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Our Future.

Victorian Conference Sermon,

Preached by H. E. Knott, M.A.

These Conference gatherings evoke the spirit of reminiscence and prophecy. We can well understand those whose memories go back several decades thinking of past achievements and rejoicing at the progress made, while to-day we look into the future to see if we can discern amid its shadows and shades the dim outline of victory.

Does our message possess sufficient truth to make it permanent and enduring? Our plea is a simple one, and therefore the answer is less difficult. It comprises faith in the Bible as the Word of God and loyalty to Christ as the Saviour of mankind. Our future is, therefore, dependent on the future of the Bible and the response of the world to the appeal of Christ.

While the message, however, may possess eternal qualities or elements, there are human factors that will decide our rate of progress, for it is God's way of working to reach men through men. The extent to which these characteristics, of which I am now to speak, abound in us, to that extent will be our future progress.

1. Vision.

"Where there is no vision the people perish." The converse of this is also true, and where there is a vision the people live and endure.

A vision has been the incentive to every great achievement. To-day men living in the four corners of the earth are made neighbors through the power of steam, but this marvellous result goes back to the time when a man mused over a tea-kettle and had a vision. The law that governs the movements of the planets, and enables astronomers to determine the exact time and place that an eclipse or a comet can be seen, was discovered by a man who wondered why an apple should fall to the ground.

The Suez Canal existed in the mind of De Lesseps before it became a reality. Napoleon is said to have received his youthful vision on the fateful day that he read Bishop Bosuet's "Discourse on Universal History," with its description of Alexander and Cæsar. When he finished reading they tell us that he sprang to his feet, face flushed, eyes blazing with fire as he cried out: "I, too, shall be a conqueror, and perhaps an emperor." When great tasks seize the mind of man, tremendous results are possible.

A vision is behind all true service for God and humanity. It was a vision that made

Martin Luther the monk into Martin Luther the reformer. It was a vision that made Dr. Livingstone the great missionary explorer of the Dark Continent. It was a vision that caused Dr. Barnardo to give up the emoluments of a great medical career and become father to the waifs and strays of London. It was the sermon of a preacher declaring that the world had not yet seen what it was possible for one fully consecrated man to accomplish that gave a vision to Dwight L. Moody, and produced the greatest evangelist of the nineteenth century.

The same principle is illustrated by the characters of Scripture. Joseph became a ruler in Egypt, but he had a vision in Palestine. Amos declares three times in one chapter, "Thus the Lord God showed me," and so he left his flocks in Tekoa and stirred Israel with his denunciation of social injustice.

Jeremiah in beginning his prophecy said "Jehovah touched his mouth," and so he left the country sanctuary at which he officiated, and as a lone man, perhaps bravest among the prophets, he carried the message of God to wayward Israel.

Isaiah informs us that he was in the temple, when he received his call. He points us to the prerequisite that will give us the vision to do bigger things in days to come. Before he received his call and found his opportunity he declared before God "Woe is me; for I am undone, I am a man of unclean lips." It was the consciousness of sin within that opened up the way for the vision of God's purposes without, and before we can hope for a larger vision without, there must be a greater work of grace within. "I came, I saw, I conquered," declared Cæsar, and we will have to follow the same sequence, for we will never achieve victory until we first of all have the vision.

2. Faith.

Having a vision, we need faith to carry it out, or else the vision becomes a dream.

We need faith in the *power of God*. One of the weaknesses of our modern Christianity is the extent to which we take into account the forces *about* us, and forget the forces *above* us. We remember the case of Elisha. Benhadad, king of Assyria, wishes to attack Israel. His carefully laid traps are avoided in such a way as to assure him that the king of Israel is cognisant of his plans. He declares that there is a traitor in

the camp. One of his servants suggests that the prophet in Israel makes known all Benhadad's secrets to his enemy. Benhadad then turns his attention to Elisha, and seeks to capture him. One morning Elisha's servant awakens up to find the village of Dothan, where they lived, surrounded by the chariots of the Syrian king. In despair he cries: "Alas! my master, what shall we do?" The calm response is, "Fear not, they that be with us are more than they that be with them." We need this faith in God. The strength of Satan's bulwarks need not discourage us, if only we have faith in the power of heaven's artillery to overthrow them. "The fight is likely to be very bitter, Mr. Lincoln," said one of his colleagues at the opening of the civil war; "Don't you think we had better get God on our side?" "No," replied Mr. Lincoln, "let us get on God's side." "The devil wins the skirmishes, but God always wins the battles." Let us get on God's side and trust him.

We need greater faith in the *power of the Gospel*. If there should seem to be those influences operative in the world to-day which weaken the power of the gospel, and make it less than formerly a direct message from God to man, there are facts as potent as ever to establish it. Such influences only increase the need and enlarge the opportunity for our message, and I trust that the time will never come when the preachers of the Churches of Christ will deny or controvert the facts of the gospel of Christ. The apostolicity and simplicity of our message is what gives vitality to our movement, and as long as our message is akin to that of Pentecost, progress will be inevitable.

Paul gives us a splendid example of faith in the gospel. When he started out with his message he did not go to the obscure parts, but with a magnificent faith and unbounded zeal he turned to the centres of influence and power. He faced the commercial city of Corinth, the cultured and intellectual city of Athens, was anxious to preach the gospel in the imperial city of Rome, and even in old age had a vision and a faith that made him anxious to go to Spain, "the extreme boundary of the West," that he might have some fruits in the gospel there also. If we have the same message, then it only remains for us to have Paul's vision and Paul's faith and we, too, will be impelled to do bigger things, and for the future, as our faith it will be unto us.

Faith is a venture, but it is a venture with God. Carey was told that he might as well preach to the monkey in the jungle as to the Hindus, but the miracle of modern missions is the answer. Dr. Morrison, on his way to China, was asked by the captain of the vessel if he expected to convert 300,000,000 Chinese to Christianity, and the youth replied: "No, I do not; but I expect God will."

"Oh! for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by every foe;
That will not tremble on the brink
Of any earthly woe.

"A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without,
That when in danger knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt."

Lord, give us such a faith as this.

These lines bring us to the place where the next step is suggested:

3. Prayer.

Does it come to you as a disappointment that I should mention what seems to be almost a platitude? If so, it is justified by the fact that to-day it is being described as a lost art.

The present tendency is to trust methods. We are inclined to try every resource under heaven that human wisdom and ingenuity can invent before this divine method. Organisation has been emphasised, and over-emphasised, but the machinery of committees and organisations will be as fruitless as the Bethany fig-tree, and end in simply creating a stir, unless we make our plans upon our knees.

Prayer is Christ's method. As Christ sat by Sychar's well, he directed the attention of his disciples to the cities and villages round about, which he declared were white unto harvest. He said to them, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

We have a supernatural task which demands supernatural strength. The conquest of the world for Christ would be the wildest dream that could seize the imagination of men were it attempted in human strength. If the sword of the Mohammedan and the ignorance of the heathen were the only obstacles we might try other means, but "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers." A super-human programme demands superhuman strength, and the only thing that justifies attempting such a task is the assured presence and power of God. We might as well try to move the earth off its axis as to conquer this world for Christ without prayer. Prayer is the power by which every great conquest of the gospel has been achieved from Pentecost till the present, and it will decide the victories of the future. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest. Pray always. Pray without ceasing. It is the Master's way. It is the sure way. It is the only way.

And so by vision we see, by faith we act, by prayer we accomplish. And now abideth vision, faith, and prayer, these three, but the greatest of these is prayer.

New South Wales Conference, 1914.

The General Conference opened with the Foreign Mission Rally in Enmore Tabernacle. J. Clydesdale (F.M. President) presided. Musical and elocutionary items were given by Misses O'Dell, Fraser and Murray, and Messrs. J. Andrews and F. A. Horsey.

An apology was received from Dr. Bowie, of the Presbyterian Hospital at Ambrym, New Hebrides.

H. G. Harward was the first speaker, and said that the logic of our plea demands Foreign Mission enterprise. "O-missionary" or "anti-missionary" cannot rightly describe those who contend for primitive Christianity. If we took out of the Book all that deals with missions we would have very little left. Christ was a missionary—sent by God. We must restore the missionary activities of the New Testament church. They went everywhere preaching the word, and their success is to be attributed to their missionary zeal.

L. A. Paternoster, President and F.M. Secretary of the South Australian Conference, also spoke. He said that the great call coming to the church at home to-day is the cry of over 1,000,000,000 people scattered over the face of the earth. China, with her 400,000,000, and where we as churches have but one representative, is calling. Africa, the land of quick returns, is open to us. India, where we are at present most largely represented, is our opportunity. Yet we are doing so little to heed these calls. This is a work calling for the consideration of the men of the churches. The women who have gone have done a work only women can do, and we honor them for their noble self-sacrifice, and deep consecration. Yet the men of the churches must be brought to realise the Lord has called them to this work. In all our work we need to follow a policy of education. Missionary lessons should be given in the Bible Schools. Business men should get together to study missions and to pray for the work. Literature should be freely used, and lectures given by the preachers or other qualified workers. All this is work for men to do or see done in the name of the One who said, "Go ye into ALL the world."

BUSINESS SESSION.

The business session opened on Friday at 9 a.m. with a devotional service led by F. Collins. The President took the chair at 9.15, and in his presidential address said that the object of the Conference was evangelism. Good solid progress had been made in the past year, but it had not been altogether what we had desired. Churches were gaining in size and numbers, and new buildings were being erected. We needed to cultivate the spirit of greater obedience to the Master. The apostolic church preached Christ. They had one story, one message. They had great faith in the Master and in his word. The speaker accepted the Old Testament because the Saviour and the

apostles accepted it. When we question the inspiration and power of the Word our influence will have gone. They used personal effort. They did not depend upon those who gave themselves entirely to the work, they could not keep their message to themselves. We need to copy the striking features of the primitive church; their mission and message are unsurpassed in these days.

Greetings were received from the Victorian, South Australian, West Australian, Queensland and Tasmanian Conferences; also from the Northern District and Northern Suburbs Conferences; from the Sisters' Conference; Bren. F. G. Dunn, W. H. Clay, T. W. Smith, A. T. Waters, F. G. Filmer, A. B. Chappell, S. Corey of U.S.A., Dr. Bowie of Ambrym, and Sister Tilley. During the Conference a wire was received which conveyed the greetings of the N.S.W. boys in college.

Visitors were welcomed and admitted to the privileges of the Conference. Responses were made by R. Enniss, of the Bible College; Jas. E. Thomas, of Adelaide; and Bro. Birchill, of the W.A. Home Mission Committee. Evangelists who had come to labor in the State were welcomed in the persons of W. Gale, A. E. Forbes and W. Morton.

The churches at St. Peters, Chatswood, Gilgandra and Balmain applied for and obtained admission to the Conference.

The Obituary Report was presented by F. Collins, and showed 45 calls to higher service as against 22 last year. This is an exceptionally large list, and includes several of the pioneers of the church.

STATISTICS.

The Statistical Register shows 41 churches, with a combined membership of 4259. The additions by faith and baptism were 241; as baptised believers, 119; by restoration, 14; by letter, 219.

The losses were 190 by letter, 40 by death, and 397 by discipline and revision of roll. There has been a decrease of 34 church members. There are now 38 Bible Schools on the register, and others in the country not tabulated. These schools report 3104 scholars, 324 teachers, and 81 additions to churches from the schools. There are 24 church buildings owned by the churches, an increase of two for the year.

The increase in the Bible School department of 388 scholars and 50 teachers is decidedly encouraging.

There has been a heavy decrease under "Discipline and Revision of Roll." Six churches were responsible for 302 losses under this head. Three of these had done little or no revising for the last two years, and it would appear that some of the losses reported this year could more correctly be charged to past years. The returns given this year are a truer statement of our strength.

The churches helped by the Home Mission Committee have continued to progress. They report 70 baptisms, 17 baptised believers, and 7 restorations, and a net increase of 38 members, 126 Bible School scholars, 17 teachers, one new Bible School and one new chapel.

A good discussion gathered around "Statistics." H. G. Harward said that the reason of the loss in membership was that the churches had largely lost the evangelistic spirit. Jacob Saxby urged all to remember that organisation while good could never be

secondary to spirituality. Several urged that the morning meeting should be made more attractive to children who are not members. J. Stimson said that our young people should be trained better and used more. W. Day pointed out that the greatest loss was under the heading of Revision of Roll, and contended that if more were done to keep in touch with those who moved to places where there was no church of Christ, the loss would not be so great.

FINANCE.

The total income was £1380/0/6, including a credit balance brought forward of £5/16/3. A study of the financial statement will reveal a decline in the gross receipts. The difference between the nett and gross income in the past has been made up largely of contributions from Home Mission churches towards the salaries of their evangelists. As these churches are being transferred to the subsidised class there will continue to be a decrease in the gross income.

The nett income, which represents gifts to Home Mission work, was £1051/17/11, as against £1212/13/2 last year. If, however, from last year's amount is deducted the sum given for the Scoville mission, the nett income for the year just closed is found to be practically the same as last year—the difference being £19/9/11 in favor of 1913, but if church officers who delayed the sending in of their annual offerings had been prompt (£13/8/6 having been received since the books closed) these figures would have been reduced to £6/1/5.

We began with a credit of £5/16/3, and ended in credit £88/7/11; but we expect that by the time this report is discussed this will have vanished.

The annual offering was £325/17/2, not including the £13/8/6 mentioned above, against £390/9/4 for 1913. The shortage may be attributed to expenditure by some of the churches on land, buildings, etc., and to the drought over portions of the State.

While the amount per individual shows a gratifying increase of £9/4/11 (£452/13/3 as against £361/10/4), there has been a falling off in the amount per collector of £38/5/6 (£200/15/1 as against £239/0/7). These accounts to a certain extent overlap, and it may be possible to explain the rise and fall by contributions having been sent direct to the Committee instead of through a collector.

The financial discussion referred mainly to the necessity for the systematic giving of small sums, this being regarded as the solution of the problem. Bro. Rossell expressed the opinion that picture shows, sport and amusements of various kinds were affecting both the work and the giving power of the members.

Advertisements in Newspapers of Sunday Services.—Bro. Illingworth told of brethren who were strangers to Sydney passing the churches which did not advertise to come to those which do. Jos. Fraser urged the churches to advertise for the sake of immigrants arriving from our churches in the old land.

"Australian Christian."—Under this heading the Editor was commended for the quality of his paper and for his help to the churches. An agent of the paper drew attention to the Post Office people's delay in delivering the paper in and around Sydney, considerable inconvenience having been caused by this.

College of the Bible.—The name of F. Morton (Canley Vale) was added to the list of students who had preached in New South Wales during the vacation.

R. Enniss, Organising Secretary of the

College, sketched its development from its inception seven years ago. He referred to the high qualifications of the principal and staff, to the self-denying efforts of the students, who were described as men of grit. There never had been a greater demand for preachers than there is to-day. If every student were qualified he could be placed in a field at once. He suggested three ways of helping: 1. Send suitable students to the College. 2. Induce those who enter to remain until they finish their courses. 3. Give towards the support of the work. £1500 is needed yearly. This must come direct from the brethren, as there is no endowment or other source of income. The following resolution was carried: "That this Conference expresses its thanks to the Board of Management of the College of the Bible for sending the Organising Secretary to this meeting, and desires to assure the Board and Faculty of the sympathetic interest of the churches herein represented."

Federal Conference.—J. E. Thomas appealed for a good representation to be sent from N.S.W. to the Federal Conference in Adelaide next September.



Alan Price.

The new Conference President, N.S.W.

State Evangelist.—Bro. Harward reported having given 300 addresses in buildings and 38 in the open air, with 78 additions as the result. He had been disappointed with the result. His work opened with stormy weather in the mission at Lilyville, and ended with the tent being blown down in a storm at Hornsby. In between there had been small-pox, and the excessive heat of the dry summer. In most cases churches did not want missions. Personally he had been treated splendidly by the brethren. He urged the churches to arrange a special mission in each place during the year, and stated that he would like a work to be done at the Temple that would help the whole brotherhood. Bro. Enniss urged that each church with a preacher should lend him to the Home Mission Committee for a two weeks' mission during the year, this having been done successfully in Victoria. J. E. Thomas endorsed the idea, saying it had been tried in South Australia.

Organising Secretary.—H. G. Payne having expressed his desire to be relieved of this work owing to the impossibility of doing it in conjunction with that of an evangelist, the following recommendation to the Home Mission and Bible School Committee was carried: "(a) That in the opinion of

this Conference the time has arrived for special attention to be given to the work of organisation; (b) As a means to this end, this Conference is of the opinion that some well-known evangelist be secured to devote his whole time to the organisation of Home Missionary enterprises, and to the work of the Bible Schools Committee. (c) That an office be secured as a base of operations. That the questions of salary, allocation of time, other duties, etc., be determined by a conference of the respective committees. (d) That steps be taken also to establish under his supervision a central 'Bureau of Information,' of which the said organiser might be managing director. (e) That the whole of these suggestions be sent on to the respective committees as a scheme worthy of careful consideration."

Revision of Constitution.—A. Price, T. E. Rofe, E. J. Hilder, L. Rossell, and W. Day were appointed a Committee to revise the constitution and report to the Executive three months before the next Conference.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

President, Alan Price.

Vice-President, E. J. Hilder.

Secretary, W. H. Hall.

Assistant Secretary, A. W. Shearston.

Treasurer, C. J. Lea.

Home Mission Committee: F. Collins, A. E. Illingworth, H. G. Harward, J. Stimson, T. E. Rofe, J. Kingsbury, G. T. Walden.

Foreign Mission Committee: J. Clydesdale, F. T. Saunders, A. Bland, G. H. Browne, H. Stephenson, F. J. Winks, J. Fox.

Bible School Committee: Dr. Bardsley, Geo. Stimson, A. H. Webber, H. G. Payne, S. Gole, F. S. Steer, T. Bagley.

Temperance Committee: A. E. Forbes, E. Grant, G. W. Logan, H. James, J. S. Garden, G. O'Dell.

Building Extension Committee: The Directors for the time being of the Building Extension Fund.

Home Mission Churches.—These had received the help of 9 evangelists for the whole of the year, 5 for part, making a total of 14. Reports from these fields were made as follows: Auburn, A. E. Forbes and T. Morton; Belmore, G. H. Browne and G. Stimson; Chatswood, T. Bagley; Erskineville, J. Clydesdale; Hornsby, H. G. Payne; Merewether, Bren. Fretwell and Nesbit; Junee, Bro. Casperson; Marrar, F. A. Cowall; Lidcombe, Mark Andrews; Lilyville, F. T. Saunders; Mosman, Alan Price; Richmond-Tweed District, W. Morton and H. B. Robbins; Wagga, A. Brown. The following resolution was passed: "That this Conference extends to W. J. Williams its loving sympathy with him in his illness, and invokes the blessing of the Father on the efforts to restore him to health."

Recommendations Affecting the Future.—These included the continuance of the work already being done, with the inclusion of St. Peters church in a circuit with Erskineville, and an attempt if possible to establish a cause at Balmain, also that the

Home Mission Committee be asked to arrange for special missions in each church during the year.

Aged and Infirm Preachers' Trust.—Resolved, "That this Conference of Churches of Christ in N.S.W. expresses its approval of the aims and objects of the Aged and Infirm Evangelists' Trust, and cordially commends the same to the favorable consideration and support of the churches in N.S.W. and the brethren generally."

Resolved, "That Bro. Jas. Hunter be supplied with a letter of commendation for use in his travels, and that he convey to the British Conference the greetings of the New South Wales brethren."

There being a little time to spare before tea, representatives of country churches not under the Home Mission Committee were invited to speak. Bren. Cosh and Lewis, of Inverell; W. Waters, of Narrabri; and E. J. Saxby, of Taree, responded to the invitation.

HOME MISSION MEETING.

At 7.15 Bro. Tingate led a song service, and at 7.45 the Home Mission demonstration was held. The speakers were J. E. Thomas ("The Service that Counts"), and Chas. Rush ("The Importance of Church Extension"). W. D. Rankine, R. K. Whately and T. Heaton sang solos, accompanied by P. W. Dixon. There was a good audience, and the meeting was inspiring.

Bro. Thomas, speaking from 2 Sam. 24: 24, said that service and sacrifice were inseparable. Sacrifice is giving something for another that good may come. Sacrifice is a law of nature—to give, to decay, to pass away, that something better may be. It is a spiritual law. God could not bring salvation without the sacrifice of his Son. Service and sacrifice really atone for sin. We cannot win the world unless we pay the price. Service and sacrifice are the answer of love—volitional, imperative, unchanging, unflinching. It is the principle of the Christian life. If we have the right motive, that counts, that is imperative, that drives, we will do our best. Sacrifice is the only thing that counts. There is no business we are engaged in that gives a better return than the saving of souls through Christ. If we want to get anything out we must put in; as we give, so we will receive.

Chas. Rush said that Haggai in connection with the rebuilding of the Temple was the first Extension Secretary. The Church Extension Fund gave permanency. Preservation must accompany organisation. It gave security. Churches take heart when they know they will be helped. It means efficiency. We have the energy in the brotherhood, and the desire to help, but it is not running in the right way. He appealed to the brethren to take shares in the fund.

The collection for Home Missions realised £421/13/3 in cash and promises.

SATURDAY'S SESSIONS.

On Saturday morning J. E. Thomas addressed the preachers and speaking brethren on "The Man Four-square," the four sides

of the preacher being the physical, intellectual, social and spiritual. It was a splendid address, and deserved a better audience. At 1 p.m. adjournment was made for lunch, those present being the guests of the Enmore Dorcas Class.

At 2 p.m. W. Morton led the devotional service, and at 2.15 the Foreign Mission report was taken.

At the Chinese Church, A. John Sing had succeeded W. Jame as evangelist, and had been joined by his wife, a trained worker from China. The need of a meeting place for the Chinese Church was again emphasised, the present arrangement not being satisfactory to either the Chinese or the members of the City Temple.

In connection with the work in the New Hebrides, the following resolution was passed: "This Conference enters its protest against the grave miscarriage of justice in the New Hebrides; and its abhorrence of the cruelties inflicted upon the natives through the illegal recruiting of labor, sale of liquor, and importation of arms; and that we combine with the Anti-Slavery and Aborigine Protection Society, through our Foreign Missionary Society, in securing for the native races of the Pacific conditions consistent with our standard of manhood as a Christian nation."

In describing the work on the Islands, Bro. Saunders forecast the day when New South Wales would support the whole work on the Islands, and the later day when the plantations of the mission stations would make the work self-supporting.

From India came the report of the starting of a new station at Shrigonda, also the opening of two new stations in connection with Bro. Strutton's work.

Sympathetic reference was made in the report of the work in China, to the death of Bro. Ware, and the Conference passed a resolution of sympathy with Sister Ware and family.

FINANCE.

The gross income of the Committee has reached the sum of £1546/4/9, an increase over the previous year of £106/9/8. When consideration is given to the fact that the receipts from the Federal Treasurer, £683/13/5, are £24/13/4 less than the amount so received during the previous year, it will be seen that the progress is very satisfactory. The amount received from this State was £862/11/4, and this represents an increase of £131/3/-. There is a credit balance of £44/6/4 as compared with the debit balance of £18/3/4 with which the year opened.

The annual offerings this year have been distinctively successful. The July offering was the largest ever made in this State for any purpose, the sum of £529/2/8 being received. This compared with last year's offering of £403, marks a splendid increase. The Children's Day offering totalled £96/17/11; as compared with £86/0/7 last year. The collectors have forwarded the sum of £128/14/3 during the year, an increase of £21/14/7 over last year, when £106/19/8 was received.

Features of the year's work had been the sharing in a Conference with other missionary bodies in Sydney, as a result of which a "Handbook of Missionary Organisation" had been published. Mission study circles had been organised, and in this work Miss M. Oldfield had given great assistance.

It was recommended by Conference that the financial aim for the year be £1150;

that an endeavor be made to secure direct representation of this State on the Foreign field; that mission study circles be established in every church, and that regular instruction in Foreign Missions be given in Bible Schools; also that the F.M. Committee confer with the H.M. Committee with a view to arranging for a missionary committee in every church and an every-member canvass.

At 2.45 an adjournment was made to allow of a demonstration of kindergarten methods being given by Miss Olga Schache, B.A., and her helpers and kinders from North Sydney. This was arranged by the Bible School Committee, and was an interesting and instructive exhibition. At the close Geo. Stinson, President of the Bible School Committee, made a presentation to Miss Schache to mark the Committee's appreciation of the work she had done, particularly in giving a course of lectures on kindergarten methods.

The F.M. report was resumed at 4.15, and completed by the time of the tea adjournment.

At 7 p.m. W. Waters led a devotional service, and at 7.15 business was resumed. The Chapel Extension Fund report was taken, and showed that within three months after registration it had been possible to help Mosman with a loan. An anonymous friend had purchased 200 shares, and had directed that the interest on half should be paid to the Home Mission Committee and on the other half to the F.M. Committee. Discussion of this report showed that the brethren were becoming better acquainted with the methods and objects of the company, and brethren who had formerly been opposed to the idea expressed their approval of the fund. The report was adopted unanimously.

The Temperance Committee's report was adopted after amendment which deleted the words, "Your Committee is of the opinion that you should abolish the said Committee." The resolutions submitted were passed with a clause providing that the proposed State referendum be taken in addition to the present local option vote. All the resolutions are here given:—"That this Conference urges the Government to place before the people in addition to the local vote, a State referendum on the prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and importation of alcoholic beverages, both local and State issues to be decided by a bare majority of the votes cast." "That the churches be urged to form juvenile Temperance Organisations." "That the Temperance Committee be asked to give consideration to the question of the proportion of licenses that have been cancelled where reduction has been carried." "That the Government be urged to amend the Licensing Act, to permit the Temperance party to be represented at the Reduction Courts." "That it be a recommendation to the Temperance Committee that they ask the churches to hold meetings, in order to raise money for the reduction of the New South Wales Alliance Campaign Debt."

Bible Schools Report.—Discussion of this report was hampered by the lateness of the

hour when it came up. Approval was expressed of the work of Bro. Gale, and of Miss Schache, and the following recommendations passed:—"That arrangements be made during the year for the organiser to visit all the country schools." "That the spirit of the primary department be fostered, and efforts continued to secure a properly organised and equipped department in connection with each school." "That efforts be made to develop better organisations in the junior and intermediate departments in the schools, and if possible, Conferences be arranged to inspire and train the teachers in these departments."

The following general resolutions were passed: "That urgent consideration be given to Newcastle as a centre for the evangelisation of the Newcastle district." "That the Chinese Church be represented by a delegate upon the Foreign Mission Committee."

Earlier in the Conference, when the election of officers was being made, the following amendment of the Constitution was carried: "That the clause appointing a Building Extension Committee adopted in 1911 be struck out, and the following words substituted: 'A Building Extension Committee consisting of the Directors and Secretary for the time being of the Churches of Christ Chapel Extension Fund Limited, which shall encourage and promote the building and extension or alteration of chapels and school rooms. It shall be responsible to Conference, and shall duly report its proceedings thereto. The members of the Committee shall not be considered ineligible by reason of having been elected to any other committee, anything to the contrary in the Constitution notwithstanding.'"

Resolved, "That the next Conference be held at Enmore Tabernacle."

Votes of thanks were passed to visitors from other States who had addressed the Conference; to the Sisters' Conference; to singers and players; the officers and church at Enmore for use of building; to F. Collins for arranging hospitality for visitors; and to Miss Schache, for her demonstration.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

A good audience assembled in the City Temple on Sunday afternoon for the Conference Sermon, preached by J. E. Thomas from 2 Cor. 2: 16, the subject being, "The Challenge of the World to the Church of To-day." "And who is sufficient for these things?" This is the question that comes from a heart filled with a passion for souls. We shall consider the world's need and our message, and see whether either that or ourselves and our methods should be altered. The problems that confront the church are social and economic, the worldly spirit, materialism, rationalism. The message of the church was sufficient to answer these problems in ancient days. The world was probably worse when Jesus came than it is to-day. The only cure was the gospel he gave. The church is answering the challenge in giving Christian statesmen, ambassadors,

soldiers, poets, business men, missionary enterprise, Christian nations, colleges, hospitals, and orphanages. In order to answer the call the church needs a new vision of the value of a person, and of personal responsibility. It needs deeper spirituality and consecration, and an aggressive evangelism. We must not be pessimistic. By the foolishness of preaching God will save men. It is for us to go out preaching the gospel that answers the world's need.

On Easter Monday at Mosman at 10.30

the annual meeting of the Chapel Fund was held. At 11 the foundation tablet of the new chapel at Mosman was laid. G. T. Walden presided. T. E. Rofe performed the ceremony, and an appeal for funds resulted in the obtaining of £50 for the Mosman building. About 40 shares of the Chapel Fund were disposed of during the day, and it is expected that this number will reach 100 as a result of the gathering.

A picnic at Balmoral Beach brought the Conference to a happy ending.

Victorian Women's Conference, 1914.

THANKS.

Resolved, that we render heartfelt thanks to our heavenly Father for all his loving-kindness and sparing mercy during the past year; to the officers of our Sisters' Council, and to the superintendents of committees for their self-denying labor of love; to the editor of "Australian Christian" for printing reports in paper; to officers of Swanston-st. and Lygon-st. churches for use of their building; to organist and pianist, the scrutineers and ladies at the door, and to all who helped at, and contributed to, our enjoyment of this Conference.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, that we as a sisterhood do all in our power to maintain the sanctity of the Lord's day, and discountenance any encroachment upon the right of all to a day of rest.

Resolved, that we aid commonsense methods of safeguarding the young morally and physically, giving our loyal support to the Lord's day School.

Resolved, that as far as possible we take an active part in helping the temperance organisations in obtaining local prohibition.

VICTORIAN WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, 1914.

The twenty-ninth Women's Conference was held in Lygon-st. chapel on Wednesday, April 8, 1914; President, Mrs. Chown, in the chair.

Mrs. Huntsman led the morning devotions.

Minutes of last year's meeting were read and confirmed.

Decided to hold the next Conference in Lygon-st chapel on Wednesday prior to Good Friday.

Resolved to have Conference reports printed in "Christian" as usual, and that the best thanks of the sisters be conveyed to Bro. F. G. Dunn, the editor, for his courtesy.

The Secretary was granted an allowance for Executive expenses.

Essayist appointed for 1915 was Miss W. Ludbrook.

The following reports were presented and received:—Executive, Treasurer's, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Benevolent, Isolated Sisters, Dorcas and Church

Aid, Kindergarten, Temperance, Hospital Visitation, Obituary.

The proposed revision of Constitution was referred back to the Executive.

The matter of appointing delegates to the Federal Conference to be held in Adelaide this year was left in the hands of the Executive.

Greetings were received from Mr. and Mrs. Percy Pittman (India); Mrs. Varcoe (Victoria); Mrs. T. B. Fischer (South Australia); Mrs. Haigh (Queensland); Miss Klose (West Australia); Miss Manning (South Australia); Mrs. Andrews (N.S.W.); Bro. T. W. Smith (Secretary of General Conference).

Secretary was instructed to send greetings to our missionaries, the General Conference, and several individual members.

Afternoon devotions were conducted by Mrs. T. Hagger.

Mrs. Chown introduced Misses Cameron and Tole, accepted candidates for the mission fields.

Bro. J. E. Thomas (South Australia) gave a short address.

Mrs. W. C. Craigie welcomed the visitors. Mrs. P. A. Dickson (South Australia), Mrs. Shearston (N.S.W.), Mrs. W. C. McCallum (America), responded.

Resolutions and thanks were proposed by Miss Hill.

Thirty-nine churches responded to the roll call.

Obituary, prepared and read by Mrs. R. Thompson, told of 38 sisters "called home."

Bro. W. H. Allen gave a farewell address, in which he said he felt it a privilege to have been a co-laborer with the women of Victoria. The relationship had been in the main very helpful and always interesting. If as a result of the brief comradeship together, sympathy and love have been the resultant, then the world had been made the better by the mutual faith.

Mrs. S. G. Griffith led the evening devotions.

Hon. President's (Mrs. A. K. Thurgood's) message, "What the Bible should be to Us," was read by Miss Hill.

The Conference Essay was prepared and read by Mrs. G. Manifold, on "The Brightening Outlook."

Bro. J. J. Franklyn gave an address on "Woman's Work in the Temperance

Cause." In the course of his address Mr. Franklyn said that the subject of temperance reform was regarded as the greatest effort of modern times to remove from civilised countries the fruitful cause of the greater percentage of wrong and poverty. The brainiest men and women of almost every country were in grips with the liquor traffic, and America was cited as the world's object lesson, where prohibition sentiment and vote was sweeping through the country like a prairie fire. One of the main reasons why the women should take a hand at this great reform movement was the fact that the legalised liquor traffic was against all that was best in our civilisation—the home, the school, and the church. In view of the approaching poll in Victoria, the women were urged to acquaint themselves with the latest data regarding the operation of No-License and prohibition in other lands.

The officers elected for the year were:—President, Mrs. Chown (re-elected); Vice-Presidents, Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook, Mrs. Huntsman; Secretary, Miss Rometsch (re-elected); Asst. and Financial Secretary, Miss Huntsman (re-elected); Treasurer, Mrs. Hayward. Superintendents of Departments: Home Mission, Mrs. J. Pittman; Foreign Mission, Mrs. R. Lyall; Dorcas, Mrs. C. H. Martin; Hospital Visitation, Mrs. W. C. Thurgood; Temperance, Mrs. Ray; Prayer Meeting, Mrs. Trinnick; Benevolent, Mrs. Chapman; Isolated Sisters, Mrs. McIntosh; Obituary, Miss Hill.

A greeting was received from Mrs. Duff, Tasmania.

We were pleased to have with us Sisters Mrs. W. C. McCallum (America), Mrs. Hillbrow, Mrs. Franzin (W.A.), Mrs. P. A. Dickson, Mrs. Neville, Mrs. Shill, Mrs. Magor, Mrs. Walden (S.A.), Mrs. and Miss Shearston, Mrs. S. Gole (N.S.W.), Miss Crowe (Hobart), Mrs. Benn, Mrs. Daniels (Kaniva).

The pleasure of our meetings was added to by the following:—Mrs. Hocking, Miss Jolly, Miss Johnson, Miss Webster, Miss Dickens, for solos; Messrs. Buckley for duet, and the Northcote quartette party.

Collection, £5/14/3.

EXECUTIVE REPORT.

Another year has passed and gone, and we are privileged once more to give a brief report of the Women's Conference Executive.

Eleven meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 68 sisters. We are thankful our President has been enabled to carry out the duties allotted to her, and we pray that she may be spared many years in His service.

To the sisters who have led our devotions, and to those who have contributed such splendid papers at our monthly meetings, we give our best thanks.

Greetings have been sent in your name to the English sisterhood, South Australian, West Australian, N.S.W. and Queensland Sisters' Conferences, and to our missionaries.

Loving sympathy has been extended to the sick and bereaved.

Death has entered our ranks this year. Our Sister Mrs. C. W. Mitchell, after a brief illness, passed away on Feb. 16. Our dear Sister Forbes has been called upon to part with her husband.

The Home Mission Rally, which was held in October, resulted in £121/18/3 being added to the funds.

Correspondence has passed between us and the sisters of the States regarding a session to be held during the coming Federal Conference. Topics will be discussed which will be of great importance to the sisterhood.

Mrs. Hayward has kindly acted as Treasurer in place of Miss Jerrems, who is on a visit to England. Mrs. Tully is also visiting England, Mrs. Zelius America, and Mrs. Hunter West Australia. We miss these faithful sisters to-day, and trust they will soon return strengthened for further usefulness in the Master's service. Others are leaving us, and we feel the need more than ever for earnest consecrated women to take up the work that others have been obliged to lay aside.

We regret to say we are soon to lose our Sister Mrs. Manifold. During her stay with us she has been a most faithful worker.

Sisters, our work is growing. Much depends upon you and me for success. Let us by united effort make this the best year of service we have ever had.—Secretary.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, 1913-14.

Receipts.	
Cash in hand	£4 13 1
Collection at Conference	7 7 4
Special Collection	2 17 6
Pennies from Churches	4 0 1
Catering	8 19 0
Sale of Constitutions	0 0 8
	£27 17 8

Expenditure.	
Presentations	£2 17 9
Printing, Austral Co.	2 17 6
Catering	9 7 6
Pot Plants	0 7 6
	£15 10 3

EXECUTIVE.

Conference Receipts	£27 17 8
Monthly Collections	9 14 7½
Donation from Council	0 5 0
Bank Interest	0 5 2
Pennies from Churches	4 10 1
Sale of Constitutions	0 0 2
Home Mission Rally	121 18 3
	£164 10 11½

Conference Expenses	£15 10 3
Hospital Comforts	3 0 0
Testimonial, Mr. McLellan	4 4 0
T. B. Fischer Fund	5 5 0
Presentations	0 17 6
Warrnambool Storm Fund	1 0 0
Secretary's Expenses	1 13 6
H.M. Rally	3 3 0
Printing and Calendars	1 8 10
Sundry Expenses	0 14 10
Paid to Mr. Craigie	121 18 3
	158 15 2

Balance in hand	5 15 9½
	£164 10 11½

G. HAYWARD, Treasurer.
J. HUNTSMAN, Asst. & Fin. Sec.

Audited and found correct,
March 29, 1914. ROBERT LYALL.

President's Address.

Another year has passed away, and in looking backward can we not say to our heavenly Father in grateful gratitude, "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness," for not one word of his good promise has failed us; but the question comes, How do we stand with God? Are we growing in grace as we are growing in years? We know by experience that the Christian life is not the swift heavenward flight of an eagle, but it is a literal stepping heavenward, a gradual ascent, and we rise to higher things because of past failures; "for if we sin we have an Advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ the righteous," and "if we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us." So as we take a backward glance and see wherein we have failed, and resolve by the help of God to develop all the highest and best that is in us to his glory, may we just forget "the things that are behind, and press towards the prize." We know the mark is high; nothing but holiness, for without holiness we cannot see God, and as we look at the high standard of perfection and then at our own sinful selves, we say it is so high that we cannot attain to it. God has placed it so, my sisters, but remember we are complete in Christ Jesus; his righteousness covers our unrighteousness, and thus God makes perfect our imperfect lives.

So let us take courage and press on with renewed zeal and earnestness. It is not sufficient to do a little to-day and then do nothing for a week. Every day should be consecrated to our Master's service; and not only so, but the best of our time and talents should be employed therein, not the fragments of them—that will never win the "Well done, good and faithful servant." Remember, as the years of our life go by, every one in passing leaves us one less to live; then let us seize time and consecrate it, buy up our opportunities, and as the cry comes from all our departments of work for more willing workers, let us not sit with idle hands when we can help, even if that help be small. If God has only given you one talent, use it for his glory.

If we are to grow spiritually, we must have time for thought, time for reading the Word of God, time for remembering Christ who died for us. Never let us forget to meet at the Lord's table, to show forth his death till he come. Let us in our homes teach the children to respect the first day of the week, and as far as we can use our influence with those with whom we come in contact, to discountenance Sunday entertainments, Sunday trading, and Sunday travelling for pleasure. We are living in a pleasure-loving age, where I fear it can be truly said, "Men are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God." In our churches we have to be continually finding pleasure and amusement for our young people; but, dear sisters, teach your children that the truest pleasure is to be found in the service of God; that it abundantly satisfies the soul; and show them by your life that no real joy in life you know but in his service sweet.

Let us look into the face of Jesus, and contemplate the beautiful unselfish life he lived while in this world of ours. His delight was to do his Father's will, and to help all other lives about him. And, sisters, we are all responsible to God for our influence; therefore it is very important how we use the liberty which it has pleased God to endow us with. There is the example of our

doings. Every deed has its influence. If we sow a bad habit, we cultivate it; soon it becomes part and parcel of ourselves, and others, our friends, our neighbors and children, make note of it, and they, too, cultivate it. There is no telling where the influence of our lives will end. Look at the influence of the sun. It touches everything; so does the example of our lives touch everything. May it never be said of any of us that our influence caused a sister to perish. Let us always seek the good and the noble. The highest ideal we can have before us, is the lovely unselfish life lived by our divine Master Jesus, who ever went about doing good, and it is only by living close to him and living the life of love that we can be examples to each other. You and I can remember sisters who to-day are in the glory-land who have powerfully influenced our lives for good; they rest from their labors, but their works follow them.

There is a beautiful legend told as follows:—When God turned Eve out of the garden of Eden she sat to rest on a little mound just outside, feeling very sad and despondent. The snow had lately fallen, and lay beautifully white all around her, when an angel came to her, and taking one of the tiny snowflakes in his hand, breathed upon it, when suddenly it turned into a white snow-drop. Then, turning to Eve, the angel told her that so it was with her. Although she had sinned God was able in his infinite mercy to take away that sin and make her as white and pure as the snow-drop. Of course this is only a legend, but does it not convey a beautiful truth?

In the New Testament we read of some very beautiful examples of womanhood—the women who ministered to our Saviour of their substance; the woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears—her love was the fruit of forgiveness; of the love of Martha and Mary, also the Mary who anointed Jesus; the widow with the two mites, teaching the great lesson of true giving, the gifts valued by sacrifice; and in the closing scenes of the earthly life of our beloved Master, when many forsook him and fled, women followed him and were last at the cross and first at his tomb. Nowhere in the Gospels do we hear women speak against him. Our Lord received a better response from women than he did from men. Some women who had lost their womanhood were restored to virtuous ways, and those who had been sinners sinned no more. They were quick to understand character. They can do so now more readily and more easily than men, especially those who have a spirit like Mary's, in whom dwelt all goodness and truth. A woman's sense of dependence fitted her for being a disciple of Jesus. In the face of these illustrious examples let us follow on in faith and earnestness. May we be helpers to the poor and weak and suffering and sinning ones, that in the land beyond the pearly gate we may hear our Master say, "When I was hungry ye gave me meat; when I was thirsty, ye gave me drink; naked, ye clothed me; sick, ye came to me; when I was in prison, ye visited me; inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, ye have done it unto me."

Hon. President's Message.

WHAT THE BIBLE SHOULD BE TO US.
2 Timothy 3: 16.

"Every Scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for

instruction, which is righteousness; that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work."

To read, to heed the Word of God, that makes man complete and Christ adored. Now, how can we get everyone in the church and Bible School to read the Bible, so that it will be the most interesting of all books?

First, Jehovah's value of his own Word. In Joshua 1: 8 we find these words: "This book of law shall not depart out of thy mouth, that thou shalt meditate thereon day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein." Benjamin Franklin was ridiculed by the infidels and scoffers of his day for loving and reading his Bible. He determined to find out how many had read the book. Appearing before one of their learned societies, he asked their judgment upon a story in pastoral life. He read it to them, and they were in ecstasy over it. Franklin replied, "It is part of the Word of God." Now listen to the Psalmist David: "His delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law doth he meditate day and night; and he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." The Bible man or woman is like that tree; every part of it is good for use. The Bibleless man is like the chaff, to be burned in the world to come. The prodigal son was a Bibleless man who walked in the counsel of the wicked, sat on the seat of the scoffers, and had a good time, as he thought. If the prodigal son had read Proverbs he would not have stripped off his virtue and decency, nor been smitten with the vices of his day.

The Bible's value according to James: "For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a mirror; for he beholdeth himself, and goeth away and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." Is my heart straight before God? That is the great question for our young people. Are we loyal and willing, ready to serve? Let us strive to be ready for the King of kings, and life and love and joy will be our abundant portion.

Your loving sister in Christ,

Antoinette K. Thurgood.

Conference Essay.

THE BRIGHTENING OUTLOOK.

By Mrs. G. Manifold.

We are living in remarkable times. The achievements in the social, commercial and industrial realms have been powerful factors in the world's progress. Nowadays the inventions of men cease to surprise us; the wonderful has become the commonplace. But the greatest advance is seen in the spiritual realm. The old church, so long unmindful of her past victories and supreme mission, has once more girded herself "as a strong man to run a race." Christianity, which in the course of centuries had become corrupt, recovered with the dawn of the Reformation her lost aggressive and assimilating force. Out of the night of indifference and stagnation, the church slowly but surely emerged to take the world for her King. The outlook to-day for the ultimate triumph of Christianity is distinctly bright. The religion of Jesus is steadily gaining every year over all other forces operative now in the world. The

sky is ablaze with light. Open doors are everywhere; the heroes of the Cross are entering in, and the progress of the kingdom of God is the wonder of the age.

"Out of the shadows of night
The world is rolling into light;
It is daybreak everywhere."

There are many causes contributing to this brightening outlook, the first of which I would notice is *the enlargement of the sphere of women's work*. The prominence of women in Christian work, to-day, provides a new incentive of immense value and power. The progress of Christianity has completely changed woman's estate. We may well thank God that, after centuries of being kept in the background, Christian womanhood has found her true sphere of work, and is wielding her sceptre of influence. Perhaps God kept certain doors of service locked to men, so that women might the more feel his call for their labors on behalf of their own sex. The testimony of the most successful missionaries is that the holy lives and tireless labors of devoted women have been absolutely necessary to the highest results of missions. Every church realising the importance of women's services, have their women's societies and organisations. In many cases these organisations are the disseminators of missionary news, the kindlers of missionary enthusiasm, and the organisers of systematic giving for missionary efforts. Then again, this enlarged sphere of activity is manifested by the greater demand for women's services in both medicine and education. Boundless opportunities have been given to the women of the Christian church through the medium of these two doors. Homes



The Lost Piece of Coin.

What woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it? And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.—Luke 15: 8-10.

have been opened, mothers and children reached, and healing for both soul and body have been given. Not only can she go as a doctor or nurse, but as an evangelist, carrying the message of life, and who like her has the opportunities for personal work with those that welcome her to their homes? Through these agencies also, she is enabled to come into direct contact with the children, who, after all, are the key to the ultimate success of the gospel. All problems go back to the child, and it is good to think that the women were the first to recognise the place of the child in the scheme of redemption. They have been almost alone in their efforts to prepare the young for the part they must perform in determining the character, the social and religious habits of the non-christian in the next generation. Hence the necessity has been laid upon the hearts of consecrated and capable women to establish kindergartens, colleges and orphanages among the teeming millions of children. This is a big work being accomplished by women. Our Lord gave it to them in a picture when he said, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened." It seems such slow work, this gathering of children into kindergartens, this contact with mothers, this teaching and training through long, lonely years, that it seems to count for nothing. But there is no agency to-day wielding such power in hastening on the triumph of the Master's kingdom on earth than this hidden work committed into the hands of women.

Secondly, this brightening outlook is manifested by the *spread of Christian literature*, and in this the Bible, the living oracles, takes the first place. The Bible is the great missionary; it is the seed-corn of the kingdom, for it presents the unsullied perfections of the Lord Jesus Christ. Wherever it goes, churches spring up. Wherever it is treasured, the church is nourished and grows strong. It is everywhere the inspiration of missionary advance. If anyone is inclined to be pessimistic about the advance of Christianity in the world, let them read the story of "how we got our Bible," and the work of the societies inaugurated for the circulation of the Word of God throughout the world. It is more romantic than the most thrilling love story ever penned. This last year fourteen million volumes of the Scriptures were sent out by these societies to meet the world-hunger. China alone could have absorbed this annual output, had the Scriptures been in the language of that Republic. As it is, astonishing things are happening in that Celestial land, the direct result of the influence of the Bible. Last New Year's Day, "The Temple of Heaven" in Peking was thrown open to the superintendent and colporteurs of the Bible Society, and day after day, in that ancient place, they ministered the Scriptures to the people. And at a fair in North China, for twelve days the circulation averaged over one thousand volumes a day. Such results as these in this year make one wonder what the achievements of this free circulation of the Book of books will be within the next ten years. Can we not confidently expect a similar movement in the East from the reading of the Word of God, to that discovered recently by our brotherhood in Russia and Germany? Equally striking are the fruits of the labors of faithful colporteurs in Peru. In November, last year, that land for the first time in its history decreed "religious tolerance." Even more notable than this is the fact

that in the April previous a decree was set forth ordering the regular study of the Scriptures in the official schools of that land. When will Australia learn the lesson that the best text-book for moulding the lives of the rising generation is the Bible? As Alexander Campbell pertinently says, "A school, a college, an academy without the Bible in it, is like a universe without a centre and without a sun," and again, "The Bible in any school is the safeguard of all our rights, titles and honors, temporal, spiritual and eternal." Second in importance to the Bible is the translation by missionaries of Christian literature into the tongues of the people among whom they labor. Our own missionaries stand shoulder to shoulder with the workers in the denominations, in this respect. Heroic work has been accomplished along this line by Dr. Macklin in China, W. D. Cunningham in Japan, and the brave band of workers in the Congo.

Again, the tendency to study and prepare for one's life work has been extended to other walks of life outside the professions, and so we find the merchant, the mechanic, the farmer making a study of his business in order that he may make the greatest possible success. So the rising tide of education has reached the church, and she has been made to feel that to make her business a success, she must be conversant with the world in which she is to work. To accomplish this, the organisation known as the Mission Study Movement has come into being within recent years. Its object is the systematic study by Christian people of the problems which have to be dealt with and solved. To this end text books on missions at home and abroad have been prepared with care and scholarship. Classes have been formed in all universities, mainly under the direction of the Student Volunteer Movement. This is one of the most promising signs of the times, for it will undoubtedly enlist the young people of the church in active missionary interest. Experience is proving that a living missionary interest, such as the Study Circle arouses, inevitably spreads, and it is the great hope of the movement that it will eventually influence all the young people of the church. If this hope is realised, it is difficult to measure the result both to the church and to the world, for who can estimate the impetus given to the cause of Christ by such studies? It is good to learn that the brethren in New South Wales are preparing for work along this line, and it is to be hoped that soon our own churches throughout the Commonwealth will have these circles for systematic mission study, using literature and text books prepared specially by our own brotherhood. There are other forces on the home fields which greatly strengthen the hands of the church for her great missionary task. The hundreds of religious periodicals which go into the Christian homes are a mighty force and are in a position to arouse the army of Christ's followers to larger efforts.

In the last place the brightening outlook is clearly revealed in the present growth of the kingdom. This growth is witnessed first of all in the greater love for humanity and the spirit of concern for the well being of all. This spirit was seen at its inception, and it triumphed over all racial antipathies and all differences in clime, character or circumstance. When the church at Jerusalem was scattered, the persecuted disciples, driven like thistledown before the wind, came to Antioch.

There they overcame all barriers, and preached the Lord Jesus unto the Greeks also. To the different cities, to the centres of influence, the gospel message was taken, and at Philippi and Corinth, Athens and Rome, great victories were won. Such was their love for humanity exemplified and such the growth of the Christian church that Tertullian, within two centuries of Paul's martyrdom, could write to the Roman Emperor and point to the crumbling altars and deserted temples as evidence of the growth of a greater kingdom than the Empire of Rome. What the early Christians achieved seems very remarkable, considering the fact that at the time of the ascension of Christ the whole number of believers did not exceed a few hundreds, and that the church then had to contend with practically every difficulty which confronts the church to-day. Gibbon places first among the causes for the rapid spread of Christianity, the fact that "it became the sacred duty of a new convert to diffuse among his friends the inestimable blessing which he had received." Thus the duty of the evangelisation of the world was not the burden of the leaders of the church alone, but every disciple who felt the power of the Spirit of God had a great desire and controlling object in life, the salvation of his fellowmen.

In modern days the same spirit of concern, the same love for humanity, has brought about the same glorious results. Despite all forces which have tended to retard the church's progress and obscure the religion of Christ, the number of Christ's followers to-day is greater by far than in any preceding period of the world's history. The work of Christianity, and what has been accomplished in less than a generation, is well illustrated by the growth in Manchuria. Here, in a territory comprising about fifteen millions of people, there are whole districts in which no one is more than five miles from a church. Uganda witnesses to the marvellous growth of the kingdom of God. Through the spreading of Christian literature, through the heroism and sacrifice of the missionaries, thousands upon thousands of the native population have been translated from darkness into light. Ethiopia has indeed stretched out her hands to God. In Korea, where such stupendous moral changes have been effected, we have signal illustration of nations being born in a day. In Bolengi and the neighboring stations results like unto Pentecost have been witnessed. In the lives of the faithful missionaries and the loving sacrifice and missionary zeal of the converts won from the darkness of heathendom a new Acts of Apostles is being written. In every land we hear of heathen temples being deserted and of idolatrous altars being allowed to crumble and decay, and they all testify to the growth of the kingdom among the nations of men.

The increasing spirit of liberality is another evidence of growth. The standard of giving has been raised, and money is coming into the treasury of the Lord as never before. Living link churches are multiplying, and congregations are endeavoring to give as much for the spreading of the gospel in the regions beyond, as among the people in their home land. It is encouraging to note the growing volume of missionary offerings from Christians possessing small means. The membership is being trained to give conscientiously and systematically, and churches are abounding in this grace everywhere.

To us as a church the outlook is extremely bright, when we remember the remarkable growth

of the Disciples of Christ in a hundred years. God was certainly with these pioneers of old who honestly sought out the old paths and loyally endeavored to honor his Word, and he is just as much with the church to-day as she marches under his banner to the conquest of the world. There are no forlorn hopes in the army of the Cross. The standard of the King is never dragged to the dust. The upward glance makes all holy struggle one with eternal and perfect victory. The time shall come when brethren shall love as brethren; when nations will no longer strive one against another for selfish gains, but will all strive together for universal good and glory of humanity, and bring all their trophies of honor and achievement to lay at the feet of the gentle Conqueror and King of Nations.

Home Missions.

The work accomplished by our Home missionaries has been very encouraging all through the year. Total additions for the year are: By faith and baptism, 386; baptised believers, 27; restoration, 22, making a total of 435. The Boort mission, held since statistics for Conference closed, yielded 24 confessions. Some remarkable cases of conversion were among them. Missions have been held by our State evangelists at Mildura, North Melbourne, Northcote, St. Arnaud, Warrnambool, and Boort. Our State evangelists have also held several meetings in Melbourne and suburbs, in the interest of Home Mission funds.

Total receipts for the year, £2867/17/2; total expenditure for year, £2866/19/2. This small credit balance has since disappeared, and we are again in arrears. Several new fields are asking for help, and it will depend on how the financial support comes in as to whether we can seize these golden opportunities or not.

The Women's Conference Committee have held meetings at Lygon-st., Brighton, Moreland, Footscray, North Carlton, North Melbourne, North Richmond. The need for concentrated effort to collect funds for Home Mission work has been urged, that the gospel may be preached in every part of Victoria. We are pleased to report that Box Hill sisters hold a Home Mission meeting once a quarter, and have appointed a sister to collect a penny per week. The Committee are grateful for the interest taken by the members of the churches, and for the help rendered. May we still plead that the systematic penny-per-week be collected. We should be encouraged to persevere by the fact that since the inception of the Women's Conference in 1887, £4971 has been added to the funds chiefly by the penny-per-week collection.

We have a Home Missionary Committee to which is entrusted the work of aiding weak churches, and opening up the cause in new centres throughout the State. Work is being carried on in 38 different places, and 21 men are being supported, and subsidised. These workers are meeting with great success. Churches are being strengthened, believers are being built up in the faith, converts are being made. In view of the fact that there are 107 places in Victoria each with over 1000 people, in which as yet the plea for New Testament Christianity is not represented; that there are hundreds of isolated members longing for the privilege of the Lord's house, may we not rest satisfied till the Church of Christ has lifted its banner in every part of our home-land. "Victoria for Christ" should be our motto.

The cause at Burnley was revived 12 months ago with a membership of 9. The present membership stands at 40. To date there have been 16 immersions, 10 received by letter and 5 restored. The cause promises well for the future. —L. Pittman, Supt.

Foreign Missions.

It is with deep gratitude to our heavenly Father that we present to you our year's report. Through the liberality of the brethren we have been able to open up fresh fields, and we wish to

thank all those who have helped us and made this possible.

We sustained a severe loss in the passing away of Bro. T. B. Fischer, for he filled the position of Organising Secretary so efficiently that a motion was placed on record recognising his intense devotion to duty and the marked ability he displayed in the performance of duties pertaining to his office. They found Bro. Fischer a faithful colleague, untiring, zealous, and willing in service for the Master. Bro. J. I. Mudford was appointed as his successor.

Two new stations have been opened; one in India and one in the New Hebrides. We have had several calls from unoccupied fields, but this year we were not able to enter more.

Swanston-st. "Virginia" Club.—The club was formed for young women, on the lines of a missionary society, meetings held first Tuesday in each month. Meetings are conducted under the leadership of various members, the address being allotted to special speakers. There is a monthly subscription, which is used for the purpose of supporting an orphan girl (Nera), under the care of Mrs. Strutton in India.

Ballarat Young Women's Mission Band is keeping up a splendid interest. Letters received from Miss Mary Thompson tell how much the work is appreciated. During the half year 26 meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 25. One box of toys, etc., sent to India. Balance brought forward, £2/16/10½; Cash received for half year, £11/16/8½; £14/13/7. Expenditure, half year, £9/16/2, leaving balance of £4/17/5.

Box Hill.—Once a quarter a Foreign Mission meeting is held in connection with Sisters' Class. The Mission Band sent a box of goods to Oba this year.

Busy Bee Mission Band, North Melbourne.—The Mission Band consists of boys and girls from the age of 8 upwards to 16 and even over, all connected with the Chetwynd-st. Sunday School. It was inaugurated by Mrs. Hutson in August, 1913, and up until last month weekly meetings were held at her house. The object of the Band was to interest the children in Foreign Mission work, and also to awaken their interest and sympathy in the poor and the suffering. The social side of life for the children themselves has not been neglected, and during its short existence, several very enjoyable socials and picnics have been held. From the first the society has been self-supporting. The children, at their own desire, began to bring their pennies and even threepenny bits and sixpences. Raffia, glazed calico for scrap books, paints and brushes, and materials for sewing were bought from the money thus so willingly contributed. They have undertaken to support an orphan in India, and have paid in advance up to the end of June. A box full of beautifully dressed dolls is waiting to be added to, when it will be sent off to delight the hearts of children in other and less happy climes. God bless the children.

Bible Women's Fund.

Since last report the sum of £36 has been collected, and sent to our Bible women in India and China, leaving us with a balance in hand of £21 4/4 with which to meet our next payment.—Eliza Zelius.

Isolated Sisters.

During the past year many letters have been sent to sisters isolated, words of encouragement to be faithful to the plea we stand for under all circumstances. Many are so situated that they must either attend other churches and places of worship or remain at home on Lord's day. Some are regular attendants at the Methodists, others the Presbyterians, and report to me that they are disciples at heart, and are ready at any time to take a stand when opportunity affords itself. The majority of those written to do not even trouble to answer the letter. Those who do express themselves as thankful, and are comforted to know that their sisters remember them when assembled.—A. M. Moysiey.

General Dorcas.

Twelve meetings have been held, with an average attendance of 15 sisters. Garments have been made up and distributed as follows:—Austin, Eye and Ear, Women's, Melbourne, Queen Victoria, and St. Vincent's Hospitals. 19 parcels containing 54 garments, 1 box of sweets to children in Alfred Hospital. Bouverie-st. Kindergarten, 87 garments. Burwood Boys' Home, 50 garments. Melbourne City Mission, 60 garments. 2 quilts to College of the Bible. 109 cases have been relieved with 296 garments, 52 parcels of groceries, apples and sweets. Thanks are due to the following brethren and sisters for donations: Mrs. Thurgood, 5 parcels from a sister; Bro. Meekison, 1 parcel; Sisters Tyrrell, Zeilus, a sister at Dandenong; Middle Park, Brighton, Williamstown, Cheltenham and Dandenong Dorcas Classes, clothing, groceries, hats, boots, fruit, material, guernseys, also £2 in cash from Doncaster Benevolent Class; Mrs. Chown, £1; North Fitzroy Dorcas Class, £1; 5/- and 3/6 from sisters. We desire to thank Bro. and Sister Cust for their splendid gift of a "New Home" sewing machine. Receipts for the year, £10/16/10½; expenditure, £8 17/0½; balance in hand, £1/19/10. Thanking the Committee and sisters who have helped in this great work.—L. R. Martin, Supt.

Margaret Goudie Bequest Fund.

Receipts.	
Balance in hand, 1912 to 1913	£6 0 0
Received from Treasurer "Goudie" Fund, for Distribution	12 0 0
From Treasurer	3 0 0
	£21 0 0

Expenditure.	
To General Dorcas for Material	£5 0 0
North Richmond, two cases	1 0 0
Swanston-st., two cases	1 10 0
Collingwood, 1 case	1 0 0
Lygon-st., 2 cases	1 0 0
Middle Park, 1 case	0 10 0
Swanston-st., 1 case	0 10 0
Lygon-st., 5 cases	2 10 0
Collingwood, 1 case	2 0 0
Moreland, 1 case	0 10 0
North Richmond, 1 case	0 10 0
	£16 0 0
Total Expenditure	£16 0 0
Balance in hand	5 0 0

Church Aid and Dorcas Reports.

Ballarat.

Dorcas.—We have held 17 meetings during the year, at Sister Mrs. Lucas, with an average attendance of 7 members. 37 garments have been given to needy cases, also 2 quilts and 1 parcel of clothing, groceries, firewood, coal, also monetary assistance to the amount of £6/17/3. Receipts, £3/0/1; donations, £1/19/-; total income, £4/19/1.

Church Aid.—The sisters have adopted the penny-per-week collection in aid of the Building Fund, and the sum of £26 has been handed in to the officers.—E. Pitts, Secretary.

Bendigo.

Dorcas.—19 meetings held, with an average attendance of 7 sisters. We have purchased 8 pairs of blankets, material, clothing, boots and groceries for needy cases, amounting to £15, also for rent and financial assistance, £7. Gratefully we acknowledge £9/19/- from the Mayoress's Relief Fund and £5/19/5 from church collections for Dorcas work.—A. Heritage, Secretary.

Box Hill.

Church Aid.—The sisters of the church have held a very successful sale of work in aid of the church building fund.—Alice M. Smith, Sec.

Carnebie.

Church Aid.—We have held 13 sewing meetings with a view of helping the church with the money earned at same. We are also purchasing machine for use at class.—S. Gracie, Sec.

Cheltenham.

Dorcas.—The sisters meet regularly, and have sent donations to the Burwood Boys' Home, Melbourne and Alfred Hospitals, Balmain-st. church

and General Dorcas. We feel the loss of our dear Sister Fischer, who has removed to South Australia.

Church Aid.—We have sent parcels of garments to Balmmain-st. and Dandenong churches for sale of gifts.—E. Judd, Sec.

Dandenong.

Dorcas.—The sisters have been busy during the year. 11 parcels were received and made up. 3 bags sent to General Dorcas, 2 parcels to needy cases, containing 99 garments and 101 mended, also extras.—E. E. Crisp, Sec.

Church Aid.—A sale of work was held, and £60 realised for church aid work. Our President resigned through removal, and Mrs. Thomas was appointed in her place.—M. Toyne, Sec.

Hawthorn.

Dorcas.—The sisters have paid 150 visits to the sick and needy ones, and relieved cases of distress by gifts of food and clothing.

Church Aid.—The sisters held a sale of work in November last, which proved a great success. At the close they presented the church officers with a large cheque towards reducing the debt.—M. Rankine, Act. Sec.

Lygon-st.

Dorcas.—The sisters have held their meetings weekly, with an average attendance of 16. We have been able to help in a practical way a number of needy cases. Also paid a visit to Benevolent Asylum.

Church Aid.—The annual sale of work was held in December last, and realised the sum of £101 15/8 for church funds. We also were enabled to donate new carpets for platform and aisles, also £10 towards new pipe organ.—A. McColl, Sec.

Middle Park.

Dorcas.—The class holds its meeting the second Wednesday in each month. A number of needy cases have been relieved; also parcels sent to General Dorcas, and also to hospitals. Groceries and Christmas cheer were also distributed. The sick have been visited and cheered.

Church Aid.—During the year we collected the balance of money owing on church organ, and now have undertaken to collect for another large amount. One of our sisters pays for church cleaning. We held a sale of work last quarter, and realised by it £7 for the building fund. We intend to hold sales quarterly.—E. Taylor, Sec.

Prahran.

Dorcas.—The sisters hold their meetings every Wednesday afternoon, with an average attendance of 9 sisters. A number of parcels containing garments, groceries, etc., have been distributed to needy cases.

Church Aid.—A sale of work was held in November last, and with the proceeds we have donated £10 to Kindergarten Hall Fund, £5 to Sunday School Fund, £2 to Brotherhood Relief Fund, £1 to tea meeting fund, £1/10/- for a sewing machine. Paid for man for one day's labor on Kindergarten Hall. Also curtains and carpet for platform of church. We have still a balance in hand of £10.—E. L. Milliken, Sec.

Richmond—Balmmain-st.

Dorcas.—The sisters have held 30 meetings, with an average attendance of 5 members. 120 garments have been given away to needy cases; also groceries amounting to £3/5/-; and cash to the amount of £2/5/-; 2 large parcels of clothing were sent from a sister in Cheltenham; also parcel from Cheltenham Dorcas Sisters. A concert was held, proceeds of which were for Dorcas work only.—M. Cameron, Sec.

Richmond—Coppin-st.

Dorcas.—The class has been meeting regularly during the year, with an average attendance of 20 sisters. Cases needing assistance have been relieved.

Church Aid.—We held a sale of gifts in December last, £75 being raised; the proceeds are to be used for our new Sunday School. We intend holding another sale to dispose of balance of goods.—A. M. Johnston, Sec.

Swanston-st.

Dorcas.—The class has held 18 meetings, with an average attendance of 10 members. We have donated 115 garments to needy cases, 6 quilts to College of the Bible; bonnets and cakes; also tea,

sugar, and cakes to inmates of Benevolent Asylum. Presentations were made to Mrs. Dow and Miss Jerrems. Receipts, £8/3/5½; expenditure, £7/9/2½. Balance in hand, 14/3.

Church Aid.—We donated a carpet for our class for the preacher's study.—Ethel Mitchell, Sec.

Windsor.

Church Aid.—The sisters meet every Tuesday evening, with an average attendance of 9 sisters. They have held a sale of work and are working hard, preparing for another early in May.—H. Lindsay, Sec.

Preston.

Dorcas.—The sisters meet regularly, with an average attendance of 5 members. We have helped a number of needy cases; also purchased another sewing machine.

Church Aid.—We held a sale of work in aid of church building fund; as a result we were able to hand over £20 towards same, and we have a balance in hand of £11.—E. Shepherd, Sec.

Hospital Visitation.

The hospital visitors have been very faithful this year, paying in all 334 visits to the various hospitals, as well as private, distributing 3959 copies of papers, magazines, etc. Home comforts, fruit, and sweets have been given, and have been gratefully received and appreciated by the patients. Two of our visitors have gone a trip to England, viz., Mrs. Tully and Miss Jerrems. The patients will miss them. Mrs. Tully has been very faithful to the Eye and Ear, and Miss Jerrems to the Children's Hospital. The little ones look forward to her visits, calling her "the book lady."

We would urge preachers to make an effort to have some suitable brother appointed to visit the hospitals regularly, as all the denominations do.

With thanks to all who have contributed books and magazines, the Women's Executive for their donation of £3, the General Dorcas, the Swanston and Lygon-st. Dorcas, for clothing for needy patients.—E. C. Thurgood, Supt.

Temperance Report.

In submitting this report of our year's work, we realise that the need is very great, and the responsibility alarming. We remember that the drink traffic is spread over the whole world, with its sin, sorrow, and crime, and God's own Word tells us that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. May we as Christian women show by our lives and example that we are on the side of purity and truth, and that we will have no dealings with it in any shape or form. During the year visits have been paid and assistance given to some very sad cases. The following churches have been visited: Windsor, North Melbourne, Moreland, Box Hill, Brunswick, Footscray, Carnegie, Middle Park and South Melbourne. I wish to thank members of the churches visited for their sympathy in the work, and also members of the Committee.—N. Ray, Supt.

Prayer Meeting Report.

On looking back over the year's work we are constrained to say that it has been one of the most encouraging years the Committee have yet seen. One outstanding feature of the work has been the cordial hospitality which has been extended to our Committee by all the churches visited, and we trust that the incoming Committee will be able to add still greater blessings to this work of usefulness among the churches.

During the year the following churches have been visited:—

Hawthorn.—We were pleased to see so large an attendance, and the meeting proved an inspiring one throughout.

Lygon-st.—We were warmly welcomed by the sisters. There was a fine attendance, and quite a number took part in the meeting.

Swanston-st.—This also was a good meeting, and one or two sisters spoke in appreciation of the exercises of the afternoon.

Brighton.—While the tone of this meeting was

good, the attendance was not up to the usual for Brighton.

North Richmond.—This was the first visit to this church by some of our Committee, and a fine spirit prevailed.

Burnley.—This is a new church, and one of the sisters worked hard to secure a good meeting, which proved successful in every way.

Footscray.—Our visit here is always appreciated, and a warm welcome awaits us.

North Melbourne.—The Committee visited this church on February 12, and had a splendid meeting, and spent a happy time together.

Northcote.—We held a bright meeting in the home of an aged sister, and this was marked by the fervent prayers of the sisters present.

North Fitzroy.—The meetings are held regularly, with a fine band of praying sisters, and peace and harmony prevail.

Box Hill.—The meetings are well attended, and are held on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month. They appreciate the visits of the Committee.

Middle Park.—We have held 12 meetings during the year, with a fair attendance. Our anniversary was held in June. The Committee and President of the Conference were present, some beautiful papers were read and addresses given, which were much enjoyed.

Moreland.—A regular meeting of the sisters of Moreland church is held each month. The visits of the Prayer Meeting Committee have been very much appreciated.

Brunswick.—We were pleased to visit after so long an absence. There was a splendid attendance, and a fine meeting was held.

South Yarra.—The meeting was a good one in tone, but the attendance was small.

Gore-st.—Although this church is placed last on the list, it is by no means least, for not only was the attendance large, but the meeting proved a fine spiritual uplift by so many sisters taking part.—M. Trinnick, Supt.

Benevolent Asylum.

Ten visits have been paid to the Benevolent Asylum at Cheltenham during the year. These visits have been greatly appreciated by the inmates, as they provide a very welcome break to the monotony in the life of the aged and infirm people at the Asylum.

I have been much cheered by the readiness with which the sisters of the churches at Brunswick, Northcote, Preston, Lygon-st., Middle Park, Swanston-st., Brighton, North Fitzroy, Cheltenham and Hawthorn have responded to the invitation to visit and provide entertainment for the old folks, and also to brethren whom they arranged with to come and give addresses. These addresses have on all occasions been of a character suited to the condition of the old people, and consequently have given both pleasure and edification. Thanks to the Junior Society of Christian Endeavor at Cheltenham for providing the programme at one meeting. Miss F. Brough has been most faithful and regular in assisting as organist, not having missed one of the 22 visits made since the opening of the Asylum.

At each visit on arrival at the institution the sisters at once commence a round of the wards, giving a word of comfort and cheer to the many bed-ridden patients, and making little presents of cakes and sweets as they pass along, at the same time making known the meeting to be held in the Carmichael Hall, inviting all who are able to come and join in the singing service, which commences at 3.30. We have only to see the glad brightening up of the faces of the suffering and saddened old people to have our hearts gladdened and moved to thankfulness for the privilege of being able to do this little service. It more than repays the visitor for the inconveniences of the long journey undertaken, and on our homeward journey we feel that in bringing blessing to others we have ourselves also been blessed.—J. Chapman, Supt.

Kindergarten Report.

The kindergarten work has advanced steadily during the year, about 18 of our Bible Schools are

now using this system of instruction for the young. It is greatly appreciated by the teachers and children.

Mrs. Donnelly and Miss Martin direct the Kindergarten at Abbotsford; about 60 names on the roll. This is a good field for the work. At Ascot Vale Mrs. W. A. Kemp is director. Children on the roll, 85; average attendance, 60.

The work at Bendigo is progressing; 65 names on roll; average attendance, 50. There are 9 teachers who attend regularly; a preparation class is held every week.

Brighton.—Mrs. Sharp, director. Children on roll, 72; 157 names on cradle roll.

Burnley Kindergarten was organised in May last by the Misses McCallum; 36 names on the roll, an increase of 24 since date of commencement.

North Carlton has 45 names on the roll; average attendance, 30; Miss Jolly, the director, has two helpers.

Lygon-st.—Miss Craigie has about 60 names on the roll; average attendance, 34; names on cradle roll, 81.

Cheltenham.—The Kindergarten has just started here with very good prospects. The attendance in three weeks increased from 19 to 30. The cradle roll has 10 names.

Castlemaine has 50 on the roll. There are 3 teachers, 30 chairs, and a small organ has been added during the year.

Doncaster has a Kindergarten class both morning and afternoon. Miss Vera Petty has 17 little ones in the morning, and Miss Myrtle Petty 27 in the afternoon.

Fitzroy has 60 names on roll; average attendance, 45. Misses Swain are carrying on the work here with Miss Hammond as pianiste.

Miss Lewis is director at Footscray; 66 children on the roll; an increase of 42 in 10 months; 2 teachers; 17 on cradle roll.

Prahran has the largest number of children; 101 on the roll; average attendance, 60. Miss K. Moody, director; Miss O. Perry and 10 assistants carry on the work. A new brick hall has been erected at the cost of £300, and the work is now carried on with comfort to both children and teachers.

North Melbourne has commenced a Kindergarten with 20 children. They have three helpers, all of whom took a course of training from Miss Simmons.

Miss McMillan directs the Kinders at Windsor; 18 on the roll; average attendance, 12; 16 have been transferred to the main school.

Miss Jerrems.

The Home Fields: Victoria.

Thos. Hagger, H.M. Organising Secretary.

Additions during March.—The following have been reported by the men in the fields, viz.: Boort, 18; Dunolly, 3; Warrnambool, 1; Shepparton, 1; South Melbourne, 2; Wonga Park, 6; Kaniva, 1; Dunmunkle, 2; Maryborough, 2; Swan Hill, 1; St. Arnaud, 1. Total, 38. This is a good start for the new Conference year.

Financial.—Receipts for the month were only £102/11/7, while the expenditure was £283/2/9. On April 1 we had a debit balance of £180/11/2. We have now to pay interest on an overdraft at the bank. It is important for us to receive a steady income during the year, hence the importance of each church having Home Mission collectors, and for these collectors to send in the amounts they collect regularly. Three more churches (Boort, Ultima, and Moreland) have just appointed collectors.

Items of Interest.—Bro. Clipstone has been on a visit to the Yarrowonga district, and he thinks we should do work in that place. Quite a revival is taking place at Echuca under Bro. Wakefield, who is going there each week-end from the College. A splendid opportunity confronts us in the Ultima district; it would be good if we could send a man there at once.

Obituary.

JOHNSTON.—Mrs. W. Lindsay Johnston, for twenty years a member of Park-st. church, Unley, S.A., and wife of one of our esteemed elders, passed away on March 16, after an illness of only a few days. In her earlier life she was a member of the Hindmarsh Square Congregational Church, but 22 years ago was baptised by T. J. Gore at Grote-st. She was married to W. Lindsay Johnston, then a member of Grote-st., October 24, 1894, by Mr. N. W. Cox, assisted by T. J. Gore. She loved the Lord Jesus Christ and his church, and outside her home life she found all her joys and pleasures in the activities they furnished. In the home she was indeed a powerful and affectionate presence. On March 3, 1913, the baby of the household, Doris, a child of seven years and 10 months, was taken; this was a great blow to the mother, but "in the secret of his presence" she found strength and comfort. Twelve months and one week later she was taken suddenly ill, and underwent an operation for appendicitis, and two days later was taken across the "range" to find her Lord Jesus and her beloved child Doris. Funeral services were conducted by B. W. Huntsman, assisted by T. J. Gore, in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives. On the following Sunday morning reference was made to her beautiful, quiet Christian character and usefulness, in a sermon on "God's Gift of Comfort." She leaves besides her husband two daughters, Phyllis and Hilda, and a son, Charles, all members of the church, and a great comfort to their father.

"Child, you are wise in your simple trust,

For the wisest man knows no more than you.
Ashes to ashes, and dust to dust:

Our views by a range are bounded too;
But we know that God hath this gift in store,

That when we come to the final change,
We shall meet with our loved ones gone before
To the beautiful country over the range."

—B. W. Huntsman, Unley, S.A.

HELLEUR.—On March 26, at Kapunda, our Sister Mrs. J. J. Helleur passed away at the age of 58 years. Our sister had been a member of the Church of Christ for many years. She was baptised by W. S. Earl, and became a member of the church at Grote-st., Adelaide. She has, with her husband, been associated with the churches at Norwood, Moonta, Kadina, and Balaklava. Since residing in Kapunda our brother and sister have worshipped with the Baptists. Our sister was the daughter of Bro. and Sister Eagle, well known and esteemed members of the Church of Christ at Grote-st. They have gone to the better land, and their daughter has now followed. Sister Helleur was an earnest Christian, and strove in all things to have the Spirit of Christ. She loved her Saviour, her Bible, her church, and her family. She was a loving wife, and her children loved her and she loved them. She trained them to love the Saviour. Our sister had a strong and unwavering faith which sustained her in her sufferings. Our sympathies are with Bro. Helleur and the children in the time of their sorrow. Bro. Helleur and his family know the source of all consolation and blessing. May the Lord bless all sorrowing hearts in this affliction.—T. J. Gore, Henley Beach, S.A.

HOFFMAN.—Just as the gospel service was about to commence last evening, word came that Sister Mrs. Hoffman had passed away at the General Hospital. Our sister had been a sufferer for about eight months, and being reconciled, patiently awaited the call to higher service. Mrs. Hoffman was a deaconess for several years, always in her place at worship, and was one of the front-rank Christian workers in the church, as well as taking an active interest in the Women's State Conference. The funeral took place to-day at Toowong. W. H. Nightingale conducted the service at the graveside.—H. C. Stitt, Brisbane, Q.

SOMERVILLE.—Our Sister Somerville was called home on March 25, at the age of 68 years. She was one of the oldest members of the church at Wedderburn. For the last 46 years she has

faithfully served her Saviour, and was ever to the fore by constant attendance, and labors willingly rendered, in advancing the welfare of the church. Her death-bed was a grand one, her confidence in God being steadfast to the end. She said to the writer the day before she died, "I know in whom I have believed; and I am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." Her remains were laid to rest on March 27 in the Wedderburn Cemetery, Thos. Hagger conducting the service at the grave. Our sympathy is with the family that mourn the loss of one so dear to them.

"How beautiful to be with God
When earth is fading like a dream,
And from this mist-encircled shore
We launch upon the unknown stream!
No doubt, no fear, no anxious care,
But comforted by staff and rod,
In the faith-brightened hour of death
How beautiful to be with God."

—Earl G. Bulgin, Wedderburn, Vic.

Bible School Union Demonstration

In connection with the Victorian Conference, a Bible School Union Demonstration was held on Wednesday, 15th inst., in Lygon-st. chapel. F. Pittman, President of the Union, took the chair. A. R. Main led the meeting in prayer. The new President, W. Beiler, was then introduced to the meeting.

An address was delivered by S. G. Griffith on "The Hope of the Church." Since churches must either grow or die, said the speaker, we must see to it that the churches grow, and that that growth be of the right quality. Efficiency in Christian service was the true standard. Training the young in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, so that they might come to Christ without first becoming scarred by sin, was the best method whereby the truest growth of the church could be secured. In view of the fact that the home and the State did not supply training in spiritual things, the Bible School was the hope of the church.

A collection was taken up at this stage, and amounted to £9/6/1½.

Through J. C. F. Pittman, on behalf of the Union, a suitably inscribed medal and a purse of sovereigns were presented to J. Y. Potts, who for ten years has faithfully and efficiently served the Union as Secretary. Bro. Potts responded.

During the evening effective items were rendered by the Brighton, Ascot Vale and Lygon-st. schools. The meeting was attended by a great company.

DUPLEX ENVELOPE SYSTEM

The Duplex Envelope is a double or twin envelope, sealed through the centre in order to keep distinct two separate contributions made at the same time to different funds, and perforated to enable the treasurers of the funds (if there are two treasurers) to divide it into two complete, distinct envelopes. Thus the Duplex Envelope System provides for fifty-two contributions a year to benevolences as well as to current expenses.

Fifty-two envelopes to the set, printed, numbered, dated, collated and enclosed in a neat box that can be hung up, with regular pledge card and explanatory slip.

The Austral Publishing Co. will receive orders for the above for the year 1915; and as the orders will have to be sent to America, they must reach the Austral not later than June 30.

The price will not exceed 9d. per box, and if a large number of orders should be received it will probably be less.

THE AUSTRAL PUBLISHING CO.,
528, 530 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.



Correspondents are requested to condense their reports as much as possible.

New Zealand.

CHRISTCHURCH.—We have been busy lately preparing for Conference, which is now being held amongst us here. We have some 80 delegates from various points in the South Island, and in fellowship are having a rich spiritual time. Good Friday was the day of Foreign Missions, the reports being discussed; at night a very well attended F.M. rally was held, at which, after stirring speeches delivered by Sister Mansill and Bren. Bull, Gebbie and Wright, an offering of over £20 was taken. During the morning a short discussion on union with the Baptists took place, and in the afternoon Bro. Melville read the Conference essay on "Stop the Leak," which was vigorously discussed. Between the session and the rally, about 180 sat down to tea in the schoolroom. Saturday is the day of Home Missions and Bible School; Monday, the day of C.W.B.M.; Lord's day, the day of praise, prayer and preaching, when we are expecting a spiritual feast. Full reports later.—P.S.N., April 11.

NORTHERN UNION.—The District Executive Committee held their quarterly meeting on Saturday, April 4. The principal business was the arranging of the plan of services for the winter months, especially the directing of the evangelist's movements. It was decided that Bro. Oram give three Sundays in the month to Dome Valley during the months of August, September and October, the fourth being spent at Mangawai. Bro. Oram was appointed reporter to the "Australian Christian" for the Union. W. E. Vickery exchanged with the evangelist on March 29, the former taking Mangawai to relieve Bro. Oram of the long journey. Bro. Vickery reported that about 80 were present. This is a promising field, but we are only able to secure the building once every four weeks.—W. G. Oram.

West Australia.

FREMANTLE.—Lord's day morning, April 12, our esteemed Bro. Taylor presided over a fine meeting. Bro. Wedd gave a delightful address on "The Resurrection of Jesus." Our visitors were Pro. Vinicombe, Bro. Richardson, senr. We were pleased to welcome Sister Miss Leach. Our beloved Bro. Williams fell asleep in Jesus last Friday evening in the Fremantle Hospital. We laid his mortal remains to rest in the Karrakatta Cemetery, Sunday afternoon. Our deepest sympathy is with the family in their sad loss. At the gospel service last night a young man, and the son of Bro. Vinicombe, were buried with Jesus in baptism. This was a fine meeting, both in interest and attendance.—E. G. Warren, April 4.

PERTH.—We had a splendid meeting on April 12. This was only to be expected after the close of a very successful Conference. Our many visitors included P. Taylor, Taylor's Well; Bro. Etheridge, Subiaco; Bro. Mackley, Bunbury; Bro. Collett, Northam; Sister Tilley, missionary from our mission field in Diksal, India; Sister Greedy, Fremantle; Sister V. Blackburn, Northam, and Mrs. Wood, also from the country. In addition we had W. Marsden, lately from Wigan, England, who gave the exhortation. In the afternoon D. A. Ewers preached the Conference sermon to a very large gathering. Bro. Ewers' address was a stirring and eloquent appeal for a closer walk with Christ. His subject, "The Message of the Church To-day," dealt with compulsory military training and the great social evils of the day. For

these evils the church had a message of hope to be gained only by the acceptance of Christ's teachings. The gospel meeting was conducted by A. T. Eaton, the evangelist of the Northam church.—W.A., April 14.

Tasmania.

LAUNCESTON.—Last Sunday we experienced a day of great spiritual blessing and uplift. We opened with a sunrise prayer meeting at 7.30 Bro. Rudd, of Hobart, conducted the exercises. A large number were present, and a splendid spiritual tone pervaded the meeting. At the 11 o'clock service our Bro. Peter Orr presided. A large congregation was present, including most of the Conference delegates, and other visitors. Bro. Byard, of Mole Creek, exhorted, his message being one of vitality and hope. Afternoon and evening meetings were also well attended. Bro. Swain preached at the evening service to a packed house. Endeavor Society met on Tuesday night. Bro. Ling occupied the chair. A large number were present and took part in the meeting, which was very bright and helpful.—A. W. Heron,

KELLEVIE.—We have been refused the use of the State School, and we are now without a place to hold our gospel meetings. We still meet in the writer's home for worship. Owing to bad weather, and sickness, only 13 met to remember the Lord's death. On April 12, Len Mundy presided, and T. Cleary and G. Kingston read the Old and New Testament lessons, and John Woolley, junr., gave the exhortation. Sister Mrs. Frank Kingston has been called upon to part with her youngest child. The sympathy of the church goes out to our sister and family. Our sister has had a lot of expense and trouble. Her three children have all been laid aside with sickness, beside the little one being taken to a brighter home. The Dorcas took up a collection on behalf of Sister Kingston, which amounted to £1/5/-. The church also took up a collection and presented her with £9/10/-.—N. Mundy.

Queensland.

ANNERLEY.—Good gathering at mid-week meeting on April 8, when Bro. Nightingale gave us a very helpful message, taking as the basis of his remarks, "For Jesus' Sake." We made application for affiliation to the Associated Churches of Christ in Queensland, and were accorded a hearty welcome. We were also honored by having a representative elected on the Home Mission Committee, likewise the Foreign Mission Committee. Yesterday morning we had the pleasure of listening to an excellent address delivered by H. U. Rodger. Bro. Smythe had fellowship with us. The gospel service was conducted by Bro. Nightingale, who gave a very impressive address on "The Three Crosses."—A.R., April 13.

BRISBANE.—At the mid-week meeting on the 8th inst. J. Swan read a well-thought-out and instructive paper on "The Ideal Church." Owing to a number of country visitors who were at the Conference remaining over Lord's day, a large congregation assembled at the memorial table. W. J. Way, State organiser, presided, and W. Hayes gave a very helpful exhortation. At 3 o'clock W. J. Way preached the Conference sermon, his theme being "Church Unity, Office, and First State." W. H. Nightingale presided. At the gospel service Bro. Way again occupied the platform, a good attendance being present.—H.C.S.

South Australia.

PYAP WEST.—Splendid meetings around the Lord's table yesterday. Rejoiced in having the fellowship of Bro. Davies and Sisters Davies (2), and Seebo, of Veitch. Bro. Davies assisted in the service. One of the largest meetings yet held in the evening; the subject was "The Church and the Liquor Traffic."—L.J.C., April 13.

GROTE-ST.—On Easter Sunday we had a good address from Geo. Hogben, the Secretary of the Baptist Union, at our morning service, and a splendid sermon from H. S. Cleary, of Angas College, at night. There were a great many absent on holidays. To-day we had J. E. Thomas back from Sydney with us. He commenced a series of addresses on "Our Lord's Teaching" at the morning service, and preached to a fine congregation at night. The Sunday School is feeling the benefit of our new buildings. They are preparing for the anniversary to be held early in May.

PROSPECT.—Four have been added by faith and baptism this month, and two by letter. During the writer's absence in Sydney and Melbourne the services were taken by the following: E. J. Paternoster, junr., Mr. Willsmore, of the British and Foreign Bible Society; H. R. Taylor and W. Miller. One young man confessed Christ the first Sunday, and led his own brother the next Sunday. Our sympathy is with Sister Silke and family, who have been called upon to lay away their loved one.—I.A.P.

STRATHALBYN.—Our meetings continue to keep up well. April 5, we had M. Noble, of Henley Beach, with us, who gave us two nice addresses. On the 12th we were pleased to listen once more to A. Pearce as he ably proclaimed the word. To-day we were favored with a visit from Bro. Cosh, of Henley Beach, who gave a very helpful address to the church this morning, and preached a fine sermon to-night from Luke 12: 15.—H.B., April 19.

MAYLANDS.—Improved attendances since last report. Two young women received (after faith and baptism) this morning. Bro. Taylor is holding special teachers' prayer meetings each week in connection with Bible School Day, May 3. Good interest this evening, H. R. Taylor speaking on "Cornelius Seeking the Light."—R.L.A., April 19.

OWEN.—Good meetings to-day. J. Gordon exhorted this morning, and A. H. Wilson preached to-night. Sunday School anniversary services were held Easter Sunday, and rewards were distributed to the children. On Easter Monday the annual Sunday School picnic was held in Mr. G. Marshman's paddock, a good number being present, and a very enjoyable time was spent. Our annual church rally and roll call will be held on Thursday evening, April 30. Isolated members please note and send greetings to A. H. Wilson, evangelist.—W.J.M., April 19.

CROYDON.—Good meetings on April 12. In the morning G. Bateup presided; E. Mossop exhorted. Bible School attendance, fair. Gospel service, Geo. Wilson preached on "The Resurrection." Lord's day, April 19, morning, T. J. Flint presided; H. Bennett exhorted. Bible School attendance, 142 scholars present. Gospel service, T. J. Gore preached on "Power, Purity, Sympathy." Sister Richardson passed away on Wednesday night, after an illness of less than a fortnight. The sisters have started a Women's League for social, moral, and spiritual advancement. The C.E. Society continues its meetings with great enthusiasm.—J.S.H.F.

MALLALA.—On April 12, the meetings were exceptionally well attended both morning and evening. Bro. Goodwin exhorted on "Marks of Christian Growth." In the evening he dealt with the subject of "The Resurrection of Christ." Sister McLachlan sang a solo. Bro. Goodwin has been elected President of the Mallala and Two Wells District C.E. Union. Our much loved and esteemed Sister Worden, senr., has just celebrated her 70th birthday. She is still able to attend the services. This morning F. M. Worden gave a very helpful exhortation from Matt. 23: 39.

BALAKLAVA.—Two received into fellowship by faith and obedience since last report. Sunday School picnic held on Easter Monday. A very enjoyable day was spent. Good meetings to-day. Bro. Tuck presided, Bro. Ewers exhorted. Sunday School used new class rooms for first time. This will be used as a kindergarten, and will be of great assistance to teachers. To-night Bro. Ewers delivered the third of a series of addresses on "The Plea to Restore the New Testament Church," his subject being "The Restoration of the Unity of the New Testament Church." Good interest manifested. On April 29, we tender a social to Bro. and Sister Ewers. It is just two years to-day since Bro. and Sister Ewers arrived.—P.H.R., April 19.

MOONTA.—We have been having fairly good meetings. This morning a good number of members and several visitors met for the breaking of bread. Bro. Cuttriss presided, and exhorted from Acts 20: 35, on "The Blessedness of Giving." Gospel service at 6.30. Good number present (over 90), and Bro. Cuttriss gave a well-thought-out character study on Zacchæus.—B. Marsh, April 19.

HINDMARSH.—April 19, good meetings. The chapel was suitably draped, in memory of Sister Richardson, who passed away after a very short illness, leaving a young family and sorrowing husband to mourn their loss. Special reference was made by H. D. Smith at both services, when he echoed the deep sympathy of the church with the bereaved family and relatives. Sister Richardson was better known at Robert-st. as Nellie Pickering, and for some years took an active part in the choir, and was always willing to assist with her voice whenever requested, and by her bright, happy disposition, had won a large circle of friends. For some time, owing to her close proximity to the North Croydon church, she had transferred her membership to them, and the Croydon brethren have sustained a loss by her early death. 11 a.m., G. Wilson addressed the church, and also made reference to the sad event. At the gospel service a suitable anthem was rendered by the choir, and a solo by Mrs. A. Edquist.—J. W. Snook.

KADINA.—This morning a good number met around the Lord's table, when Bro. Verco presided, and Bro. Neill gave the exhortation from John 14: 16. This afternoon the Bible School children donated the whole of the afternoon's offering, £1/2/-, to the little lad, Tommy Bell, who had his leg broken at our picnic on Good Friday. Although he is not a scholar from the school, the school thought that they would like to help him in some way. This evening Bro. Verco gave the second of a series of addresses on Baptism. Text chosen, Mark 16: 16, "Baptism a Command."—J. H. Thomas, April 19.

MUNDALLA.—The cause in this township is of a very encouraging nature. The brethren are faithful in their attendance at the Lord's table, and the gospel service is very largely attended by the general public. Our new chapel is now nearly completed, and the opening services will be held on the 3rd and 6th of May.—E.E.

LOCHIEL.—Splendid meeting since last report. April 12, a splendid number of members partook of the Lord's Supper. Good attendance at Bible School. At the gospel service the chapel was full, when nearly three-quarters of the congregation were men. We anticipate commencing a Bible School at Mt. Templeton. Bro. Jones this week has spent most of his time in preparing for this work by visiting the families of the district, of which he gives a very satisfactory report. He has also obtained the loan of a private building for the work. On April 10, the C.E. Society participated in the rally at Balaklava, when our society, about 30 in number, had a very beneficial and educational outing.—W. G. McGregor, April 19.

WAMPOONY.—The combined anniversaries of the church and Bible School were held on April 5 and 10. The Sunday services were conducted by A. R. Benn. The chapel was almost full at both services. The children rendered several anthems in a very pleasing manner. On the 10th the usual tea and public meeting was held. Bro. Lavington Fisher, as chairman of the evening meeting, presented an interesting programme of singing, speeches, etc. The prizes won by the

Bible School were presented to the successful scholars. The building was full to overflowing, and a good interest was manifest.—E.E.

BORDERTOWN.—The anniversary services of our Bible School were held on Lord's day, April 12. The services were well attended. The Methodist and Congregational friends closed their schools in the afternoon in order to be present at our gathering. Bro. Edwards distributed the prizes, and also addressed the children on the subject, "This House To Let." A pleasing feature of the afternoon service was the singing of the kindergarten class, who occupied the front part of the platform, and were seated in their tiny kindergarten chairs. The story of "The Life of Christ" was rendered by the school as a service of song at the evening service, and was listened to with earnest attention by a large audience. The school picnic was held on Easter Monday, and proved an enjoyable outing. Our Bible School is in a healthy condition under the superintendency of A. O. Warcken.—E.E.

QUEENSTOWN.—Fair attendance of members around the Lord's table. We were pleased to see Sister R. Brant with us. Afternoon, held splendid women's meeting, Bro. Brooker speaking. Evening, Bro. Brooker preached on "Confession" to a large audience. He also spoke words of comfort and help to some of our members who have been bereft of a loved one, Bro. Bronson, who has been called up higher. We pray God's blessing on these sorrowing mourners.—H. Watkins, April 19.

BERRI.—Bro. Raymond arrived here on April 2. We are indeed thankful to the Home Mission Committee for sending a leader among us. On April 5 we met for breaking of bread at Bro. Edwards' house. A gospel service was held at the same place in the evening. Thursday, 9th, the first business meeting of the church was held, when officers were elected. Bro. Edwards consented to continue as secretary, with Bro. Simon as assistant, and G. W. Jarvis at cor. sec. Easter Sunday we met for breaking of bread at the Berri Institute, when Bro. Raymond spoke to the church, and in the evening preached a powerful address on "The Three Crosses." Monday, Bro. Raymond rode over to Loxton and Pyap West, visiting the brethren and returning to Berri in time for Thursday night's prayer meeting. We have decided to have weekly cottage prayer meetings at the homes of various brethren.—G. W. Jarvis.

New South Wales.

PADDINGTON.—Last Lord's day we had quite an array of visitors from sister churches, most of whom being delegates to the Conference. Bro. Waters, from Narrabri, gave a good address on "Watch ye, stand fast, quit you like men, be strong." We had the pleasure of receiving by letter Bro. James Reid, from the church at Buckie, Scotland; Bro. Avenall, eldest son of our esteemed Bro. and Sister Avenall, who had only arrived from England the previous week; he is a very promising young man, and gave the church an acceptable address to-night (Wednesday) at the prayer meeting. On Lord's day evening Bro. Collins gave an address on "The Resurrection." A large number of strangers was present.—W.R.R., April 15.

BALMAIN.—Bro. Robbins gave a splendid exhortation on April 15. We are greatly in need of a few brethren to throw their lot in with us, as we have every prospect of getting a strong foundation in Balmain.—C. Newey.

CHATSWOOD.—Splendid meeting on Sunday morning. Interest continues to grow in all departments. We are deeply anxious to get started on our chapel building, and will appreciate further help. This is a new field, and with a little support now a large church will be built up. We gratefully acknowledge the following donations since last report:—Sister Jeans, £5; Bro. Rowles, £1; Sister Whately, senr., £2. We trust the brethren will not let us fail in this undertaking. Kindly forward a donation to T. Bagley, "Allan-Brae," Nelson-st., Chatswood, New South Wales.

INVERELL.—On April 3 several of the members here went out to the chapel at Fern Hill, and

conducted a Band of Hope meeting. The chapel was crowded, and we are going to continue these meetings monthly. On the 5th, Bro. Waters held services at Gum Flat and Little Plain. On the 6th, the monthly meeting of the Band of Hope was held here. On the 12th, Bro. Waters conducted services at Oakwood. We are pleased to have with us Bro. and Sister Morris, of Marrickville, and Bro. Carslake, of Narrabri. We are aiming at building a small chapel at Goonaawigal, as the people out there are all anxious to see a place of worship erected. We have also been asked to go to Woodville and Tingha, but at the present cannot find the means. Tingha is a big tin mining centre, and there are great possibilities there. Sunday Schools still in good working order.—W.B., April 14.

LISMORE.—Good rally of members last Lord's day. The 13th was the opening day of the tennis club. All passed off splendidly. Good Friday, the Tabernacle Bible Class had a motor-boat picnic of ten miles on arm Richmond river. Wednesday, 15th, quarterly church business meeting showed matters in healthy state. 11 additions to church membership for 12 weeks. Sister O. Davis is in local hospital. Bren. W. and G. Davis are in Melbourne visiting their brother, Mr. Bert Davis, preacher of the South Melbourne church.—S.S., April 15.

SYDNEY.—Easter Sunday, three fine meetings. Large number of visitors present at all the services. J. E. Thomas, S.A., gave a fine inspiring address in the morning and also in the afternoon. At night Bro. Harward preached a good gospel address on "The Resurrection and the Gospel." Sister Leck, a member since 1868, greatly interested in all the church activities for nearly half a century, passed away Saturday night, 18th inst. Services to-day well attended, Bro. Harward preaching at both services.—J.C.

ST. PETERS.—We have purchased an organ, which is an improvement to the singing. We have held our monthly meeting of the Band of Hope, which was very good; attendance about 70. We are to have a service of song entitled "Uncle Tom's Cabin" on Monday, 27th, and we would like to have good support from sister churches.—C. E. Cook.

LIDCOMBE.—Splendid meetings to-day. Bro. Rossell exhorted this morning, and among our visitors was Sister Allen, of Hornsby. On behalf of the church the writer received and welcomed to the church Sister Mrs. Leslie Saxby, by letter from the City Temple. We also had the joy of seeing Bro. W. J. Williams at the meeting again for the first time for six or eight weeks, slightly improved in health. Bro. Stow conducted the gospel service, delivering an impressive address. Last Lord's day Bro. Rush spoke to the church in the morning. W. Waters, of Narrabri, had charge of the gospel service.—M. Andrews, April 19.

LILYVILLE.—April 19, meetings fair. At the morning meeting Bro. Riddell presided. Bro. Saunders exhorted. Bible School was well attended, and four new scholars were enrolled. At night Bro. Saunders gave a stirring address on "All Men have not Failed."—E.B.

ENMORE.—Good address in the morning by Bro. Illingworth, from John 1: 42. We were pleased to have with us the following visitors:—Bren. Wright, Subiaco; Leslie Clark, Dubbo; Sister Walden, Bro. and Sister D. R. Hall, Bro. and Sister Glaister, Auckland, and Sister Parsonage, Taree. We regret to have to report the death of one of the old pioneers of the church in the person of Bro. George Saxby, of the Manning River. We extend our loving sympathy to our esteemed Bro. and Sister Jacob Saxby, in the loss they have sustained. Bro. Illingworth conducted the evening service, and gave a fine address from Luke 5: 31-32, and we had the joy of seeing one woman decide for Christ. A baptismal service was held at the close of the meeting, when a brother and sister were baptised into Christ. A social gathering was held in the schoolroom on Wednesday last to bid farewell to our Bro. and Sister J. Hunter and daughter, who are leaving for the old country, and expect to be away about 8 months. Addresses were given by Bren. Walden, Kingsbury and Hindle, and musical items by Bro. Tin-

Continued on page 276.

In the Realm of the Bible School

THE PRODIGAL SON.

Sunday School Lesson for May 3,

Luke 15: 11-32.

A. R. Main, M.A.

Our present study is one of the finest of the parables of the Lord Jesus. It has been eulogised as perhaps no other piece of literature has been.

We have already said that the three parables of Luke 15 agree in teaching us God's love for the sinner, his willingness to receive the sinner, and the joy over the sinner's recovery. In an especial way does this third parable of the lost son tell us of these things. A father who had only two boys and lost one of them suffered a greater loss than did a shepherd with one straying sheep or a woman who dropped one of the coins. God has not only a shepherd's heart; he has a father's heart. Nay, more: "When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up" (Psa. 27: 10).

There are some notable differences in the third parable of the group. The son deliberately turned his back on home. He knew the father's love; of his own will he went to a far country. Some men are to-day away from God, even though they have known his loving care. They have deliberately turned their back on him; they are not stupid wanderers as the sheep, or unconsciously lost as the coin, but deliberately away from God as the prodigal was from his home.

Parable number three takes up the lesson where the first two lay it down. God's seeking love is emphasised in the stories of the lost sheep and the lost coin. Plainly these had to be sought, and to wait till they were found. No sinner gets back to God of himself. The seeking love of God and his Christ must come first. So naturally the parables which emphasise that seeking love appear first in order. But it is not all the truth to say that God seeks the sinner; the sinner must seek God. A coin could do nothing in order to its own finding; but it is not therefore necessarily the case that a sinner away from God must passively wait until he is found. God wants sinners to repent of their sin, to seek their Father. A sheep, a coin, cannot repent, come to themselves and make for home. So a third parable was added to teach the supplementary truths. This insistence on the need of repentance and turning to God is one of the most important things in the present lesson. One writer has put the matter strongly thus: "That is the lesson which we have to learn—that the most beautiful and the most magnanimous act of forgiveness recorded in the sacred story follows upon the most genuine and complete confession and repentance, and would not have been given without that. Before the door is thrown open and the fatted calf is killed, there must be the cry of the broken heart, 'Father, I have sinned.' There is no outstretched hand of pardoning mercy until the sinner stoops in lowly shame and suffering to touch it; there is no real forgiveness possible except through the dark and prickly gateway of self-abasement and tearful repentance."

We can easily see how misleading it would be

to take the teaching of the first two parables as if it were the whole. The sinner, consciously away from God, sin-sick, dissatisfied with that which the world has to offer, must "come to himself," he must repent, and he must *arise and go to the Father*. No one—not even God or Christ—can do that for him. But when he comes, what a welcome awaits him! The prodigal did not have to go the whole way by himself. The father saw him and ran to welcome. An old proverb represents God as saying, "Who draws near to me an inch, I will draw near to him an ell; who walks to meet me, I will leap to meet him." It will be noted that the returned son did not make his humiliating request to be treated as a hired servant (vv. 18, 19, cf. v. 21). He was interrupted. The treatment forbade the prayer; he was a son beloved; as one from the dead, as one who had been lost, he was welcomed.

A word should be spared for the elder brother. "The elder brother is the representative of the Pharisees in their good and bad points, in their moral correctness, and in their severity and pride, as the younger brother is the representative of the 'publicans and sinners' in their depravity and repentance." The elder son shows himself self-righteous, harsh and unforgiving. While we may believe that our Lord referred directly to the Pharisees, we can be sure that the Pharisæic spirit is one found in all ages, and that our lesson rebukes it wherever and whenever manifested. It is easy for members of the church of God to rejoice more in their privileges and in the delightful fellowship of their equals in the social scale than to go out after the lost ones and welcome the returning prodigals. Alas, some of the latter have been repelled by the coldness of those who profess to know the Lord, but who forget that Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost.

THE UNJUST STEWARD.

Sunday School Lesson for May 10,

Luke 16: 1-13.

This parable has caused much discussion. Its admitted difficulties have been magnified. Some refuse to believe that our Lord could have given the lesson recorded. Some doubt the translation. To most of us, there seems no insuperable difficulty. The most usual view of the parable seems the best. It will be better to read the revised version.

The story itself is not hard. A great landowner had a steward, or factor, to whose care the management of the estate was committed. For some reason the master was convinced of his steward's dishonesty, and resolved to dismiss him. When he was called upon to give a statement of the condition of affairs prior to giving up office, the steward showed considerable foresight and ingenuity. He determined to provide himself a home. He consulted the debtors of his master—possibly tenants—and remitted to them (as he could do, since he still was steward) part of the debt. For instance, a man who had been billed for 900 gallons of oil was let off with 450; while another, whose account had been rendered for 800 or 900 bushels of wheat, was allowed to reduce the amount by one-fifth. It may be, but no one can be sure, that the steward had previously charged the higher

sum and intended to pay his master the smaller amount, pocketing the difference. In this case, the steward "by changing the bills, was rectifying a wrong to the debtors, and at the same time making his bills agree with what he had reported to his master. Thus he would put the debtors under obligation, and seem innocent to his lord." In any case, the men benefited would be grateful, especially if a lease were concerned.

The steward prudently provided for his future. The very point of the lesson for us lies here. "Worldly people are very far-sighted and ready in their transactions with one another for temporal objects. The spiritually minded ought to be equally ready in making one another promote 'heavenly objects.'" A. B. Bruce finds two great lessons: "The general one a lesson of prudence in the use of temporal possessions with a view to eternal interests; the special one a lesson as to the way of using these possessions which most directly and surely tends to promote our eternal interests, viz., by the practice of kindness towards those who are destitute of this world's goods. A prudent regard to the higher concerns of man, and beneficence towards the poor as a means to that end, such are the virtues which it seems the teacher's aim to inculcate."

A host of minor difficulties and objections may present themselves. Space allows a mention of a few. Some stumble at the words "The lord commended the unjust steward" (v. 8). "The lord" is the landlord of the parable, not the Lord Jesus (see R.V., "his lord"). The commendation, again, has nothing to do with the injustice of the act, but with its *prudence*. The landlord could appreciate foresight and sagacity, even when these were used against himself.

Jesus' comment, "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" has been misunderstood. The R.V., "for their own generation" is a better reading. Christ does not say or mean that worldlings are wiser than Christians: they are not, for they are guilty of the folly of neglecting their eternal interests. But *for their generation*, they are wiser: they are more prudent in the conduct of their affairs: "they are wiser in attaining their inferior ends, use more skill, more ingenuity, more far-sightedness and far-reaching plans."

The biggest difficulty of all is found in v. 9, where Jesus speaks: "I say unto you, make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations." The R.V. is to be preferred: "Make to yourselves friends by means of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when it shall fail, they may receive you into the eternal tabernacles." The R.V. gets rid of the greatest difficulty: we are not to make friends of money, "filthy lucre," but friends by means of it. Still, some declare the difficulty remains: how could a Christ use, or make friends of *unrighteous* mammon? Such objectors think that mammon of unrighteousness must refer to money wrongfully gained by the possessor of it. But there is no proof that unrighteous mammon must mean this. "Mammon simply means wealth, and is called 'unrighteous' by metonymy (*i.e.*, the ethical character of the use is represented as cleaving to the thing itself) because the abuse of riches is more common than their right use." Thus "we speak of 'filthy lucre,' not meaning unjust gain; but gain in general." So we can by means of money do good, and can gain friends by it (whether the friends are those we benefit or celestial beings who approve of our conduct). Even if we abide by the A.V. reading and say, "Make friends of the mammon of unrighteousness," there is still good sense: "We turn mammon into a friend, and make friends by its means, when we use riches not as our own to squander, but as God's to employ in deeds of usefulness and mercy." Our Saviour's closing words sufficiently safeguard his teaching from distortion. He does not praise injustice and unfaithfulness such as the steward showed: Christ demands faithfulness in earthly things (v. 11). Again, one must see that the mammon which he ought to use aright does not become a master. No man can serve God and money.

The Family Altar

Conducted by M. M. Davis,
From the "Christian Standard."

OUR LIFE A SONG.

The sweetest music it not that which is written by some gifted composer, and then rendered by some world-famed performer of the great organ, but it is the singing of a beautiful life modelled after that of our Lord. This is the thought of Peter when he exhorts us to add to faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, etc. The word "add" might well be translated "chorus," when, instead of urging us to add the virtues, making a great, symmetrical life, he would say chorus them, making each blend with the other, thus filling the world with music akin to that around the throne of our Father in heaven. Let this be our inspiration and motto this week.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26.

Gems of Thought.—"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord" (Eph. 5: 19).

The man that hath no music in himself,
Nor is not moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems and spoils;
The motions of his spirit are dull as night,
And his affections dark as Erebus;
Let no such man be trusted.

—Shakespeare.

Sweet music! sacred tongue of God.—J. G. Holland.

Bible Reading.—Eph. 5: 17-21: Music in the soul.

MONDAY, APRIL 27.

Gems of Thought.—"Teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children" (Tit. 2: 5).

The world has no such in any land,
And no such pearl in any sea
As any babe on any mother's knee.

—Swinburne.

Ye are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said,
For ye are living poems,
And all the rest are dead.

—Longfellow.

Bible Reading.—Titus 2: 1-5: Mothers and their babes.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28.

Gems of Thought.—"We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory" (2 Cor. 3: 18).

The lives that seem so poor, so low,
The hearts which are so cramped and dull,
The baffled hopes, the impulse slow,
Thou takest, touchest all, and lo!
They blossom to the beautiful.

—Susan Coolidge.

Charcoal has diamond possibilities; human nature has those of transfiguration.—H. W. Warren.

Bible Reading.—2 Cor. 3: 12-18: Changed into the image of the Lord.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29.

Gems of Thought.—"Go and do thou likewise" (Luke 10: 37).

Oh, brother man! fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;

To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.
Follow with reverent steps the great example
Of Him whose holy work was "doing good";
So shall the wide earth seem our Father's temple,
Each loving life a psalm of gratitude.

—Whittier.

If I were to declare that A is in trouble, B would instantly reply, "C ought to go and help him."—Sydney Smith.

Bible Reading.—Luke 10: 25-37: The good Samaritan.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30.

Gems of Thought.—"Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples" (Luke 11: 1).

For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer,
Both for themselves and those who call them
friend?

—Tennyson.

No man ever yet asked to be, as the days pass by, more and more noble and sweet and heavenly-minded; no man ever yet prayed that the evil spirits of hatred and pride and passion and worldliness might be cast out of his soul, without his petition being granted, and granted to the letter.

—Farrar.
Bible Reading.—Luke 11: 1-13: The Master teaching us how to pray.

FRIDAY, MAY 1.

Gems of Thought.—"Before honor is humility" (Prov. 18: 12).

"Humble we must be if to heaven we go;
High is the roof there, but the door is low."

Humility is to make a right estimate of one's self; it is no humility for a man to think less of himself than he ought, though it might puzzle him to do that.—Spurgeon.

Bible Reading.—Prov. 18: 1-12: The way to honor.

SATURDAY, MAY 2.

Gems of Thought.—"Keep thyself pure" (1 Timothy 5: 22).

More holiness give me,
More strivings within;
More patience in suffering,
More sorrow for sin;
More faith in my Saviour,
More sense of His care;
More joy in His service,
More purpose in prayer.

—P. P. Bliss.

Displace the dew as it has fallen on the blushing fruit, and no skill can replace it. Press the rose-leaf and wound it, and none can give back the perfection of its tints. So it is with human character. When youth has once lost innocence, when sin has once blasted the soul, when the first freshness of a God-given life is gone, no after-repentance, reformation, or devotion to God, will ever make it the same. Memory is polluted, the imagination is assailed by impurities, habits of virtue are weakened, and the force of vice is strengthened. The wound may be healed, but the scar remains. God may forgive the sin, and man may forgive it; but it is never altogether beyond the vision of him who committed it. We never can be the same after transgression as if we had not transgressed. Some things God gives twice; some, many times; but innocence no soul can ever get a second time.—Pacific Christian Advocate.

Bible Reading.—1 Tim. 5: 19-25: Purity preserved.

The Querist.

Please explain 1 Cor. 12: 13. In what sense are we baptised in one Spirit? Were not the disciples baptised by the Spirit into the one body on the day of Pentecost? Gal. 3: 27 says, "For as many of you as have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ." Are we not baptised into Christ by a spiritual baptism? If an infant dies without being baptised, will it be lost? If the church is the kingdom, why do we not receive infants into it, for Jesus said, "For of such is the kingdom of heaven"?—A.L.

1. The reference in 1 Cor. 12: 13 is to water baptism. One Spirit acting through the apostles and evangelists had caused people of different races and nationalities to be baptised into the one body or church, and had bestowed himself upon them after they had been thus baptised (Acts 2: 38), thus making them one organism. There is no reference here to the baptism in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost; that was extraordinary, this is the ordinary, and applies to all Christians.

2. Galatians 3: 27. Baptism is here spoken of in its symbolical sense, as putting on the nature and disposition of Christ as a garment enveloping them on every side.

3. An unbaptised infant will not be lost. It has no responsibility, and is innocent.

4. The kingdom is a larger phrase than the church, and infants are in the kingdom, though not in the church. The force of the passage, "For of such is the kingdom of heaven," is that the citizens of that kingdom are to be like little children in disposition, humility of mind, etc.—Ed.

Trams for Jerusalem.—The announcement of a forthcoming service of trams at Jerusalem, connecting the "Holy City" with Bethany, Bethlehem, and Jericho, says the *Christian*, is a startling reminder that the world is "moving on" from the realm of sentiment to that of hard (and commercial) practicality. To many it will come as a rude and unwelcome shock by reason of its apparent incongruity; and those of us who have visited the Holy Land cannot help sharing such a feeling. Yet who can say that the hand of God may not be working behind the minds of men even in this essentially twentieth-century proposal? The future of Jerusalem is, as yet, to a great extent a "closed book." Only the Divine eye can discern what lies ahead.

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From the Field—Continued.

gate, and Sisters Holmes, Bains and Henlon, after which refreshments were handed round.—E.L.

NORTH SYDNEY.—A goodly number assembled at the Lord's table in the morning, Bro. Webber presiding. The Conference motto, "Soul-winning," was the subject taken by Bro. Gale, from which he gave a most encouraging address. The evening service, which took the form of an in memoriam service, owing to the passing away of our Sister Ivy Wardale, was conducted by Bro. Gale, his subject being "Your life is hid with Christ in God." A beautiful solo, "I have a home above," was rendered by Bro. Tingate. The choir also rendered an appropriate anthem. A large congregation was present.—Fred. J. Reeson, April 19.

PADDINGTON.—Church matters seem to be on the upgrade here. At the meeting for the breaking of bread three promising members were received in by letter—Sister Harrington, from Enmore; Bro. Wm. Avenall, from Birmingham, England (who is an acceptable speaker), and Bro. Allan Eagle, from the church at Horsham, Vic. F. Collins addressed the church on "The Contentment of the Apostle Paul." At the gospel meeting his subject was the third verity of Christian union, "One Spirit," when he delivered an excellent address, at the conclusion of which one young man, who has done good work with the Wesleyans, decided to follow the Lord more fully, and to be baptised into the "one name which is above every name." Quite a number of strangers were at the evening meeting, whom we have not noticed previously.—W.R.R., April 19.

PETERSHAM.—At the church business meeting held on Wednesday, 15th, the resignation of Bro. Coleman was accepted with regret. A number of the brethren spoke of the good work which had been done during the time Bro. Coleman had been with us, the wiping out of the overdraft being specially mentioned. J. Saxby has consented to preach on Sunday nights during the time we are without an evangelist. 19th, good meeting in the morning. Bro. Allan Price gave an excellent address. Bro. Coleman preached at night. Next Sunday will be the last Sunday Bro. Coleman will be with us; his subject at night will be "Christ Crowned."—T.I., April 18.

BLACKHEATH.—The few disciples here still meet each Lord's day morning for worship. Bro. Stimson, from Dubbo, has been meeting with us this last two Sundays, also several other visiting brethren and sisters. Bro. Waters, from Narrabri, was with us on Lord's day, and we had the pleasure of listening to an address from him. We greatly appreciate visits from visiting members, and invite all who come to Blackheath to meet with us. Our membership at present only consists of two families who have been meeting regularly for the last 8 months. It has been our desire to secure a piece of ground in a central position for a building to be erected at some future time. A suitable piece was secured a few days ago for £100. A deposit of £20 has been paid, and ground secured. The remaining balance has been found by a brother, and the responsibility devolves upon the church here to repay this amount as quickly as possible. Two brethren have subscribed £5 each, so that the balance has been reduced £10. If any other member should so wish, we shall be glad of a donation. There are many who come to the mountains would like to participate in this matter, as the building will be a place of meeting for members from all parts of the Commonwealth and enable them to meet together for worship when visiting here.—H. E. Tewksbury.

Victoria.

BURNLEY.—On Lord's day morning we had a large attendance of members, and also a visiting sister from Warrnambool. In the evening Bro. Arnott gave a fine address. The first anniversary will be held on April 26.—J.H.H., April 12.

MORELAND.—We had the pleasure of the company of several visitors from sister churches. We received into fellowship, by transfer from

Brunswick, Bro. H. Kingshott. We are preparing for our annual meeting this month. Bro. Pittman spoke on the similarity of Christ and Moses.—C.R., April 19.

ST. ARNAUD.—Last Lord's day was Children's Day with us. We had several visitors at our worship meeting. Bro. McCrackett gave a splendid discourse. In the afternoon a flower service, the first meeting in connection with the Bible School anniversary, was held; there was a good attendance. In the evening our evangelist gave a candle service, several of the children taking an active part. This meeting was a great success, there being 140 present. The subject, "Let there be Light," was both interesting and instructive. Bro. McCrackett kept the large audience greatly interested throughout. Our annual picnic was held yesterday, when about 80 or 90 old and young had a very enjoyable time.—H.B., April 14.

NORTHCOTE.—The public welcome to A. G. Day was held on April 7. A splendid attendance, and good interest was shown. Bro. McLellan presided, and the following took part:—Bren. Griffith, Kingsbury, Hewinson (Baptist), Binney. During the evening John Collings, on behalf of the church, made a presentation to C. Anderson, who labored with us as evangelist for some two years. Several musical items were rendered. On April 19, good meeting at the Lord's table. H. E. Knott gave a splendid exhortation. Four were received into fellowship, two by letter and two by faith and obedience. Gospel meetings are well attended. Bro. Day is getting a grip of the work, and the interest is growing.—R.C., April 19.

BRUNSWICK.—E. Kelson and J. Ferguson, of North Fitzroy, and F. McClean, of Carlton, have helped us with their words of exhortation, the latter being very outspoken and forceful on the liquor traffic. The gospel is faithfully proclaimed by M. Wood Green, in lieu of Bro. Shain, who is still unable to resume. Our Conference visitors were: Bren. White, Brim, who presided; Skinner, Cosgrove; and Sister Mrs. Spicer, Castlemaine. Our C.E. Society visited the Coburg Baptist C.E. Society. Sister Miss Daisy Lovekin has been united in marriage, J. C. F. Pittman officiating, and Sister Mrs. Alick Partridge (*nee* Florrie Pinnie) has lost her mother by death. School anniversary fixed for Sunday, May 10.—W.T., April 19.

COLAC.—Two confessions on Sunday, April 12. Both baptised to-night, after fine meeting.—G.E.C., April 19.

WINDSOR.—Since last report we have been indebted to Bren. McGregor Abercrombie, Black, Gibbins, and R. Graham, for morning addresses. Mr. Gibbins has preached the gospel message and conducted the midweek service. To-night we had the largest meeting for months. R. Graham spoke, and an intelligent girl from the Bible School responded to the invitation. The Young Men's Physical Culture and the Young Ladies' Guild have resumed their meetings.

NORTH RICHMOND.—Five confessions since last report. On April 19, we had what was termed an "Ideal Church Day." There were good attendances at the services, and a keen interest was displayed by those in attendance. Bro. Salisbury, who has served the church faithfully for twenty odd years, both as a deacon and Bible School superintendent, purposes paying a visit to his parents in England. We all join in wishing him "bon voyage."—H.E.A., April 21.

PRAHRAN.—Large audience and two baptisms last night. Five new scholars for the Bible School. J. Barnden is now leader of the church choir, and is doing a good work. Bible School anniversary is to take place on June 7 and 8.—P. J. Pond, April 20.

PRESTON.—On the morning of the 12th, we enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. Glaister, of Auckland, who ably exhorted. Mr. Gibson, Secretary, Northcote No-License League, addressed the school in the afternoon on total abstinence. At the evening service W. G. Combridge preached, and Bro. Binney sang the gospel message to a large audience. Fine attendance at mid-week prayer service.—G.A.D.

FOOTSCRAY.—Good meetings all day to-day. The church has recently been called to mourn

Sister Mrs. Cribb. This morning reference was made to this fact. Bro. Fred. Blyth is in hospital with very serious indisposition. A memoriam service is to be held next Sunday evening for Mrs. Cribb. To-night, after a good service, one young man, who confessed some weeks ago, brought his mate to the foot of the cross. Two young men baptised to-night.—W. D. More.

HAWTHORN.—Yesterday we had fair meetings. Mrs. Magor, of Adelaide, and Mrs. Gerang, of Geelong, were with us. We were glad to welcome Bro. Nankervis back after a very severe illness. We are arranging a public temperance meeting for Tuesday evening, April 28.—A. C. Rankine, April 20.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.).—We had a great day on Sunday last. Reg. Enniss presided over a nice meeting in the morning, when we remembered the Lord's death. Two received into fellowship. The visitors from a distance were: Bro. Harrison and son, Launceston; Bro. Patterson, Hobart; Bro. Neville, Norwood, S.A.; Misses Millis, Bendigo; Miss Trangmar, City Temple, Sydney; Miss Mason, Grote-st., Adelaide; H. Wheeler, Unley, S.A.; also Sister Rodd, Hobart. S. G. Griffith is giving a series of interesting talks to the Century Bible Class on "The Miracles of our Lord." A large meeting at night, when S. G. Griffith gave a powerful discourse, his subject being "The King and the Captive." The clear, earnest presentation of the old gospel to the large audience assembled led seven to step out and make the good confession—four young men and three young women.—J.McC.

WILLIAMSTOWN.—A. G. Bennett is making his presence felt in the district, his gospel messages on the hearts of the unconverted, and his exhortations on the church. To-night, at the close of his gospel address on "The Call of Christ to Men," one young man obeyed that call by confessing Christ as his Lord and Master, before a large audience. At the business meeting of the church held last Thursday it was decided that a special effort be made to wipe off the £16 debt on the building before the end of the month.—R.G., April 19.

FAIRFIELD PARK.—Since last report we have been favored with good meetings both morning and evening. E. H. P. Edwards exhorted the church to edification. Bro. Hibbert proclaimed the gospel. A young man confessed Christ at the close of the address, and was buried in baptism the same hour. Others inquiring. The choir are helping much with bright singing, and the audience listened attentively to an anthem rendered, entitled "King of Kings." The month of May, gospel meetings will be special.—F.P.

KYNETON CIRCUIT.—Fine meeting held at Drummond last Lord's day morning, and a decided improvement in the attendance at our gospel meeting at Kyneton. Our building fund is still growing, and we beg to acknowledge with thanks the following donations: Bro. Cust, £4/4/-; Bro. H. Pang, £1; Bro. A. R. Main, £1; Sister A.H., 5/-; a Brother, £4. The sum required now to complete the purchase of the land is £38. Who will help us to raise the balance? Send to J. R. Combridge, Beauchamp-st., Kyneton.

DANDENONG.—Bro. Thomas has been giving a series of excellent addresses on foundation truths in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer and only way to salvation. This evening he gave the first of a series of sermons on New Testament Conversions, his theme this evening being, "Conversion." We have received by letter Bro. Jensen, from the church at Colac, and Sister Crook, from the church at South Yarra, also two sisters by faith and obedience. A young People's Club—literary, physical and social—is being organised by Bro. Thomas, and altogether we look forward to much good being accomplished in the near future. The electric light has been installed in the chapel, and is a great improvement on the old time gas apology.—J. Proctor.

CHELTENHAM.—On Easter Sunday Bro. Wilson arranged a special service, and the choir rendered "The Story of the Cross." One from the Bible School made the good confession. On the Wednesday the J.C.E. visited the Benevolent

Asylum, and made presents of eggs and magazines to the inmates. The old folks greatly appreciated the gifts and service from the little ones. To-day has been greatly blessed; fine meetings throughout. During some weeks past Bro. Wilson has been requesting the names of favorite hymns. A large number were furnished. Those mostly favored were made the subject of a special hymn service for to-night. Bro. Wilson shortly detailed circumstances associated with the hymns, so increasing our interest in them. They were then sung. The service was a delight, and further blessed with the confession made by another maiden from the school. The church anniversary is being prepared for, May 3 and 6 being the dates. We specially invite all old and new friends to come and spend the Lord's day with us, and join with us on the Wednesday in the social tea gathering.—F.W.M., April 19.

CARNEGIE.—Four received into fellowship on April 19. Bro. Patterson gave us a very helpful message. Good meetings during the day. We have fixed May 24 as our anniversary day, and are working to make it a day of big things.

GEELONG.—Easter time saw rather small meetings, owing to a number of our members being away, many of them at Conference. Nevertheless there was a fine spirit, and the addresses of J. Whellans, who was relieving Bro. Gifford Gordon, were very much appreciated. Last Sunday we had very good meetings, especially the evening, when Gifford Gordon preached a very fine powerful address on "Broken Cisterns." We are sorry to lose the fellowship of our esteemed Bro. Charles Christopher, who has been secretary of the Bible School for some time past, by his removal to Ballarat, where he takes up a position in the Federal Service. The present lease of the church building expires at the close of this year, and arrangements have just been completed, and a lease signed for a further period of ten years, terminating at the end of 1925, at practically a nominal rental. Sister Gordon is somewhat better, but is still in a very weak condition, and it will be some time before she is able to get about again.—E.B.

Here and There

Enmore, N.S.W., Bible School will celebrate its jubilee on August 2, 3, and 4. A reunion of past teachers and officers will be held on Monday, August 3.

Bible School Day will be observed in the S.A. churches the first Sunday in May as usual. Special addresses and offerings for the work and for the Children's Hospital Cot.

Jos. J. Franklyn has accepted the invitation to labor with the church at Swanston-st., Melbourne, and will commence his ministry early in July. His address is 102 Mills-st., Middle Park.

The following have been appointed as the Tasmanian Home Missionary Committee: H. Swain, President; C. Nicholls, Vice-President; W. Ling, Treasurer; N. Warmbrunn, Secretary; E. Nicholls, A. Heron, P. Orr.

In view of the resolution passed at the recent Victorian Conference favoring the appointment of a Bible School organiser, the brethren are asked to give as liberally as possible on Bible School Day, May 3. The work has hitherto been considerably hampered through lack of funds.

The Victorian Women's Executive will meet in the Hall, Swanston-st., on Friday, May 1, at 2.30 p.m. Opportunity will be given to say good-bye to Mrs. Manifold, who is leaving shortly for New Zealand and America. Afternoon tea will be served in the usual way. All sisters cordially invited.

Bren. C. A. Rofe, R. Steer and F. T. Willis have been appointed to prepare a short historical sketch of the Enmore school during the past fifty years. Anyone having early recollections of this

school, will they please forward their reminiscences to F. T. Willis, "Illawarra," Wollongong-road, Arncliffe, N.S.W.

There are this year fifty students enrolled at the College of the Bible. Forty-two are in residence, from all the Australian States except Tasmania, and from New Zealand. South Australia leads with a fine contingent of 16. Amongst the non-resident students are three young ladies, who desire to serve in the foreign field.

The fourteenth quarterly meeting of church officers, evangelists and speaking brethren will be held in the Swanston-st. lecture hall on Monday, May 25, commencing at 8 p.m. J. J. Franklyn, of Middle Park, will be the essayist, and his topic will be "Some Necessary Repairs to Our Movement—Notably Church Discipline." A large attendance is requested.

Theo. Edwards, of Stirling East, S.A., writes: "After an absence of some weeks I am back at Stirling again. I wish to thank the city brethren who undertook the care of the churches in my absence, also the churches for their prayers and sympathy. I am pleased to state that I feel quite well again, and the doctor states that by exercising care during the approaching winter, I should have no further trouble."

Bible School Day, Victoria, May 3. Speaking brethren are asked to deal with appropriate topics on this day, and secretaries are requested to distribute the envelopes which have been sent to them, place posters in prominent positions, announce well the date, and in every way possible make preparations for a great day. They are also reminded that the subscription for the year 1914-1915 is now due. Kindly remit same to J. C. F. Pittman, "Clarendon," De Carle-st., Moreland.

Twenty-two of the students of the College of the Bible are engaged in regular preaching work at week-ends. These brethren help on the cause, and are themselves helped by this work. The following churches are regularly supplied: Abbotsford, Berwick, Burnley, Bayswater, Broadmeadows, Boort, Blackburn, Box Hill, Croydon, Dunolly, Drummond and Taradale, Emerald (2), Echuca, Fairfield Park, Gordons, Harcourt, Meredith, Surrey Hills, South Richmond, Warragul, Wonga Park, Windsor. The trip to Boort involves a journey of 175 miles each way, while Echuca is distant 161 miles from the College.

A Vain Hope.—The desire of the Bishop of Chester, and others who think with him, says the *Christian*, that "reasonable terms" could be arrived at for a rapprochement between the Anglican Church and Rome, received a decisive blow from Father Bowden, of Brompton Oratory, who, in an interview with the *Standard*, made the Roman position perfectly clear:—"There is no possibility whatever of Rome changing. The only way by which the yearning of the Anglicans can be satisfied is by submission. Only on those grounds can union be accomplished. Rome can concede nothing. Its position is fixed and unchangeable." That is intelligible and definite, and should be regarded as final, for it is a position which Rome has always adopted, and from which she is never likely to recede.

Aged and Infirm Evangelists' Trust.—With the object of drawing attention to this fund and appealing for contributions, circulars were distributed at the Conferences recently held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart. Since then each church in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia has been appealed to by circular to support the fund by contributions. The basis suggested is 6d. per week per 100 members or part of 100 members. This contribution could be sent quarterly, half-yearly or yearly, whichever is the most convenient. Churches in Queensland, Tasmania, and Western Australia will receive the circulars in due course. The Committee appeals to the churches to do what they can to help this fund financially. The demands on the fund will soon increase, and we look to the churches to help in the matter. As soon as the church decides on a course of action will the secretary please advise the undersigned so that it may be recorded? Let us encourage the preachers by a liberal response to this appeal.—W. H. Hall, Hon Sec., MacArthur Parade, Dulwich Hill, N.S.W.

N.S.W. CONFERENCE JOTTINGS.

The Conference motto was "Soul Winning." Bro. Jos. Fraser has been fifty years in the Bible School.

The addresses of J. E. Thomas gave a distinct uplift to the Conference.

T. Bagley said that with £5 he bought a piece of land the price of which was £307/10/-.

"If a Christian pays 1/6 per week to his lodge, should he not pay the same to his church?"

The value of the work of Bro. Gale as Bible School organiser is shown by the increase of 38 scholars and 50 teachers.

"When we question the inspiration and power of the Word our influence will be lost."—T. Bagley, in his presidential address.

The Obituary Report showed 45 deaths, including several pioneers, this being the largest list of promotions ever presented to Conference.

The discussion on "Statistics" seemed to indicate that the church had "lost its punch." At the end of the Conference, however, all were optimistic.

£4000 represented the expenditure incurred during the year on new buildings. Of this amount nearly £3000 represents the operations of Home Mission churches.

The brethren fell in love with Reg. Enniss. The announcement that he had been elected to the office of President of the Victorian Conference was received with warm applause.

In spite of the alterations in the programme on Saturday, which it was hoped would have considerably increased the attendance, it was still very poor, though better than last year.

E. J. Saxby, of Taree, suggested that a session be arranged for the exclusive use of brethren who rose to points of order, and that they be debarred from rising to points of order in any other meeting.

A brother who works with ungodly men said that to be in the Preachers' Session was like being in heaven, and that if he got to heaven it would be through the gates of hell, so much blasphemy was around him during the week.

Votes of appreciation were passed to C. J. Lea, H.M. Treasurer; and F. T. Saunders, F.M. Sec., for the good work they have done and are still doing. Also to W. H. Hall, who has retired from the office of F.M. Treasurer, and H. G. Payne, who is relinquishing the office of Conference Secretary and H.M. Organiser. H. G. Harward was thanked for his work as State evangelist, and Miss Schache for her assistance in kindergarten work.

COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 26 & 28.—Burnley Church Anniversary. Sunday, April 26, 11 a.m., worship; speaker, H. E. Knott, M.A. 7 p.m., special evangelistic service. Tuesday, April 28, at 6.15 p.m., tea; tickets, 1/-. Public meeting, 8 p.m. Speakers, A. R. Main, M.A., and S. G. Griffith. Special items. Swanston-st. choir will sing.

APRIL 26.—North Carlton Sunday School anniversary. Afternoon, 3; evening, 7. J. A. Wilkie, from Scotland. Tuesday, 8, demonstration. Tickets, 6d. Come and help us.

APRIL 26 & 30.—Church and Sunday School anniversary, Blackburn, Sunday, April 26. Tea and public meeting in the Blackburn Hall, Thursday, April 30; tea, 6.30; public meeting, 7.45.

WANTED.

Wanted, an Evangelist to take up the work at Petersham. For particulars, write to T. Iliffe, Waratah-st., Haberfield, N.S.W.

MARRIAGE.

COMBRIDGE—McNEIGHT.—On April 14, at the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., Carlton, by Mr. Thos. Hagger, State Evangelist, William George, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Combridge, of Roseville, Meredith, to Elsie Beulah, daughter of Mrs. H. Davies, and the late James McNeight, of Ballarat.

Sisters' Department.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

The Executive met on April 2. Miss Wayland led the devotional exercises.

Business session was presided over by the Vice-President, Mrs. Ira Paternoster.

Sunday School Additions: Norwood, 6; Prospect, 2; Total, 8.

Obituary Report, Mrs. Caldicott: The following sisters have received the home call: Jan. 16, Sister Bennett; Feb. 25, Sister Sharp; March 2, Sister Holmes; March 15, Sister Lockett, all of the Norwood church; March 11, Sister John Fischer, of the Grote-st. church; March 16, Sister W. J. Johnstone, of the Unley church; Sister Pillar, of the Hindmarsh church.

Roll-call of Delegates: 17 responded.

Treasurer's Report, Mrs. Bond: March 5, Receipts for the month—Received for Home Missions, £7/17/2; in hand, £15/15/6½; total, £23 12/8½. Received for Foreign Missions, £1/17 3½; in hand, £17/14/5½; total, £19/11/9. General Fund, collection, 15/4; in hand, £3/12/5½; total, £4/7/9½. Collection, 14/3.

Prayer Meeting Report: Circulars have been sent to all the churches in S.A. asking if they will form a sisters' prayer meeting. We want one in each church to form a prayer circle. So far there are only five: Adelaide, Norwood, Hindmarsh, Goolwa, Butler. Some churches have not yet replied to the circulars; we would like to hear from all, and we trust that the sisters in the churches will establish a sisters' prayer meeting. Reports have come from those who have started recently, and they find the meeting and work of visiting very helpful and encouraging. Norwood have carried on a sisters' prayer meeting for many years.—(Mrs.) A. C. Smith, Supt.

Hospital Committee: The Hospital Committee are still continuing their work of visiting the sick and suffering, and trying to bring a little brightness into their lives. The York J.C.E. sent five dozen eggs to be distributed to the inmates of the Destitute. Flowers, fruit, sweets, cakes, fish, pasties, biscuits, jellies, eggs, have been given to the inmates of the various institutions. Hospital 14, Destitute 24, Consumptive Home 9, Convalescent Home 4, Children's Hospital 3, Home for Incurables 6, Cottage Homes 2, Sick and Aged 46; magazines 544.—(Miss) E. West, Supt.

Foreign Missions: We have noticed interesting reports from our workers in the foreign field. In visiting the outlying districts their hearts have been made glad by meeting those who were converted many years before, and are now living epistles of the grace of God. Sister Tonkin writes cheerfully of her family of girls. Mrs. Waters has written a very interesting letter, thanking all those who contributed towards the box. We are sending out copies to the various churches, so that those who helped in this work may be encouraged. We are sorry to hear of the illness of Bro. Waters, and pray that he may be speedily restored. Amounts as follows: York, 6/-; mite box, 8/-; Norwood, 4/-; Croydon, 19/5; Grote-st. Mothers' Meeting, 1/3; total, £1 18/8.—(Miss) A. Whitfield, Supt.

Home Missions.—The Murray Bridge sisters report that they will help towards raising £150 for Home Mission work. We are not making the progress we would like with our funds, but we hope the sisters will do their part in all the churches. Up to the present we have only £23/12/8½ towards the £150 for Conference. Amounts as follows for March: York, £1/3/-; Hindmarsh, £1/0/8; Norwood, 12/6; Mile End, 6/8; total, £3/2/10.—(Mrs.) E. A. Riches, Supt.

Leader for next devotional meeting, Mrs. Mauger.—(Miss) A. E. Manning, Secretary.

WANTED.

Wanted.—An Evangelist for the Mataura Church of Christ. For particulars, apply to George Beaumont, Secretary, Church of Christ, Mataura, New Zealand.

The Religious Note in Fiction.

The religious note in modern fiction is an index to the spirit of the times. Only a few years ago one scarcely found it, but to-day many of our greatest novels treat, reverently and positively, of religious subjects. In this country we have had several such works, as "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," by Jerome K. Jerome, "The Vigil," by Harold Begbie, "The Dawn of a To-morrow," by Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, all of which have a religious spirit at their heart.

The most discussed book in the United States at the present moment is "The Inside of the Cup," by Winston Churchill, the title being taken from the Gospels. We gather from an American journal that this book, fiction though it is, is actually being used to guide discussion in Bible classes, and has stirred up more serious conversation between man and man than any one book in a decade.

Even on the Continent modern fiction is increasingly religious in theme, and abounds with passages of fine religious significance. Among several works which may be mentioned are "The Fool in Christ," by Hauptmann, of Germany, in which the idea of the re-incarnation of the Spirit of Christ is the centre of the story; "The Samaritan," by Rostand, of France, summarising the teachings of Jesus; "Judas Iscariot," by Andreyev, of Russia, contrasting the personalities of Judas and the Lord; "The Promised Land," by Pontoppidan, of Denmark, who makes his hero to learn after much casting about that the longed-for Saviour of humanity is Jesus of Nazareth.—*Sunday at Home.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

TASMANIAN HOME MISSION OFFERINGS, 1914.

Churches—Launceston, £18/2/9; South Preston, 10/-; Dover, 8/6; Caveside, 2/6; Nubeena, £5/18/8; Mole Creek, 2/6; South Road, 12/6; Hobart, £14/6/-; Kingston, £11/5/-; New Ground, £1/13/6; Kellevie, £5/18/9; Bro. Porter, Zeelian, 5/-; total, £49/5/8.

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VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

Churches for Evangelists' support: Shepparton, special donation, £5; Horsham, £5/17/-; Boort, £2/16/4; Stawell, £8/7/6; Kyneton, £2 14/2; Warrnambool, £5/8/10.

Churches, per Collectors: Horsham, per Miss B. Millar, 13/-; Mildura, per Miss Bodle, £1/6/10; Lillimur, per B. J. Lawrance, jun., 17/4; Buninyong, per Sister Sutherland, 6/-; North Richmond, per A. C. Clarke, £2/5/1; North Melbourne, per Sister Dale, £2/7/9; North Fitzroy sisters, per Sister Forbes, £11/7/1; Stawell, £1 11/6; Meredith, £1/0/9.

Individual Contributions: E. Mott, Kunat, 10/-; W. G. Freeman, Roslyn Mead, £1; Bro. and Sister J. H. Tissot, Winslow, 10/-; J. E. Shipway, Conference Promise, 10/-; E. F. Whiceland, Ringwood, 15/-.

Mission Offerings: Boort, £8; Ultima, £6/7/3.

Conference Fees: Mildura, Prahran, Williamstown, Preston, and Newmarket, £1 each; Fairfield Park, Berwick, Cosgrove, Malvern, and Harcourt, 10/- each.

Miscellaneous: Cash Offering at H.M. Demonstration, £56/0/10.

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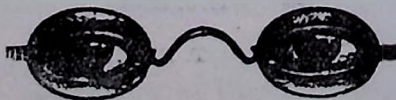
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 Primitive endurance. Heb. 10: 32-39.
 The Master's own example. Heb. 12: 1-6.
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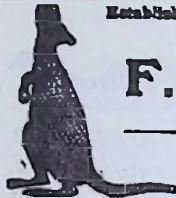
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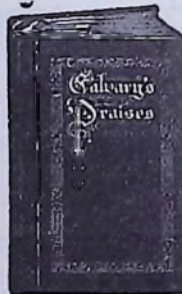
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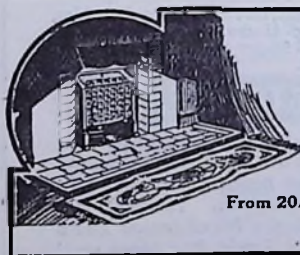
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