

Woolley.

The
**Australian
Christian**

National Weekly Representing Churches of Christ

Dare We Neglect the Spiritual Re-building
of Europe ?



PLANNING TO RE-BUILD BATTERED CITIES.

★ *We cannot take it for granted that the church in Europe will have a future. Many powerful forces are at work, claiming the allegiance of youth in that powerful continent. Unless Christians in other lands send assistance and give moral and spiritual help, who will? God seeks to work through men and women. Will you let him serve in Europe through your efforts?*

Church Re-discovering Power of the Bible

GERMANY

Churches in the Soviet Zone

THROUGH a press agency in Geneva we have been able to obtain encouraging glimpses of Christian work in the Soviet-controlled Eastern zone of Germany. Eastern Germany is the stronghold of the evangelical churches, and there has naturally been anxiety as to their welfare under a Communist government. The report to hand gives a picture of the divine over-ruling of testing circumstances, resulting in courageous spiritual witness. Visitors from Western Germany are told by Christians in the East: "We do not envy you, nor wish to cross the demarcation line. Here, we have troubles indeed, but on your side everything is too smooth. In the West being a Christian costs you nothing. Here we learn to obey the word of God and to live by it as our daily bread. It is easier to preach under such circumstances. We can more directly console one another here, because the anxiety is greater." It is stated that daily services of intercession are held; secular education in the schools stimulates church members to provide Christian instruction elsewhere for children; and laymen are accepting responsibility for leadership on a larger scale. Over 3000 young people attended a Christian youth conference in one region alone.—"The Christian."



To Albert Schweitzer

SCHWEITZER, thou royal-hearted friend of man;
Great in the realms of music, healing, thought,
Clothing in deeds the wisdom thou hast taught,
Shaping thy life to youth's heroic plan;
Prophetic soul, whose thinking far outran
The spirit of thine age, and questing, caught
Visions of truth humanity has sought
Since mind's immortal Odyssey began:

Honor we gladly pay thee; but thy praise
Rings strangely in this world of angry strife:
A nobler song of tribute we shall raise
When from this age with bitter passions
rise

We turn to wiser deeds and kindlier days,
And keep thy precept, reverence for life.

—Albert F. Bayly.



EUROPE

Need of Evangelism

IF it is true that Europe can only live if it finds again its own way of life; if it is true that that way of life cannot be one of the old ways and cannot be the way of one of the powerful ideologies; if it is further true that we can only overcome the ideological temptation by the message of a God before whom all things fall into their proper places and politics becomes a humble service — then the Christian church has indeed an awful responsibility in Europe. Then it is a matter of life and death whether it can get out of its terrible isolation from the life of the masses, whether it can escape from its self-made prison of conservatism and self-centredness and whether it can perform its apostolate among the masses that have no shepherd.

The remarkable movements of life within the European churches — especially during the war — the return to the Bible as the source of new insight and life — the great stirrings in theology — are reasons for hope. But it is by no means the adequate answer of the church to God's call in the present situation. For that call — as it comes to us through the di-oriented, perplexed and often despairing masses around us — demands more. It demands not merely the renewal of the church within its own realm but above

all the outgoing of the church to the world. We need to-day in Europe a movement of evangelism which in intensity, in readiness to sacrifice and above all in imaginative approach to the masses is comparable to the movement of foreign missions in the 19th century.



SOUTH AMERICA

Problems and Hopes

THE tragic events of the war years caused many changes in Latin America which are now revealing their consequences. The rapid industrialisation of some of the countries is producing acute problems. Although the population is still largely rural, there is a strong migratory current towards the cities, which, together with the influx of foreigners, is giving rise to overcrowding with all the dangers of promiscuity, the break up of the family, and treatment of the people as "masses."

The cinema, press and radio are tending to exercise corrupting influences upon the thoughts and habits of young people. Gambling is spreading rapidly; hard work and thrift are diminishing.

Four centuries of Roman Catholicism have not given to Latin America a Christian concept of life. Religion is divorced from morality. It maintains a certain hold on the people because, in an atmosphere of insecurity, men and women turn to intermediaries and protectors as, for instance, the Virgin and patron saints, even as they turn to the friend with influence in political spheres. Only a small proportion of the population is composed of conscientious Roman Catholics. Intellectuals and students are sceptical, while the working classes are turning to materialistic ideologies.

Outstanding Roman Catholics now admit that Latin America is a mission field, in which Roman Catholic missionary organisations from North America are working to meet the need. Yet the Roman Catholic church combats evangelical work by the diffusion of inexactitudes in pastoral letters, sermons, and pamphlets, proceeding as far as the provocation of persecution and violence. It uses its political influence to restrict religious liberty, and to obtain control of education in Latin America.

Nevertheless, the preaching of the gospel has given rise to strong indigenous churches. Evangelical Christians are well scattered over the continent and, although many are in isolated places, the churches are firmly planted in each country. They are not exotic organisations, but are composed almost entirely of Latin American who cannot forget that they inherit the spiritual experience of Evangelical Spaniards and Portuguese who, in the sixteenth century, gave them their own versions of the Bible, left them scriptural treatises, and sealed their faith with martyr's deaths. With sound reason, they deny that they are a few deceived sheep of Anglo-Saxon heretical "pastors."—John Savage.



VICTORIA

Biblical Archaeology

AT a well-attended meeting of fellows, members, and associates of the Victoria Institute, Mr. Donald J. Wiseman, O.B.E., B.A., A.K.C., assistant keeper of the Department of Syrian Antiquities, in the British Museum, delivered a most informative paper on "Some Recent Trends in Biblical Archaeology." Mr. J. MacIntyre, B.A., of the British Museum, presided.

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Mr. Wiseman's statement was based on recent information obtained from documents recovered from sites in Syria and North Iraq, which bears on the Patriarchal Age. Evidence was presented for a lower dating for Hammurabi of Babylon, and the consequent need for setting the early narratives of Genesis in the early second millennium, B.C., as their background. These recent discoveries concentrated attention upon the First Dynasty of Babylon (now dated round about 1830-1550 B.C.), and what may be called the Pre-Amarna Age, i.e., fourteenth-fifteenth centuries, B.C. This information covered a period of great importance to Bible students, and previously known only from the Amarna texts and a few isolated references in so far as the extra-Biblical history of Palestine and Syria are concerned.

Mr. Wiseman observed that there is a growing tendency to place Abraham himself at the beginning of the Middle Bronze Age (2000-1500 B.C.). No direct reference to any Biblical person has been proved in non-Biblical texts of this period, but the growing list of proper names brought to light gives adequate corroboration for the types and forms of Biblical names in this period. Many of the Hurrian customs of this period are strikingly similar with those recorded in Genesis, chapters 12 to 36. Altogether, tremendous strides had been made in the last five years to the Patriarchal narratives of Genesis.

Among other points to which the lecturer drew attention was the fact that clay tablets were commonly used for writing in Palestine as in Syria, in the fifteenth and fourteenth centuries, B.C. It was stated that scores of thousands of cuneiform texts, unearthed in recent years, still await transcription. There is, however, a lack of trained scholars for this work, and publication is delayed also for lack of adequate dictionaries and financial support.

Neo-Babylonian tablets from Babylon, which were part of the Administrative records of Nebuchadnezzar II. (595-570, B.C.) make direct reference to the issue of oil and barley rations to Jehoiachin, King of Judah, his family, servants and officers, at the time that they were prisoners of the Babylonian monarch, thus directly confirming 2 Kings 24: 6-15 and 25: 27-30.

In conclusion, Mr. Wiseman expressed the view that the outlook for archaeological studies relating to the Bible is very bright, and he went on to say that, "With all this archaeological activity revealing so much detail relative to Bible times, it is more than ever interesting to note that while many problems are being raised and many more are awaiting solution, no fact found has contradicted the word of God."—"The Christian."



AUSTRIA

A Case in Point

IN common with more than a dozen other European countries, Austria has shared in disruption of church life caused by war, and in common with these other countries it stands in need of the practical assistance of fellow Christians in countries more fortunately placed. Of a total Austrian population of 6,500,000 there are some 350,000 Protestants. Many Protestant churches, parsonages, and other church buildings were destroyed or badly damaged. For example, eight Lutheran and Reformed churches were totally destroyed, and five badly damaged. Five Methodist churches were damaged and six parsonages destroyed or badly damaged. Funds are needed for reopening schools; transport is needed for pastors, because transport conditions in Austria to-day are still bad and these conditions impose extra strain on pastors in isolated and remote parishes. Except for the rich, both food and clothing conditions are bad. There is still an urgent need for mendicaments for use in evangelical hospitals and institutions.

The Press and News of Church in Germany

WHAT is the church doing in Eastern Germany under Russian control? How are the people faring in those regions? Is the church being persecuted openly? Are church services permitted? Can the people be blamed for what is taking place? Are these trials and sufferings a judgment upon a people's unbelief?

We cannot give an answer to all these questions. We do not think Christian people ought to allow a prejudiced press to color their thinking. We do not need to say that paper representatives deliberately give false pictures of situations. We can say that many "special correspondents" and "reporters" are not trained as Christians to see and to speak of facts that the church needs to know. The great commercial papers are secular, and seek to increase circulation by appealing to people's emotions and prejudices. The actual situation existing in a country is rarely told. The unusual is so stressed that people get distorted views of individuals, customs and affairs in other lands.

The church needs an effective news service, conducted by Christian reporters and writers who will not present news as if it were merely secular, but in its relationship to the ideals of the kingdom of God. Much dishonest reporting, by stressing one aspect of a situation rather than the whole, could be eliminated. The misunderstandings between peoples, fanned to flames by the sensational press, would be broken down. The way to peace and goodwill would be paved with more than good intentions. Instead of the plight of unfortunate peoples being glossed over to justify a national policy of selfishness, the real distresses of peoples in neighboring lands would be made clear. Then voters would not support parties with narrow nationalistic policies, but, like the Good Samaritan, would show pity towards men of different nations.

National policies are often built on false views of life and on dangerous half-truths about the attitude of citizens of other countries. Before international peace can be developed, the peoples of the world need to be enlightened through channels of information that are truly Christian. Press and radio must be reformed by Christian influences to ensure an impartial presentation of facts.

For some years an Ecumenical Press Service has been supplying religious papers with world news of church affairs. This service is proving a valuable means of building a sense of world brotherhood among those who have accepted Christ as Lord. Misconceptions created by secular press items are destroyed by this Christian presentation of facts. Sympathy for those in other lands and in real need is developed. A picture of sin and unbelief, in regions recently torn by war, gives us the warning that judgment falls on the ungodly communities. A good news service must report both agreeable and disagreeable facts. The Ecumenical News Service makes an effort to fulfil this aim.

What kind of a picture are we given of the church in Russian occupied Germany?

The churches are allowed to carry on without direct interference in this eastern zone. What hindrances are set in the way of people? On Sundays people are ordered to work in the fields. The State does not regard the Lord's Day. Just how long the people will be able to continue without breaking under the strain of hardly any rest, is difficult to judge. There is nothing so sure as a general collapse under such conditions. But the people have given the Russians an answer to any objection raised. In those eastern areas of Germany, now under Russian control, the people, as a whole, are not interested in the church. Otto Dieblus therefore suggests that the Russian commandant can say, with some justice, that the "people who are sent to work in the fields would not go to church in any case." Here is a case of people neglecting God and the Lord's Day, and losing the weekly rest day as a consequence. What has happened in Germany could happen here,

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if people continue to ignore the principles of right living, stated so clearly in God's Word.

Certain financial aid is given to churches from State revenue, as in the past. Russian authorities do not discourage conference gatherings of churches and Christian youth. The poor salaries given to pastors of churches causes much distress. The State control of education and the unsympathetic attitude of many headmasters towards weekly religious teaching of children are causes for concern. "For instance, in one large school, when a young clergyman introduced short morning prayers which were attended by crowds of pupils and had a perceptible influence on the young people, these services were immediately prohibited." The youth work of the church is only tolerated if confined to small groups. The church's hold on youth is being loosened by State interference.

The church in Eastern Germany is permitted to maintain a witness within limits, but efforts are being made to weaken the church's influence on the rising generation. Unless there is a spiritual awakening, and the churches around the world give spiritual support and help in general to these Christians, a new paganism will arise to endanger world peace.

Australian church members will shut their eyes to the situation in Europe at the peril of losing peace again. No man or nation can live to himself.

We dare not relax our efforts to do all we can to extend the kingdom. Our struggle here is part of the world-wide fight the church is making against new materialistic forces dominating the spirits of men. Let us hold hands with Christians around the world and hold back the rising tide of materialism!



Call From Tasmania

FEDERAL Conference is planned for Hobart, Tasmania, in October. Victorians had much to do with the beginning of churches of Christ in Tasmania. A. O. Carr went from Melbourne to Hobart in 1871 and built up a church, within a year, to a membership of 108. B. J. Moysey followed and he helped to show Stephen Cheek the light of New Testament truths. The ministry of Stephen Cheek in Tasmania is well known.

Over the years the Tasmanian churches have been enriched by services of many from the mainland. Again the call goes out to assist brethren in that island. If such help is given now it will enable churches to take full advantage of the Federal Conference gatherings. The Federal Executive has made an appeal to Victorian churches to release preachers for a few weeks, pay the fares of them to Tasmania, and enable churches in the Island to enjoy a period of revival. For years Victorian churches have enjoyed the help of many experienced preachers, and we should have thought that this appeal to help others in need would have been heeded. Reports to hand indicate that only two or three churches have responded to request. Officers, we understand, give the excuse they cannot spare their preacher. Would it not do local churches good if they were to help weaker centres, and use local talent for a time to maintain the home base? Would not members be sympathetic and loyal if the situation were made clear to them? Did not the church at Antioch release Paul and Barnabas to do such work? If the reader is a preacher could he not appeal to the officers again to release him? If the reader is a secretary, elder, deacon or church member could not such a person urge that the correspondence be reconsidered? Surely our man-power is not so weak that local talent could not hold the fort. Such an experience could be a blessing in disguise. Could not 20 to 30 men be found to answer to the call—come over to Tasmania and help us? We trust the call to assist the brethren in the Island State will be answered.

Historic Occasion Marked

Ethelbert Davis writes of first church service in Australia, of missionary farewell and youth department's campaign

OF general interest is the fact that, on Feb. 3, there was celebrated the 162nd anniversary of the first church service in Australia. The special commemorative service was held on Sunday, Feb. 5, in St. Philip's Church of England. The service was conducted by T. C. Hammond and H. S. Begbie.

The first service was held under a tree near Sydney Cove, on Feb. 8, 1788. Despite repeated appeals, it was not until June, 1793, that Richard Johnson was given a grant of land for a church. A church building was erected of wattle and daub, costing £67/12/4. This came out of Johnson's own pocket. That building was opened on Aug. 25, 1793. On Oct. 1, 1798, it was burned down by convicts, as a protest against compulsory church attendance.

Farewell to Missionary

One of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings of its kind held in the City Temple in years was that held a couple of weeks ago to farewell Bruce Munro, the first student of the Woolwich Bible College to volunteer for missionary work in India. Bruce is one of the very popular young men among the churches because of his spirit of consecration and enthusiasm.

The conference president, W. J. Crossman, presided. Greetings were brought from the Federal Board by Dr. P. Messent. Mrs. Lacombe represented the sisters' conference; I. A. Paternoster, the State committee; and A. W. Ladbrook, the College.

Bruce, by his message, created a good impression on the crowded meeting. One incident that deeply touched everyone, and gave an indication of the spirit of the man, was the bringing of his mother onto the platform. There he paid her a beautiful tribute, and thanked her for all that she had meant to him in his Christian experience. His mother had helped to make him what he was as a Christian. At the close, Bruce was handed a leather bag,

containing over 70 letters to be read on the voyage.

"Intermediate Year" Plan

The Young People's Department in N.S.W. has commenced a campaign to hold the adolescents. A conference has been arranged for Y.P.S.C.E. superintendents and intermediate teachers. Other conferences for other groups will be held at later dates. The move will be welcomed by all church workers. Over the years we have been lamenting the loss of so many of that group from the contacts of the church. The department, in its survey of the Bible schools, found that a large number of boys and girls who have come up through the school do not become members of the church, but drift away from all association with school and church. . . . A plan to help churches hold intermediates will commend itself to all interested in young people.

What's Missing?

The world of to-day is like an engine that has broken down — it's out of order, and the breakdown is due to the fact that something is missing. Panaceas, there are aplenty; but they all, or nearly all, omit the one vital thing. C. M. Dyster, in his first sermon at the Presbyterian Church, Strathfield, a week ago, put it this way: "God is the missing word from the world's incomplete story. For multitudes to-day life is a senseless, incoherent tale. Your hard-headed, practical man may say the solving word is some new economic system, some new international organisation, or a world church, but so long as the same unrepentant and unredeemed people, the same hostile nationalisms, the same competing denominations remain, what saving meaning can those words give to our sorry story? Good they may be, but not the word of salvation. That word is God, and the way to God, as Jesus taught."

Comment: Put God in his place; restore God to that place from which he is now missing and the world will come right.

A Lesser Laureate

F. J. Funston takes as the hymn for March No. 213, planned for Mar. 12

OVER the centuries, many comparatively undistinguished poets have held the office of Poet Laureate. Nahum Tate, whether or not he lived down to one writer's description as "politically pliant, personally disreputable, permanently in debt and writing chiefly rubbish," was one of these lesser laureates, although, strangely enough, he held the title under four sovereigns.

He is, however, gratefully remembered for the "New Version" of the Psalms. With the king's chaplain, Nicholas Brady, he had "with the utmost care and industry completed a new version of the Psalms," and the then king, after taking the same into His Royal Consideration . . . Allowed and Permitted" it to be used in the churches — or, at least, this is what the Order-in-Council of December 3, 1696 says. The reception of the "new version" was not wholly favorable; one good bishop "heartily recommended it to all his brethren within the diocess" as "fluent, rhythmical and eminently singable," but another, alas, was harried by doubts as to whether the version had ever been "conferred with the Hebrew," or whether any bishops had had part in it. He considered also that "regard to the poetry, the style and the running of the verse" had "justled the design" of a true translation.

Be that as it may, one addendum to the "new

version" has probably had a wider and more lasting popularity than anything written by any other laureate — Tate's version of Luke 2: 8-15, none other than "While shepherds watched their flocks by night." Two representatives of the actual psalms survive to our hymnal — No. 41 ("O come, loud anthems let us sing," from Psalm 95) and No. 213 ("Through all the changing scenes of life," from Psalm 34). Only a few of the 18 original verses of the latter survive in twentieth century hymnals and it may not be surprising that we omit such verses as the sixth: "Behold (say they) behold the Man whom Providence relieved; So dang'rously with woes beset, So wond'rously retriev'd." The lovely thought of Psalm 34: 8 is well expressed, however, in another of the missing verses:

"O make but trial of his love;
Experience will decide
How bless'd are they, and only they,
Who in his truth confide."

Our use of the four verses will lose nothing in significance if we realise that they have been in use for two and a half centuries.

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FUNERAL SERVICE

OF LATE D. E. PITTMAN

THE funeral service was held in Hampton chapel, where a very large company came to pay loving tribute to a greatly loved friend, and to thank God for the life of one whose Christ-like character and devoted service will be a fragrant and refreshing memory. The service was conducted by K. A. Jones, assisted by A. W. Stephenson and C. G. Taylor. Mr. Jones, in paying a tribute to our late brother, said, "Today, and every day we will thank God upon every remembrance of Douglas Pittman; for in his character there was transparent sincerity. In few men whom we have known were the fruits of the Spirit more manifest, for truly love, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control were all found in him in abundant measure. He was a humble, friendly man. Hosts of people sought his kindly counsel, and were glad to follow his guidance. His encouragement to those who preach the word spurred not a few to more zealous service.

"Since the days of young manhood, Douglas Pittman struggled to maintain his health. For many years he suffered much pain, although few realised it, for he bore his suffering uncomplainingly, even cheerfully. When in the last year he knew his life tenure was severely limited, he went on quietly and courageously with his work at the Austral and the Hampton church. Increasing weakness was apparent to all who knew him best. In our last intimate talk together, he spoke of his desire to go on serving if strength returned, but if not, he was prepared for what the future held for him. He said, 'In the last few weeks I have thought long and deeply on Christian teaching and the things which really matter. I've surprised myself how many things I have shed as unimportant. Some folk want to argue strongly about many little points and abstract things — things which really don't touch Christian living. I'd like to call all my brethren to cease idle disputing about provocative non-essentials. I wish all men would realise that Christ is intimately related to a man's manner of life. Jesus Christ was a good workman and he wants us to work with him no matter what vocation we may follow.'

"I knew Douglas Pittman at his best. One needed to see him in the family circle where, as husband, father, and brother, he displayed an unflinching love; love which seeketh not its own. Always evident was a thoughtlessness about himself as he ministered to others."

"And better far than gift of voice or pen,
That love of Christ which glowed in all he did,
That heart which full of kindness for men
So shunned the light, and yet could not be hid.
A heart at home with child and flower and bird
He lived — and lives — a servant of the word."

Following the service in the chapel, the cortege moved to Springvale Crematorium, where E. L. Williams assisted K. A. Jones in the final rites.



TRIBUTE FROM HYMNBOOK COMMITTEE

THE Federal Hymnbook Committee cannot measure the value of D. E. Pittman. When the committee was reconstituted in 1947, he was the only link with the earlier body which prepared the present hymnal. Having seen that work through the press, he made freely available to the committee every conceivable detail of arrangement, type, paper, binding, costs and the like. Nothing published concerning the character of the man has been overstated, and it was typical of his humility that, at his request, laudatory references to his services were "watered down" before they appeared in the committee's report.—F. J. Funston, secretary.

Islanders' Stewardship

A FULL report is to hand on island giving over past few months.

When the new hospital was opened on Aoba, the people showed their appreciation by making an offering of £70. Later, when it was suggested that this money be used towards the £100 odd expended on serums, the people stated they desired their offering to stand and that they would raise the money for the serums from among the churches.

Following the hospital offering, the Christian trading stores on the islands decided to make a special contribution for mission work. Commenting on these gifts, H. Finger writes: "We have received £500 from the church elders, plus £70 for immediate use on the hospital. The £500 was collected this time from each of the small stores on the islands, Maewo and Aoba. There are forty-seven of these small native concerns, and this year they were asked to contribute £10 each as a donation towards the work. I do not know whose idea it was, but apparently it was felt that such a move would help the people generally to have a fuller appreciation of other avenues of service. When the money was brought here, we had a talk about it, and the will of the people is that this money be invested at the board's discretion, either by banking or other ways, and the interest or earning be used in the work. The giving of the above money involved the usual gathering at 8 p.m., when thanks was expressed by each of us, prayer together, followed by light refreshments."

The annual offering has now been taken, and again the Aoban Christians have manifested their love and generosity by contributing £1000. This is the third year in succession that these Christians have given one thousand pounds.

The climax of these gifts was reached when word was received from Sydney advising that these and other gifts had come through in a draft — the total amounting to £1784.

We also report with gratitude the offering of the Pentecost Christians, who donated £107. This gift from our Pentecost Christians represents sacrificial giving, as their numbers are not large, and their sources of income are not wide.

How Much Owest Thou?

By the end of January, which represents seven months of the financial year, the giving for general purposes approximates that of last year for the same period. With costs as they are, it will readily be seen that unless receipts are lifted the year must end in a loss. In January we added six missionaries to our Indian staff, and in March one will be added in the islands. In fares alone, this will cost not less than £700.

The board is happy to announce that two of the above workers will be "living link" workers. Miss Ruth Roberts' support in India has been entirely taken over by her mother, whilst that of Miss Henderson in the islands has been added to that of "Anonymous Donor" — this brings the number of those supported by "Anonymous Donor" to four workers.

We feel sure that there are many in these prosperous times who could give large gifts to help forward the overseas work. An analysis shows that, if several large gifts were lifted from our income, the average income from the churches has not increased greatly over the past five years.

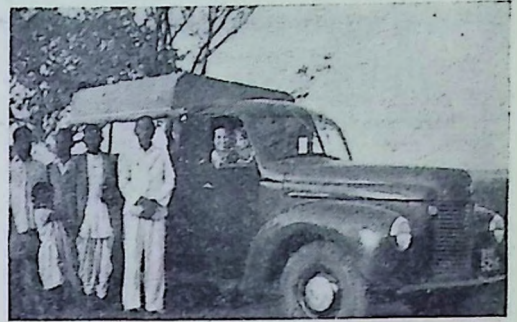
We might well ask, firstly, how much of our augmented income has found its way into the Lord's treasury? And secondly, how can we advance the work of the kingdom of God unless we can adequately support the workers we have and supply the necessary equipment?

Baramati Motor Appeal

Four years ago a discarded municipal garbage truck was bought cheaply by Mr. Colin Thomas,

and some very necessary and urgent repairs were needed to keep it on the road. According to our reporters, this old truck has "had it," and the youth groups throughout Australia, sponsored by the Federal C.E. movement, are seeking to raise £1000 for a motor vehicle similar to a station waggon. The appeal is now under way, and it is hoped that the vehicle can be purchased and ready for Colin Thomas when he returns to India. The sponsors give facts regarding the appeal (dated 13/2/50) — "In Victoria about £120 has been handed in. It has been wonderful how some have sacrificed for this appeal. But we are sure there are many who have done nothing about it. The appeal will close at Easter, when it is hoped that a cheque for the necessary sum will be handed to the overseas department. We urge that every member of the brotherhood will have a part in this effort. Send your contribution now to the

treasurer of the appeal, A. L. Finger, 12 Evelyn-st., St. Kilda, Vic."



Shrigonda Motor.

Shrigonda now has suitable vehicle. Dhond has a new ambulance, which is also much used in evangelistic work. Baramati has a worn out truck and we want them to have a suitable vehicle. They can have a new motor if we assist.

Questions of the Moments

W. H. Clay, Secretary of Social Service Department

Airing Differences in Public

A CERTAIN business house features a notice which may be read by every customer. "If we please you, tell others; if not, tell us." There appears to be a lot of common sense about this which might be applied to some other concerns, and particularly the church. Churches of Christ are not generally given to taking their differences before the public, although there are instances of this of which we may not be proud. Some churches, through their synods and conferences, it would appear, deliberately broadcast, through the press and over the air, their disagreements and often clashes, which discredit the church.

We are not convinced that the press, even our own publications, are the best means of airing our differences with one another, and denouncing those who may differ from us. Neither are we convinced that declamation of other religious bodies, and the maligning of prominent religious leaders, whose honesty we should not suspect, is a legitimate substitute for the proclamation of the truth as we understand it. Causes are often injured, fellow-Christians are confused, and in some cases, millions are the innocent victims of publicity of what should be aired and sifted amongst ourselves, opportunities for which exist. Surely none would deliberately say or do anything that would be the means of denying to the starving millions of the world the goodwill and assistance that so many Christians are willing to give. Let us not throw the baby out with the bathwater. If things are not as right as they should be, let us seek the better way!

Gambling

The Webster definition of the term "gambler" is "one who plays for money," but an up-to-date definition by the British Empire university is "one who gambles as a business." This difference is very significant. If the latter is right, gamblers are few, but is it? It is true to say that the insidious forms of gambling which are common to-day, namely raffles, sweeps, art unions, housey-housey, and many others have made the practice almost universal. The indulgence of those who lead in public affairs, even the royal family, governors, prime ministers, almost without exception, and lesser notabilities, makes protest almost unavailing. The general public is not skilled in the art, and many individuals become the willing victims of the profession,

among which are certain ecclesiastical bodies which shamelessly exploit the opportunities the practice offers of making money. The "golden casket" inquiry, though clearing certain individuals of guilt, has left doubts in the mind of not a few. The Tramway Employees' Committee recently conducted a raffle for war widows. Receipts amounted to over £23,000, but only £1500 went to the widows, or less than 1/6 in the pound. The Y.W.C., who would be known as Young Christian Workers, but are Young Catholic Workers, evidently sensing some governmental restrictions, printed 60,000 5/- tickets, and professes to having distributed them. This raffle must take its course before the restrictions apply.

Midweek Racing

Racing clubs of city and country, of which some of our most prominent politicians are members, are threatening something in the nature of a strike, if permits for more midweek racing are not given. If we can help produce the strike our services are available. The Social Questions Secretariat has expressed its views to the premier and chief secretary. The advent of a mobile totalisator unit has been publicised in the press. This piece of gamblers' furniture proposes to seat as many as fifteen female clerks, who, we may suspect, will find permanent employment in it. In these days of shortages of labor, such an innovation on this score alone cannot be justified. The figure representing the racing public who toil not, neither do they spin, must run into some thousands. More racing? The government, so far, says "No," but for how long? Racehorses and racing dogs are multiplying enormously, and prices for them are going higher and higher. Unless more racing days are granted, and more courses are prepared, the threatened strike may yet eventuate and the result is not hard to forecast. The gambling fraternity has almost a stranglehold on our broadcasting stations, and almost everything else is of secondary importance.

Expulsion of Members of Parliament

The Liberal party, have been expelled from that Messrs. Edmunds and Lechte, Ms.L.A., both of parliamentary party and steps are being taken to deny them the membership of the Liberal party. These men have been a thorn in the side of those who count honor a little thing, and have earned the reprobation of their leaders. We dare say, quite plainly, if either of them suffers defeat in the election, which appears to be possible in the immediate future, it will be to the shame of godly men. The powers of evil will bring every means at their disposal to defeat them. If successful, the result will be a

COMMONWEALTH ROUND-UP

HERE AND THERE

The church at Hampton, Vic., has been saddened by the death of D. E. Pittman, who had loyally served church as secretary for past 38 years. His kindly advice and encouragement will be missed by many. To all those who mourn the church extends deepest sympathy.

The Victorian Church Extension Department requires £2500 on March 19 in order to keep the interest rate on loans to churches at the present low figure. Many calls are coming from churches requiring extra facilities, and many new fields require a building in which a young cause may grow. The programme for 1950 will be possible if every member shares in church extension.

In a recent letter to A. C. Friece, of Victoria, Joseph J. Mackenzie, M.A., student of the original Australian College of the Bible, and for past 25 years preacher of the First Christian church, Massillon, Ohio, U.S.A., mentioned that he has been very seriously ill, was reported from Canton Hospital as having passed on, but recovered. He is now back in the active ministry. He sends greetings to all A.C.B. old boys and to others who know him.

Richmond-Collingwood district conference, Vic., held sixth annual meeting in the North Richmond chapel, on Feb. 18. At 6 p.m. churches met for tea. At 7 p.m. a business session was held when a president and vice-president were elected for ensuing year. Reports from four chapels were encouraging regarding young people's activities. At 8 p.m. an inspirational rally was held, when J. Turner, North Fitzroy, delivered an excellent address. At this meeting the retiring president, L. Cooke, installed new president, Mr. Shaw.

A farewell in form of a musical evening was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. C. H. J. Wright on Feb. 23, at North Essendon, Vic., prior to departure for Albion church (Qld.). Representatives of conference, local ministers' fraternal and all auxiliaries spoke highly of their service during a three-year ministry, and chairman of board of officers presented them with a cheque. Interior of chapel has been very tastefully redecorated, and members are grateful to a friend of church for generosity in carrying out this necessary work with assistance of some brethren. Efficiency campaign in Bible school has resulted in increased attendances, and several new members. A challenging address to a packed gospel service on Feb. 26 marked close of C. H. J. Wright's ministry.

★

Federal College of the Bible

GLEN IRIS, VIC.

THE forty-fourth year of college began on Wednesday, Feb. 15. Thirty-eight students enrolled, all States of Commonwealth being represented. At opening sessions it was a pleasure to have company of Mr. and Mrs. Swanson, of Edinburgh, Scotland, and to receive greetings from brethren in homeland. Mrs. W. Waterman has come to college as assistant housekeeper, and has been welcomed.

Lygon-st. officers and their wives were again "at home" to college community, together with members of the Board of Management and their wives and friends on Monday, Feb. 20. After very fine tea a happy session followed.

The public inaugural meeting followed tea and many friends gathered, including a large number of members from overseas and interstate. In absence of Dr. W. A. Kemp, chairman of the board, G. L. Murray led meeting. Bambra church choir sang well. E. L. Williams read greetings and announced that, due

to the retirement of J. S. Taylor and W. R. Hibbert from the faculty, R. C. Bolduan and K. A. Jones would give temporary assistance during 1950. He presented scholarships to those who had earned them during 1949. Scholarships and recipients were as follow: L. C. McCallum, A. L. West; M. S. Noble, J. H. McCormick; F. G. Dunn, R. C. McKenzie; Old Boys', I. K. Hull; F. M. Ludbrook, H. M. Waghmode; E. F. Winter, R. C. Dixon; Emma Hovey, Miss R. G. Edgell; William Grindrod, L. G. Cooke; Women's Association, Miss T. M. Bennett. J. E. Brooke gave a memorable address, making his appeal to students and audience alike.—K.J.

★

Country Evangelism

SUCCESSFUL EFFORT AT BOORT, VIC.

THE evangelistic campaign, held at Boort, from Feb. 15 to 19, by J. K. Bond, was an inspiration. Each night newcomers attended the meetings. On Sunday evening the chapel was almost full. A wonderful crowd heard Mr. Bond give a splendid address. There was one decision during campaign. Church is hopeful that meetings were the means of helping others to accept the invitation. Church has been lifted up by Mr. Bond's messages. Families from Pyramid Hill church were present on Sunday evening. At close of gospel service, Sunday evening, Mr. Quayle thanked members for their support, and visitors for attending. Mr. Streader also spoke.

★

North Suburban Conference

UNDER presidency of A. W. Aitkin, 87 people gathered for an inspiring meeting of North suburban conference, held at Brunswick on Feb. 21. Mr. Burman, of West Preston church, opened with prayer and P. R. Thickins read scriptures. A welcome to incoming president and to P. R. Thickins, preacher of Thornbury church, was given by secretary. Nine churches responded to roll call. A. E. Wood, of West Preston, was elected conference secretary, following R. Vautier's resignation. P. R. Thickins gave an inspiring address. Northcote church choir, under leadership of A. Brownrigg, delightfully rendered two choral items.—R. W. Vautier.

★

Australian Nurses' Christian Movement

SOME readers may have heard of the Australian Nurses' Christian Movement through these pages, or elsewhere, but to others it may be an introduction to the work which the A.N.C.M. is seeking to do among nurses.

The movement is interdenominational, and its aim is to bring nurses to a knowledge of Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and to strengthen the Christian nurses in their life and witness. This is being done through the ministry of Bible study groups in the metropolitan and many country hospitals and through the rest rooms, 6th floor, Central House, 174 Collins-st.

In these rooms, comprising lounge, prayer and reading rooms, kitchenette, etc., every facility is available for the comfort of nurses, and many thousands have availed themselves of these. Fellowship teas and meetings, commencing at 6 p.m. every Friday, provide opportunities to hear Bible studies and missionary addresses, to enjoy the inspiration of music

in the nurses' choir, and to meet nurses from various hospitals, from other States and from overseas.

Many nurses have heard the call to the home and missionary services of their communions, and have gone forth to serve the Lord where he has led. Others are in training at Bible and missionary colleges, adding to their nursing equipment the knowledge of the word of God.

The work is carried on entirely by voluntary contributions, and the support of the Christian public is needed, in prayer and giving, to maintain and extend the work of the A.N.C.M. Also the movement in Victoria requires an assistant secretary, a trained, consecrated nurse, with some business knowledge, who feels the call of God to this work among the nurses. Any further information regarding the work may be obtained from the office, 174 Collins-st., Melbourne.

★

Preacher's Golden Wedding

THE 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. F. Collins was celebrated by members of church at Kilburn, S.A., on Feb. 21, when a large party travelled to Kircaldy and entertained them in their home. Mr. and Mrs. Cave represented conference and C. Schwab H.M. committee, and greeting was received from the president of Federal Conference. Musical items were rendered by Sister C. Kelly and Sisters Lawrance and Mr. Lawrance, sen., entertained guests. Mrs. Collins cut a cake provided by Kilburn ladies. Conference president handed to Mr. Collins a wallet of notes subscribed by S.A. H.M. department and the following churches: Hobart and Launceston (Tasmania); Ann-st., Brisbane (Qld.); Paddington (N.S.W.); Victor Harbour, Glenelg, Maylands, Kilburn and Dulwich (S.A.) A delightful evening concluded with supper supplied by visitors. Mr. and Mrs. Collins are beloved of all Kilburn members who pray that they might be spared to minister here for years.

★

Hall's Gap Camp

EVERY SECOND CAMPER HAD A CAMERA

YOUTH camp just concluded at Hall's Gap, Vic., had a complete coverage with cameras. Amongst 70 campers, there were more than 30 cameras including two movies. But the best record of the camp experience will not be a photograph. It is the impression made on the lives of young people in Bible study and fellowship of camp. Two hours each day were given to studying the following questions:— 1. What did Jesus mean when he said, "On this rock I will build my church"? 2. What is meant by the words, "Other sheep I have, them also must I bring and there will be one fold and one shepherd"? 3. What can be said from the scriptures about the "White Australia Policy"? 4. How can the church be on the job witnessing to God's design to-day?

There were two devotional periods each day, and evenings were given to demonstrations of drama, miming Bible stories, and the presentation of ideas for youth work. Outings amongst mountains provided vigorous exercise.

Camp leaders were: Miss Marj. Deane, Mrs. H. Bowman, V. C. Stafford, J. Shaw, G. Barnett, D. Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Trew. A helpful visitor to the camp was Mr. Harold Williams who brought a film on the work in New Hebrides.

Campers made an offering of £31 to advance the camp property, and £17/10/- towards a piano fund.—L. A. Trezise.

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News



of the Churches

Queensland

Bundaberg.—Church annual business meeting was held on Feb. 21, 40 being present. A very interesting time was held. Election resulted in appointments: Elders, J. Wissman, F. Prestway; deacons, W. Proudley, J. Petersen, G. Krieger, A. Philp, H. Wyer; deaconesses, Sisters Christensen and Philp. Most encouraging reports were read. W. Proudley is Bible school superintendent and church secretary; H. Wyer, treasurer; Sister M. Nielsen, church organist. Church membership is 137. J. Petersen was in chair for meeting.

South Australia

Fullarton.—On Feb. 26, morning service was well attended. P. Manning presided and B. W. Manning gave an excellent address. At gospel service Mrs. Beatrice Smith, of Tasmania, told story of her conversion. B. W. Manning preached sermon. I.C.E. have made about 45 lbs. of jam for Colebrook Home.

Adelaide (Grote-st.)—Church has appreciated messages of visiting speakers and local brethren, and is very thankful for help. Messrs. F. Willing, Dunkerton, A. E. Brown, D. K. Beiler, Dr. Kidd and E. H. Swan, of the B. & F. Bible Society, have taken Sunday services, and B. W. Manning and Don Mortimer the mid-week prayer meeting. J. Roberts, a deacon and choir member, is laid aside by illness. Officers are seeking help of members, either in gift or loan, for manse fund.

Prospect.—Bruce Coventry was speaker at Tuesday night fellowship meeting on Feb. 14. Mr. Coventry showed films of India; an offering was received for mission equipment. On Thursday, Feb. 16, ladies' guild held a picnic at National Park. C. P. Hughes, representing S.A. Alliance, was speaker at morning service on Feb. 19, and L. S. Patching spoke at evening service. Half-yearly business meeting of church was held on Feb. 22. On Feb. 2, ladies' guild held first meeting for year, when a welcome was extended to Mrs. Patching. The "A" grade tennis team defeated Forestville in grand final of Churches of Christ Association "A" grade.

Mile End.—The 41st annual business meeting of church was held on Feb. 22, and was well attended. Deacons elected were: N. Hart, W. Philp, J. Fairclough and M. Thomas, Sisters Green, Marshall and L. Norman being deaconesses. Auxiliary reports showed fine work amongst young people and in Women's Mission Band. At conclusion of meeting a social half-hour was enjoyed. Annual meeting of youth council was held on Feb. 13, when a pleasing report, showing work accomplished during year, was given by K. Caldicott. Bible school is returning to normal after school holidays. Tennis club has completed successful season, "A" team reaching preliminary final.

Semaphore.—Annual tennis picnic was held at Kingston Park, Jan. 30. All auxiliaries have re-commenced. Sunday school is improving. Mr. Matthews has been speaker at services during months. Morning service attendances have been average, but gospel services have been better. A number of new migrants are attending evening services. £50 has been paid off debt of manse, leaving £150 owing. Choir, though small, still continues to give valuable assistance. An elder, J. C. Stanley, is a patient in R. A. hospital, and Miss Joan Noble is a patient in Albert Ward. Christian sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Lough in sudden homecall of brother-in-law, and S. J. Matthews in loss of his mother.

Balaklava.—Annual business meeting of church was held on Feb. 2. Mr. Horne, a representative of Uncvangelized Fields Mission, conducted services on Feb. 5; after gospel service he showed lantern slides in Sunday school hall, illustrating his work. During absence of Mr. and Mrs. Cremin, on annual holidays, meetings have been well maintained. James Gibson spoke at morning service on Feb. 12 and Reg. Shepherd at gospel service. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on Feb. 18, C. Schwab giving helpful addresses. Kevin Hennigg was received into fellowship, having previously taken his stand for Christ. On Feb. 25, Sunday school picnic was held at Pt. Parham. C. Woodford spoke in morning and A. L. Jones on evening of 26th.

Maylands.—The manse, which has been in course of erection for some months, is now completed, being officially opened on Feb. 4. J. Collins officiated, assisted by Mr. Cave. Mr. Sherman left for Perth later in month, where Mrs. Sherman's mother was seriously ill; last week news of her death was received. Ladies' Guild has been collecting used postage stamps to raise funds for rest home; £6 has been raised. A social was given in church hall for Mr. and Mrs. Collins, who celebrated golden wedding anniversary. Harvest thanksgiving was good this year; goods will be sent to aborigines missions, W.A. Endeavor meetings are progressing well, and Doug. Fitzgerald is in charge of intermediates. Services this month have been well attended. Young marrieds re-commenced on Feb. 23, when lecture and pictures on "First Aid in the Home" were enjoyed.

Hindmarsh.—K.O.C. club held picnic at The Gorge on Feb. 18; about 80 journeyed in two buses and private cars. Club has 40 members. Harvest festival services were held on Feb. 26. H. Cave, conference president, was morning speaker, and J. C. Shipway in evening. Choir assisted with suitable anthems, and solos were sung by Mr. Murray Wilton and Mrs. A. Russell. J. Holden and Mrs. J. Allan had solo parts in anthems. Pam Hillock, who had an accident on bicycle resulting in severe abrasions and concussion, is now recovering. Mrs. Battersby has broken bone in wrist. Sympathy is expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Hallett, in sudden death of Mrs. Hallett's mother. At annual meeting of church, officers were re-elected with addition of Mr. Laurie Cullinan, as deacon. J. Holden is secretary, and Mr. Geoff. Trevaskis, treasurer. All reports were encouraging. Church has increased preacher's weekly stipend by 10/-, plus 3/- rise in Federal basic wage.

Forestville.—Church is experiencing times of blessing. W. A. Russell continues a faithful ministry. On Feb. 12, G. R. Stirling addressed morning meeting and W. A. Russell preached gospel at evening service, when special reference was made to life and witness of our late sister, Mrs. Banfield, who was called to rest last June. Mr. Banfield presented a reading desk and a large copy of God's word to church as a thank-offering for her life and witness. On Feb. 26 harvest thanksgiving services were held. W. Beiler was morning speaker and W. A. Russell preached gospel to a large congregation, when choir rendered anthems. Average attendance for February were: 100 at breaking of bread and 112 at gospel service. Week-

night meeting continues to prove a blessing. Meetings are being held in members' homes in district. All auxiliaries are in a healthy condition. Over 220 attended Bible school annual picnic at McLaren Flat on Jan. 30. School is preparing for anniversary. J. T. Train is making a steady recovery after some weeks illness. Mr. and Mrs. Will Beiler are living in district; church enjoys their fellowship.

Unley.—Attendances continue to improve, and on two Sundays in February 143 communed for day. W. A. Russell was morning speaker for harvest festival, when a splendid display of goods was donated, to be included in food parcels and for Morialta Children's Home. Offering, totalling £88/3/4, goes to fund for purchase of a motor car for pastor's use. So far £30/11/3 has been given to annual offering for Aborigines Department, and since Christmas £18/10/- has been donated for Christian Rest Home. Church has received Miss E. Lambert by transfer from Nailsworth, and Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Paddock, from Gawler. Removal of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Young and family to Mount Gambier takes two faithful workers, former being Sunday school superintendent, and Mrs. Young convener of catering committee. Through-the-week activity among young people has been combined. Mrs. W. T. Magarey has gone to England on a holiday trip.

Western Australia

Maylands.—Church is indebted to C. Hunt, Mr. Hillier, Mr. Olds and Mr. Greenwood for help during absence of Mr. McRoberts on vacation. On Feb. 8, 46th annual church business meeting was held. There were printed reports from preacher, treasurer, auditor, Bible school, youth council, Y.P.S.C.E., J.C.E., young women's fellowship, girls' club, boys' club, young men's club, women's guild, men's fraternal and tennis club. All auxiliaries are in a healthy condition, and many comments were expressed in a happy meeting of fellowship. Following officers have been appointed: Elders, J. Rhodes and A. McRoberts; deacons, Messrs. Ruscoe, Smetherham, Heyhoe, Blakemore, Harris, Dave Woods and Ian Humphrys. Church has been saddened by death of Tom Higgott, and sympathy is extended to Mrs. Higgott and family in sad bereavement. Girls' club visited Bassendean club last week, and a pleasant and profitable evening was enjoyed. Bassendean tennis team defeated Maylands on Feb. 25.

New South Wales

Taree.—On Feb. 19, services, both morning and evening, were well attended. Bible school reported good interest and attendances. A. B. Clark preached helpfully on both occasions, and at conclusion of evening service Janice Saxby, a Bible school scholar, who has gained distinction as a winner of State and Federal prizes in Commonwealth scripture examinations for several years, made good confession.

Lidcombe.—On Feb. 5, Y.P.S.C.E. conducted gospel service. Joe Davidson presided, and Ray Baker, John Christian, Noel Goodall and John Laidlaw delivered short addresses. Shirley Le Cornu and Grace Armstrong sang a duet, and Barbara Rees read lesson. On Feb. 19, harvest thanksgiving services were held. Arthur Baker spoke. Goods were presented to churches of Christ boys' home at Pendle Hill.

Marrickville.—Aims for "Crusade for a Christian World" were presented to church by P. E. Thomas at meeting on Feb. 18, when W. J. Crossman, conference president, was chairman. Crusade Sunday followed on 19th, when challenging sermons were given by P. E. Thomas. Appropriate messages by choir were an inspiration. Mrs. J. E. Lewis presided, and Mrs. Larcombe, president of women's conference, gave a stirring address at afternoon meeting. Youth fellowship has been formed. Junior and intermediate C.E. societies are being formed to meet Sunday afternoons also.

A young lady recently baptised was received into fellowship on Feb. 12.

Earlwood.—Meetings and messages on Feb. 26 were splendid. P. Nielsen exhorted church and A. Hinrichsen presented the gospel. One lady, a baptised believer, responded to invitation. Visitors included three Bible college students. Messengers' club resumed on 23rd, when Mr. Hartnell, from C.R.M.F., showed films of work in South America and East Indies. Women's fellowship contributed £10 toward boys' home at Pendle Hill. Seekers' club attended garden fete there on 25th, and provided tea for boys; cakes and biscuits were iced by the girls, after their club meeting of previous evening. Visitors to Earlwood are reminded that Nth. Bexley bus from Canterbury P.O. leaves at twenty past, and ten to the hour.

Victoria

Portland.—Thanksgiving day was held on Feb. 19, when church had fellowship with many visitors. S. Neighbour was speaker and his messages were appreciated. Rex Pitts was song-leader and soloist. 45 met in morning to break bread. Thankoffering to date reached £60/12/-. Church appreciates brethren at Blackburn releasing Mr. Neighbour.

Warracknabeal.—Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield have been on annual holidays; Mrs. Wakefield has not returned owing to illness of relatives. Wes. Harmer conducted service on Feb. 12. Girls' club re-commenced with a social. Dorothy Joyce attended camp at Hall's Gap. S.S. has commenced after holidays and also combined prayer meetings with Baptists.

Springvale.—On Feb. 12 attendances at both services were good, Mr. and Mrs. Munyard being received into fellowship and one young man was baptised at evening service. Mr. Mathieson, of Oakleigh church, gave fine messages at both services on Feb. 19, Mr. Bond being at Boort. £1500 has been paid off new chapel. Average weekly offerings have reached £14. Mr. Bond preached splendidly at both services on Feb. 26.

Hamilton.—Church and C.E. held a kitchen tea to honor Mr. and Mrs. Ron Groves (Miss Dulsey Stephenson) on Jan. 31. On Feb. 12, church enjoyed fellowship with Bernie Monk, home from Carnarvon. Mr. Monk addressed church on Sunday morning, and also Y.P.S.C.E. on Tuesday night. Church has pleasure in announcing that W. C. Jackel has accepted a call to Hamilton. Sunday school has commenced "The Build Your Church" campaign.

Malvern-Caulfield.—Attendance at meetings is being maintained. A young lady was baptised and welcomed into membership by Mr. Cole on Feb. 26. G. T. Black kindly took evening services, during brief holiday of preacher. A pleasant after-church function was held recently on occasion of golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Eames; a suitable presentation was made to them. Mr. Eames has served faithfully for many years as a deacon. During month a kitchen tea was held in appreciation of Alan Winkler and Gwenda Trembath, who were married on Feb. 5. Best wishes of church are with them in their new home at Murtoa, Vic.

North Williamstown.—On Jan. 25 Mr. Grainger and members conducted an open-air meeting on beach in conjunction with local ministers' fraternal. 28 young people were in camp on A.N.A. week-end. On 29th J. Dyson spoke at morning service and A. Haskell conducted gospel service. A kitchen tea was given to Geoff Ogden and Miss Nell Fraser, on Feb. 6, prior to marriage on 11th. On 12th Laurie Morgan had fellowship with church; Laurie is in isolation. Annual meeting was held on 8th, when reports of auxiliaries showed they were in good heart and improving, particularly young people's organisations. B. Mayne was added to officers' board, and Mrs. Wiltshire was appointed deaconess. Bible school teachers had a prayer meeting after school.

Coburg.—Since last report church has had three additions by faith and baptism. Mr. Lloyd and officers are preparing the next visitation crusade. Members feel a great loss in death of Linley Jenkins, Feb. 10. Russell Williams gained B.A. degree, and Ron Myerscough a three-year Galen scholarship.

Yarrowonga.—A successful Christmas tree was held, and fellowship enjoyed with a record gathering of children and parents. At annual business meeting J. Colless was added to office board, all others being re-elected. Sunday school is in good heart, with new scholars being added. Three baptised believers were received into fellowship on Feb. 26. Mr. Langford has returned from holidays; local brethren took services during his absence. Miss M. Colless is able to resume her nursing career, after a long illness.

Wedderburn.—Since last report meetings have been average: 23 in morning and 18 at night. Envelope system proved a success in 1949, when funds increased by 15 per cent., and an amount of £37/7/7 was raised for brotherhood departments: £11/10/- for home missions, £7/15/- for overseas, £5/10/-. College of Bible, £4/4/5 aboriginal work, £4/3/6 social service, and £4/4/8 Youth Department. Membership has increased by seven this conference year. On Feb. 5 church made a presentation to Lois Jackel in view of her approaching marriage to Lloyd Lanyon, of Boort. On Feb. 18, C. Jackel, of Warragul, officiated at wedding. V. Quayle has resigned as circuit preacher after two years of hard work. Church and circuit has accepted same with sincere regret. Churches at St. Arnaud and Wedderburn have agreed to form a circuit with help of Home Mission Committee.

Berwick.—At conclusion of T. Robinson's ministry on Dec. 4, church made presentation which was preceded by a social cup of tea. Whilst awaiting arrival of successor, Messrs. Dobbs, Mott and Story ably filled pulpit engagements. On Jan. 24 Dr. Kenneth Pike, of Michigan, U.S.A., spoke at evening service, giving outline of work done by students of Wycliffe School of Linguistics, which was opened in locality on Jan. 9. Several linguistic students have assisted at both Sunday services. On Feb. 5 Wilfred Douglas, of school, gave morning talk on work amongst aborigines at Carnarvon and Sunday Island. Prior to her marriage, a social evening and presentation was tendered to Miss Green, C.E. superintendent, on Feb. 4. Mr. Stevens, of college, commenced ministry with church on Feb. 12. Mrs. Kenneth Pike was speaker at Women's World Day of Prayer, held in chapel, on Feb. 24. Successful S.S. picnic at Mordialloc was held on Feb. 26, about 100 scholars and parents being present.

South Yarra.—During period without a minister, church has had as helpers Mr. Reid, Mr. Nixon, of Crusaders, Dr. Oldfield, Dr. Kemp, Mr. Pittman, Mr. Atkin, and C. Young for two Sundays. All auxiliaries are at work again. First meeting of ladies' guild was in form of picnic in Botanic Gardens. At midweek prayer meeting on 22nd, members spent a profitable time. Mrs. Barbour gave a short message on prayer and Mr. Hudson, from Tasmania, also spoke. Sunday school teachers have sent a parcel to Miss Skuce in India. On Jan. 22 a social was given Miss Hazel Smith and Harry McDonald in view of their marriage. On Feb. 5, Mr. Hargreaves officiated. Couple were recipients of gifts from church, cricket club, school, and Christian Endeavor. There were good meetings on Feb. 26, it being home-coming day; 138 were present at morning service. A. B. Withers and Alex Wilson were speakers for day, soloists being Miss Dorothy Clark, Miss Winnie Sandells, and Mr. Whittakar. A choir formed

by C.E. members rendered two items. Film "Faith Triumphant" was shown at school. Church sympathises with Misses Griffens in death of a sister. Mrs. Keilor is ill in hospital. J. E. Allan commences a short ministry on March 5.

Carnegie.—Christian men's society met at manse on Feb. 13, when annual meeting was held. Secretary reported successful year. Officers elected for new year were: president, George Beard; vice-president, Jack Whitten; secretary and treasurer, S. Jenner; chaplain, H. R. Coventry. After-church prayer meetings, in preparation for coming mission, are proving helpful. Mr. Coventry has been engaged by church for a further term as preacher. Bible school held annual picnic at Carrum on Feb. 25. Youth tea and youth service were held on Feb. 26, E. McIlhagger of Essendon, being speaker. Ern. Tremewan has entered Eye and Ear Hospital for operation. Mrs. Hill has been received by transfer from Dandenong.

Hartwell.—Bible school staff holds monthly conferences to discuss possible improvements in teaching methods. E. Mackey has been appointed superintendent; W. Baker, secretary; Miss D. Bond, treasurer; and Ian Mackey, assistant secretary of Bible school. Scholars enjoyed annual picnic at Mordialloc on Feb. 25. Choir recently made presentations to S. Piper and A. Morffew in appreciation of services as choir-master and organist respectively. Kitchen teas have been held in honor of Gwen Hall and Ray Morffew, and Nola Morrison and Reg. Brown. Gwen and Ray were married in chapel, Feb. 4. Our aged sister, Mrs. Hall, passed to her rest on Feb. 23, and on Feb. 25 Mrs. Gerrand was granted relief from her sufferings. Bruce Munro, missionary-elect for India, spoke at evening service, Feb. 5. Church renewed fellowship with Peter French at evening service, Feb. 19, when he was assisted ably by Miss Thora Bennett, who spoke to Young Workers' League.

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NEW BIOGRAPHIES

Pastor D. J. Findlay, by Alexander Gammie. A well-known Glasgow pastor who was a mighty force in missionary enterprise. 7/9 (8/3).

Mrs. Howard Taylor — Her Web of Time, by Joy Guinness. Life story of a remarkable woman of God. 19/6 (20/6).

Sweet Believing, by Jock Purves. Eight character studies of the Scottish Covenanters. 5/6 (5/9).

The Reward of Faith, by G. Godfrey Buxton. The story of Barclay F. Buxton, pioneer missionary of the Japan Evangelistic Band. 11/9 (12/-).

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SOCIAL SERVICE NOTES

(continued from page 101.)

set-back for reform from which the State will not recover for many years.

J. I. Mudford, who went to England to return with British migrants, will leave by the "Ormonde" on March 10, and is expected to reach Melbourne about one month later.

British churches of Christ have expressed thanks for the many food parcels sent from Australia. As a mark of appreciation, recipients have contributed a sum of about £150 towards the hospital fund of the Victorian Social Service Committee.

All sections of the Australian public are appreciative of the action of the Minister for Immigration in providing more humane treatment for such as have strong claims on our hospitality. We still adhere to the opinion that our Immigration laws are unnecessarily harsh and in some cases un-Christian.

Is it possible that most bush fires originate from the smoker? We think it is. Many smokers are both selfish and careless. Smoking should be prohibited in certain areas where danger from fire exists.

A brother has contributed a bale of wool to the hospital fund. This is being marketed. Anonymous donations of money and goods are frequently sent to us. Just recently, a number of parcels of valuable material was laid at our door. The depositor hurried away, refusing to divulge the name.

It is proposed to erect two further cottage-pairs at Oakleigh similar to those opened on December 10.

ADDRESSES

F. G. Burt (preacher Doncaster church, Vic.).—Manse, Main-rd., Doncaster.

Mr. G. Barnett (preacher Parkdale church, Vic.).—3 Rupert-st., Mordialloc, S.12.

TO LET

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ACCOMMODATION WANTED

Wanted by two young Tasmanians, associated with Invermay church, board with private family, Melbourne, for several weeks, commencing about March 3. Miss J. Mackenzie, 1 Dineen-st., Mowbray Heights, Launceston.

A company manager transferring to Melbourne desires to rent or purchase house, 3 bedrooms. Phone WF4822, or write to Mrs. H. F. Morris, 83 Riversdale-rd., Camberwell.

WANTED ELOCUTION PUPILS

Miss Lorna Ford, A.L.C.M., has vacancies and will be pleased to interview anyone at her home — 858 Hampton-st., North Brighton.

BOARD

Board and residence available at Glen Iris for a business woman. Good surroundings. References to "Glen," this office, or U2459.

BIRTH

THOMAS (Rhodes).—On Feb. 28, at Nethercourt, to Jessie and Don — a daughter (Elizabeth Anne). Mother and daughter both well. "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow."

SILVER WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Whittington announce with thanksgiving and pleasure the twenty-fifth anniversary of their marriage at Church of Christ, Balwyn, by the late J. E. Thomas, on Saturday, March 14, 1925. Present address, 23 Carroll-crescent, Glen Iris, S.E.6.

GOLDEN WEDDING

BADE-BERLIN.—On Mar. 7, 1900, at Rosewood, Qld., Herman Bade Childers to Martha, second daughter of the late Wm. Berlin. The late John Thompson officiated. Present address, Upper Howard-st., Nambour, Qld.

DEATHS

GERRAND.—Vivienne, wife of R. K. Gerrand, and mother of Paul and John, on Feb. 25, at her home, Welfare-pde., Ashburton, daughter of Mrs. L. M. Rich and the late G. J. Rich of Wagga, N.S.W.

HALL.—On Feb. 23, Fanny Martha, beloved widow of Edward Mackie, loved mother of Annie (Mrs. Piper, Sydney), Edith (deceased), Florence (Mrs. Hinrichsen), Edward, Mabel (Mrs. Bell), and Emily (Mrs. Wickham), and loved sister of Decima and Edith Griffin. Aged 87 years.

IN MEMORIAM

BURTON.—In treasured memory of Mrs. E. G. Burton, who entered into rest on March 3, 1949; also her dear husband, who passed away Oct. 3, 1948, beloved friends of A. M. Davey.

"How sweet the hour of praise and prayer,
When our songs of joy ascend;
'Tis then we hear in tones more clear,
The gracious promise given,
That, though we part from friends on earth,
We all shall meet in heaven."

FLOOD.—In fond memory of my dear wife and our loving mother.

"Not gone from memory or from love
But to her Father's home above."
—Inserted by her loving husband and daughters, Grace and Jessie.

COMING EVENTS

MARCH 15 (Wednesday).—The General Dorcas will meet in the Swanston-st. Lecture Hall from 10.30 a.m. till 4 p.m. Any sister interested in this work is invited to attend.

BAMBRA RD., CAULFIELD.

MARCH — "CRUSADE MONTH."

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Special Feature — A Week of "Crusade" Meetings,

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NORTH FITZROY 77th CHURCH

ANNIVERSARY,

MARCH 26.

11 a.m., Communion Service, preacher, Mr. K. Jones.

3 p.m., "An Hour of Music," with Olive Smyth, Ron Smyth, Raymond Meadows and Leslie Miers.

5 p.m., Community Tea.

7 p.m., preacher, Mr. D. Wakeley. Soloist, Miss I. Atkins.

SWANSTON ST. CHURCH

(opp. Public Library).

11 a.m., First address in new series on Fundamentals of our Faith, "The Inerrancy of the Word of God."

4.30 p.m., Studies in Daniel 11.

7 p.m., "Bringing in the Verdict."
Preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan.

BUCKLEY-ST., ESSENDON

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICES,

MARCH 19.

11 a.m., Preacher, P. R. Thickins.

7 p.m., Preacher E. F. G. McIlhagger.
Hospitality provided.

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

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BENTLEIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY,

MARCH 19.

3 p.m., H. Earle. 7 p.m., J. Wiltshire.

MARCH 26.

3 p.m., J. Shaw. 7 p.m., R. Bolduan.

Every Member is Invited to
A GARDEN PARTY

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COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE, GLEN IRIS, on
SATURDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 25.

Tea will be served at 3.15 p.m.

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—K. A. Jones, secretary.

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Open Forum

FOR "CHRISTIAN" READERS.

(Correspondents are reminded that letters should not be more than 300 words in length, that names and not pseudonyms should be used, and that once a writer has had his say on a particular topic he should leave the way open for somebody else. We do not desire unsatisfactory cross-firing. The insertion of a letter does not imply editorial approval of its contents.—Ed.).

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

MR. MACNAUGHTAN expresses anxiety at "the" association which Australian churches of Christ now have with the World Council of Churches."

As I see it, our affiliation with the W.C.C. in no ways binds us to anything it says any more than the decisions of our conference bind the local congregation. We may heartily disagree with some of the "leaders," so called, of the W.C.C., we may not like the attitude of some towards Rome; we may heartily disagree with certain other religious beliefs and practices regarded by others as Christian; and as I see the W.C.C., if we do so disagree, we must, to be true to the purpose of the W.C.C., and say so.

The W.C.C. is not a meeting house where all slap one another on the back and say, "Isn't it fine to be united!" It is a council chamber where differences are expected to be frankly ventilated, and none to forego his convictions. Statements, generally accepted by delegates, are prepared, but these do not link affiliated bodies or individuals. For us, of course, the criterion will be the mind of Christ, as revealed in the New Testament.

Does Mr. Macnaughtan believe we should never get alongside the person who disagrees with us and tell him what we believe? Christ sought the mistaken and let his words pour into them that they might be changed. Ours is a like mission. By denying ourselves the opportunity to speak in the councils of the W.C.C., we would be losing a distinct chance to share our convictions. I do not suggest that this is the only means of making our witness. It is one means. I do not expect results to come quickly. I believe God's truth will prevail ultimately.

In closing may I point out it could be just as right to disaffiliate with the Sunday Christian Observance Council, because we hold different views from most of the members re the Lord's Day and Sabbath question; the United Nations Association, because we do not agree with all the leaders re publications thereof; the Hospital Sunday Committee, because the R.C.'s are represented on it; or the Associated Youth Committee of the National Fitness Council or Council of Religious Education in Schools, on like grounds, as to disaffiliate with the W.C.C.

The W.C.C. is not a church, but a council of divided churches. As for me, I cannot see that we repudiate or compromise our principles one jot or tittle by our affiliation.—K. J. Patterson, Oakleigh, Vic.

FROM my observations may I offer kindly for your consideration the following suggestions:

1. That our plea is not "Christian Unity." Whilst we deplore sectarianism and can find many scriptures to support Christian Unity, at the same time let us remember we have NO COMMISSION from the Lord to unite the churches. Our plea is to preach the full-orbed gospel to every creature. If that makes division, as it sure will in some quarters, we are not to blame.

2. That the decision of our conference to affiliate with the W.C.C. was premature, and should be re-considered in light of present facts.

3. That we should have attended the W.C.C.

as observers only. The Romanists showed good sense in this regard. They know what they want and where they are going, without a doubt.

4. That the Holy Spirit can unite only on "TRUTH." There must be no compromise here. For instance the decision of conference to affiliate with the Greek Orthodox church with its superstition and idolatry in the W.C.C. is to attempt a fellowship of light with darkness, which is unscriptural.

5. To fall into line with the American Disciples of Christ was a mistake.

6. To expect churches and individuals (democratic in principle) to be bound by our conference which lauds the W.C.C., is to use an unscriptural method.

7. That the decision of the W.C.C. to accept the "LORDSHIP OF CHRIST" may be very misleading and deceiving — a kind of "cover up" veneer. It is already well established that many of its leaders are liberalists and others rank modernists who deny vital Bible truths.

8. That the churches of Christ instead of influencing the W.C.C. towards the Restoration of primitive Christianity will gradually lose their distinctive position. In fact, present trends show that this is already taking place. We certainly ate humble pie at Amsterdam in 1948!

I, for one, have not caught this "ecumenical" fever and would, as a humble lover of truth, warn our brotherhood of the present perils.—Cecil W. Jackel, Warragul, Vic.

I AM quite unconcerned as to anyone's personal attitude to the council, and it is to be appreciated that, where it is felt necessary, correction should be given. For all kindly concern for truth, we can be grateful. I am troubled, however, that there should be a feeling that we have been unadvisedly led into some harmful connection.

It is to be hoped that brethren favoring the connection are alert, as well as sincere. Surely at least some are; surely also they both know and accept the plea "for the unity of Christians in a restored New Testament church." It is this that has caused brethren, both in sincerity and judgment (and a solicitude for the church not essentially different from that of those who are opposed), to be interested in and associated with the World Council.

It is, of course, possible to find inadequacies, but wherever such exist, unity requires that they be met. It is for this reason that the accusation made by some that the World Council is too inclusive appears to be at fault. Our appeal (as churches of Christ) is to our brethren in all the churches. Conference and the Committee for the Promotion of Christian Union are not surrendering the position of churches of Christ, not even unintentionally. The World Council itself cannot bind churches connected with it.

Also, shall some be called lax, when only a fact is taken into consideration? "Rome" is at least a phase of church history, and unity requires acknowledgment of, and approach to, that part of the church. What is taken for laxity could be a spirit of love.

It is not necessary to view the council as complete or, as it now stands, as final. At most it can be only a means. It confesses to failure in the churches within it, and that in itself will be in vain unless Christians everywhere commit themselves to "the Lord of the church." May we not, must we not indeed, work even with an imperfect and quite fallible organisation toward the true unity of Christians?—A. B. Withers (Chairman Committee for Promotion of Christian Union).

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Youths' Magazine

Be Stedfast

IN a paper lately a picture appeared of a great cricketer, not in first-class cricket now, illustrating for schoolboys some batting points. You may have seen him. I am speaking of a famous Yorkshireman, Maurice Leyland. There was one test match in which I watched him score well over a hundred against the Australians, at a very tough time, too. Perhaps this sturdy toughness was Leyland's special feature, as the writer of a book, "Cricket Prints, Short Sketches of Famous Cricketers," brings out. Just listen to what he says about him. Of one critical moment he writes:

"He just stood, quietly dishing out defence."

Then here's another comment I might quote:

"He was Horatius on the tottering bridge; or Hector, who stood alone between Troy and destruction." Yes, that sort of doggedness usually is a Yorkshire trait.

But I think it's a British trait as well. One has seen it often in our history. General Gordon, for instance, when the Madhi, the Sudanese leader, asked to surrender, returned this message, "I am here like iron." In World War, No. 1, too, the Hun once put out opposite the trenches of the 51st Highland Division a placard with this wording on it — "Still sticking it, 51st?" And the 51st stuck it—doggedly. Like Maurice Leyland they "just stood, quietly dishing out defence."

Such steadiness though is a Christian characteristic too. Paul, by whom we are told to be "steadfast, unmovable," had it himself. As stirring a thing as ever he wrote was this — the sort of thing Mr. Churchill might have said in that black year 1940 — "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed."

Young people, also, used to show that spirit. Long ago one young Christian girl, in order to save her life, was asked to say she wasn't a Christian. "No," was

her answer, "I can only say what I am. I am a Christian."

So there may come occasions when, as Christians, you should stand firm. Like Maurice Leyland then may you "just stand, quietly dishing out defence." In your own strength you may not be able, but never forget there is One who, when you ask his help, will see you through.

"Ask the Saviour to help you,
Comfort, strengthen, and keep
you;
He is willing to aid you;
He will carry you through."

—Selected.

Reaching High Notes

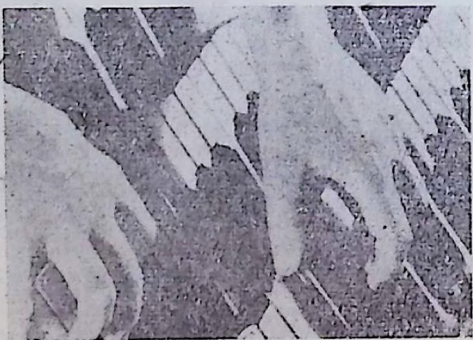
I WONDER if you like to sing? I think most of us do, even though we may not be very good at it! We may never aspire to singing a solo on a concert platform, or to singing in a choir, but at the very least we like to sing to ourselves when we are happy, or when we are in our bath!

However, some of you may be really keen on singing, and in the school choir or something of that sort, and if so you will be very interested in a piece of advice that is sometimes given by singing teachers to their pupils. It sounds very strange advice, but those who know about these things say that it works, so we should take notice of the experts.

One of the difficulties singers often have is that of reaching the top notes. The advice that the experts give is this: "To sing high, think down." Now that does sound queer, doesn't it? What it means is this: when you come to a bit of music that ascends high, you must not think "Oh, I'll never reach that note," because immediately you do that you take the first step towards failure.

Listen to what one of the experts says, "Instead, you must endeavour to think that the notes are going down instead of up. You may consider that almost impossible, but it can be done with practice. Just imagine that the notes are going

down, and, of course, allow the voice to go off into the head register when necessary." The writer goes on to say that one well-known choirmaster, in order to help his boys to think down when singing up, adopts the device of making the choir-boys hold their hands out in front of them, and look at them. Then as they sing up the scale, they lower their hands, watching them descend as their voices ascend. The result is that, instead of getting into a panic, and feeling that they will never reach the high notes, they relax more and more, and each note comes out easily and clearly.



The Jesus Man

A MISSIONARY had been left alone in charge of a supply depot from whence thousands of famine-stricken Chinese were fed. A starving boy crept up and punched his foot through a large soy bean cake and stuffed his mouth with a chunk of it. He started to run when the missionary approached, intending only to warn the boy of the danger of eating it raw.

The boy slipped, fell down the railroad embankment, and gashed his head. As the missionary ran down to help, the prostrate boy pleaded with the missionary not to kill him.

When the missionary bound up his head the boy asked, "Why do you do this to a thief?" He was told the Christian reason. Weeks later, the missionary, passing through a nearby village, heard a shout. "Father, come quick! Here comes the Jesus man!"

Modern "Giant Killers" for God

WHEN Martin Luther went alone to the City of Worms to meet a great host of his enemies, he showed no trace of fear. "God shall be on my side," he said. The result showed that this champion of the truth was right.

When William Wilberforce set out to fight the slave traffic, all the most influential people and powerful interests in the land were up in arms against him — so much so that the fight against slavery was called "a war of the pigmies against the giants." The "pigmy" fought on against the giant of slavery, but in the end the "pigmies" won, and slavery was abolished.

Reason

THE professor of chemistry was giving a demonstration of the properties of various acids.

"Now," he said, "I am going to drop this two-shilling piece into this glass of acid. Will it dissolve?"

"No, sir," replied one of the students.

"No?" said the demonstrator. "Even perhaps you will explain to the class why."

"Because," came the answer, "if it would you wouldn't drop it in."