past twelve months.

In respect to the examination for 1901 the number of competitors was below that of previous years. Doubtless the chief factor in bringing this about was that the idea has become prevalent that the questions on "The First Principles of Christianity" adopted on this occasion would be more difficult than the questions for former years. While this fear was exaggerated, every credit is due to those who essayed the task. Another reason for the smaller numbers was that there was one school less in the Union than before, namely Woollahra, and, as will be noticed, Rookwood did not compete. In all there was 148 nominations, out of which number 97 sat for examination, with the following results

School	Examined	Obtained Prizes	Obtained Certificates	Failed
Enmore	43	12	25	6
Petersham	24	4	16	4
Sydney	22	2	13	7
Lismore	8	-	4	4

Shortly after the last examination, it was decided to alter the constitution of the Union, to allow of the

formation of a Committee, consisting of three delegates from each school affiliated with the Union acting in conjunction with the office bearers, to meet in place of the whole of the teachers from schools of the Union, it being considered that the former Committee of the whole was too cumbersome for many of the details submitted to it. Provision, however, is made for the holding of an Annual Conference of all Schools in the Union, during which the election of office bearers takes place.

The new Committee has been conducting the general work of the Union for the past six months, and feels that the change is for the better. This, however, must be judged by results, and it is perhaps premature to speak of this until a longer period has expired.

While the success attending the efforts put forth by the Union in this State has been gratifying in the past, so far as they have gone, it has been felt by your Committee that the result attained has been qualified by the fact that the benefits derivable have been taken advantage of by practically the metropolitan schools only. The question was to find out the trouble in the way and then to try and remedy it. At a recent meeting of the Committee this matter was earnestly discussed, and the outcome was that a resolution was passed reducing the annual fees considerably; the hope in the experiment being that the large increase anticipated in the number of Schools joining would suffice to make up for the loss suffered in the amount received from each School. The experiment so far has met with success, for two Schools in the country—Merewether and Canley Vale—that could not reasonably have been expected to pay the fee under the old tariff, have just thrown in their lot with the Union, and it is pleasing to note that there is now every prospect of the Woollahra School becoming shortly re-united.

Another item in the interests of country Schools lately dealt with by the Committee has been the passing of a resolution giving the more distant Schools the option of appointing one representative on the Committee, belonging to a church nearer or in Sydney, in lieu of the three delegates each they are entitled to from their own School, but who would necessarily seldom if ever be able to attend, thus becoming practically disfranchised.

The amount in the hands of the Treasurer at the present time is £5/13/6.

The Committee wishes to place on record its thanks for the services rendered by late officers of the Union: Brethren John Kingsbury, as President; T. P. Beer, as Secretary; and Robert Ewers, as Assistant Secretary.

In conclusion the Committee has to acknowledge its gratitude to our Father in Heaven for whatever success has attended the efforts of the Union, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and its prayer will be for a continuance of help from the same source, without which all human endeavors would be in vain.

C. A. ROFE, President.

CHAS. J. LEA, Secretary.

Adopted, with recommendation that a special night in future be set apart for Sunday School work.

Annual Report of the Conference Temperance Committee.

In connection with our work in the Temperance Field, your Committee have to report a year of quiet yet practical work. We have not been able to accomplish great things because the opportunity has not presented itself, but we have taken an active interest in all matters connected with the Temperance movement, social or political. We are represented on the Council of the Temperance Alliance by Brethren Logan and D. R. Hall, M.P., and have co-operated with that body where possible. At the General Elections your Committee made its influence felt in more than one electorate. Political and Educational Temperance Meetings have been held in connection with all our churches in the metropolitan district, Sydney Enmore (twice), Petersham (twice), Marrickville, Rookwood and Woollahra. Large audiences were gathered at all our meetings, Bro. Walden's lime-light lantern proving a great attraction. Temperance dialogues, songs and recitations were rendered, and addresses given by prominent brethren and citizens.

Financially, the work has been self-supporting. We

BALANCE SHEET

New South Wales Churches of Christ Home Mission Fund, 1901-1902.

RECEIPTS.	
By Church Fees—	
Bungawalbyn ..	£0 10 0
Canley Vale ..	0 10 0
Chatham ..	0 10 0
Croydon ..	0 10 0
Enmore ..	1 0 0
Lismore ..	0 10 0
Marrickville ..	0 10 0
Petersham ..	1 0 0
Prospect ..	1 0 0
Rookwood ..	1 0 0
Sydney ..	1 0 0
Woollahra ..	2 0 0
	10 0 0
Contributions from Assisted Churches—	
Canley Vale ..	11 0 0
Lismore ..	91 15 0
Merewether ..	49 15 0
Rookwood ..	32 19 0
	185 9 0
Collections from—	
Bungawalbyn ..	1 0 0
Chatham ..	5 0 0
Enmore ..	19 4 2
Manning River ..	4 0 0
Moree ..	1 0 0
Prospect ..	5 10 0
Petersham ..	3 14 6
Sydney ..	70 8 1
Woollahra ..	1 12 9
	111 9 6
Home Mission Lord's Day Collections—	
Bungawalbyn ..	1 2 0
Corowa ..	1 13 0
Canley Vale ..	0 12 6
Enmore ..	6 8 6
Inglewood ..	1 0 0
Lismore ..	3 3 0
Merewether ..	1 2 0
Marrickville ..	1 15 0
Manning River ..	1 0 0
Moree ..	1 0 0
Prospect ..	1 0 0
Petersham ..	0 19 3
Rookwood ..	1 10 0
Sydney ..	5 16 9
Temora ..	0 12 0
	28 14 0
Miscellaneous Receipts Collected at Annual Session—	
5th April, 1901 ..	2 7 4
Sisters' Conference ..	2 0 0
F.M. Com. (Ptg.) ..	1 0 0
Donations by Individual Contributors ..	16 14 0
	22 1 4
Total Receipts ..	357 13 10
Debit Balance ..	21 16 4
	£379 10 2

EXPENDITURE.	
To Salaries—	
Bro. Way ..	£153 0 0
Bro. Williams ..	77 10 0
Bro. Fischer ..	35 13 0
Bro. Pond ..	3 15 0
Assistance to Rookwood ..	9 0 0
Secretary's Allowance ..	6 0 0
	284 18 0
Stamps, Duty & Postage ..	3 17 8
Bank Exchanges & a/c Charges ..	1 7 6
Bank Interest a/c ..	2 14 1
Printing ..	15 19 3
Travelling Expenses Bro. Fischer ..	10 0 0
	33 18 6
Total Expenditure ..	318 16 6
Debit Balance 18th March, 1901 ..	60 13 8
	£379 10 2

Audited and found correct,

12th March, 1902.

JOSEPH STIMSON, Treasurer.

J. F. ASHWOOD.
E. ROBERTS.

collected at our meetings £7 19/3, and spent £7 9/8, leaving a credit balance on the year's work of 9/7.

Early in the year Bro. Colbourne resigned his position on the Committee, owing to leaving for South Australia, and Bro. W. J. Williams, M.P., State representative for Alma was appointed in his stead. Eight committee meetings have been held, and the attendance as follows:—Bro. G. T. Walden, President, 7; Bro. Colbourne, 2; Bro. Roots, 3; Sister Campbell, 6; Sister Hall, 5; Bro. Logan, 6; Bro. D. R. Hall, 3; Bro. W. J. Williams, 3; Bro. T. Morton, 8.

In conclusion, we would again urge upon the churches the desirability of establishing Bands of Hope in connection with their schools, and generally taking an interest in all local Temperance matter.

G. T. WALDEN, President.
THOMAS MORTON, Secretary.

Adopted, with a recommendation that a special night be set apart for Temperance matter.

MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.

1st—"That statistical year be from 1st January to December 31st in each year."—R. STEER.

Carried, on motion of Bro. Steer, seconded by Bro. Arnott.

2nd—"That it be a recommendation from this Conference of Delegates, to the various churches of Christ in Sydney and Suburbs, to discontinue the use of what is called Sankey's Hymns, and to use for all meetings our own Hymn Book."—THOS. HAWKINS.

Withdrawn.

Bro. Walden, by permission, very ably advocated the claims for the support of the

AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, a publication helpful to the work of the churches. Brethren in many cases took the daily and other papers and yet neglected the paper which so largely assisted the work of our plea.

An adjournment was then made for Tea.

EVENING PUBLIC MEETING.

The meeting opened with the singing of hymn 224, and prayer by the ex-president, Bro. McIndoe.

The new President was introduced by Bro. McIndoe in a few kindly words, wishing him a happy and successful year.

G. T. Walden, the President elect, referred to the discussion on the official aspect of our church life, saying that it lay on all of us to do our part in the work of the church, and ourselves oversee as much as possible the things that make for the good of the church. He intimated that the new Committee was going to do all in its power, and would need plenty of money. He would like to see new missions commenced, and intended as he was able to give assistance where required.

A. E. Illingworth had a fine reception. He said that the thought in his mind had been that of "a step higher"—a step higher in our relationship, a step higher in our conception of the importance of our position in the world. The world would not be so good as it is but for Christians. We must be good sowers. Our blessing would be equal to our work. We must consecrate our best energies to the work of the church. We would do better if we gave less to the world and more to the cause of Christ.

Bro. Way hoped that in the course of a year the church at Lismore would be self-supporting. He gave a humorous description of a theological discussion at Lismore.

Bro. Morton moved, and Bro. Logan seconded, "That the times demand that we speak in no uncertain tones regarding the traffic in alcoholic beverages. We regard the traffic as a sin and an evil, dishonoring to God, a shame upon the church, and a curse to the whole land. Therefore we deem it wholly inconsistent with the teaching of Scripture and the genius of Christianity for any Christian to make, sell, or use alcoholic beverages, but should do all in their power to bring about Prohibition of the traffic.

Bro. Spedding moved, and Bro. McIndoe seconded, "That this Conference desires to convey to the Premier their appreciation of the efforts made during the past year to administer the Sunday Closing Law."

Bro. Fischer spoke on "Individual Responsibility." "To whom much is given of him shall much be required." The very grandeur of our plea increased our responsibility. The man with only one talent was not condemned because he only had one talent, but because he did not use it.

Hymn 551.
Bro. Williams said that not only were we to take "a step higher," but we also required to go forward.

Bro. Bagley expressed his pleasure at the stirring speeches and splendid reports we had heard.

Summary of Church & Individual Collections.

Bungawalbyn—General	.. £1 0 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 1 2 0	2 2 0
Canley Vale—General	.. 9 0 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 0 12 6	
Individual Contrib.	2 0 0	11 12 6
Chatham—General	.. 3 0 0	
Individual Contributors	2 0 0	5 0 0
Enmore—Collected by Sisters	.. 16 14 2	
H.M. Sunday	.. 6 8 6	
Individual Contributors	2 10 0	25 12 8
Lismore—General	.. 91 15 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 3 3 0	94 18 0
Manning River—General	.. 4 0 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 1 0 0	5 0 0
Merewether—General	.. 49 15 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 1 2 0	50 17 0
Moree—H.M. Sunday	.. 1 0 0	
Individual Contributors	1 0 0	2 0 0
Petersham—General	.. 3 14 6	
H.M. Sunday	.. 0 19 3	4 13 9
Prospect—General	.. 1 10 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 1 0 0	
Individual Contributors	4 0 0	6 10 0
Rookwood—General	.. 20 19 0	
H.M. Sunday	.. 1 10 0	
Individual Contrib.	12 0 0	34 9 0
Sydney—Collected by Sisters	.. 51 8 1	
H.M. Sunday	.. 5 16 9	
Individual Contributors	19 0 0	76 4 10
Woollahra—General	.. 1 2 9	
Individual Contrib.	0 10 0	1 12 9
Corowa—H.M. Sunday	.. 1 13 0	
Inglewood	.. 1 0 0	
Marrickville	.. 1 15 0	
Melbourne, Bro. Campbell Edwards	10 0 0	
Junee	.. 1 10 0	
Rooty Hill, Mrs. Francis	£1 0 0	
" J. Francis	0 10 0	
Narramine	.. 1 10 0	
Temora, C. V. Roberts	.. 0 10 0	
Sisters' Conference	.. 3 0 0	
Miscellaneous	.. 2 0 0	
	.. 4 3 4	27 1 4
Church Fees	.. ..	347 13 10
	.. ..	10 0 0
	.. ..	£357 13 10

Foreign Missionary Society.

REPORT OF THE NEW SOUTH WALES COMMITTEE.

The report from our State this year will be brief, and perhaps not so encouraging as that of last year. Not but that the work generally in the Foreign field is exceedingly so, but this report, being that of a Committee only, is no place to tell of the wonderful work that is being done in India, Japan and China, especially of the wonderful recovery in the latter country after the trouble of last year.

Our income, it will be noticed, instead of being on the upgrade, has visibly decreased. We started the year hopefully with the desire to raise £150, and that we have not done so is due to more reasons than one. The churches were asked for a definite amount, but the matter was not kept before them and so the need was forgotten. Local interests pushed out the world-wide plea, and the cry of those sitting in darkness under oppression and without hope was not heard, or if heard at all the cry was so feeble that local interests drowned its voice. Before there can be action there must be conviction, and before there can be conviction there must be knowledge. Facts, arguments and appeals must be made; the claims of the Christless millions must be pressed home to the hearts and consciences of the church at large. Whereas unfortunately these claims have been left to care for themselves, little information has been given beyond the brief visits of our Sister Rosa Tonkin, and latterly that of our Bro. John Thompson. This, however, we hope to amend in the year upon which we have entered. The claims of the countless millions for whom Christ died, and who know not his name or the precious gift he has for their acceptance, will be put more fully before you, and facts, arguments and appeals, both oral and written, will be shortly placed before the churches. The vocation of the churches is the evangelisation of the whole world, and not simply the place, country or part in which we live. Another reason is the great loss we sustained in the departure of our Bro. and Sister Ewers for the West. Both are a host of themselves in any department of church work, but especially do we miss them in this work; not forgetting also our Bro. J. Colbourne, who at the time of his departure for South Australia was an active worker on our Committee. Thus during the year has our Committee been depleted of some of its best workers and well-wishers. A further reason is that last year the famine in India and the massacres in China kept the heathen world and its claims more prominently before the church's observation, and so appealed more to its sympathy. While our hopes have not been realised, two big facts and a necessity remain:—

1. Millions in Japan, China and India are strangers to Christ and the hope that is ours.
2. Australasia has sent out missionaries as representatives of the churches in India, China and Japan,
3. As representatives of and depending upon the churches for their support, the necessity lies upon us to see that they are paid in order that they may meet their current obligations and owe no man aught but love and good will.

The city and suburban churches had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of our Sister Rosa L. Tonkin before her departure for China, and we are pleased to note that the missionaries in the land were pleased to receive her and gratified with the association of the Australasian churches in the work in China. Bro. John Thompson's recent visit made the churches in Newcastle and in and around Sydney more generally acquainted with his work as a missionary amongst the Kanakas.

We again put on record our thanks to the church in Sydney for the use of the lower hall for the Chinese Mission on Sunday and week days. Also to our collectors in the various districts whose names we append:—Waverley, Mrs. E. Bagley; Petersham, Mrs. Emily Ewers and Miss B. McPherson; Enmore, Miss L. Brown, Mrs. Wallace, and Mr. H. Gilmour; Sydney, Miss Field and Miss Fox; Marrickville, Mrs. Jones.

Finally we would remind all that we owe the gospel to all the world, at home or abroad, for God gave it in trust to the church, and therefore we are debtors to the unsaved wherever they may be. God has set the church as a light for the nations, and our obligations as light dispensers never ceases, never rests, until all the ends of the earth have heard of the name of Jesus.

JAMES HUNTER, Chairman.
EDMOND GOLE, Sec. & Treas.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY, NEW SOUTH WALES COMMITTEE, FINANCIAL STATEMENT 1901-1902.

RECEIPTS.

Balance Forward	£0 6 7½
(General Contributions.)	
Enmore—	
per Miss Brown ..	£6 10 0
" Mrs. Wallace ..	4 19 1
" Mr. H. Gilmour ..	5 1 11
	£16 11 0
Sydney—	
per Miss Fox ..	11 0 9
" Miss Field ..	3 18 3
	£14 19 0
Marrickville—	
per Mrs. Jones ..	2 18 0
	£2 18 0
Petersham—	
per Mrs. Ewers ..	1 7 3
" Miss Macpherson ..	0 7 7
	£1 14 10
Woollahra—	
" Mrs. Bagley ..	3 2 0
	£3 2 0
Rookwood	0 1 0
Moree	1 0 0
	£40 5 10
Church at Armidale, Scotland,	
per Mr. Jos. Fraser ..	1 10 0
Collection at Reception to Miss	
Tonkin, Enmore ..	2 11 1½
Lord's Day School, Sydney ..	1 17 1
" " Marrickville ..	0 2 3
" " Petersham ..	0 7 3
" " Woollahra ..	0 15 0
	£7 2 8½
Balance Proceeds of John Thompson's	
Lectures, as per Statement annexed ..	1 14 11
Amount Collected on Foreign Mission	
Sunday, as per items annexed ..	57 8 5
	£106 18 6

EXPENDITURE.

Postage	£0 15 5
Printing	4 9 9
Bank Exchanges	0 4 7
Expenses Miss Tonkin's Social	3 0 11
	£8 10 8
Advances to Chinese Class ..	7 10 0
Cartage, Customs House Expenses,	
Freight, &c. to Bombay and	
Harda	2 11 3
	£10 1 3
New Lantern, John Thompson	£9 0 0
Fare and Expenses from Brisbane	
to Childers	3 0 0
	12 0 0
Money remitted to Melbourne ..	53 8 5
" " " " ..	4 0 0
" " " " ..	18 11 7
	£76 0 0
Cash Balance Forward	0 6 7
	£106 18 6

FEMALE ORPHANAGE, MAHOBA, INDIA.
1901-1902.

By Balance forward	£2 11 3
" Cash received Sydney and Petersham	
Lord's Day Schools	4 6 7
	£6 17 10
To Cost Maintaining Child for	
one year	£5 0 0
To Money Order and Postage ..	0 2 11
	£5 2 11
Cash Balance	1 14 11
	£6 17 10
Feb. 28, 1902.	E. GOLE, Treas.

MONEYS COLLECTED ON FOREIGN MISSION SUNDAY.

Bungawalbyn	£1 12 11
Cairns, Queensland	0 10 0
Corowa	8 15 0
Enmore	7 0 0
Junee	1 18 0
Lismore	1 1 0

Manning River	9	3	0
Marrickville	2	14	3
Merewether	1	1	0
Moree	4	2	6
Petersham	1	12	6
Prospect	1	10	0
Rookwood	2	0	0
Sydney	8	17	9
Temora	1	10	0
Wellsford, Auckland, N.Z. ..	1	10	0
Willow Tree	1	0	6
Woollahra	1	10	0
			£57 8 5

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE, LECTURES JOHN THOMPSON WHILE IN SYDNEY.

1902 RECEIPTS.	
Feb. 5th. To Lecture in Sydney ..	£0 17 0
" 17th. " Two Lectures in Newcastle ..	1 3 6
" 17th. " Lecture at Petersham ..	1 8 6
" 18th. " Lecture at Woollahra ..	0 16 6
" 19th. " Lecture at Enmore ..	2 3 3
" 20th. " Lecture at Marrickville ..	0 12 6
" 25th. " Lecture at Canley Vale ..	1 2 5
" 25th. " Lecture at Rookwood ..	1 6 6
£9 10 2	

Feb. 1902. EXPENDITURE.	
(Items paid by E. Gole)	
By Federal Printing Coy. 4000 Handbills for Lectures at Petersham, Woollahra, Enmore, and Marrickville ..	£1 0 0
By Cartage of J. Ts. traps from Sydney Railway Station to Petersham, Newcastle Trip ..	0 2 0
By Cartage of Luggage from Petersham to Brisbane Steamer ..	0 5 0
£1 7 0	
By Cash paid G. T. Walden for Cartage, Chemicals and Operator of his Lantern at Sydney Lecture ..	0 15 0
By Do. to G.T.W. Petersham Lecture ..	0 15 0
By Do. to G.T.W. Woollahra Lecture ..	0 15 0
By Do. to G.T.W. Enmore Lecture ..	0 10 0
£2 15 0	
(Items paid direct to John Thompson)	
By Travelling Expenses, Cartage, &c., Melbourne and Sydney ..	0 11 6
" Railway Ticket, Cartage, &c., Sydney and Newcastle ..	0 15 6
" Fares Canley Vale ..	0 5 3
" Fares Rookwood ..	0 3 0
" Cartage Rookwood to Steamer ..	0 3 6
" Carbide for Lantern ..	0 6 0
" Repairing Lantern ..	0 8 6
" Incidental Expenses ..	1 0 0
£3 13 3	
Credit Balance	1 14 11
£9 10 2	

28th Febr., 1902. E. GOLE, Treas.

Chinese Report

FOR YEAR ENDING MARCH 4TH, 1902.

Since our last report the class has had many ups and downs, and at times we have felt that we would have to give it up altogether. After losing Bro. Payne in the early part of last year, the attendance gradually went down, until there were only two scholars whom we could at all count on being there. We then talked of giving the class up for a few months. But we thank our Heavenly Father that he helped us to continue in our efforts, and now we are glad to report that the class is looking up again. For some time after Bro. Payne left us, Bro. F. Verco acted as president. He took a great interest in the mission, but had eventually to give it up owing to his removal farther out of town. From that time things got worse and worse, until in September last the F.M.C. elected Bro. A. Day to the position of president. Bro. Day has worked faithfully in the interests of the mission, and now we are seeing the result of his labors. Before

Bro. Day came to our assistance we had no regular plan for lessons; the teacher gave his or her scholar reading or writing as they pleased. This has been altered; on October 24th we bought some illustrated Scripture reading books, and now for the first half-hour we have reading, and the remainder is taken up in writing. Of course our main object has been to teach the scholars about God and his love, and to try if possible to lead them to Christ. For about a year we had no visible result, but we felt fully repaid on last Sunday week night, when three came forward; they were baptised last Sunday night, March 2nd. We feel that this is a very important work, and we invite all who are interested to come along and help us.

A. DAY, PRESIDENT.

GEO. D. VERCO, SEC. & TREAS.

ATTENDANCE.

At the present time we have 19 scholars on the roll, but I am sorry to say that not nearly that number attend. In the early part of the year a fair number attended, but it gradually went down until for some we never had more than 2 scholars there. At the present time the numbers are increasing. The attendance of the teachers has not been any better; in fact we often have more scholars than teachers. Wanted, 6 more male teachers!

SCHOLARS.—Lesson nights from March 24th, 1901, to March 4th, 1902, 68; aggregate, 467; average, 6 2/3. TEACHERS.—Lesson nights from March 24th, 1901, to March 4th, 1902, 68; aggregate, 390; average, 5.

We have also had a fair number of visitors. Our Sunday night meetings are pretty well attended; they average about 20 Chinese and 3 English.

GEO. D. VERCO, SEC.

Victorian Sisters' Conference.

In spite of inclement weather, over 300 sisters gathered at the Seventeenth Annual Conference, held in Lygon-st. on the 26th ult. Mrs. J. A. Davies presided, and conducted the afternoon devotional exercises, after which Mrs. Ludbrook, sen., gave the welcome greeting. Mrs. Percy Pittman, of Adelaide, and Miss Precious, of England, responded on behalf of the visitors. The following sisters were introduced to the meeting:—Sister Mrs. Charlick, Unley, S.A.; Mrs. Adams, Hobart; Mrs. P. Pittman, S.A.; Mrs. Christopher, Geelong; Miss Precious, England; Reid, Ballarat; Anderson (3), Toolamba; Dudley, Shepparton; Spicer (2), Castlemaine; C. Ludbrook, Hobart; Goetz, Emerald; Gilmour, Tallarook; Collins, Corowa; Alan, S.A.; Wigley, Bendigo; Downes (2), Adelaide; Collins, Mooroolbark; Watson, Collis, Emerald; Carter, Tasmania; Russell; Clements, Bayswater; Clegg, Fremantle; King, Ballarat; Alice Illingworth, Perth. Sisters Rankine and Chapman, from Norwood, had to leave early to get the N.S.W. express.

After the Acting President's address minutes and correspondence were dealt with. The Executive and Treasurer's Reports were received. Home Mission Report was read by Mrs. J. Pittman, and told of visits paid to Ascot Vale, Collingwood, Brighton, Swanston-st., Lygon-st., Newmarket, Nth. Richmond, Balmain-st., Prahran, Hawthorn and Footscray by Sisters' Committee to lay the claims of the work before the brethren. In December a meeting was held in Swanston-st., when splendid addresses were given by Bren. Hagger, Harward, Johnston, McLellan and J. A. Davies. The sum of £92/16/9 has been collected by the sisters during the year.

The Obituary Report was feelingly read by Mrs. McLellan, and told of thirty-two sisters having gone home. The sisters stood while Mrs. Ball sang, "They are Gone."

The Sunday School Report was read by Mrs. Schofield. Two hundred and nineteen scholars have been added to the church. Increase of teachers, twenty-two; increase of scholars, two hundred and forty. The S.S. Visitation Report was read by Mrs. A. B. Maston; Sisters' Prayer Meeting by Mrs. Trinnick; Dorcas by Mrs. G. B. Moysey; Temperance by Mrs. Millis, and Hospital Visitation by Mrs. Walker.

It was resolved to send greetings to English

and American sisters; also to have reports printed in the CHRISTIAN. Mrs. C. Brown, of Lygon-st., was appointed essayist for next year. After singing the Doxology the meeting adjourned for tea.

The evening devotional exercises were led by Sister Christopher, of Geelong, after which Mrs. Davies took the chair. Minutes of afternoon meeting were received, subject to correction.

The roll was called by Miss Rometsch and answered by twenty-four churches. Greetings were received from English Sisters' Conference, and from Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Ewers, W.A.

Mrs. Maston read a letter from Miss R. L. Tonkin, and Mrs. Huntsman read a most interesting paper under the title of "Missionary Items."

The Hon. President's "annual message" was read by Mrs. J. Pittman.

The essay by Miss Annie S. Laing, M.A., was entitled "The Dignity of Labor." Miss Precious read a paper on "Reverence." Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook's subject was "Saved to Serve."

"Silver Chimes" resulted in £4/13/8.

Mission Band Report was read by Miss Huntsman.

Miss Benson recited "The Legend Beautiful." Mrs. Roy Thompson sang "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth." Miss Ethel Benson sang "With Verdure Clad."

The following resolutions were read by Mrs. Harward and adopted:—

RESOLUTIONS FORWARDED PREVIOUSLY.

We, the sisters of the churches of Christ in Victoria, in Conference assembled, resolve:

1. That we show our gratitude to our Heavenly Father for his loving kindness in the past, by striving to accomplish more earnest and prayerful work for him in the ensuing year.

2. That a recommendation go forth from this Conference urging the necessity for family prayer and Bible study, at least once a day, in every home represented in the membership of the churches of Christ.

3. That in view of the enlargement of work by our Home Mission Committee and the consequent increased expenditure, special efforts be made to enlist the sisters in all the churches in the work of systematic giving to missions.

4. That in order to carry out Resolution 3, our Sisters' Executive be instructed to

endeavour to secure the appointment of a sister in every congregation to advance the claims of, and collect funds for, Home Missions.

5. That the thanks of this meeting be conveyed to the officers of Lygon and Swanston-street for the use of their buildings; to our essayist and the Sisters who have helped to make our meeting a success.

Mrs. Pippard introduced the new officers as follows:—Hon. President, Mrs. C. L. Thurgood; President, Mrs. J. A. Davies; Vice-presidents, Mrs. Maston, Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook, Mrs. Pittman, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Moysey; Secretaries, Misses Hill and Rometsch; Treasurer, Mrs. B. J. Kemp; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Walker; Foreign Mission Representatives, Mrs. J. A. Davies, Mrs. Huntsman, Mrs. Maston.

ACTING PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

"Another year is but another call of God
To do some deed undone, some duty we forgot;
To think some wider thought of men and good;
To see and love with kindlier eye and warmer heart,
Until we better know the Christ, and so are keener eyed
To sense the need of men we serve,
With larger sacrifice and readier hand our kind."

DEAR SISTERS,—The year that has passed has been an eventful one, and memorable to every Australian, being the first year of our national life. We are now banded together as States of a great Commonwealth. The very name makes the pulses beat. May we each do our part as good citizens to make it in deed and in truth a Commonwealth—doing our best to put our nation in the front in everything that tends to help and benefit the race.

As an Executive we have to thank God for his mercy and goodness in so graciously sparing so many of us in health and strength to meet once again in glad fellowship together. Some of us have passed through hours of sickness, but have been restored by God's blessing on means used. One of our number has passed into the rest that remaineth for the children of God. Those who knew her best loved her best. Her sweet spirit and kindly presence will remain a precious memory. Two of our number have had to suffer bereavement of those near and very dear to them, but they have the comfort of knowing that their dear ones are in God's keeping and that some day they will meet where partings are unknown. One or two of our sisters have removed to other States, where we trust they will be helpers in all good work. Our Sisters Lee and Chown have gone for a holiday to the dear homeland. We pray that they may have journeying mercies and return with new zeal and energy to work amongst us for the Master.

I will not attempt to review the past year's work. You will be able to judge for yourselves from the reports of your Committees. It would be well to give those reports careful study, and let each sister answer for herself if she is satisfied with her own part in the work. We must not forget that in and around Melbourne there are nearly 1500 sisters. The work the Executive aim at is good, and should appeal to us all, and cer-

tainly deserves more interest than is given. Their work is dwarfed and crippled unless they are helped by the sisterhood. They have a claim on your sympathy, your prayers and your cordial co-operation.

The special work aimed at during the year by the Executive Officers has been the attempt to raise the spiritual tone of the sisterhood, and as many churches as would receive us have been visited. We are sure that in taking counsel together over the Master's business and reading God's Word we will incite one another to a stronger faith, and that good works will follow. We firmly believe that the study of God's Word will produce right thinking, which will lead on to right doing. Our belief in a "power above us that makes for righteousness" is an ennobling and a purifying one. Our faith influences our hearts, but so intimate is the connection between faith and good works that the Apostle James says that "faith without works is dead, being alone." Your character must shew forth your belief, for do men gather figs from thorns, or grapes from brambles? A good man out of the treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; an evil man out of the treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil. Spencer says: "You cannot get golden conduct out of leaden instincts." The old Book says: "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. . . . Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted to thee." A modern writer has well said, "My faith in God makes me able to do my work."

The life of Christ is a revelation from God. It reveals the aims and possibilities of life from God's point of view. Christ represents what we ought to be. He is the perfect man—real to God, ideal to us. He moved through a world of human relationships. He scattered on either side of his path words of refreshing and deeds of blessing for the humble, the poor, the weary, the heavy-laden, the blind, the sad. We grasp the meaning of the Master's words because he illustrates them by his deeds. We get a hold of the grand truth of the Fatherhood of God, his love, his mercy, his will through the man Christ Jesus. We want in our feeble way to be a light that will lead to Christ, and from Christ to God. It is a vital question how best to do this. Amid all denominations we hear of empty churches. We hear the Word preached, and marvel how others hearing are not influenced. We know that the Word has not lost its power, but we sorrowfully miss the blessing of God. The reason, if we are faithful, must be found, and one solution of the difficulty is that we who love Christ do not live his life. We leave the work too much to the preacher. Christian life is the testimony that appeals to the world, and naturally the lives of Christian men and women are eagerly scanned. We are continually being weighed in the balance. The need of the age is pure lives and untiring workers. Every idle Christian is a hindrance to the progress of the truth. The labors of each in his own eyes may seem insignificant, but taken up into the divine plan even that which we regard as failure God may use to be a success. The deed of mercy, the look of love, the tear wiped away, the want relieved, may preach

sometimes so eloquently that the heart will be opened and the seed of God's truth be planted that will blossom into goodly fruitage. To-night you will hear, I trust, of the dignity of labor; take this thought from me if nothing else—the necessity of labor. In the dim ages of the past the Father worked. The Son took up his part; will the saints fail in theirs? If it be so, and God has to use other means to carry out his purpose, it will not be that God's Word has failed, or that Christ has failed, but that God's people stood idle in the market-place.

If we want our churches to be full of spiritual energy, mighty unfolders of that spiritual life which is the real great social force that will break up the ground and make it fit for the good seed, then let us work, clearing away the weeds of intemperance, impurity, untruthfulness, insincerity and unbelief. In heathen lands we hear of the missionary almost losing courage because he sees so few souls gladly receiving his message, but it comes to pass that the spiritual climate in the worker's neighborhood experiences a subtle change—cruelty disappears, domestic life grows purer, tolerance and trustfulness supplant the heathen traits of bigotry and deceit. Do we increase this purer atmosphere in our home land? There is need, my sisters. Sin, sorrow, misery and failure are not eternal; those quickened by the Master's Spirit will help to banish them. Christ is not always to be the man of sorrows acquainted with grief; we are to make him the triumphant Christ, seeing of the travail of his soul and being satisfied.

A good brother told me he meant to train his daughters to be missionaries in the foreign fields, and added, "I will be a proud father when they decide to go." I thought of the heathen at home. It would be glad news indeed to hear that some of our young sisters were thinking to train themselves for home work, to carry the gospel message into the lanes of our cities, into the dens of darkness, despair and desolation. Are we to let the sisters of other churches do all this glorious work that lies at our doors waiting for workers? Are we to lend no helping hand? Can we set apart no devoted women to try to stem the tide of sin and misery to gather in the wandering and the lost?

Henry Drummond writes: "No man can make much of his life who has not a very definite conception of what he is living for." Have we fifteen hundred women defined as clearly as we might that God's glory is the aim of our lives? Do we realise that he who loves and does good stirs others also by an irresistible contagion of goodness to love and do good; that a life in line with the eternal current brings other lives by induction, as it were, into the same movement; that the duty of our life is to lessen every vice and enlarge every virtue. Let us not forget the individuality of Christ's teaching, how he instilled the responsibility of each hearer. Organised effort is good, but the Master's way is the best, that is, the individual striving after good, first in himself and then welling out to others. Let us reason together; think what God's will is; understand it, and then do it.

Some of us have the blessed privilege of training the young. Let us see that we weave

around them that early environment of good that Max Muller says no man escapes from. Those who have time and talent, undertake work that will help the many. Those to whom God has entrusted the talent of money, use it as wise stewards. We must all serve. What would the world be without Christian service? All humanitarian effort springs from a divine source. Those who follow the Master closely are the world's best friends. There is nothing gained without effort. The world will not be won for Christ by sitting still and wishing for it; nor by praying only, without the will to work; nor by doing first our own work, and giving the fag ends of our time for the Master's use. Christ used forcible language when he said, "My meat and my drink is to do my Father's will." Do we echo those words? Are we here to strain ever after the things of time and sense? Are we always to be content that one here and there should do all the striving and the straining, never putting our own hands to the plough? Let us examine ourselves, rouse ourselves, and press on to the mark of our high calling in Christ Jesus.

"The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds both great and small
Are close knit threads of an unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.
The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells—
The Book of Life the shining record tells."

"Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes
After its own life's working: a child's kiss
Set on thy singing lips shall make thee glad,
A poor man served by thee shall make thee rich,
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong;
Thou shalt be served by every sense
Of service which thou renderest."

E. DAVIES.

EXECUTIVE REPORT.

MADAM PRESIDENT, DEAR SISTERS,—In the good providence of our loving Father, we are once more permitted to present our Executive Report. We do so with feelings of gratitude for many mercies received.

We have held eleven meetings with an average of thirty-six. Nine sisters attended eleven meetings, five attended ten, and eight attended nine. Your officers have attended very regularly; seven have not missed a meeting, and two only missed once.

We have still the same departments of work, viz., Home and Foreign Mission, Dorcas, Temperance, Sunday School, Sisters' Prayer Meeting, and Hospital Visitation. Through the kindness of Mrs. Davies each superintendent has a printed form supplied monthly, and is thus able to keep a record of the year's work.

We have held a short prayer meeting at the conclusion of our Executive meeting, when each department of work was specially pleaded for. We also held two sisters' united prayer meetings, with much benefit to those who attended.

By invitation of the Executive we had a visit from the Secretary and two members of the City Mission, who placed the claims of their work before us. We have also been pleased to welcome to our meetings Mrs. Gole, of Sydney, Miss A. E. Illingworth, of Perth, and Mrs. Collins, of Corowa.

The Executive organised a series of meetings in our churches, where the work of our various Committees was laid before the brethren. We were in all instances kindly received, and in several had exceptionally good meetings, and were proportionally encouraged.

The Executive organised a social farewell to Miss Tonkin prior to her departure for China; and we welcomed our dear Sister Ludbrook with a cup of tea.

Next year we hope to take part in the Jubilee Celebrations, and expecting extra expense we resolved to have a quarterly collection just by way of a nest-egg.

For the first time since 1893 the angel of death has visited our Executive and taken one of our mothers in Israel home. The Executive have placed a resolution upon their minutes expressing their deep regret at the loss of Sister W. C. Thurgood, who had been a representative from Lygon-st. since 1893. She was absent from the June meeting, and two of the members called in to see her. She said she was "not quite the thing," and was sorry not to be at the meeting, and please God she would be there next time. But "the next meeting" was not to be on earth. Respectfully submitted,

EMMA E. HILL.
LOUIE ROMETSCH.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT, CONFERENCE, 1901.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from year 1901 ..	£1 3 1½
To Dinner and Tea Fund ..	.. 5 19 3
Tickets (Wednesday) ..	.. 7 0 6
Collection, Sisters' Conference ..	.. 5 11 3
Friday (Dinner and Tea) ..	.. 17 14 10
Saturday ..	.. 6 4 1
Goods sold ..	.. 1 8 8½
Boves ..	.. 0 8 0
	£45 9 9

EXPENDITURE.	
To Catering ..	£31 17 7
Printing ..	.. 5 19 6
Secretary's Account ..	.. 2 13 0
Hire of Dinner Plates ..	.. 0 8 6
Gas and Caretaker's Expenses ..	.. 0 17 6
Labor ..	.. 1 0 0
Firewood ..	.. 0 4 9
Balance in hand ..	.. 2 8 11
	£45 9 9

EXECUTIVE STATEMENT For the Year ending March, 1902.

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from Conference, 1901 ..	£2 8 11
Collections, Sisters' Executive, including Jubilee Fund Collections ..	.. 8 9 1½
	£10 18 0½

EXPENDITURE.	
Donations ..	£4 10 3
Sundries ..	.. 0 18 0
Balance in hand, including Jubilee Fund ..	.. 5 9 9½
	£10 18 0½

Audited and found correct.
ROBERT LYALL.
24th March, 1902. A. S. WALKER, Treas.
A. M. KEMP, Fin. Sec.

SISTERS' PRAYER MEETINGS.

SWANSTON-ST.—On August 22nd, 1901, we started our first prayer meeting for sisters. Since then we have held 11 meetings, with an average attendance of 12.

A. McMASTER, Sec.

PRAHRAN.—Our praise and prayer meeting is held every first Monday in the month. The attendance has been good, and the interest well sustained. We have been helped by

the visitation of the Prayer Meeting Committee.

SISTER PITTMAN, Pres.
AGNES GEDDES, Sec.

NORTH FITZROY.—We have held during the year 44 meetings, with an average attendance of 15. We find our prayer meeting a very great help to our sewing meeting. It helps to brighten the way and point us to the good beyond. We have relieved several cases of distress with clothing and money. In one case Sister Benson came nobly forward and nursed a person through a serious illness. We have been enabled to render relief in money to the extent of £3/4/3. We also held our annual sale of work in October, which was very successful. After defraying all expenses we realised £35, which was handed over to the treasurer of the building fund. We have been called upon to suffer loss in the removal of several members to other States. Death has removed from our midst several sisters. One especially we miss, our dear Sister Cowley, who was always ready to work and speak the loving word. "She hath done what she could." We have had several visits from Executive sisters, which we enjoyed very much.

M. W. KELLY, Sec.

FOOTSCRAY.—The sisters' prayer meeting is continued, this being the fourth year of its existence. Those who formed the first meeting are still faithful. We pray that God may increase our numbers.

MALVERN.—The sisters' prayer meetings have been held every fourth Thursday in the month, but have not been well attended. Those who have attended have felt it to be a season of great blessing. The prayer meeting is a great help to our spiritual life. Realising this, we earnestly desire to see our numbers increased, that they with us may receive the blessing of those who wait upon the Lord.

F. HUNTSMAN.

PRAHRAN.—Sisters' Monday evening class. We are thankful to our heavenly Father that we have been enabled to "hold the fort," and that the interest in the meetings has been kept up with profit to ourselves and good to others. We have again to record that death has been amongst us, and we have been sorrowfully compelled to part with Sisters Hamilton, Hamill and Davidson, in the sure and certain hope of a glorious resurrection. Our venerable Sisters Betheridge and Heath are still living, but infirmity of the flesh prevents their presence at our meetings.

MRS. PITTMAN, Pres.
AGNES GEDDES, Sec.

DORCAS COMMITTEE REPORT.

The first work for the year was the making of clothing for the Old Co'onists' Home, and about forty useful garments were sent to the Committee. Twenty-nine pairs of slippers were made for the Homœopathic Hospital, and several nightshirts were made for other hospitals, the Hospital Committee finding the material. The meetings for this work have been held every third Thursday in the month at Lygon-st. On the first Wednesday in each month we met in Swanston-st. for the Burwood Boys' Home rally, and our work for the year is as follows:—Four hundred pairs of stockings were mended; one hundred and ninety-two shirts and sheets; and three hundred and fifty-two other garments; making

in all nine hundred and forty-four. A number of new garments were also made. Best thanks are tendered to those who have so willingly helped us; some have given us their time, some material, others money. We have received a very nice letter from the Superintendent of the Home for the interest we have taken in the boys. Sister Zelius, known to many of us by her good work and kindly help, is one of our very best workers. She takes material home and makes it up. She finds much pleasure in this work. She comes to our meeting, and while we are sewing reads to us a well-prepared paper; one on prayer was much appreciated. We have received about four hundred and ten second-hand garments, which have been distributed. The sum of £9/17/6 has been received, and expended on material, which has been made up and given away. A few weeks before Christmas, the Committee and a few friends visited the West Brunswick Mission Hall on the afternoon of the mothers' meeting. We gave afternoon tea to about fifty mothers. We had a short service, and each mother received a parcel of clothing. One hundred and sixty new garments were given. One sister made a special gift of a box of baby clothes, to be given to the mother who had attended the most gospel meetings. We need more of our sisters to help in Dorcas work. If we could get twice our number interested, we could do more than twice the amount of work. Sisters who cannot attend our meetings may materially help by donations. Thanks are due to the Swanston-st. sisters, both for material and money.

A. M. MOYSEY, Pres.
M. DICKSON, Sec.

PRAHRAN.—This society reorganised on June 10th, 1901. We hold our meetings every Monday afternoon. We have 15 sisters on the roll, with an average attendance of five. Forty-two meetings have been held during the year. 59 garments have been made and given to the needy. A parcel was given to the Rescue Home, and one to Sister Petchey. One parcel of shirts was sent to the Burwood Boys' Home, the committee finding material. 21 garments were made for the Homœopathic Hospital, the hospital committee finding material. Money collected from sisters, £5/15/1. SISTER COX, Sec.

ASCOT VALE.—Our last annual meeting was held on February 8th, 1901. Since then we have held 16 meetings with an average attendance of eight members. The number of garments given away during the year was 44. We are glad to be able to state that we have had a pleasant year in our Society.

M. PETERS, Sec.

LYGON STREET.—A very successful year's work. During the year we have made and distributed 44 garments, and have contributed the sum of £8 for rent and food to the poor and suffering around us. In addition to this we have donated the sum of £40 to the Building Fund, and have purchased a sewing machine from the returns of our recent sale. We have 24 sisters on our roll, with an average attendance of 17—11 at the afternoon and six in the evening. The devotional part of our meeting is conducted by our vice-president, Sister McLellan, some of the sisters also taking part. We feel encouraged by the result of our last year's work and

pray that God will bless our efforts in the future as he has done in the past.

M. J. DICKSON, Sec.

NORTH RICHMOND.—Our Dorcas has greatly improved since the last report, the average attendance of members being 10. We spend 15 minutes in devotional exercises. The following is a list of work done:—Six little girl's dresses and two Baptismal gowns have been made, also maternity bag. Forty-five garments have been given away, and 9/- to poor cases. A secondhand sewing machine has been bought. Balance in hand, £1/0/2. Parcel of clothes received from Mrs. Davies, Hawthorn, and Mrs. Greenwood, Doncaster; two parcels from the Lygon-street Dorcas; three parcels Swanston-street Dorcas; four parcels from members of North Richmond.

In connection with our Dorcas work the sum of £7/13/4 was collected by Sister Mrs. Darnley, in the Sisters' Executive, from which £5/10/6 was paid for rent for a sister in need, and £2/2/8 given to the General Dorcas Committee.

SISTER DURBRIDGE, Sec.

CHELTENHAM.—Our Dorcas class started work last year, March 13. Meetings were held fortnightly. Number of meetings held, 19, with an average attendance, eight. Number of garments made, 78. Of these 46 were sent to Miss Young, of the City Mission, four to a sister in Collingwood, 13 to Dorcas committee, and 15 to different local cases. A great many left-off garments have also been sent to Miss Young, and other needy cases. We closed the meetings at the end of November, and will start again (p.v.) at the beginning of next month, when with God's help we will try to assist those, who are not so highly blest as we are.

INEZ JUDD, Sec.

BRIGHTON.—Meetings held during year, 28; average attendance, 4. Meetings begin at 2.30 p.m., and close at 5 prompt. Besides making 41 new garments the class has recovered about 100 S.S. library books, and repaired a large number of partly-worn garments. Of the latter a large parcel was sent to Miss Hartnett, for distribution in her district in connection with the Central Mission, and a small parcel and separate garments were given locally, as well as jam, boots, etc. A small parcel of new goods was sent to our Committee for distribution. During the year the sisters have visited the sick and poor just as opportunity permitted. One visit has been received from the Committee, and a cordial invitation is extended to them to come again. Our funds have been greatly helped by several hon. members of the class, who thus show their sympathy. We have been glad to welcome back into our midst our president, Sister Ludbrook, sen., after her visit to the home land.

H.L., Sec.

SWANSTON ST.—During the year we have held 18 meetings, with an average attendance of 10. We have made and given away 100 garments, and have collected £7/3/6. We have also made four baptismal gowns, the money for which was provided by the officers of the church.

Mrs. MOYSEY, Pres.
A. McMASTER, Sec.

BALLARAT.—The Dawson-st. society during

the year has held 26 meetings, with average attendance of 8. The needy have been helped with parcels of groceries, boots, wood, flour, and 20 parcels of clothing, and 82 garments have been made and given away. We have also given away in money £3/3/8. Spent for material, £7/14/9; donations received, £5/16/-; articles sold, 18/6; collections at meetings, £4/3/6; balance in hand, £3/10/7.

M. JOLLY, Sec.

COLLINGWOOD.—We have held 18 meetings since last report; average attendance, 7. Receipts since last June, £1/3/1; expenditure, £1/2/1. We have given away 78 articles of clothing and quilts, including a parcel for the Rescue Home; also toys for India. We sent a few dolls for the Children's Hospital for Christmas, and some flannel and flannelette garments for needy members of the church. We held a social on June 3rd to celebrate our anniversary.

M. JOHNSTON, Sec.

TEMPERANCE REPORT.

We still ask our Father to guide and direct us in all our work, that we may fight the drink traffic more earnestly, seeing that we have in our midst some 1057 hotels (502 kept by women, mostly young), 109 wine shops, 154 licensed grocers, besides club certificates. Dear sisters, you see the need of more earnest work in trying to put down the drink. We can all do a little for the Master by not dealing with grocers who sell it, and by persuading others not to. In October we had a visit from Mr. John Woolley, and he gave a soul-stirring address in the Lygon-st. chapel which will long be remembered. Temperance sermons have been delivered in nearly all the churches of Christ during the year. The Temperance Committee have held meetings in all the suburbs, the choir giving great assistance, and 423 pledges have been taken. We held 9 mothers' meetings, at which 6 pledges were taken. We have been cheered by a visit from Mr. Smedley and Miss Balgarnie. We thank God for such men and women, who are fighting the drink traffic, which is ruining our homes and country. I would earnestly ask all who have not yet taken the pledge to do so, for the sake of our motherhood, the peace and purity of our home.

'Tis our hope to raise the fallen
'Tis our joy the weak to save,
We would shield the frail and tempted
From the drunkard's hopeless grave;
And our eyes are on the future,
On the brighter days to be,
For a sober, godly nation
In a land from drink set free.

F. MILLIS.

LYGON-ST.—We have an average attendance of 60 members with a number of visitors. We open our meetings at 8 p.m. on alternate Mondays, going through a programme given by visitors and members. Meeting are commenced and closed with hymn and prayer. Each member is requested to bring a penny each night.

F. McCLEAN, JR., Sec.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.—The society meets at chapel alternate Wednesdays. This is our second consecutive year in the work. Brethren from various churches take part by giving appropriate addresses, interspersed

with music, readings and recitations. Total pledges, 119. A lantern entertainment was given in October under the direction of the Victorian Alliance. January 26th we held a picnic in Albert Park, which was in every way a success. J. H. MCKEAN, Sec.

FOOTSCRAY.—The Band of Hope has been in existence fourteen months. Unfortunately our president died after a short illness. We could not get one of our elder brethren to take his place, so one of our boys took the position. There are 98 names in our pledge book. Meetings are held fortnightly with good attendance. We held a very successful demonstration last October. We had a night with the Alliance, also a visit from the North Fitzroy Band of Hope. A. TOMKINS.

84 Yangtzepoo Road,
Shanghai,
February, 1902.

To the Sisters of the Churches
of Christ in Victoria,

DEAR SISTERS,—

To all the sisters met in Conference—Greeting. May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you with all spiritual blessings and tokens of his divine love. May your meeting together be a source of strength to all as workers together and co-laborers with our blessed Lord and Master.

Nearly five months have passed since I left the shores of Australia for the land of China. The flowery land, as it is often called when speaking of it, and very true is the application, for in the colours they wear together they remind one of a garden more than anything else. They will wear pink and heliotrope trousers with a brilliant blue coat lined with quite another shade of blue, and over that a beautiful red, sleeveless, short coat and orange coloured scarf round the waist, and if a cold wind is blowing, a wind bonnet of scarlet lined with petunia; all these colors on one person at one time and yet they are becoming to them. Their language is also flowery, or extravagantly expressive; they are a most interesting study.

A few words about the special work of the field before me, perhaps, will be interesting to you, and will help you to remember your sisters in Christ away in these dark lands, striving to teach the women sitting in heathen darkness of the love of the Saviour who died for them.

Coming up from Woosung, where all the large steamers anchor, to Shanghai in the tender, you see very large buildings like factories or mills with their high stacks or chimneys casting forth great clouds of smoke. These are the cotton mills of Shanghai and in these no less than 40,000 women and girls ranging from nine years upward are employed. In one mill alone, not more than half a mile from Bro. Ware's house, there are 6,000. Our work is amongst these people. I well remember asking the captain of the steamer I came up from Hong-kong in, and who came up to Shanghai on the tender, what buildings they were, and when he told me the cotton mills, I felt sure that this was Bro. Ware's sphere of labor. I saw the chapel building, but not knowing that he had built one, I did not associate it with the work at all.

We have between 30 and 40 native Christians, and a good attendance at the two services on Lord's days. In the week we have two prayer-meetings, and on Wednesday afternoons Mrs. Ware has a meeting for women. We have a large room or hall which could be furnished Chinese fashion, and a native Christian woman to prepare tea every day, so that these women might come and have a rest at lunch time and eat their food. They have nowhere to go now except the roadside, and many of them come miles to work, and then it would be such an opportunity to speak to them, or read the Bible to them.

This means that we should need at least £250 to do this. We also need a good schoolroom for our schools, which such a building would include. I expect before long to go out on a wheelbarrow with the Bible women and visit the homes of the poor women.

My progress in the language is steady, and I trust satisfactory, but it is very slow and requires much patience.

I would earnestly ask your prayers for all mission workers. No one can understand in the smallest degree the filth and wretchedness which prevails, and the constant danger to one's health. You see them in the street with the small-pox on them, and brush against them, and also with the skin scaling after scarlet fever, so to speak plague and pestilence walk abroad. With much love and remembrance of you all,

Your Sister in Christ,
ROSA L. TONKIN.

SISTER THURGOOD'S ANNUAL MESSAGE.

"Slipping in among the children
Bright and eager at their play,
Comes the New Year sweet and shining
Just as gay and dear as they."

BELoved WORKERS.—In America we are realising that the hope of the country is in the child. Hence work among children is possibly in a more advanced stage here than in any other country. The nurseries in the cities, where babies are cared for while mothers are at work; sterilised milk for the children of the slums; fresh air homes in the country for the children of the crowded street; the rapidly growing kindergarten, both publicly and philanthropically supported; manual schools becoming annexed to public schools, where carpentry and cooking are taught; Bible Schools that are being graded just like Day Schools; even separate buildings for juvenile offenders, as well as separate courtrooms for the trial of such; children's choirs, and large children's choruses; Sunday kindergarten, and special church services for young children; mothers' galleries in the church buildings with cots in a room, handy to them, for the sleeping babe;—all go to show the intense activity in the child field.

It behooves our sisters in Australia to be abreast of the best lines of work in this progressive country. The Bible School should be made not only the nursery of the church, but also a drill school in home and foreign activities. In some of the Bible Schools here, every class is a missionary society, each having its own chairman, secretary and

treasurer. Thus, by the information gathered in these meetings, they are inspired to give through self-denial. If ever the coming man and woman are to go, send or give to all nations, they must be taught while young. The knickerbockers of to-day are the Bible School teachers, deacons, and business men of to-morrow. In view of all this, every effort should be made to unceasingly cater to the growth of the Bible School, by personal effort from house to house, enlisting babies on the cradle roll, making the primary class one of the brightest and best equipped in the school, with sand-tables, colored pictures, models, lanterns, and, don't be shocked, a little candy or a cookie once in a while! and if the parent is unable to be present at the Bible School enlist her for the HOME DEPARTMENT, where she studies the lesson, and "lay by in store her offering." Look to yourselves and see if the strongest, most active, and most faithful members of the church are not those who are the product of the Bible School. We would urge a special department in the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN, where the most progressive methods in Bible School work should have a place.

A missionary society in a class, meeting once a month, in the home of the teacher or scholars would be found a strong tie when the time comes in a young girl's life that "company" seeks to take her away from the Bible School. There are Bible Classes in this country of young men, numbering a hundred or more, with chairman, secretary and treasurer, with committees for visiting the sick and the absentees, finding employment—in fact, affording a social life beyond that of any lodge, with a stricter and more spiritual oversight of its members. This meets the demand of that terror of all Bible Schools—how to retain the older boy scholars. So let us, dear Sisters, keep ourselves posted on the best methods of building up the Bible School, for as the school is bent, the church is inclined.

A very fine department of young people's work is the Junior Endeavor Society—a recruiting station and drill room for the young. Their office is to enlist young people of the church in the army of the Lord. A standing invitation should be:—Wanted! Young people, as builders of orphanages, bungalows, school houses, chapels, and dispensaries. Applications received at any time by the junior superintendent. These young recruits are in the picture gallery of their years.

Wordsworth has finely said—

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting;
The soul that rises with us, our life's star
Hath had elsewhere its setting
And cometh from afar:
Not in entire forgetfulness
And not in utter nakedness,
But trailing clouds of glory do we come,
From God, who is in the home;
Heaven lies about us in our infancy.

Behold the child among his new-born blisses,
A six years' darling of a pigmy size;
See, where 'mid work of his own he lies
Fretted by sallies of his mother's kisses,
With light upon him from his father's eyes.
See at his feet some little plan or chart—
Some fragment from his dream of human life

Shaped by himself, with newly learned art—

A wedding or a festival—

A mourning or a funeral—

And this hath now his heart,

And unto this he framed his song."

In this drill-room there should be, in keeping with this picture-land of the child, maps, charts, pictures, curios from Ceylon's isle, palm-leaves from the Pacific, cinnamon from the grove; aye, make them familiar with the faces of earth's many races, so that they will be able to tell a New Guinean from a Kafir, a Mongol from a Hindoo. Would that we had a travelling museum, showing the costumes worn by different castes in India, models of bungalows, slides to hire of all our missionary faces and places. Let their fairy stories be of the land of the bungalow and jungle; their fairies, those good beings the missionaries, doing good to body, soul and spirit. Let an eye-gate artist be employed in our literature, both senior and junior. The greatest picture-book in the world is the Bible. It says not so much about the "I am that I am," but vastly more about "Our Father." The Lord is our Shepherd, and green pastures, and straight paths, and valleys are about him.

Again, our recruits are singers, not so much by note as by rote. Oh, who will give in song, Jamaica's valleyed mountains, Mexico's spiritual misery, the dawns and darks of Hindoo life as we sing it in "India's Sunset Song"? Thousands knew of "Greenland's Icy Mountain," and "India's Coral Strand" long before they ever learned it from the geography. Oh, for some more Hebers and Frosts, to embody the geography of our missionary lands in song.

Again, who will tell for us in the hypnotism of story, beginning with "Once upon a time," the thrilling story of David the Giant, Livingstone in Africa, or Carey of the Seven Leagued Boots, as he travelled with his awl over the map of the world, or how Moffatt, the gardener's son, became a king. Where is our "Grimm" to give us those spiritual fairy tales? As Stanley Hall says, "A story brings a large body of related facts and persons to a single focus."

Amid such pictorial scenes, made curious by the curios, and led by such intelligent leaders selected from the senior societies, these young people will be inspired to become givers and builders; but they look to us, dear sisters, as an advisory council for sympathy and support. Why should we not have a department of young people's work on our Executive, to foster this work in all the churches? Lowell has said: "Children are God's apostles, day by day sent forth to preach of love and hope and peace." Let us see to it that they are thoroughly furnished this new year of our love and service.

"Not a trouble yet has fallen

On the merry New Year's face;

Not a single wrong step taken,

In its hurrying, happy pace.

All the beauty lies before it,

Dew and rain, and frost and flowers;

Flying months, and weeks and seasons,

Woven into dancing hours.

Hail the lovely, coming stranger,

In thy first bewitching day;

Slipping in among the children,

Just as bright and dear as they."

MISSION BAND REPORTS.

MALVERN.—We are pleased to bring before you our 10th annual report. The meetings during the year have been well attended. We try to make them as interesting and beneficial as possible. We have 17 names on our roll, with an average attendance of 14, and five hon. members. £3/11/8 has been collected during the year for the Kanaka Fund. An open night was held last June, when Bren. Hagger and Dunn gave interesting addresses. Choruses were sung by the society, and an enjoyable evening spent.

We were pleased to have a visit from John Thompson, who gave an interesting talk upon the work done in Queensland.

J. E. HUNTSMAN, Pres.

A. BAKER, Sec.

DONCASTER.—Meets once a month in the chapel, and has a membership of 38, an increase of 2 since last year. During the year the treasurer sent to Bro. Ludbrook the sum of £12/10/-, as part of Bro. Shah's salary. The meetings have been very well attended, and next year we hope to further increase our membership, and do all we can to help spread of the gospel in foreign lands.

R. TAINTON.

DONCASTER.—The sisters who are contributing to the support of Sister Thompson's Bible Woman have also undertaken to provide for an orphan boy, and in both instances have sent the money a year in advance. Through the liberality of the sisters we have nearly enough on hand for another year. Many interesting and encouraging letters have been received from Sister Thompson, telling of the work she and Sarubai have been doing in the villages in and around Hurda.

ELIZA ZELIUS.

NORTH RICHMOND.—We have 14 names on the roll. We commenced collecting on April 28, 1901, and have received to date £3/11/7.

FITZROY TABERNACLE.—We have sent £3 for the support of an orphan in India.

N.S.W. Conference Jottings.

We have to thank the Sisters for the splendid lunch and tea in the School Hall.

Would it not be a good thing if some brethren would practise during the year a system of condensing speeches and not rambling?

"To the points," says the railway man, when the train is coming, and so say we to some in speaking.

There seems no earthly reason in our opinion why some should speak, and they see no earthly reason why they should leave off.

Bro. C. A. Rofe, of old experience, is now Secretary of N.S.W. Conference Committee. Bro. Steer is to have a rest as Assistant Secretary.

Bro. Illingworth suggests that our motto for the year should be "With what measure ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

We hope to see a stir in the country fields by periodical visits from city evangelists for missionising.

A very determined move is being made to raise money to erect building at Lismore. Wanted, £200 in a short space of time, then they would probably support a preacher fully.

C. A. Rofe is N.S.W. Conference Secretary, Edgware and Harrow-rds., Enmore, Sydney.

J. Stimson, N.S.W. Conference Treasurer, 47 Glebe road, Glebe, Sydney.

Great appreciation at the excellent get-up of the In Memoriam to the late Dr. J. Kingsbury. We have to thank the Austral Co. for it.

Bro. Steer desires to thank all for their appreciation of his efforts when Conference Secretary.

N.S.W. New Committee is reckoned a strong influential team if they all pull together.

A notice of motion on our business sheet not dealt with made it appear that a brother advocated that the building should be called the "Church of Christ." In justice to that brother we wish to state he has repudiated that thought.

R. STEER.

Here and There.

Here a little and there a little.—Isaiah 28: 16

There was one confession at Petersham last Sunday evening.

There was another decision at Bendigo on Sunday night last.

P. J. Pond's address is now 151 Cremorne-street, South Richmond.

W. C. Morro left on Tuesday last for a two weeks' holiday in Tasmania.

H. G. Harward's address for the next month will be—Post Office, Maryborough.

A. E. Illingworth's address is now "Rosemount," Percival-road, Stanmore, N.S.W.

Large meeting and one confession and baptism at Fitzroy Tabernacle on Sunday night.

There was one confession at Shepparton on Sunday night last, when T. H. Scambler spoke.

Good meetings at Queenstown, S.A., on March 30th. One baptism and one confession.

Will the brethren remember in prayer the tent mission at Maryborough, beginning April 11th.

Those wanting American books had better look at our list before ordering. All other lists are cancelled.

At the close of Bro. Moffit's address at Queenstown, S.A., on Sunday evening last, there were three decisions for Christ.

At the close of A. E. Illingworth's first address in Petersham on Sunday evening week one confessed Christ and was baptised.

We are doing our best to meet the wishes of all in publishing Conference news, but it will take us a week or two to catch up.

K. W. Duncan spent last Lord's day with the church at Port Pirie, S.A., speaking to good meetings both morning and evening.

Two confessions at Ascot Vale on Sunday night and one decision after the service. Bro. H. Leng preached to a full house, and gave a splendid address.

We regret to say that Castlemaine was accidentally omitted from our list of churches represented at the Victorian Conference. A. W. Lindsay was their representative.

Dr. and Mrs. Cook (of Bendigo), left on Tuesday last for West Australia, where they expect to spend a brief holiday. Dr. Cook hopes to see most of the churches in that State.

A. W. Connor preached at Hawthorn on Easter Sunday to a large audience. Another splendid meeting last Sunday night, when a man made the good confession. The building fund goes on apace; it has now reached £500.

The following members are removing from Dunmunkle to Trentham:—Sisters Mrs. Inglis, senr., Mrs. Ryland and her two daughters. These sisters would be very pleased to hear of any members living in or near that place.

At the late Victorian Conference a resolution was passed, asking us to reprint in tract form W. C. Morro's article on "The Churches of Christ and the Simultaneous Mission." This we have now done, and the same can be obtained at the following prices:—100, 2/-; 500, 8/6; 1000, 15/-.

All our readers are reminded that the Rescue Home conducted by Bro. and Sister J. Pittman, at Armadale, annually asks the churches for a collection on the first Lord's day in May. This is a work about which little can be said, but it is giving many a second chance to make a success of life. Do not forget May 4th, the first Sunday in May.

From Perth the following news comes:—"On Sunday morning, the 23d inst., six brethren and sisters who had been commended by letters, were received into fellowship; and on the evening of Sunday, 30th, while Bro. Ewers was at Fremantle delivering the Conference sermon, Bro. Banks gave a splendid address to a good audience. At the close we were cheered by hearing two ladies confess their faith in the Saviour."

A brother asks: "If a brother is scripturally divorced can he scripturally marry again?" The plainest teaching on the question we know is Matthew 5:32. The only scriptural ground on which either a husband or wife can be divorced is that of adultery. In our judgment the brother may scripturally marry again. Prof. McGarvey says, "It is almost universally conceded by commentators and moralists that the innocent party to such divorce can marry again."

We have received the following from Unley, S.A.:—"Alice Doig and Beatrice Michael were received into fellowship on April 6th. Amongst those worshipping with us was Mr. Allan Webb, Baptist minister of Geelong, Vic., who at the invitation of Bro. Gore, greeted the church. It was the first time Mr. Webb had met in public worship with the members of the church of Christ, and he enjoyed the service very much indeed. Bro. John Verco has accepted the post of Sunday School superintendent, entering on his duties yesterday afternoon."

MAY 4th
 IS
RESCUE HOME SUNDAY
 See that you assist!

Dr. Jas. Cook writes from Bendigo—"Exactly six months have passed since Bro. Harward conducted our Tent Mission. The decisions numbered 104. We baptised 87; some did not present themselves for baptism, others we could not conscientiously baptise. Of the 87, 4 have not united with us in fellowship; only 8 have got into the unfortunate position of being non-attendants; while about 6 others are not blazing forth a full light! The remainder are true-hearted in

their devotion to the Saviour and his means of grace and knowledge, and are a wonderful help to the officers and evangelist. Our meetings Lord's day and week night, were never better attended, and the peace and harmony are lovely. During last month we have rejoiced over 7 confessions and baptisms, and we are expecting to have great returns for next Conference."

On April 2nd the church at Cheltenham laid the foundation stone of the new Sunday School building. The weather was not exactly suitable for an outdoor demonstration—a cold wind blowing, with occasional showers of rain. The superintendent of the school, Bro. Penny, presided. M. W. Green engaged in prayer, and W. C. Morro delivered a short address, after which Mrs. R. W. Tuck laid the foundation stone with a silver trowel presented by Bro. McDonald, the architect, on behalf of the church. An adjournment was then made to the chapel, where a sumptuous tea was spread. For this tea all were asked to pay sixpence and as much more as they wanted to. The after meeting was most enjoyable, addresses being given by W. C. Morro, A. W. Connor, M. W. Green and H. Mahon. The singing was good and the meeting very enjoyable. The building should be finished in about two months, when Bro. Penny declares they are to have an immense barbecue.

G. B. Moysey writes from Kadina, S.A.—We had our Sunday School outing on Easter Monday. Golden sunshine and a gentle breeze from Spencer's Gulf presented perfect weather to picnicise. Pleasure with winged feet chased the happy hours away—the time to leave the grounds came all too soon, and at seven we returned the children to their homes, tired, happy, and glorious. On the Thursday evening following we had our children's demonstration in the hall, when a musical and elocutionary programme of twenty-four numbers was given. The children did themselves credit. The proceedings passed off without failure or hitch from start to finish, and we unanimously voted our S.S. festivities a complete success. At school this afternoon, the attendance was one of the largest, and several new scholars were enrolled. We regret to state that one of our most energetic and devoted teachers (F. C. Skipworth) met with a fearful accident on the afternoon of the day of the entertainment. He was engaged at his work as a mason, on a wall around the "balance box" (an enormous box, weighing perhaps sixty tons, and which was connected with the pumping gear, somewhat on the principle of the ball on a pump handle, swinging up and down at short intervals), when trying to recover a stone that had fallen in, he was struck a dreadful blow. His thigh was broken and pelvis crushed, and other internal injuries caused. He is now in a most critical condition. When we remembered him and his wife at the throne of grace this morning, the audible sobs of our sorrowing company told how sincere is the sympathy we feel.

There was a very large and representative meeting at the Tabernacle, Fitzroy, on Tuesday night last, the occasion being a farewell to H. G. Harward by the church in that place and a welcome to the evangelistic work by the Home Missionary Committee. Jas. Johnston, President of the Conference, took the chair, and short addresses were delivered by Thos. Hagger, M. W. Green, F. G. Dunn, C. W. Mitchell, J. Clydesdale, and H. Swain. All these spoke appreciatively of Bro. Harward and his work, and of the good qualities of the Fitzroy church. On behalf of the church, H. Swain presented the guest of the evening with a fine large travelling bag. Musical items were given by F. M. Ludbrook, the choirs from Collingwood, North Fitzroy and the local church. On the platform, besides the speakers, were W.

Charlick, President of the South Australian Conference, and A. Millis, Vice-President of the Victorian Conference. A most profitable meeting was brought to a close at about 10 o'clock.

Acknowledgments.

The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the Lord of hosts.—Haggai 2:8

VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

Collection at Conference	£20 17 2
Brim, Conference Fee	0 10 0
Bairnsdale	0 10 0
Castlemaine	0 10 0
Port Fairy	0 10 0
Williamstown	0 10 0
Berwick	0 10 0
Echuca	0 10 0
Richmond N.	0 10 0
St. Kilda	1 0 0
Newmarket 1901-2.	0 10 0
Balmain-st.	1 0 0
South Yarra	0 10 0
John Sheehan, St. Kilda	0 10 0
Robert Smyth, Wangaratta	0 4 0
Runnymede Church	0 2 6
H. H. Streader, Footscray	0 5 0
Doncaster, per Miss Gill	0 5 0
Malvern, per Mrs. Huntsman	2 5 0
A Brother, Swanston-st.	0 8 8
	1 0 0

M. McLELLAN, Sec.,
233 Drummond-st.,
Carlton.

J. A. DAVIES, Treas.,
"Milford,"
Church-st., Hawthorn

To Subscribers.

H. Christopher, 1/-; H. G. Maston, 1/6; J. A. Petherick, 2/6; D. A. Lewis, 3/-; B. Huntsman, Thos. Phillips, J. Chissold, Mrs. R. Lee-Brown, 6/-; P. G. Saxby, W. J. Parker, C. Sutcliffe, B. Beyer, Mr. Santo, Joe Southwick, W. Frazer, J. Kingsbury, 7/-; Jno. Thacker, 7/3; Mrs. F. J. Squair, 7/6; E. E. Wilson, R. Aitken, 10/6; H. McDowell, 12/-; Mrs. M. H. Crawford, Thos. Miller (F. R. Dunning), 14/-; Miss Mary Steffensen, 23/-; B. J. Lawrence, 24/-; E. M. Hall, 31/6; A. J. R. Ogilvy, 37/6; T. Darnley, 60/-; G. A. Hurcombe, 72/-; W. H. Keam, £8.

SOCKS and STOCKINGS Knitted to Order at Moderate Prices. 48 Gardner-st., North Richmond.

WANTED.

A Position as GROCER or Traveller for Grocer, or other Similar Employment. Would be content with small wages. Apply in first instance to AUSTRAL CO.

IN MEMORIAM.

In loving memory of Minnie, beloved wife of James Johnston, who fell asleep 11th April, 1900, at Hindmarsh, South Australia.

"When the weary ones we love
 Enter on their rest above,
 Seems the earth so poor and vast,
 All our life-joy overcast?
 Hush, be every murmur dumb;
 It is only till he come."
 Inserted by her devoted husband and children.

E. W. Carey.
CONSULTING ACCOUNTANT,
 (Incorporated)
 237 Collins Street, Melbourne.
 Telephone 2149.

S.S. COMMENTARIES, 1902.—We have now in stock and for sale the following: Standard S.S. Commentary, Library Edition, Price 2/6, by post 3/-; Standard S.S. Commentary, Limp Cloth, Price 2/-, by post 2/6; Christian S.S. Commentary, Price 2/6, by post 3/-.

New Zealand Notes.

CHAS. WATT.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The Methodists have been sitting in Conference here, and they have spoken out with no uncertain sound on some of the great social questions of the day. On these things they give indication of a highly commendable vitality which we would do well to foster, and evince an interest in them which we might imitate with marked advantage. Among the deputations they received, bearing fraternal greetings, was one from the Presbyterians; and in his speech on the occasion Mr. Gibb, the genial minister of First Church, said some things at which both the ears of every old-fashioned Presbyterian must tingle. Mr. G. is, you must understand, a broad-minded, liberal gentleman. He scorns the narrow conventionalities of his brother ministers, and expresses himself with a frankness and fearlessness quite refreshing. Speaking of a possible union between Presbyterians and Methodists, he said that the fact was that Presbyterians were making less and less of their party barriers and watchwords, and he thought Wesleyans were doing the same. The Calvinistic bogey was being put in the background in the Presbyterian Church, and the same applied to the Armenian bogey in the Methodist Church, and both churches were striving not so much to maintain their party standards as to give effective battle to the world, the flesh and the devil.

Time was when a speech of this kind would have exposed the popular Moderator to the bitterest *odium theologicum*, and insured his trial for heresy before the church courts! Ah me! is this another indication of the degeneracy of our days? At any rate it is not so long ago that Dr. Morrison and Dr. Gulbrie, with three other ministers of the

U.P. (Presbyterian) Church, were publicly expelled for preaching "that Christ died for all, and that grace was free to all." Let us thank God for the better conditions that now obtain.

But Mr. Gibb went much farther than this, and gave unmistakable evidence that the union movement was not a mere will-o'-the-wisp he was following. He said that if he was spared to the next meeting of the General Assembly he was going to move to set up a committee to open negotiations and to see whether some feasible scheme of union could not be formulated. He would even go so far as to suggest a better name than either Presbyterian or Methodist Church—that of the "Evangelical Church of Jesus Christ."

One is generally prepared for some little sensation from Mr. G., but I frankly confess that I had to rub my eyes to make sure that I was reading aright. I was in the position of a certain swarthy bride who was undergoing the process of matrimony. On the clergyman coming to the word which enjoined her to "love, honor and obey" her husband, the dusky groom interjected, "Just you say dem words again, sah, so as de lady can take in der full meanin'." I, too, had to read the words twice to take in their full significance. But why so cumbersome a substitute? Of course it would be decidedly preferable to either of the two now borne, in that it does not indicate party lines; except as the word "evangelical" shuts out the R.C. and Greek churches, with one or two insignificant sects, as the Unitarians and Seventh Day Adventists. But would not the CHURCH OF CHRIST be a simpler and better name? And there would be the extra advantage, that it is a purely scriptural one. There would certainly be one small disadvantage in its adoption. To do so would possibly necessitate a complete return to the simplicity of gospel doctrine and methods; but this surely ought

not to be an inseparable obstacle. We cordially recommend this to the serious consideration of our friends, and hail this new movement as a faithful sign of the times.

OURSELVES.

Last week a united meeting of officers from all our churches in and around Dunedin, was held in the Tabernacle, when several important resolutions were carried, that bid fair to introduce an improved condition of things here. 1. A quarterly meeting of this nature has been decided on, when all matters emanating from the churches shall be discussed. 2. An annual re-union of all church members in and around Dunedin is to be held, with the two-fold object of the deepening of spiritual life, and considering better means of better advancing the Lord's work. We think this initial meeting decidedly a step in the right direction. It was quite a success, and, we believe, laid a foundation for some good and useful work in the future.

"AN OLD DISCIPLE."

We have had in our assembly on the past two Lord's days, a venerable visitor, in the person of Bro. Wm. MORSON, of Auckland. He is a ruddy, beautiful relic of a by-gone age, an intelligent link binding us to the dim and distant past. Born two months and three days before the sanguinary engagement that shattered the ambitious hopes of the first Napoleon, he is now standing on the threshold of 87! He saw the light four years before the late Queen Victoria, was a subject of George IV. for fifteen years, and has lived under four reigns! Was acquainted with the late James Service 58 years ago in Kilmarnock. Baptised and united with the church in 1855. Heard Alex. Campbell preach in Glasgow, and knew him at the time of his persecution and imprisonment. His home in Edinburgh was Bro. Earl's home when on his way back from Australia. Is in the possession of wonderful vitality that



✻ Second Extended ✻

Starr Building Bowkett Society.

(Registered.)

Offices: 315 Collins-st., Melb.

Under the same management as the FIRST EXTENDED SOCIETY, which, during its ten years' existence HAS NOT MADE A LOSS on any Loan, HAS NOT FORFEITED the property of any borrower, and HAS NO PROPERTIES on hand.

Liberal to Borrowers.

Secure to Investors.

Entrance Fee—One Shilling per Share.

Subscription—One Shilling per Share per week.

Repayment of Ballot Loans—2s. 6d. per week for £100.

All Shares taken up before **March 14** will participate in **First Ballot for £500.**

Successful Ballotees not requiring Loan can sell their right, and receive the Profits in Cash.

Apply at Once for Prospectus and Particulars to **JOHN HEAD, Secretary.**

DRINK FRY'S COCOA IT IS THE BEST.

won't allow him to retire to bed before half past ten, and pulls him up every morning to hear the lark at 6.30. Enjoys a good square meal and a nice long walk after it. When in Auckland he walks, in fine weather, a distance of over 2½ miles to church. Is getting his second sight, and, in a good light, can see to read without glasses. His hearing is rather impaired, but he can hear a loud clear voice. Otherwise all his faculties are so good that he undertook a journey of 869 miles to see his relatives here. And right heartily we all join in giving him welcome.

Obituary.

To live is Christ: and to die is gain.—Phil. 1 : 21.

WATTS.—On March 20th Sister Mrs. G. Watts fell asleep in Jesus, after a long and painful illness. She was married at Maryborough, Queensland, to Bro. G. Watts, in 1863, and was 68 years of age. She with her husband had resided in Gympie during the past 34 years. Many of the early-day diggers were relieved by her in times of accident and sickness. She was in her younger days a good rider, and often rode many miles out to the suffering to administer relief. She was a zealous temperance worker, and the means of getting large numbers to sign the temperance pledge. She openly confessed to having found the Lord in the Wesleyan Church 22 years ago, but learned, with her husband, the way of the Lord more perfectly through the ministry of H. Mahon, and took one step more for Jesus. Her last eleven weeks were spent in prayer and praise with many friends who visited her bedside. She was in all points an exemplary Christian, and another heroine of the faith of Jesus. The funeral service was largely attended at the cemetery, and a short address was given by the writer.

Gympie, Q.

E. T. BALL.

Second Northern District

STARR BOWKETT BUILDING SOCIETY.

237 Collins Street, Melbourne. Tel. 2149.

I.O.O.F. SHOENING FORGE. A.N.A.

WALTER J. HOY (Late A. Williams.) CARRIER & GENERAL SMITH.

Brushing Horses. Corns and Diseased Feet Skillfully Treated. Horses sent for & returned. MODERATE CHARGES. ADDRESS, 222 Brunswick-st., Fitzroy

LADIES' SKIRTS.

A FACT WORTH KNOWING.

Made for 2/- French Frill, 3/-; with Stitched Satin Bands, 4/6. Tucked, &c., in all the newest and most popular shapes. Made at the lowest prices. Skirts a speciality. Hundreds are already aware of our prices and have availed themselves of their opportunities. To those who do not know, this notification is issued.

DRESSMAKING.

Costumes made from 6/6. Children's Dresses made from 2/6. Skirts and Costumes always on hand; and made from ladies' own material on two hours' notice for young and old. Cut and style unequalled.

Mrs. MARKS, 56 and 58 Johnstone-st., Collingwood, near Wellington-st., and 46 Brunswick-st., Fitzroy.

Bicycles Built to Order. Repairs of Every Description.

THE BARB CYCLE WORKS

358 & 360 ELIZABETH ST.,
One Door from La Trobe St.,
MELBOURNE.

* + FINLAY BROS. + *

Old Friends and New Acquaintances

Are respectfully informed that

E. AITKEN

11 Brunswick Street, North Fitzroy,

Has a First-class Stock of

GROCERIES, PRODUCE, &c.

Everything New and Fresh and at Prices the Very Lowest.

Quality the First Consideration.

CARR & SONS,

Established 1855.

Window Blind Manufacturers,

By Steam Power and Patented Special Machinery.

Factory: 209 & 211 SPRING ST., Melb.

Carr's Improved Check Action fitted to any Blinds. Send for Prices. Agents Wanted. Tel. No. 128.

In ordering please mention this paper.

E. J. W. MEYER,

AUCTIONEER, - - - LANCEFIELD.

Auction Sales conducted fortnightly of Horses, Cattle, Poultry, Furniture, Harness, and Sundries of all descriptions. Entries Invited. Clearing Out Sales conducted 100 miles from Lancefield. The favor of your patronage solicited. Note Address,

E. J. W. MEYER, Auctioneer, Lancefield.

T. CRAINE'S

CARRIAGE REPOSITORY,

235 ELIZABETH ST.

Vehicles, All Styles.

WORKS: PRINCE'S BRIDGE.

Repairs and Repainting.

Tel. 1011. Established 1854.

Bibles & Testaments



When YOU want any of above please remember US. If out of Melbourne SEND SIZE AND PRICE and we feel sure we can suit you.

Austral Publishing Company, 528 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

American Books

	...	13/-	POST 14/-
Memoirs of Campbell	...	13/-	14/-
Errett's Addresses	...	6/-	6/6
Orthodoxy in Civil Courts	...	4/-	4/6
King's Sermons	...	6/-	6/6
McGarvey's Class Notes on Acts	...	6/-	6/6
Updike's Sermons	...	6/-	6/6
McGarvey's Sermons	...	6/-	6/6
Braden and Kelley Debate on Mormonism	...	8/-	8/6
Campbell and Purcell Debate	...	6/-	6/6
Christian Baptist	...	8/-	8/6
Old Faith Restated	...	8/-	8/6
Christian Ministers' Manual	...	3/-	3/3
Johnson's Commentary on John	...	6/-	6/6
Lamar's Commentary on Luke	...	6/-	6/6
Voice of Seven Thunders	...	6/-	6/6
McGarvey's Commentary on Matthew and Mark	...	6/-	6/6
McLean's Missionary Addresses	...	4/-	4/6
Reason and Revelation	...	8/-	8/6
Scheme of Redemption	...	8/-	8/6
The Gospel Preacher (Benj. Franklin) vols. 1 & 2, per vol.	...	8/-	6/6
Gospel Plan of Salvation	...	6/-	8/6
Sweeney's Sermons	...	4/-	4/6
Talks to Bereans	...	4/-	4/3
Chang Foo	...	4/-	4/3
Form of Baptism	...	4/-	4/6
The Lord's Supper	...	6/-	6/6
Immersion	...	6/-	6/6
Lands of the Bible, McGarvey	...	12/-	13/-
Jackson's New Testament	...	6/-	6/6
Campbell and Owen Debate	...	5/-	5/6
Doctrines and Dogmas of Mormonism	...	6/-	6/6
McGarvey's Class Notes on the Pentateuch	...	10/-	10/6

Campbell on Baptism	...	4/-	4/6
Standard S.S. Commentary, Library, 1901	...	1/-	1/6
Standard S.S. Commentary, 1901, Limp	...	6/-	1/-
Christian S.S. Commentary, 1901	...	1/-	1/6
Sweeney's Diagrams	...	4/-	4/3
Christian System	...	5/-	5/6
Walks About Jerusalem	...	4/-	4/3
Lard on Romans	...	8/-	8/6
The Great Salvation, E. V. Zollars	...	6/-	6/6
Handbook on Baptism	...	6/-	6/6
McGarvey's Commentary on Acts	...	6/-	6/6
Campbell's Popular Lectures and Addresses	...	12/-	12/6

Austral Publishing Co.,

528 Elizabeth St., Melbourne.

Northern District Starr-Bowkett Building Society,

237 COLLINS ST., Melbourne.
Telephone 2149.

Printed and Published by the Austral Publishing Co.,
528 Elizabeth-street, Melbourne.