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CIRCULATING AMONGST CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND

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Federal Conferences and Their Uses.

D. M. Wilson, President of Federal Conference.

THE history of our Federal Conference from its inception to the present time would, if written, make pleasant reading, and would reveal a development that is but natural to a great and healthy movement. To write such, however, would require access to records that are not available at the moment, and we can but suggest to someone better fitted for the task the desirability of placing before the brotherhood such a history, to refresh the memories of the older brethren, and give information and inspiration to the younger members.

In this short article we can but suggest some of the benefits that result from the holding of our Federal Conferences. We know that as the result of past Conferences we have now firmly established the College of the Bible, Federal Foreign Mission work, and the Preachers' Provident Fund, but these do not by any means represent all that has been or can be done.

In the first place, the very holding of a Federal Conference, with delegates present from the various States, tends to break down that parochialism that is apt to creep even into Christian work. Just as the State Conferences have the effect of bringing the various congregations into their proper relation to each other, so the Federal Conference in the same way benefits the various States by linking them together in one united effort for the advancement of the cause.

In order that this may have the more far-reaching effect, it is necessary, however, that the Conference shall be held in the various States in turn, and thus by making the Conference truly Federal prevent any one State holding aloof.

The coming of a large delegation of leading brethren from the various States into the State where the Conference is to be held cannot but be greatly helpful to that

State. Brethren known by repute become better known and appreciated when met face to face, and reciprocal influences are set at work, so that all both give and receive benefit.

Not only do the holding of Federal Conferences benefit the States as a whole, but they also benefit the individual churches, especially the churches in the State in which the Conference takes place. The churches

mould a policy that will result in added strength, and that will gain the increasing confidence and support of the brotherhood. There are often many viewpoints from which work may be considered, and nowhere more than at a Federal Conference can such viewpoints be focussed to the best advantage. Brethren leave the Conference not only better informed, but also with a deeper interest in many departments that may previously have been known to them but in name.

Not only do the holding of Federal Conferences benefit the various States and the various churches, but they also benefit the individual members. The fact that the acting executive moves from State to State gives leading brethren an opportunity of considering more closely the details of the work, as they endeavor to carry out the decisions of Conference. They in turn influence others until the whole State membership becomes infected with the Federal idea and recognises the responsibility of taking a part in the larger work.

The effect of all this, as the years roll on, will be that there will be in the Commonwealth a large body of disciples, recognising one common Lord, and desiring more than anything else on earth to advance the interests of his kingdom; who will not be satisfied to confine their energies and support to the district in which they live, but with an ever widening vision will plead the cause of Federal evangelism, an ever expanding Foreign Missionary programme, a liberally endowed College of the Bible, together with a generous provision for all those laborers who through age or infirmity are no longer able to carry on their work. All this and much more may be the resultant of succeeding Conferences, if we are faithful to him whose we are and whom we serve.



D. M. Wilson,

President of Federal Conference of Churches of Christ in Australia.

in that State know beforehand that such a Conference is to be held. They become interested, and as many as possible of their members plan to attend, the result being that whereas in the past they may have concentrated their time and attention on their own local work, they obtain a wider outlook. They begin to think Federally and talk Federally, and henceforth recognise the greatness of the brotherhood of which we form a part, and the importance of the work in which we are engaged. The discussions on the various departments of work are not only informative, but tend to

What the Federal Evangelistic Fund is Doing.

S. H. Mudge.

Perhaps this is not quite the right connection in which to use Paul's words of Romans 15: 1, "Now we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak," but at least we can suitably appropriate them and apply their advice in explanation of the purpose of the Federal Conference, and especially the Federal evangelistic work. "To supplement the work of individual churches and the service of the State Conferences" partly expresses one of the objects of the Federal Conference, and one particular way by which it proposes to do this is by "the furtherance of evangelistic effort in the needy parts of the Commonwealth through a Federal Home Mission Department." Already an important ministry has been rendered to some of the States, and at present Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania are receiving regular help for evangelistic purposes. But we have got to confess that the help is very small in comparison with the needs of the States.

Impressive facts.

If, as Shakespeare says, "Strong reasons make strong actions," we believe the following facts will prove impressive. Western Australia has an area of 975,920 square miles, over which is spread a population of 365,214. The membership of Churches of Christ returned at last Conference was 2,047. It is wonderfully encouraging for Western Australia to know that the brethren throughout the Commonwealth have not overlooked the principle taught in Rom. 15: 1.

The area of Queensland is 670,500 square miles, and over this is scattered a population of 805,636. To cover that territory and reach 805,636 people with the primitive gospel is the work of the 2,279 disciples of the churches of that State. It is a thought full of inspiration to Queensland that the churches of the Commonwealth are remembering Rom. 15: 1.

Tasmania has not the territorial problems of the other States, but is disadvantaged by her isolated position. The 1,265 disciples there are faced with the task of making our plea known to approximately 219,000 people. Under the pressure of this responsibility, Tasmania is stimulated at the remembrance that into our organised work is translated Rom. 15: 1.

Federal fields and workers.

The work being subsidised in the States from the Federal Evangelistic Fund is that of secretary in Queensland. Bro. A. J. Fisher fills this position, and is making an important contribution to the work in that State. Those who have invested in the Federal Fund will realise how happily placed the contributions have been. In Tasmania Bro. W. H. Nightingale has recently been appointed organiser. This new work was

only possible through assistance from the Federal Conference. Although the Tasmanian work was the last to be undertaken, yet already good results have followed. Kalgoorlie is the field being assisted in Western Australia. This city has an exceedingly interesting history, both commercially and spiritually. There is now a somewhat small but wonderfully vigorous church there. Under the capable guidance of Bro. Chas. Hunt, the prospects are brighter than they have been for a long time. Kalgoorlie is widely enough known

What the Federal Evangelistic Fund Should Do.

Thos. Hagger.

Wisdom moved the brethren to establish the Federal Conference, and in connection therewith the Federal Evangelistic Fund. That fund has been doing a fine work for Queensland, Western Australia, and now for Tasmania; but there is very much other work that should and could be taken in hand. And doubtless as the days go by some of this, or all of this, and other work that time and need will suggest will be undertaken.

It is estimated that in the Commonwealth there are still 85,000 aborigines, among whom we are not doing any work in an organised way, although some of our people help some of the missions already at work, and some of our churches, favorably situated for such, are doing a little among them. Possibly 73,000 of these are still untouched by any mission, and so there is plenty of room. And do we not owe a duty to these original inhabitants of this country? This is one additional piece of work that the Federal Fund might well take in hand.

Then there are such places as Northern Queensland, the north-west of Western Australia, and the Northern Territory, in which the Federal Fund might well do work for Christ and New Testament Christianity.

Among the many arrivals from overseas are not a few who speak other languages. Surely an effort should be made to reach some of these with the simple message of the New Testament, free from the trammels of human creeds and tradition. And possibly these people would readily respond to the call of primitive Christianity, especially when they are new in the country. This is another work for the Federal Fund to take in hand.

In the back parts of some of our States there are lonely settlers. These people are

and well enough understood for the brotherhood to rejoice at the fact that a piece of magnificent work is being accomplished in this city which in the past has contributed so splendidly to the work in the West.

Work in the Federal Capital.

Much has been heard for many long years regarding the Federal Capital. Now, however, a new interest is given to us in Canberra. Quite recently a selection committee of Sydney brethren went to the Capital and chose a block of land for our use there. The land is on an elevated position, and has an area of about five acres. This land will be held by us on lease. We hope that soon a work will be commenced in the Australian capital.

brave and true or they would never face the hardships of the pioneer's life. For these folk we are doing nothing, but we should. Possibly it is too much for any one State to support such a work unaided, but the Federal Fund, if properly supported, would be able to take such in hand. The Presbyterians of W.A. have a lady who devotes a certain number of weeks each year to visitation in some of the sparsely settled parts of that State, and she has met women who have for periods up to two years never seen another woman, and her call proved to be like that of an angel.

And what shall I more say? The work in the Federal Capital will soon need to be taken in hand, and this will be a charge upon Federal funds, but space fails to speak more of this or to tell of other fields that await our Christian enterprise.

Churches and individual disciples need not be fearful of putting too much money into the Federal fund; such is impossible. The possibilities opening up before a fund like this are simply tremendous. Let contributions pour in from all parts of the Commonwealth for this fund; let members when making their wills remember it. And this will help to keep us from being a parochial people.

However dark and profitless, however painful and weary, existence may have become; however any man, like Elijah, may be tempted to cast himself down beneath the juniper-tree, and say: "It is enough, O Lord!"—life is not done, and our Christian character is not won, so long as God has anything left for us to suffer, or anything left for us to do.—F. W. Robertson.

The City on the Swan.

Phyllis Turvey, B.A.

Let us describe for you Perth, as we know and love it. The city itself embraces an area of about four square miles, the outer fringe of which is mainly devoted to residences. Taste in architecture has been wisely directed, and gradually old-time structures have given way to more modern ones, until now we possess many noble buildings. Surrounding Perth for a radius of some twelve miles are residential suburbs, and beyond these again lie, on one hand, the seaport and the ocean, and on the other the hills of the Darling Ranges.

The city itself is very beautifully situated on the banks of the Swan River, just where it broadens out into a noble expanse of water a mile across. The water front is lined with green gardens and esplanades, wharves and aquatic club houses; and on the western boundary of the city, the bold headland of Mt. Eliza sweeps out into the river and rises abruptly from the water's edge, its cliff face covered with green trees and gardens, and red house-roofs piled one on top of another. The view from the top of this mount, which is included in King's Park, is magnificent. On a level with the eye are the ranges, some twenty miles away, and between, but far below, are spread out the city, its towers and spires rising from a setting of parks and trees, and the river, winding away to the port. Its water is always clear and vividly blue, and forms a gladsome scene on a summer afternoon, when it is covered with the white sails of hundreds of yachts, and is flooded with brilliant sunshine.

Our climate is on the whole mild. The heat during the days of summer is oppressive, but dry and consistent, and the nights are often cool. The general impression of winter, too, is a succession of fine, bright, calm days, varied by spells of rain and occasional storms. One misses the keen frosty feeling that is experienced in other places.

What we would miss most, away from Perth, is the feeling of absolute freedom. Perth is young, and in it one cannot feel cramped or confined. At the foot of the city lies the river, bordered with wide, open esplanades. Ferry boats—and one ancient paddle boat—ply across its waters to the small suburbs on the southern side, each of which is surrounded by virgin bushland. Ten minutes' walking from the heart of the city brings one to King's Park, a great, natural reserve of one thousand acres, winding for two miles along the river, and traversed by a magnificent drive, bordered with flowering red gums and young English oaks.

Short trips by tram or train in any direction bring the same result; everywhere are free, open spaces, beautiful roads, avenues of trees, and dreamy blue hills in the distance.

During the summer months, the population of Perth almost lives on the river or the beaches, which are clean and numerous. During the winter and spring, there is almost as great an exodus to the ranges, whose slopes are covered with forests and streams and wildflowers of every hue.

Sport in all its branches is catered for on a lavish scale, and no young West Australian lacks the opportunity to indulge in some good pastime. Youth movements and clubs of all kinds are well represented; and intellectual recreation, though less plentiful than physical recreation, is claiming more serious attention every day.

Perth and all suburbs, have, of course, their poorer quarters, but nowhere is there anything approaching a slum area, and the civic authorities keep a careful control of all new building propositions. The city on the Swan is a city of great opportunity, a city in which to dream, and work, and be happy.

The watchword of Christianity is "The Cross"; the programme of Christianity, "Deny thyself."

I do not think we can be too earnest in the matter for which Christ laid down his life.—James Gilmour.

Aim of Churches of Christ.

1. To exalt Jesus as both Lord and Christ and as Head of his body the church, that he may "in all things have the pre-eminence."

2. To obey the Word of God as the only authoritative rule of faith and practice.

3. To turn alien sinners to Christ according to New Testament teaching and example.

4. To build up Christian believers in faith, hope and love.

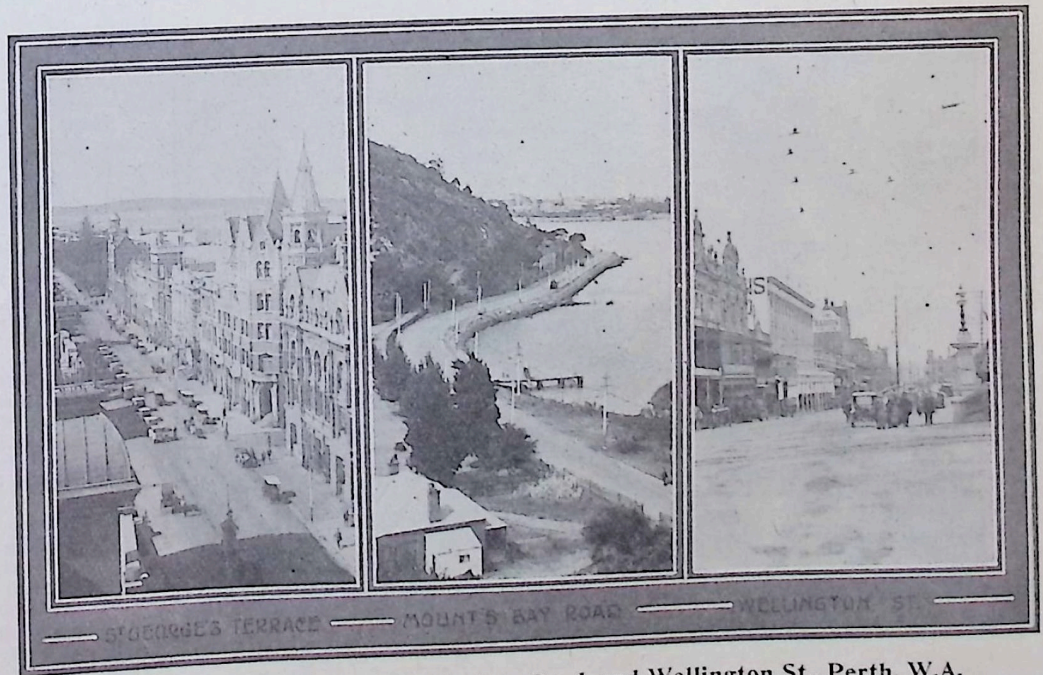
5. To contend for New Testament Christianity in its spirit, doctrine, and life.

6. To commend Christianity to all by earnest endeavors to follow closely the Lord Jesus Christ.

7. To pray and work for the union of all God's people—that Christ's prayer may be answered, "That they all may be one."

8. To exhibit and enforce the social as well as the spiritual aspect of Christianity; to demonstrate that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation, to the spirit first, and then to the body, to the individual first, and then to society; and hence to apply the gospel as the only effective instrument of moral and social reform.

9. To co-operate with all Christian believers in all good works for the salvation of men and the glory of God.



St. George's Terrace, Mount's Bay Road, and Wellington St., Perth, W.A.

In beautiful Perth, on the banks of the Swan River, the next Federal Conference is to be held. All who make the trip will be well repaid, for the beauty of the city's surroundings and the hospitality of the Western brotherhood are alike renowned.

Our Federal Interests.

Federal Conference's Oldest Child.

Foreign Mission is the oldest child of our Federal work. For thirty-six years Australian Churches of Christ have been trying to carry out the commission of Christ to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. At first the effort was very feeble, two hundred pounds from the whole of Australia to one district in India. Slowly but surely the work was extended, until to-day we are raising over eight thousand pounds a year and have six stations in India, two in China, three in New Hebrides, four among the Chinese in Australia. Then we had one missionary, Mary Thompson; by the end of 1925 we shall have thirty-two men and women missionaries, and twelve children of missionaries. Then we had not a single convert among the heathen, now we have over one thousand native Christians. Then we had not one day or Sunday School scholar, now we have fifteen thousand. Then we had no medical work; now we have two doctors, and by the end of the year hope to have three. We have two fully trained certificated, general and obstetric nurses and four obstetric nurses, and two Indian doctors. Then we supported no orphans, now we have two orphanages, "Blake Memorial," Baramati, and "Lyall Memorial," Shrigonda, with nearly two hundred orphan boys and girls. To-day we have two hundred native helpers, some of them highly trained. Thirty-six years ago the heathen were indifferent to our message; some were even hostile; but to-day they welcome our missionaries and receive their message with joy. A few weeks ago Dr. Killmier and A. Anderson visited the tribes out from Hueilichow. At two centres they were met by the leading citizens and crowds of men, women and children, escorted into the city like princes, and were lodged in a temple building. When they began to sell copies of the Scriptures, a crowd of two hundred pressed their way to the missionaries with outstretched hands in their eagerness to buy the books. When these missionaries turned their faces to Hueilichow they had sold every book (some hundreds) they had

carried with them, and Dr. Killmier had used all his medicines. Of all the churches in Australia, not one is anti-Foreign Missionary. This is unique in the history of the world's mission.

To-day we have more than one missionary for every one thousand members, a fact that Bro. Morrow, the Foreign Mission Board President, says startled our American brethren, as their average is about one missionary for over two thousand members.

Our Chinese Christians in Australia who have been won to Christ by our workers have raised a thousand pounds to send the gospel to their countrymen in Canton, China, and this year expect to send their first missionary, Au Quong Hon, one of our Australian Chinese evangelists, to inaugurate the work which the less than three hundred propose to support themselves.

A few Kanaka Christians won to Christ by John Thompson still resident in Queensland gave ten shillings each last year to send the gospel to the New Hebrides. During the last five years our members at Oba, New Hebrides, all of whom have been won to Christ by our missionaries, have contributed seven hundred pounds to help send the message of Jesus, the world's Saviour, to India and China.

The poverty-stricken Christians of Baramati and Diksal, India, unitedly made an offering last year sufficient to support a native worker in Hueilichow, China.

Brethren of Australia, see what God has wrought! What would the beloved Paul write of this work could he send an epistle to the Australian Churches of Christ? Would he not thank God for our fellowship in the work of *world-wide missions*?—Geo. T. Walden.

The Central Agency of the Federal Conference.

The claim made in our title is more than justified when the service rendered by the College of the Bible is examined. It has been the central

force in the advance made in all States, and also in New Zealand, for this agency has a field wider than the Commonwealth. It lends its aid in every department of brotherhood enterprise.

The College of the Bible began its service in the year 1907. Previously in all the States efforts had been made to assist young men equip themselves for evangelistic service by means of evening, or spare time, classes. It was felt that it would be too much to expect young men to forsake regular employment, and give themselves, without salary, to special study in preparation for the ministry of the Word. It was even said that there were too many young men studying already, and that when they had finished their courses in American Colleges there would not be openings for them.

But some brethren had a larger vision, and with hot love for this sunny land and its people, dreamed of a day when the plea for the restoration of New Testament Christianity should be preached in every part of the Commonwealth and Dominion. If that were to be done a great many more men would be needed. They sought out men and money, and in February, 1907, the College opened in Montefiore House, Carlton. At the end of the first term there were three teachers and sixteen students, who had been drawn from three States and from New Zealand. The College always has been widely representative.

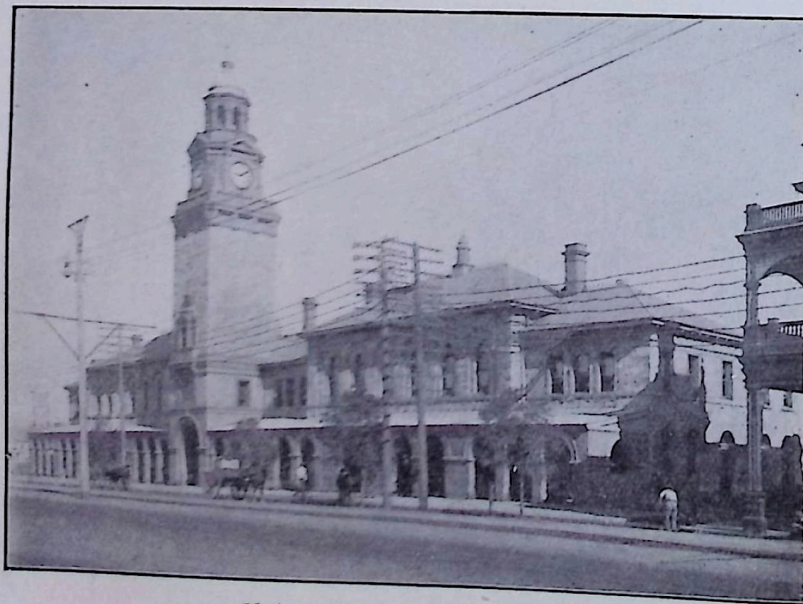
Immediately the College began to grow. In 1909 classes were held in Lygon-st. chapel, and in 1910 the present property at Glen Iris was first occupied. Later special class rooms were erected, and in 1924 a hostel for lady students was opened.

New students have been drawn from every State, and there are to-day 51 students enrolled. The scope of the College has widened, and there are several ladies preparing for service in mission fields. The whole student body is characterised by good intellect and attainment, promising successful service in the years ahead.

The extent of the service rendered is apparent, but can be emphasised. To-day two-thirds of the men on the home fields, and a similar proportion of the workers in the mission fields, have been trained at Glen Iris. Instead of there being insufficient openings for the service of trained men, there is a greater demand than ever for men to fill vacant fields. This is due to the fact that efficiency and confidence gained through training and study have been added to the virility and enthusiasm of the young men, and they have been able to open up new fields of effort. To a very large extent the accelerated progress of the past few years has been made because of the influence of the College on the preachers.

Consequently the College holds an unique place in the confidence of the brotherhood. There never has been a question as to the soundness or the quality of the instruction given. Those men who have taken courses in the Universities after completing the College course have attained gratifying distinction. Voluntary testimony has been given by University professors to the thoroughness of the preliminary training these young men have received. The brotherhood at large owes a great debt to the Principal of the College, Bro. A. R. Main, and the members of the Faculty who have been associated with him in this great enterprise. The members of the Board, and Bro. Reg. Enniss, who for so many years has been the organiser for the College, have rendered great service in building up the business side of the institution.

While there are many phases to the problems of the churches, they all centre finally in the problem of supplying leadership. A consecrated leader rallies and trains and sets the forces of the church into lines of service. The College of the Bible seeks to supply leaders. An educationalist recently said that the need to-day was for "non-skid" men. The purpose of the College of the Bible is to supply "non-skid" men as leaders for the churches. In doing this it is fulfilling a central service in and for the brotherhood.—Fred T. Saunders.



Kalgoorlie Post Office, W.A.

Kalgoorlie Post Office is a fine building, situated on Hannans-st. In Kalgoorlie one of the bravest churches in the Commonwealth meets. Bro. C. H. Hunt went to that city as evangelist last September, and a highly successful work is being done. The location of Bro. Hunt in that city was made possible by a subsidy to the W.A. Home Missionary Committee from the Federal Evangelistic Fund.

Vision and Co-operation.

The fact that we have Federal Bible School activities should in some degree help our young people to think nationally. It is said that Australian life is marked by State prejudices, jealousies and a vision which too often does not see above State barriers. Does it matter if the young people of sunny New South Wales think of Western Australia as a few dilapidated villages clinging to a fringe of fertility in the extreme south-west of the continent and surrounded by storm-swept seas and sun-scorched deserts entirely inhabited by natives? For the work of the best of a State's scholars to be compared with and excelled by that of scholars from other States leads to a true conception of those across the border and a deeper interest in them. In any case it sows the thought of our united brotherhood in a soil where it is likely to be fruitful.

Federal examination work is still an infant. But it has rendered some service. In the examination just held, four States took part (South Australia and Tasmania conducting their own). Instead of four committees preparing plans and printing questions, one set was made available for all by the central committee. The State examiners will now mark their papers. From the best in each division the interstate first prize winners will be selected and a gold medal presented to each. This widening of the field of competition has been found to increase the scholars' interest in the examination, to heighten the value of the laurels won, and intensify the study of the Scriptures. It also pools the suggestions of the State Committees and workers and allows opportunity for the building up of the most satisfactory system of tests of which our Federal mind is capable. The editors of the Austral Graded Lessons have readily co-operated. It should be possible in the near future to map out a series of examinations which, over a number of years, will be progressive and cover a wide area of Biblical knowledge.

As part of its commission, the Federal Committee is to discover and consider fields where united action would be an advantage. In addition to the examinations, it has sought to bring about a regular interchange of plans, printing and other suggestions between the States. Material and ideas have been passed around. A closer and more regular co-operation of this kind could yield nothing but beneficial results. That each of six States should print a few thousand of certificates, records, registers and the like is at least wasteful and unnecessary. To suggest that there are such pronounced differences between sections of the youth of the Commonwealth as to make decentralised attention needful in the matters mentioned, is ludicrous. To be content to each travel our own way when co-operation can help some of us to greater efficiency is sinful.—A. L. Haddon.

Conserving the Value of Our Preachers.

We hold that one of the most important things the church can do is to place the support of the preacher upon a living basis, and to assure him of at least a modest competency in case of disablement or old age, likewise his loved ones in the event of his death.

Any man will be worth more to the church in such circumstances. The value of every preacher ought to be conserved for his family and church. The Endowment Fund controlled by the committee of the Preachers' Provident Fund is such a safeguard. Its benefits when fully developed will be more valuable to contributing preachers than life insurance, and justify us in saying that large spiritual values as well as material will be created for the church and her leadership. There is a large degree of satisfaction in knowing that the Endowment Fund will solve the problem adequately and permanently.

CROWNS

are wanted to establish New Testament Christianity in

CANBERRA

which is the selected capital of the

COMMONWEALTH

of Australia.

It is estimated that 10,000 people will be resident there within the next five years, so it is not too early to begin to get the fund together to erect a chapel, and to send and sustain a preacher there until the cause is self-supporting. Our site has been selected, and now we must get ready to start work as soon as such is wise.

The Federal Executive asks every member in Australia to contribute one or more crowns for this purpose. Half-crowns will do if any cannot send a whole one. But let the giving be unanimous; let all have a part in this great work.

All contributions to the Crown Fund for work in the Federal Capital should be sent to either the Federal Secretary (Thos. Hagger, 119 Aberdeen St., Perth, W.A.), or to the Federal Treasurer (A. C. Stapleton, 73 Cleaver St., West Perth, W.A.), and it would be wise to send now.

Briefly this is the plan. A preacher, provided he has complied with the constitution of the fund, may contribute any sum up to £10 annually, and the amount contributed is credited to an account opened in his name in the books of the fund. At the end of each calendar year an addition is made by way of subsidy from the Preachers' Provident Fund's general account. For some years past the subsidy has been at the rate of 8/- in the £1. The constitution also allows the contributor compound interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum on both the contributions made by the preacher, and on the subsidies granted by the committee. No medical examination is necessary.

The whole of the funds standing to the credit of a preacher may be withdrawn by him on his attaining the age of 65 years, or at an earlier age should he become disabled, at the discretion of the committee. In the event of the death of a contributor before reaching the age of 65, the whole amount standing to the credit of the deceased will be applied by the committee as directed by deceased in his will.

If a preacher commences to contribute at the age of 30, and contributes £6 annually, he will receive at the age of 65 about £400 plus subsidies and plus compound interest on the subsidies.

The best that can be secured from a life insurance society after passing a medical examination, for the same annual payment commencing at the age of 30, and maturing at the age of 65, is £200, plus bonuses amounting to about £150.

No life insurance policy or other investment will give such returns as this Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund takes care of disability, it guarantees a definite income after 65, and in addition makes provision for the dependent ones.

Every one of our preachers should commence to contribute at the earliest possible moment. It is the only way to make some provision for old age which must come. With the high cost of living, it is impossible to lay up money in any considerable amount. Even if salaries were increased, they would not keep pace with the growing demands.

There is only one way to safety, and that through the Endowment Fund. It will give every contributor a sense of security and a consciousness of self-respect which will come from no other source of protection.

The Endowment Fund is a Federal fund, and the members of the committee are appointed by Federal Conference.—W. H. Hall, Secretary, Preachers' Provident Fund.

Our Finances.

A. C. Stapleton.

The last Federal Conference decided to attempt greater things in the matter of Federal evangelisation, and suggested to the incoming executive the task of raising £1,000 for this work during its term of office. The present executive assumed office on Nov. 1, 1924, and an appeal was soon issued to the churches throughout the Commonwealth to aid in reaching the goal. In the eight months that have elapsed, the States have contributed the following amounts, viz.:—N.S.W., £52/13/3; Western Australia, £51/14/9; Victoria, £50/11/9; South Australia, £24/5/-; Queensland, £4/16/6; Tasmania, £2/10/-. The total is £186/11/2. This is good, but does not come up to an eight months' portion of the suggested amount. In fact, it has not been sufficient to meet the expenditure for the period under review.

The executive is subsidising the Home Missionary work of Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania to the extent of £32/10/- per month, and if this good work is to be kept going, it will be necessary for every church and every member in Australia to put his shoulder to the wheel with those who are already assisting. One way in which the individual can help is by linking up with the League of Rope-holders, the members of which promise to pray for the work, and to send a contribution on their birthdays. Our secretary will be pleased to enrol members in this League. If every member will help our aim will be reached, and much work will be done.

August 6, 1925.

How Can We Help the Federal Evangelistic Fund?

Will H. Clay.

To be true to my subject, it is demanded of me that I become intensely practical. I could state reasons why this fund should be supported, for there are many, but I must state how it is to be done. At the outset, one is tempted to indulge in a lot of what, if it was condensed, would be mere twaddle. Who among us could not answer my question in a word? but I am not privileged to do that; I am to write an article. Articles, like many sermons, are often attempts to cloud what it is difficult or dangerous to say in a blunt way. Congregations, like readers, can guess what it is the preacher is trying to say, or would like to say, but truth is, he has not the courage to say it. Maybe, he considers it would be unwise to say it. Has he not already discovered that brother so-and-so was wounded by a straight talk from the platform, which he is certain was directed

trate, any more than Western Australia alone must bear the whole of the responsibility for that territory bounded by her State borders. The Federal spirit alone will force us over our State boundaries, and reveal to us the broader view. It would perhaps be a sane way of financing Federal evangelism were the States to come to an agreement to impose a levy upon themselves, through the various Home Missionary departments, of from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent. of their gross receipts. In this way the necessity for still another special appeal would be obviated, surely a matter for consideration; and the onus of the responsibility would fall upon those best able to bear it. The strong would thus help the weak, until, automatically, the weak become strong. In the course

of years, the rate of money available would exceed requirements, for as needy States were helped, the need for Federal help would decrease until it was no more needed. It appears to me that by this method alone can Australia be consistently evangelised, no part being overlooked. Here we have a splendid opportunity for practising the unity we preach.

How can we help the Federal Evangelistic Fund? When the members, the churches and the States will to do it.

A Counterfeit Church.

What is the average type of a counterfeit church? A hammock, attached on one side to the cross, and, on the other, held and swung to and fro by the forefinger of Mammon; its freight of nominal Christians elegantly moaning meanwhile over the evils of the times, and not at ease unless fanned by eloquence and music, and sprinkled by social adulations into perfumed, unheralded slumber.—Joseph Cook.

The Next Federal Conference.

W. R. Hibburt.

It is not too early to fix one's mind on the next Federal Conference, nor is it too early to set one's heart upon attending it. To this end think on these things:—

1. The next Federal Conference is to be held about the third week of October, 1926.

2. It is to be held in Perth, a city beautiful for climate; beautiful for situation on the expansive and scenic Swan River; beautiful for its surrounding country which in October is a garden of exquisite wild flowers; and inviting for its friendly and hospitable people.

3. It is fitting to hold the next Federal Conference in a State which is rapidly coming to the forefront, as any keen observer can judge from Western Australia's migration policy. While other States increased their wheat output, Western Australia excelled by increasing its output by 140 per cent. This has been accomplished despite the fact that tremendous areas of the best land in the West await occupation and cultivation. These are several signs of the times that the Western State of the Commonwealth is going to repeat past history in proving that migration and progress move westward. This should be appreciated as a significant Federal fact.

4. It will be the first Federal Conference in a State other than the well-established and more populated States. It will be a splendid occasion for the strong to help the weak, for the Eastern enthusiasm to permeate the West. Only those living in the West can calculate the quickening that is likely to follow from a large Eastern delegation mingling and having fellowship with the Western brotherhood. Because of this, the weaker States view the next Federal Conference as being distinctly Federal in spirit and outlook. The expense of fares will be abundantly justified.

5. It is hoped to make Federal Conference in W.A. memorable by a big evangelistic advance. The State Home Mission Committee is planning to have a mission in each church throughout the State following immediately upon the close of the Federal Conference. The missions are to be conducted simultaneously, and we hope by preachers visiting from the Eastern States.

6. The business of Conference already promises to be of extraordinary importance in the development of our Federal enterprises. Moreover it is a likelihood of F. W. Burnham, President of the United Christian Missionary Society of America, being present as a special oversea visitor.

In view of these and other considerations, it is not too early or unimportant for the busy business men to ink in their 1926 calendar, in the

month of October, a memorandum "Attending Federal Conference, Western Australia." It is not too early for husband and wife interested in all brotherhood movements to confer and devise how they can make it possible to attend. Nor is it too early for our young men and women, keen on playing their part in the expanding work of our brotherhood, to include in their ambitions the aim of attending the next Federal Conference in W.A. All should lay by in store the necessary finance for the trip by trans-continental train or by coastal steamer.

For the present "think West" and you will grow eager to "see West" and "help West."



A. J. Fisher,

Who is the Home Missionary organiser in the great Northern State of Queensland. The Federal Evangelistic Fund makes possible this work by a substantial monthly subsidy to the Queensland Home Missionary Committee. Bro. Fisher is rendering excellent service to the cause in Queensland.

at him? Again, does he not know positively that another brother, yes, and a sister, deliberately absent themselves when he is planned to address the meeting? Why should he be offensive, if it is possible to camouflage the point? This is the reason, without doubt, that we are accustomed to hearing and reading more camouflage than point when the subject is, "How is it to be done?" If it is true that the question can be answered in a word, what is that word? It is "will." It is in this word that there lie all the possibilities of our brotherhood. When the Churches of Christ will to do a thing that is in accord with the will of God, they become a conquering army, an irresistible force. The reason why some of the States did not reach their reasonable objectives in connection with the recent Foreign Missionary appeal was that they had not the will to do it. The same reason accounts for failure in some of the individual churches. I shall take it for granted that the objects of Federal evangelism are well known, and that the churches everywhere are seized with the sense of obligation devolving upon them to evangelise Australia. It must never be understood that Victoria's obligation can be measured by her State boundaries, if I may thus illus-



W. H. Nightingale,

Who has recently commenced work in Tasmania as Home Missionary organising evangelist. This appointment would not have been possible without a monthly subsidy from the Federal Evangelistic Fund to the Tasmanian Home Missionary Committee. We expect, very soon, to hear excellent reports from the island State.

The Western State and the Federal Conference.

A. R. Main.

This issue of the "Australian Christian" should be of more than usual interest. It is the first number to be devoted to our Federal interests. Every week's "Christian" purports to represent the Brotherhood of the Commonwealth; this one succeeds to a greater extent than usual. It is intended also to prepare the way for the successful carrying out of the venture of faith of last Federal Conference, when it was decided to break the bands of precedent and hold the next Conference in Perth.

It was my good fortune to be the guest of the Western Australian brethren at the State Conference this year, and, together with Mrs. Main, to enjoy fellowship with many of the churches. Words would fail to describe the kindness of the brethren from the moment of our arrival in Kalgoorlie until our departure from the State. Not only our gracious host and hostess—Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Peacock, of Maylands—but almost everybody we met overwhelmed us with kindness and bountiful hospitality.

First impressions.

It was not my good fortune to see much of the largest State in the Commonwealth. No impression of the whole can therefore be given. A few things remain in my memory. The first is the shock of painful surprise at seeing the two great race-courses of Boulder and Kalgoorlie. That two such places, with their splendid buildings and appointments, in close proximity to one another, can be maintained by the sparse population causes one "furiously to think." Next comes the impression made by the beautiful Swan River. Did the reader ever hear a West Australian dilate upon the glories of the Swan? Well, it is about as beautiful as he tried to say it was. Praise can go no further. The city of Perth as a whole greatly impressed me. Our expectations, though high, were exceeded. It is a fine city, with some splendid buildings. Many new structures are in progress. As happened elsewhere, the too narrow streets and footpaths witness to the lack of faith and vision of the people of a generation ago.

A visitor to the Western State cannot fail to be impressed by the unbounded confidence in its future declared by the inhabitants. The timber resources and the great wheat areas are a constant theme of discourse. Many miles of country not long since regarded as desert are now—not exactly blossoming as the rose, but—producing good harvests. The great Mundaring water scheme, providing an abundant supply of water for the goldfields and for the needs of the people *en route*, symbolises that conquest over Nature's difficulties which has made Western Australia great and will yet make her greater.

One lament frequently reaches a visitor's ears. Local industries, which would mean much for the progress of the West, have to wage an unequal combat with the large and old-established manufactories of the East. Case after case is recited where the establishment of an industry has immediately been followed by the flooding of the market with goods, at a rate far below either their selling price in their place of manufacture or the cost at which the local article could possibly be produced. Then when the State enterprise is perforce abandoned, up goes the price again. As a preacher—and, apparently, therefore in the opinion of many Conference speakers, as one who can have but little right to an opinion regarding business concerns—the writer has no solution of Western Australia's difficulties to present. He cannot think a withdrawal of the State from the Commonwealth possible. He does not see how there can be other than inter-state free trade. Some may think that his lack of business acumen is completely demonstrated by his belief that something like an approximation to Christian ethics might with profit to the community

at large mark the industrial relationships of people in a nominally Christian land.

Our own people.

The biggest impression was that made by the people themselves. People here means members of Churches of Christ, for these alone were visited. Nothing too appreciative could be said of their kindness and hospitality. Every visitor to Western Australia comes back with the same story, and the hearer is apt to think that politeness has led to exaggeration; but "the half was never told." A second feature which stood out was the manifest interest the brethren have in one another. It is characteristic of those belonging to Churches of Christ that they do not meet as strangers, but as brethren. "The tie that binds" is a very real thing. Yet there are differences in the different States. There are here and there individual churches which hold aloof, and districts which are very parochial. We have never been so much impressed by the interest of all in the general welfare as we were in W.A. A brotherhood spirit is a great asset.

Whilst the population of Western Australia is still very small, and ludicrously inadequate for the great extent of territory, it has to be remembered that the rate of increase during the last few decades has been much greater than that shown by any other State. Similarly, while the membership of Churches of Christ in W.A. seems small in comparison with that in some of the States, in proportion to the total population it does not compare unfavorably, and the rate of increase in, say, the last 20 or 25 years has been very much larger.

A number of our churches are doing exceedingly good work. A faithful band of preachers is rendering faithful and efficient service, supported by as loyal a company of brethren and sisters as can be found anywhere. The churches are true to the Book and to the plea, and are perhaps a little more conservative than in some of the States. The great need is for more preachers to open up work in new centres. Young men filled with an evangelistic spirit and prepared to work hard—men who seek supremely a sphere of work and an opportunity to serve—may confidently be recommended to "go West" for some years.

Preparing for October, 1926.

It may be that some will wonder if a Federal Conference in Perth will be likely to be well attended. There need be no fear as regards audiences. The brotherhood spirit to which we have referred will assure great gatherings. Proportionate to membership the State Conference at Easter was much better attended than in any State known to us. For Federal Conference public meetings, a considerably larger hall will be needed. This will be secured, and careful preparation and wise publicity will be made. The interest and enthusiasm of the members will be aroused for months beforehand.

The brethren are planning a big advance in evangelism. In October E. C. Hinrichsen and Les. Brooker are due to enter upon an evangelistic campaign to extend till next Easter. From that time an intensive campaign of preparation for the Federal Conference in October, 1926, will be made. Following Federal Conference, it is hoped to have a number of simultaneous missions conducted by evangelists from the Eastern States. These should be very successful both in the winning of souls and in the conservation of results of previous missions and of the enthusiasm generated by Conference. It is to be hoped that many of our leading preachers will be able to go and help.

The preparations for our Federal Conference

are in safe hands. Our Federal President (Bro. D. M. Wilson) and the Secretary (Bro. Thos. Hagger) have a zeal and enthusiasm which cannot be curbed, and their efforts are supported by a hard-working committee. The State leaders—Bren. Henry Wright, President, and W. R. Hibburt, Secretary—will nobly assist in rallying the churches to receive in a manner worthy of the State the visitors from other parts. These two Presidents, Federal and State, are two of the highly esteemed business men of Perth who add lustre to the doctrine of Christ. A third business man of similar calibre, in the person of Bro. Albany Bell, was specially chosen as Vice-President of W.A. Conference this year, so that he might have the honor of representing the churches as State Conference President during W.A.'s first Federal Conference year.

Visitors to the Federal Conference will enjoy the trip over as well as their sojourn in the State. Those to whom the promise of heavenly bliss implied in the words, "There was no more sea" has no special attraction may go by boat and enjoy the pleasures of the Bight. A journey by land has pleasures of its own. The great Australian desert is a most interesting place. The Transcontinental Train makes travelling a delight. There is little hardship anywhere. The present route from Adelaide to Port Augusta, while taking us through rich country at which it is a pleasure to look involves too many changes of trains; but that will be remedied ere long. For almost the whole distance from East to West, the comfort of travellers is considered. The one bit of discomfort in W.A. is likely to be on the train journey from Kalgoorlie to Perth: the fact that the inhabitants of W.A. continue to endure the particular form of exorbitant taxation practised in relation to the kind of meals provided on that train is a wonderful tribute to their patience and long-suffering. There is of course this advantage, that the visitor finds in this one sad experience something which makes the delights of his other experiences seem even greater by contrast.

Bro. L. Rossell, of Sydney, some time ago suggested that a special Conference train to W.A. should be secured, at least from Melbourne. If this could be managed, it would be an excellent thing. The proposal may seem a daring one, but it is worth considering. We may with confidence say that the W.A. brethren are fully prepared to welcome all members who will go. A royal time awaits every Conference visitor. According to authentic reports, a sight of the wild flowers in spring would more than repay the traveller. We are confident that all who go will feel better for going. Their interest in brotherhood work will be increased. Their best hopes will be more than realised.

The W.A. brethren are confident that the holding of a Federal Conference in Perth will prove a great stimulus to their work. It was a fervent appeal that this encouragement be not withheld which moved the last Federal Conference to a decision to meet in Perth in October, 1926. It behoves the brethren to show that that decision was a wise one. Many are already saving up for the Conference. Others may be urged to do so, and determine to join in the happiest trip of their lives. Their present self-denial will bring a rich reward.

The Law of Love.

Divine channels for the streams of love
Where they may broadly run:
And love has overflowing streams
To fill them every one.

But if at any time thou cease
Such channels to provide,
The very springs of love for thee
Will soon be parched and dried.

For we must share if we would keep
That good thing from above:
Ceasing to give, we cease to have,
Such is the law of love.

Foreign Missions.

Conducted by G. T. WALDEN, M.A.

Missionaries on Vacation in Kashmir.

Miss Vera Blake and Miss Florence Cameron spent their vacation this year in Kashmir in company with two of our American missionaries. Miss Blake has written a very interesting letter. She says, "The surroundings here are delightful. Somebody has said that paradise was here in the beginning. People who travel say we have a combination of Venice and Switzerland. Certainly the houses built on the river and canal banks with their pretty carved balconies overhanging the waters; the little hooded row-boats with their turned-up bows so prettily reflected in the clear water, have quite the touch one sees in pictures of Venice. These little boats look so like the gondolas."

"The Switzerland touch comes in as we raise our eyes and gaze around on the wonderful snow mountains that tower above us on almost every side. The wonderful, wonderful flowers, especially roses, are a continual delight. As we came along the roads we saw fields and fields of beautiful irises growing wild (purple, helio and white). Blood-red poppies danced among green wheat-fields. The mustard was all in bloom, and we saw acres and acres of pure gold. It was a treat to the eyes, used as they were to the hot dry plains."

"There are delightful gardens here in Kashmir. Shalimar gardens were laid out when James I. was reigning in England. I have never seen anything quite so wonderful. Beautifully terraced down the mountainside, the water pouring over each terrace like a miniature waterfall into a cemented oblong tank below, flowing along that terrace bordered on each side by flowers (mostly of one kind and color on each different terrace), then taking a leap over to the next. So on down each of the eight terraces. In each of these tanks, too, hundreds of fountains were playing. Recesses carved in stone were at the back of each fall of water. One only was decorated up the day we were there, but all could be. Petals of flowers, each of a different hue, were placed in these recesses. The effect of these colors at the back of the water was wonderful, like a many-hued rainbow. Wonderful trees (plane), three and four hundred years old, made the place delightful with their cool shadows. Cherries and mulberries were just drooping with their loads."

"The Kashmir people are certainly favored. Such a beautiful country! Such wonderful air! Such flowers and fruits and grain! Yet truly in this place 'every prospect pleases, and only man is vile.' Our battles with coolies, houseboat owners, traders, etc., take away much from the poetry of the place. Even the 'Government rules for visitors' speak repeatedly about these traits in the Kashmir character and bid us beware."

"To-day as I write we are leisurely gliding up a beautiful canal, lined here and there with poplar trees. Pretty farm houses, two and three stories high, peep out at us among the trees. Water lilies give promise of adding to the beauty already so prolific, as we see a stray one here and there peep up at us. Soon all will be out in flower. We look down into the clear depths and see the fish darting in and out of the most wonderful forest of water-weeds right below. Now we are drawing near a hill crowned by a handsome old fort. On the other hand we gaze up a thousand feet higher to the tomb-crowned Tukt-i-Sulimar. Mohammedan tradition says it is King Solomon's tomb, though I don't know how Solomon got over to Kashmir."

"We are on our way to Islamabad. We expect to get there in about four days. We don't 'take up our bed and walk,' but lift up our anchor and leisurely float. Two men in front and one be-

hind propel us along with long poles. We live in a houseboat—I forgot to explain. Such a little Noah's ark of a place to crowd into! At the back of us, also in a boat, much tinier, trails our kitchen and our cook and our cook's family. Another wee boat accompanies us. This takes us to land when we go on shopping expeditions, pay visits, go to church, etc., so a most necessary appendage. We have forty-seven miles to go. You can see we are not going at express rate."

"Kashmir's people may be illiterate and dirty, but even Kashmir's hovels have electric light. The second biggest powerhouse in the world, so I heard, is here on the banks of the Jhelum River. We have had an epidemic of aeroplanes also, day after day. I saw four at once. So though we are out of the world, yet we are very much in it. I had only seen two aeroplanes in India, and had never seen one in my life till I was home on furlough."

I am sure that all will be glad to read this beautiful description of Kashmir, and our special interest in it is that it means additional health to our tired missionaries, who live most of the year on the hot, arid plains of India. We are thankful that the Lord has these cool, beautiful retreats for our missionaries, that they may come back refreshed in body and spirit for their great work."

Jottings.

New South Wales reports contributions from twenty-two churches and miscellaneous amounts, £766/8/6. Last year from the same number of churches, £583/6/9, an increase this year of £180/4/9. The most encouraging report supplied this year.

From a letter received on August 3 from our Hueilichow missionaries, we learn that all are well.

Miss Vera Blake returned from Kashmir the last week in June, and finds herself much benefited and strengthened by her sojourn in the hills. She writes: "It is still a great comfort to me to have such a woman as Gitabai. She is such a beautiful Christian, and I can see her influence on my other women. She is so capable too, either in personal work or with a crowd, and I know she is conscientious and consecrated."

Bro. Coventry says, "We enjoyed Bro. and Sister Pittman's week's visit to Baramati very much. There were seven baptisms on Sunday last while they were here, five being orphan boys and two other adults, formerly sprinkled."

Miss Laurel Redman is expected to leave India in September for her first furlough, and during her absence Bro. and Sister Coventry will have the responsibility of overseeing the school work. Bro. Coventry says, "Nice showers of rain have fallen lately, and we are hoping it will mean a good season. We are celebrating Foreign Mission day next Sunday, and are hoping for a good offering."

Bro. Watson writes that "Mrs. Watson has been very ill lately with pleurisy, so I am not able to leave the bungalow long. There are signs of the trouble abating, and with care, I expect, she will be about again in a couple of weeks." We are sure that our readers will be sorry to hear of the sickness of Sister Watson, and will unite in prayer that she and Bro. Escott, who has also been ill, will soon be restored to their health and strength again.

Offerings for Foreign Missions

from Victorian Churches and Members will be thankfully received by

J. E. ALLAN, Sec., 51 Watts-st., Box Hill.
Phone: Box Hill 452.

BIRTH.

PAUL.—At Harvey Private Hospital, Perth, W.A., to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Paul, of Mount Lawley—a daughter (Nancy Isabelle).

IN MEMORIAM.

CLYDESDALE.—In loving memory of Mr. Jack Clydesdale, younger son of John and Jessie Clydesdale; died of wounds in France, August 9, 1918. "Beyond earth's shadows we will meet again."

DRUMMOND (on Active Service).—In loving memory of our dearly beloved son, Clifford Henry Drummond, 1st Machine Gun Battalion, A.I.F., killed in action at Harbonnières, Somme, France, on August 9, 1918. Treasured memories.

—Inserted by his loving father and mother, J. H. and M. Drummond, 1 Stewart-st., Auburn, Vic.

HAGGER.—In loving memory of my husband and our father, who passed away on August 9, 1924. "Only severed till he comes."

—Inserted by his loving wife and family, Preston, Victoria.

KINGSTON.—In ever loving memory of our dear mother, Sarah Ann Kingston, who passed away August 3, 1921. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

—Her ever loving daughter Martha.

PECK.—In loving memory of our dear mother, who passed away on August 3, 1920.

God's loving arms have taken

The one we loved so dear;

Trust him with our dear treasures,

She is safer there than here.

Though absent from amongst us,

You are ever in our thoughts;

And those who loved you dearly,

Still sadly feel your loss.

—Inserted by her loving son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Ada, and family, Bayswater.

COMING EVENTS.

AUGUST 16—SEPT. 14.—Tent Mission at Ringwood, Vic., conducted by P. R. Baker; song-leader, Irwin Barber. Commencing Sunday, August 16, 7 p.m. Sister churches cordially invited. Help us to help ourselves.

SEPTEMBER 7.—Concert by students of the College of the Bible in Lygon-st. chapel, Monday evening, Sept. 7, at 8 o'clock.

ADELAIDE TOWN HALL.

Show Week, Sept. 6 to 11.

Subject: "The Second Coming of Christ." Speaker, Mr. G. McKie. Song-leader, Mr. B. W. Manning.

GROUP MISSIONARY RALLIES

to meet Dr. G. H. Oldfield, our first Medical Missionary to India.

Wednesday, August 12, 8 p.m., Malvern-Caulfield church.

All churches on South Yarra to Dandenong and Malvern to Chelsea lines are invited to co-operate.

Thursday, August 13, 8 p.m., Northcote church, High-st.

Churches in group—Thornbury, Preston, Fairfield, Ivanhoe, North Fitzroy, Collingwood and North Carlton.

Members are cordially invited to attend.

Dr. Oldfield will speak on the topic,

"OUR HOSPITAL IN DHOND, INDIA."

WANTED.

Wanted, a Christian home for school girl, 14 years old, in return for help and companionship. Reply by August 14 to "Sunshine," Austral Office.

Shepparton church, Vic., is reducing its building debt (£1,350) by issuing £5 debentures, free of interest, maximum period 10 years. A considerable amount has been raised locally, but this wider appeal is now made that others, by offering further loans, may share in the work at this strategic point in the N.E. Details gladly supplied on applications received by secretary, F. J. Funston, 172 Knight-st., Shepparton.

Here and There.

We are indebted to our Federal Conference Secretary, Bro. Thos. Hagger, for the selection of the articles appearing in this special Federal Conference issue.

Jas. E. Thomas will have been 25 years an evangelist of our churches next Sunday, Aug. 9. He commenced his labors at Milang and Pt. Sturt, in South Australia, on Aug. 12, 1900.

All contributions for our Federal Evangelistic Fund should be sent either to the treasurer, Bro. A. C. Stapleton, 73 Cleaver-st., West Perth, W.A., or to the secretary, Bro. Thos. Hagger, 110 Aberdeen-st., Perth, W.A.

Our Federal work is featured in this issue. It will be good for the members throughout the Commonwealth to know just what the Federal Conference is doing, and how valuable it is becoming to our work in this land.

Bro. A. Stubbs, of Dover, Tasmania, acknowledges the following amounts received for a needy family at Southport:—Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Butler, Warwick, Gilgandra, N.S.W., £2/1/-; Ivy Winters, Chatswood, N.S.W., £2/10/6; E. Symes, Melbourne, 10/-.

The next Federal Conference will be held in October, 1926, in Perth, W.A., and the Western brethren are making extensive preparations for it. They hope to see a big delegation from all the Eastern States in their beautifully-situated capital city for that occasion.

Friends of the College of the Bible are reminded that it is the intention of the students to present another concert this year. The Lygon-st. chapel has again been secured, and the date has been fixed for Monday evening, September 7. Tickets are being sent out to the various churches, and can also be obtained from students.

Refreshing times have been experienced at the tent mission at Blackburn, Vic. Every meeting has been well attended. Eight confessions have been taken since Lord's day, July 26, making a total of ten to date. All are joining up with the church. The mission closes on Tuesday evening, Aug. 11, with a thanksgiving service.

The Victorian Home Mission organiser reports well concerning the work at Warracknabeal, after a recent visit to that town. In spite of cold weather and bad roads, attendances are well maintained. Some problems, inseparable from a new and big work, have arisen, but truly remarkable results are apparent from the mission held nine months ago.

We beg to thank all those who sent in papers in connection with the recent essay competition. Some manuscripts were sent in "not for competition." The judges to whom the competitive papers were submitted have agreed that the most suitable one was that by "Berean," who is revealed to be A. W. Connor, preacher of the church at Ballarat, Vic.

The S.A. Temperance and Social Problems Committee is seeking to furnish a ward of five beds at the Protestant Children's Home at a cost of £10 per bed. They would like to accomplish this by Conference. Already three beds are secured, and the committee would be glad to receive the balance. Send to either Ira A. Pater-noster or F. Lewis, Ebor-ave, Mile End.

Dr. G. H. Oldfield, our missionary-elect for India, will hold two group meetings next week. On Wednesday, 12th inst., the meeting will be held in the Malvern-Caulfield chapel, and all churches on the railway lines that pass through that centre are asked to co-operate to make the meeting a success. On Thursday, 13th inst., the rallying centre will be the Northcote chapel. All churches in that district are invited to assist in making the meetings a success.

D. M. Wilson, President of the Federal Conference, has been for over 50 years a member of the church, being baptised at Lygon-st., in his boyhood. He has been associated with the church at Lake-st., Perth, for some 30 years, during most of that time filling the position of secretary. He has been a member of the W.A. Home Missionary Committee from the start. It is fitting that the Federal Conference, which is to meet in Perth in October of next year, should be under his presidency.

The Federal Executive calls the attention of the brotherhood to the fact that we must, at once, get ready for work in the Federal Capital. They are calling for contributions of one or more crowns from each member in the Commonwealth for this purpose. If any cannot send a crown, half of that will be gladly received. All money given for this purpose will be banked, and kept sacred for this work. Who will be the first to contribute to the Crown Fund for work in the Federal Capital?

On Aug. 2, Paddington church, N.S.W., had a great communion and consecration service, when Bro. Chapple extended the hand of fellowship to four more of the new members. At night the missionaries, Bren. Baker and Clay, conducted a monster evangelistic and thanksgiving service, when five made the great confession, one being a well-known business man of Paddington. The total number of confessions at the mission was 28. The thanksgiving offering in cash and promises amounted to £60, and besides this the church is paying all local expenses.

Jas W. Nichols, superintendent of the benevolent section of the Victorian Department of Social Service, acknowledges receipt of parcels during July from Sisters Mrs. Smith, Miss Daff, Mrs. H. and S. Chipperfield, Mrs. Rowe, Mrs. Medley, Miss Darnley; Box Hill, Glenferrie, Camberwell, Boronia, Moonee Ponds, Narre Warren, Doncaster (2), Macedon, Ivanhoe, Ascot Vale Endeavorers, Gardiner, Flinders-st., Surrey Hills, Ormond, Polkemmet. Special mention is made of Sister Olive Sear and the Junior C.E., who have sent over two cwt. of groceries.

What may well be described as a bold and enterprising programme is being carried out this year by the Victorian H.M. Committee. Work is being sustained in many promising fields, while at the same time a number of entirely new fields are being opened. With the co-operation of the Church Extension Committee probably quite six new church buildings will be erected during the present Conference year. Only scarcity of money and of experienced men prevent an even larger work. Can you help to supply either of these needs?

There were splendid opening meetings at the mission conducted by Bro. W. G. Alcorn, M.A., B.D., of America, which commenced at Ann-st., Brisbane, on July 26. 180 broke bread for the day—a record number. Two young men took their stand at night, after a most convincing address. Song-leader is Bro. W. Suchting. Previous to gospel service a baptismal service was held. During the week a reception was held at the Wattle Cafe to meet and welcome Bro. W. G. Alcorn, when the officers, representatives of H.M. Committee and members of the Brisbane Church Federation spoke warm words of welcome to our brother.

Attendances at Queenstown tent mission, S.A., are splendid, and Bro. Brooker's addresses are powerful. At the morning service on Sunday Bro. Brooker spoke on "Responsibility." Bro. Robt. Hall was back, after being away for nearly two years as the result of an accident; also Bro. Lockyer, who has been away through sickness. In the afternoon Bro. Wiltshire gave a very in-

teresting object lesson talk to the S.S. scholars, parents and friends in the tent. In the evening there were over 500 present, and about 50 standing outside. Bro. Brooker's subject was "What are You Waiting For?" One young lady came forward, making a total of 30 converts to date.

Swanston-st., Melbourne, had extra large attendance last Lord's day morning. Invitations had been sent to about 80 members of the American Fleet, who were known to be connected with the Christian churches of America. Lieut. C. A. Taylor, of Seattle, Washington, and Hon. James E. McClintic, member of Congress for the State of Oklahoma, U.S.A., were amongst the visitors. Bro. McClintic delivered an interesting address, telling of the Christian churches in his State, and of prohibition laws and process of settlement in early days of the province. The ladies entertained visitors at lunch. Bro. Shipway preached a good sermon at the evening service. The choir sang special music which was very much appreciated.

Our Victorian sisters last year contributed £112 as a Special Diamond Jubilee Gift for Home Missions. Recently the Conference President (Mr. R. Lyall) visited the Women's Conference Executive and expressed the thanks and appreciation of the H.M. Committee of the General Conference. He also asked that this year the women again unite in a special effort, taking as their objective the assisting of the proposed new cause at North Geelong. The Women's Conference Executive gladly acceded to the President's request, and confidently appeal to the sisters of Victoria for their sympathy and assistance. If the sisters will combine to raise the sum of £125, they will have the pleasure of materially helping in the furnishing of the chapel soon to be erected at North Geelong. The appeal of the Executive and Home Missionary Committees for a new cause in a new district is one which should elicit a response in every heart. A special gift from every sister is asked, and one which will not interfere with any other Home Mission contributions. Letters and envelopes are being forwarded to all our church secretaries, who are requested to make the collection known amongst the sisters. Contributions, large or small, will be gratefully received by the Home Mission Superintendent, Mrs. Main, College of the Bible, Glen Iris.

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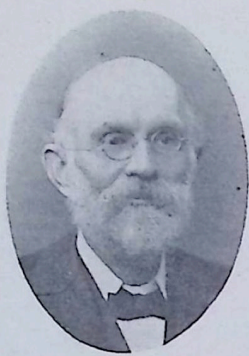
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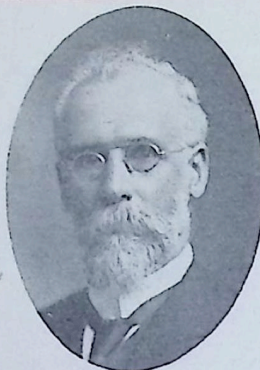
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JAMES MCGREGOR.

Churches of Christ in South Australia and Victoria mourn the loss of two brethren greatly beloved. Alwin Fischer and James McGregor both were devoted Christians and a great source of strength to our work.

The Late James McGregor.

Our late Bro. James McGregor was born in Durham County, England, in 1849, and came to Victoria in 1854. He was thus a colonist of over 70 years' standing and an honored member of Churches of Christ in Victoria for over 60 years. His revered father, Bro. William McGregor, was one of the most prominent teachers and workers of our brotherhood in the years 1860-1884. He and his sister wife, and sons, and daughters, and relatives have been stalwart supporters of the cause we love.

Bro. James McGregor was one of the many converts baptised at the Temperance Hall by Bro. H. S. Earl, who came from U.S.A. in 1864. He never looked back. By his death we have lost a strong link from that chain of faithful pioneers and witnesses who since then have been pleading for the Christianity of the New Testament. Bro. J. McGregor was closely associated with the school and church meeting in the Manchester Unity Hall (now the Swanston-st. church). He married in 1874 Elizabeth Abercrombie, daughter of Andrew Abercrombie, of Hotham. From 1865 to 1888 he was a faithful attendant at all services and a consistent member.

In 1888 he and some others organised the church meeting in the Fitzroy Tabernacle. For 30 years as deacon, presiding brother, teacher and visitor he gave splendid service to that church, supporting it with characteristic liberality. For the past six years the church at Malvern-Caulfield enjoyed the benefit of his sound judgment, ripe Christian experience, knowledge of the word of truth, and generous gifts. He was a deacon, presiding brother, teacher and friend in whom all could confide. He had only missed three communion services in 60 years.

He was deeply interested in the whole work of the brotherhood, at home and abroad, and generously supported all our funds: He was present at our first conference and every subsequent one till the 59th. One of his regrets was his inability to attend the Diamond Jubilee one last Easter. His disappointment was lessened somewhat by the resolution of love and sympathy passed on that occasion.

For about twelve months Bro. McGregor suffered from a severe internal complaint for which there was no cure. He bore the last six months of it with amazing fortitude. The call to pass into the presence of his glorified Lord came in the early hours of July 28. He was "ready to depart."

Two members only of the original McGregor family now remain—his sister, Mrs. Huntsman, and his brother Andrew. Two daughters (Mary) Mrs. Murray, of Malvern; (Lizzie) Mrs. Dawson, of Sydney, are left behind; also Andrew, of

Hobart, and the ex-president of our Conference, Bro. J. McGregor Abercrombie. To these and all relatives we express our Christian love and sympathy.

I had known him as a dearly loved friend from my youth, and appreciated the privilege of conducting the funeral services at Ivanhoe church, and the Melbourne general cemetery. The large circle of brethren and sisters and business friends was a testimony to his worth.

I think these lines apply to him—

"Noble he was, contemplating all things mean,
His truth unquestioned, and his soul serene;
Shame knew him not, he dreaded no disgrace,
Truth, simple truth, was written on his face."

—A. E. Illingworth.

A Little More.

A little more tired at close of day;
A little less anxious to have our way;
A little less ready to scold and blame;
A little more care for a brother's name;
And so we are nearing the Journey's End,
Where Time and Eternity meet and blend.

A little less care for bonds and gold;
A little more zest in the days of old;
A broader view and a saner mind;
And a little more love for all mankind;
A little more careful of what we say;
And so we are faring a-down the way.

A little more love for the friends of youth;
A little more zeal for established truth;
A little more charity in our views;
A little less thirst for the daily news;
And so we are folding our tents away,
And passing in silence at close of day.

A little more leisure to sit and dream;
A little more real the things unseen;
A little bit nearer to those ahead,
With visions of those long-lived and dead;
And so we are going where all must go—
To a place the living may never know.

A little more laughter; a little more tears;
And we shall have told our increasing years;
The book is closed and the prayers are said,
And we are a part of a countless dead,
Thrice happy, then, if some soul can say:
"I live because he has passed my way."

Not until right is founded upon reverence,
will it be secure; not until duty is based upon
love, will it be complete; not until liberty is based
on eternal principles, will it be full, equal, lofty
and universal.—Henry Giles.

The Family Altar.

J.C.F.P.

SUNDAY.

So belief cometh of hearing, and hearing by the word of God.—Romans 10: 17.

How simple is the means of obtaining faith, particularly when compared with the teaching of many theologians! There is no need to wait for supernatural impartation, else none could justly be rewarded for belief or punished for disbelief. It is within the power of all who hear the word to accept or reject it.

Reading—Romans 10.

MONDAY.

I say then, Did God cast off his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.—Romans 11: 1.

Lest any should conclude, from the apostle's reasoning, that he believed all Jews were cast off, Paul refers to himself. By birth a Jew, "of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin," he was accepted of God, and hoped for eternal salvation. So the apostle argues, "God had not cast away his people whom he foreknew." Though multitudes of unbelieving Jews will perish, the faithful will be saved.

Reading—Romans 11: 1-18.

TUESDAY.

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out.—Romans 11: 33.

"Sir Thomas Browne wrote: "I love to lose myself in a mystery; to pursue my reason to an *O altitudo!* 'Tis my solitary recreation to pose my apprehension with those involved enigmas and riddles of the Trinity—incarnation and resurrection. . . . I desire to exercise my faith in the difficultest point, for to credit ordinary and visible objects is not faith, but persuasion."

Reading—Romans 11: 19-36.

WEDNESDAY.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.—Romans 12: 21.

Christianity alone inculcates this lofty sentiment. Heathens had never dreamed of overcoming evil with good, and even the noblest souls of the pre-gospel days had never learned this sublime lesson.

Reading—Romans 12.

THURSDAY.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbor; love therefore is the fulfilment of the law.—Romans 13: 10.

"O let thy love my heart constrain!

Thy love for every sinner free,

That every fallen scul of man

May taste the grace that found out me."

Reading—Romans 13.

FRIDAY.

It is good not to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor to do anything whereby thy brother stumbleth.—Romans 14: 21.

Concerning his position on the temperance question, Ernest Wilberforce wrote—

"I maintain I have a perfect right, if I choose, to use lawfully or abstain altogether from using, if I choose, any of God's gifts either direct or indirect. That I have also a right to try and persuade others to see matters in the same light in which they present themselves to me. That I see thousands and thousands living miserably and dying impenitently on account of their misuse of alcohol. That all power of will being broken down in them, their only hope of regaining the place they have lost in the spiritual world is by wholly abstaining from that which they cannot use without abuse. That for me practice is better than precept, and that while Rom. 14: 21 remains written my position is unassailable."

Reading—Romans 14.

SATURDAY.

Now we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.—Rom. 15: 1.

Reading—Romans 15: 1-17.

Prayer Meeting Topic.

August 19.

The Light of the World.

(John 8: 12-20.)

F. J. SIVYER, B.A.

John Milton commenced his great epic, "Paradise Lost," with the petition,
"What in me is dark,

Illumine, what is low raise and support."

Such a prayer would not be inappropriate before attempting a discourse on "The Light of the World."

Light is as indispensable in the spiritual world as in the natural. "The earth was without form and void," until the sublime sentence was pronounced, "Let there be light." In the spiritual sense, as long as the human race exists, light will be its chief need and its greatest longing. The whole world was yearning for light prior to the coming of Christ. The description given by the greatest of the prophets, "the people walk in darkness" and "dwell in the land of the shadow of death" suited Gentiles as well as Jews. All looked expectantly for the coming of One who would lead them over the troubled waters.

Jesus made the claim to be the Light of the world probably on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles. One of the instructive features of that festival was the illumination of the temple by the lighting of the four colossal golden candlesticks erected in the court of the women. It was to remind the people of the wonderful way in which God had guided their forefathers through the pathless desert by means of a pillar of fire. The gracious and lofty claim made by Jesus in view of this is the more significant, "I am the Light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." In this statement there are really two claims. In a general sense Christ claims to be

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.

"Never was there a more majestic claim made by human lips," says Dr. A. F. Winnington Ingram, "than the claim to be the Light of the world. Just think of it: to bring the world out of darkness and death into the warm and living life; to pour light upon sightless eyes and make them see; to show all things in their right proportions, and enable people to discern truth from error; to inspire hope in the most despairing soul, and to point to a progress which does not end with death—this is what being the Light of the World means." In a more particular sense Christ is

THE LIGHT OF LIFE.

"He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness"—that implies that he is a *guiding light*. Light followed leads to truth and happiness. Light denied leads to darkness and despair. "Truly the light is sweet and a pleasant thing it is to behold the sun"; but it points to something better—"The path of the just is as a shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

The final words, "shall have the light of life" suggest that Christ is an *indwelling light*. "Light opens healthy eyes and is its own witness," said Augustine. By following Christ we become "the children of light." First to be illuminated and then to become torch-bearers is the divine order. If we "Follow the Gleam," as Tennyson exhorted, we will in turn become a guide and an inspiration to others.

"I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk,
Till travelling days are done."

TOPIC FOR AUGUST 26.—THE LETTER
TO THE CHURCH AT THYATIRA.—Rev.
2: 18-29.

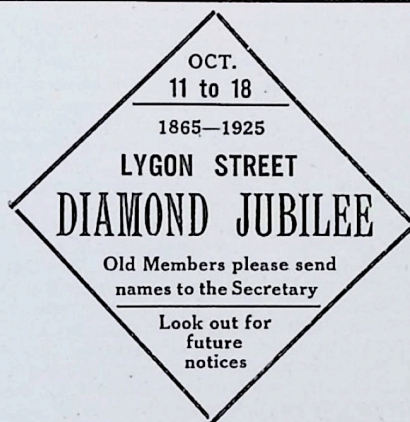
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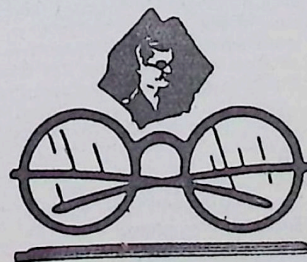
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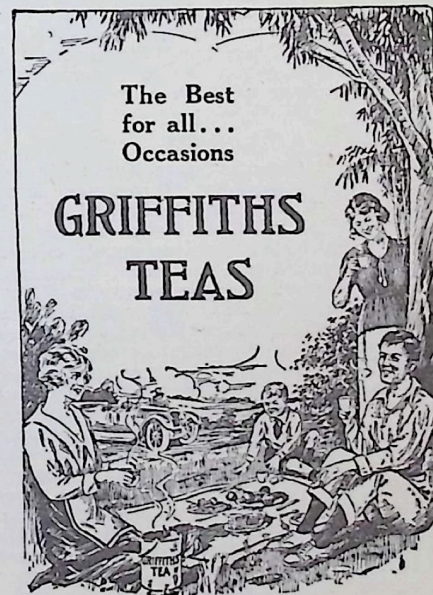
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News of the Churches.

Western Australia.

At Bassendean Adelphian Society an interesting debate was given by four of the members, the subject being "Should Christians Keep the Seventh Day?" The girls' club held a social, providing a combined literary and musical programme, with the view of raising funds towards the two orphans they are supporting. On Sunday, July 26, Bro. Peacock, senr., addressed the church in the morning, and Bro. Hughes preached in the evening. A number of the young men again visited Beechboro, Mr. T. Bamford giving the gospel address.

Queensland.

At Bundamba on July 26 Bro. Larsen exhorted on "Warnings." The gospel message was given by Bro. J. Sharp, of Brighton, Vic., who preached on Mark 16: 16 to a fair audience. Bro. Larsen intends giving a series of addresses on Thursday evenings.

Good meetings at school and church at Albion on July 26. The Foreign Mission offering closed with £38/10/-. The girls' club is busy making up articles for the Foreign Mission boxes of the sisters' conference. The Bible School is entering upon a three months' rally, beginning on August 1.

July 26 was a bright day for the church at Bundaberg. The young lady who confessed Christ on the 19th was baptised at 10.30 a.m. Her mother confessed Christ and was baptised at the same time. 107 broke bread for the day. At the close of the gospel service a married man and another young lady took their stand for the Master.

Tasmania.

Meetings at Devonport have been fairly well attended. On July 26 Bro. Warren spoke in the morning on "Stilling the Storm," and at night on the prodigal son. His series of seven sermons on this subject has been greatly enjoyed.

Both Sisters Howard, senr. and Taylor, senr. (of West Ulverstone) have been very ill, but they are recovering. Mrs. Nightingale has commenced a Band of Hope with about 40 members, and organised the deaconesses for more aggressive work. Bro. N. J. Warmbrunn travels about 40 miles each Sunday to meet with the church and superintend the Bible School, which has grown from about 60 to 88 members recently. The Senior C.E. Society held a very successful social on July 29, gaining some new members.

Meetings at Margaret-st., Launceston, are keeping up well. On July 25 Bro. W. Gillam preached to a good audience. The monthly meeting at the Old Folks' Home was addressed by Bro. Libby. On Aug. 2 Bro. Noble exhorted acceptably on "A Rainy Day." At the gospel service he gave a splendid message on "How the Bible Came Down to Us." A special series of Sunday services for the ensuing three months has been arranged, entitled, "A Church and Evangelistic Campaign." A number of members are sick. The Dorcas Society is doing good work providing clothing for the needy amongst the scholars and others. The front fence of the chapel is completed, and the chapel, school hall and grounds present a fine appearance. Thanks are due to the brethren of the "working bee" for their services. As a result of the concert given by the choir, £7 is to be handed over to the building fund committee. F.M. offering to date is over £23.

South Australia.

Good meetings have been held at Kadina. On July 19 Bro. F. Collins gave a splendid message in the morning on behalf of the B. & F.B.S. On July 22 the girls' guild held a very successful basket social. Attendances at meetings are keep-

ing up nicely. Aug. 2, good meetings. Bro. Harold Raymond helped much with the music. There was a large congregation.

Splendid meetings at Norwood on Sunday. In the morning Douglas F. Pike told of the work in China. Seven new scholars at Bible School. At night a men's service was held, when a men's choir and orchestra drew a large audience. Bro. Paternoster preached on "Give us Men." A sister of Norwood church has collected on behalf of the church 3½ doz. cups and saucers, and £1 in cash as a donation to the Protestant Children's Home.

Very enjoyable meetings at Henley on July 26. In the evening two young ladies from the Bible Class were immersed. Good gatherings on Aug. 2, Bro. Graham's messages being most helpful. At the gospel meeting a young lady—a visitor from N.S.W.—confessed Christ and was baptised. On July 22, a social and gift evening was held in aid of a sale of work. Through the kindness of Sister Mrs. Lunn, refreshments were provided.

At Hindmarsh Bro. Paternoster is delivering good addresses. Good morning meetings. On July 12, two young ladies from the Bible School made the good confession. They were baptised on July 19. On July 26, one young man, also from the Bible School, confessed Christ. On July 29, Bro. Onley, who is 85 years of age, was baptised. The annual F.M. offering amounted to £35/7/6. Over £40 has been collected by means of penny a week fund, making the total amount over £75. On Aug. 1, the choir held a social evening at the home of Bro. L. Weeks.

Walleroo church annual business meeting on July 23 was a delightful meeting. All officers re-elected. Good reports from church aid, Bible School, Junior and Senior C.E., kindergarten, church and evangelist. God has blessed the work, and harmony prevails. Bible School entered on an increase campaign on August 2; six new scholars in the school, and three in the kindergarten. The church has increased subsidy to H.M. Committee. Bro. Paddick addressed a good congregation on morning of Aug. 2. At night Bro. E. G. Warren preached on "A Lonely Worker."

Prospect had good meetings on Sunday; 113 broke bread. Bro. and Sister Molcher were received by letter from Henley Beach. Eight new scholars received for increase campaign in Sunday school. Opening meeting young men's Bible Class, 27 present; fine address by Bro. Campbell, Baptist Church, Prospect. A successful social and presentation evening was tendered to Miss I. Everett to express good wishes and appreciation for her work in several departments. Presentations were made on behalf of the church and Sunday school, church officers, Sunday school class, Junior and Senior Y.P.S.C.E.

Bro. Elliott Arnold commenced his work with the Murray Bridge church on July 12. His addresses since have been highly appreciated, and a keener interest is being taken by the members. The adult Bible Class in the school has been restarted, and Bro. Arnold has taken charge of this work with increasing interest every Sunday. In the absence of a resident preacher for four months, the work has been well maintained, and have given messages every weekend, especially 16, an enthusiastic welcome was given to Bro. Arnold in the chapel, when the State Conference Words of welcome were expressed by the choir. Overall, Allison, Erskine (Presbyterian), Messrs. (Methodist), and Roberts (Salvation Army). Musical and elocutionary items were given, and supper was provided by the sisters.

Splendid interest is a feature of all meetings at Strathalbyn. The C.E. Society is healthy. At its meeting on July 28, a pleasant surprise was given to Bro. Durdin by the Endeavorers, who had each brought along a useful gift. A well-attended social was extended to Bro. and Sister Durdin and their two little girls on July 30. All Protestant ministers of the town spoke words of welcome. Bro. Durdin gave a fine response. Opportunity was taken to say farewell to Bro. and Sister Oakes, who are leaving for Merbein, Vic. The church deeply regrets their departure. At all times they have proved faithful and zealous workers. Preparations are well in hand for the Bible School anniversary. F.M. offering amounted to £20/16/-.

Mile End young people entertained the older members of the church at the annual social of Y.P.S.C.E. last Monday evening. Presentations were made to the three who have held office since the opening of the present building 17 years ago—Bren. Mathews, Riches and Clarke. Bro. G. T. Walden gave a most suitable address. On Aug. 2 chairs were brought in for the morning service, at which service special mention was made of the passing of the esteemed Sister Barr. Fine service at night. The young men occupied the platform, and one man made the good confession. It is anticipated that the last meetings in the present chapel, on Aug. 16, will be almost as much a special feature as the first meetings in the new chapel on August 23.

Semaphore K.S.P. club recently held its first banquet, the young ladies' gymnasium class and representatives from other K.S.P. clubs being the guests. About 50 young people were present. On July 22, to a full chapel, the choir, assisted by Miss Wilson, L.A.B., Miss Paternoster, A.L.C.M., and Mr. L. J. Weeks, rendered the cantata "Esther." At the mid-week service last week Bro. Pike, of C.I.M., gave an interesting address on his work in China. F.M. offering closed at £23/17/-, inclusive of £3 through duplex envelopes. The church anniversary services were held on Aug. 2. Bro. J. Wiltshire gave a thoughtful address in the morning, when 131 broke bread. At night the choir repeated the cantata "Esther" before a crowded congregation.

Victoria.

Two adults confessed Christ at Newmarket last Sunday evening. The church sympathises deeply with Bro. J. Southwick in the sudden death of his brother on Saturday last.

A successful social evening on behalf of the Geelong kindergarten was held in the recently renovated hall last week. Helpful exhortation last Lord's day, and a good address at the gospel session.

Gardiner church had very fine meetings on Sunday. Bro. Reg. Enniss was preacher for the day and gave two good sermons. The tone of the meetings and the size of the attendance whilst the church is without a regular preacher indicate the solid state of the church.

The joint Churches of Christ in Richmond held their monthly prayer meeting at South Richmond. Bro. Hinrichsen, preacher for South Richmond, presided. Bro. R. W. Payne spoke on "God Being on the Other Side." There were thirty-five present, and a good time was spent.

At Carnegie during July two young women made the good confession and were baptised. One was welcomed into fellowship by letter, one August 2 two were received into fellowship by faith and obedience, and one previously immersed. Foreign Mission offering amounted to £26.

Meetings at South Melbourne last Sunday were bright and helpful. In the morning "Living Epistles" on the topic of "Living Epistles." In the gospel service Bro. J. R. Waterman spoke on "The Jigsaw Puzzle of Life." Members are pleased to know that Bro. F. Cope-land has sufficiently recovered from his injury to resume his occupation. Many members are paying frequent visits to the aged Sister Cooper, cheering her with bright little meetings.

Last Sunday evening at the conclusion of Bro. Saunders' address at Gore-st., the captain of the cricket club, a young lady from the Bible Class, and a senior boy from the Sunday School all made the great confession.

Meetings at Emerald are being well attended. The Bible School has reached a record attendance under the superintendency of Bro. A. G. Friece.

Bro. W. Jackel's messages have been of a high standard. On Sunday, July 26, he took for his subject "The Enduring Refuge," which all enjoyed.

Bro. F. T. Saunders visited Hampton on Sunday. As College organiser he gave a fine message to the church. In the afternoon he spoke to the school, and at night a good audience enjoyed his gospel address. In the morning Bro. and Sister Westlake were welcomed by transfer from Prahran.

Nice meeting at Warracknabeal last Lord's day. Bro. Cornelius preaching. Bible Class was well attended; it is preparing for anniversary. In the morning Bro. Wilson, of the Anti-liquor League, was present. On July 21 and 22 a visit from the H.M. organiser, Bro. Enniss, was helpful and much appreciated.

Malvern-Caulfield had splendid meetings on Sunday. Bro. Robbins gave a very helpful exhortation. Bro. Illingworth conducted an in memoriam service to the late Bro. J. McGregor. A large audience listened with rapt attention to an earnest address, at the close of which one young woman confessed Christ.

Meetings at Middle Park last Sunday were larger than the previous week. In the morning Bro. J. R. Waterman gave a delightful address entitled, "A Word to the Discouraged." Bro. Robinson's message at the gospel service was, "Not Understood." A good church business meeting was held last Monday night. The tennis club concert on Wednesday night was enjoyed by a large audience.

Ballarat (Peel-st.) work is steadily progressing. Bro. Cameron is doing much in consolidating, educating and preaching. The Sunday School is working for anniversary. The ladies' aid society has been re-organised, and the name altered to the women's guild. The following have been appointed office-bearers:—President, Mrs. Cameron; vice-president, Mrs. Vincent; secretary, Mrs. O. Batch; treasurer, Mrs. G. Stodden.

Shepparton Bible School reports attendance on July 26 as a record which did not long remain, being beaten by one the following week. Preparations for exhibition and anniversary are in progress. Encouraging features of church work are large attendances at mid-week meeting and at prayer service prior to gospel meeting. At the close of Bro. Stewart's address on Aug. 2 one young man made the good confession.

At Cheltenham on Sunday the Endeavor anniversary was begun, under the best of conditions. One of the first C.E. members, Bro. Wm. Judd, was the president. Bro. Wakeley gave a splendid message to the C.E. Society. Many visitors were present. In the afternoon a good school, kindergarten and Bible Class assembled. The evening meeting was most enthusiastic. Another very fine sermon was given by Bro. Wakeley on the work of the C.E. Society.

At North Richmond on July 26, Bro. Waterman exhorted; he also addressed the Bible Class. Both addresses were enjoyable. Attendances have been very good, and the work is progressing steadily. On Aug. 2 Bro. R. W. Payne occupied the platform at both services. A successful B.S. teachers' tea was held in the afternoon in honor of the return home on vacation of Sister Mrs. F. Killey, our Foreign Missionary. Splendid meeting at night, when a lady confessed Christ.

Keen interest marks the work of the brethren of the Woorinen church. On Sunday morning last, a brother and two sisters were welcomed into fellowship, and at the gospel service a girl from the Bible School confessed Christ. The Christian Endeavor Society has a membership of about 20 young people, and the boy scout troop, over which the preacher, Bro. Hargreaves, is

scout master, has about 30 boys enrolled, the majority of whom attend the gospel services.

Wedderburn had brighter meetings on Sunday. The Bible School motor rally in which the blues and reds competed has closed with marked success. Increased membership and better attendances have been attained. Practice has commenced for the Bible School anniversary. The church will be sorry to lose, in the near future, the fellowship and help of Sister D. Gregson, assisting organist and kindergarten teacher. She will be greatly missed, especially in the departments of services mentioned.

At Coburg, during July, three were received into membership by letter. A special musical service was held on July 5, when the "Hallelujah Chorus" was ably rendered by the choir, under the leadership of Bro. A. E. Barber. Good interest and attendances are maintained. A young men's club has been formed, while the Bible School has entered upon a progressive plan of action with increasing membership. Its prospects are bright for the future. The ministry of Bro. L. J. Smith has been distinctly encouraging and uplifting.

At Balwyn on July 26 there were good meetings. Dr. J. L. Blakie spoke to 75 men in the afternoon. August 2 was woman's day. Jas. E. Thomas spoke in the morning on "Woman's Work in the Church." Mrs. R. Cowper spoke to over 100 women in the afternoon in Balwyn Hall. Fine meeting at night. Jas. E. Thomas spoke on "A Woman who Dared." A ladies' choir led by Mrs. J. G. Hare rendered splendid music. Mrs. W. Wright, Misses R. Hayward, Jean Perry and L. Chandler gave solos, and Misses Irene Pope and Violet Smart sang a duet.

Continued good meetings are reported from Preston. During the past few weeks, Bren. Northeast, Payne and Waterman have ably exhorted, and Bro. Waterman has preached to large congregations. Some additions by faith and baptism, as well as by letter. Lord's day was Bro. Waterman's last for some time, as he is to undergo an operation soon. The church's prayers are for a successful operation and speedy recovery. Meetings were excellent for the day; the morning service being conducted by members of the K.S.P. Bro. Waterman ably exhorted, and in the evening preached to a splendid audience. The young people's societies held a successful American tea on July 28. All auxiliaries are doing well. The new hall is a boon.

At the annual business meeting of Brighton church, held last Wednesday evening, the opportunity was taken to present Miss F. Brough, the retiring organist, with a beautiful gold wristlet watch. For many years she has faithfully filled this position, coming every Sunday from her home at Cheltenham. The church is loath to lose her services, but she has decided to assist the church near her home. Her Bible Class of young ladies also gave her a bouquet of flowers, and on the previous Sunday the teachers and scholars of the Bible School presented her with a Bible. The church has reappointed Bren. Millis, Morris and McArthur as elders, Bro. Sumpton as secretary, and Bro. Wigley as treasurer. All of them have faithfully served the church in the past. The sisters visited the old folks' home at Cheltenham on Wednesday, distributing gifts and literature, and Bro. B. W. Huntsman conducted a service for the old people in the hall.

New South Wales.

At Dumbleton on July 26 Bro. Edmunds exhorted on Rom. 12: 1. Dr. G. H. Oldfield was present and conducted a children's service. The monthly missionary prayer meeting was well attended. Bro. Edmunds' gospel address was based on Rom. 1: 16.

Lidcombe reports splendid meetings morning and evening on Aug. 2, with good addresses by Bro. H. D. Priestley. On morning of July 26, Bro. T. J. Jones, North Auburn, exhorted, and in the evening Bro. H. D. Priestley conducted song and gospel services.

At Chatswood on Aug. 2 Dr. G. H. Oldfield gave a beautiful morning talk on "Medical Missions." Sister Oldfield, from New Zealand, was

present. It is with regret we report the illness of Bro. J. Whelan. Bro. C. R. Hall took Bro. J. Whelan's place and gave a fine address to a good congregation.

The 41st anniversary of the church at Lismore was held on Sunday, July 26. Visitors were present from Kyogle, Bangalow, Nashua, Urbenville and surrounding centres. Over 100 members present for the day. The celebrations were continued on Wednesday following, with tea and public meeting. Representatives from churches of the town made congratulatory speeches. Sister Miss D. Stewart has removed to Ballina, where she takes up duties as a nurse at district hospital.

The work at North Sydney has been faithfully maintained. During the last month the gospel services have been led by Bren. Rush and Butler, and four lads from the Bible School have been added to the church. The sisters have joined with those from Lane Cove in a combined Dorcas work. For the month of August, H. G. Harward has arranged to take gospel and midweek meetings. Efforts are being made to complete arrangements for the work to be taken by a full-time evangelist.

Bankstown has suffered several losses to membership by removals to other districts. Bro. Bennett's messages are very helpful. On July 16 the sisters celebrated the first anniversary of the Dorcas class. Invitations to sister churches were splendidly responded to, about 70 being present. The secretary gave a good report of the year's work. The financial position is good. Sisters Bull and Corbet delivered splendid messages. Bro. Bennett also spoke. Musical and elocutionary items and tea added to the pleasure of the gathering, which was a great success.

Good attendances at Taree on July 19. Bro. C. Jenkins spoke in the morning. After Bro. Crossman's evening address, four adults responded to the invitation. Bro. P. G. Saxby exhorted on July 26, and Bro. H. Edwards preached at night, when one confessed Christ. At baptismal services on Monday and Friday of last week, six were obedient. At church annual business meeting on July 28 officers were elected and reports given by preacher, treasurer and secretary. Bren. H. Edwards and P. G. Saxby were elected as elders. The church is grateful to Bro. Norman Branch for efficient service given in making new vestries, pulpit and alteration to platform.

At Rockdale on July 26 Bro. Saintry exhorted. At night Bro. Clydesdale gave a stirring gospel address. Bro. Clydesdale has just completed four years faithful ministry with the church. The anniversary public meeting was held on July 28, when Bro. Fretwell (Conference President) presided, and Bro. Harward gave a fine address. Bro. Clydesdale has accepted a further two years' engagement. Bro. and Sister Clydesdale received presentations as a token of love from the church and Bible School. On Aug. 2 Bro. Whately, from Fmroe, gave a fine exhortation. In the afternoon Dr. Oldfield gave a splendid missionary talk to the school. At night he gave a fine address on "Medical Missions." The Baker-Clay tent mission commences on August 16.

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DEATH.

BLACK.—On July 24, at Melbourne, John Grange, the dearly loved son of Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Black, of Pakenham Upper, loved brother of Will, Tom, Donald and Wallace, aged 33 years.

I am not praying—prayer is hushed.
God's hand is laid upon my heart;

The earthly hope forever crushed.
The heavenly answered, not in part,
But fully, perfectly! I prayed

For life, and he hath given the life
Which triumphs o'er the grave's cold shade.
—M. H. Black.

OBITUARY.

KEYS.—Bro. Samuel Keys, of Federal (Lismore district), N.S.W., was called to his reward on Thursday, July 16, leaving a young widow and small family. He was baptised by Bro. W. J. Campbell at Tyalgum, six years ago. He was married to a daughter of Sister Stewart and the late Bro. W. J. Stewart, of Tyalgum. About two years ago, Bro. and Sister Keys removed to Federal, and attended the meetings at Bangalow. He seemed in the best of health, only a few days before his death, but becoming ill was hurried to hospital at Bangalow. An operation failed to bring relief. A funeral service was held at Bangalow, Bro. P. J. Pond, of Lismore, and the local Methodist minister co-operating. The interment took place at Clunes, in the presence of a large number of people. The deceased was very highly respected, an ideal husband and father, and a splendid Christian man.—P.J.P.

BROWN.—Early on the morning of July 15, Bro. James Brown fell asleep in Jesus. He was in his 70th year. Bro. Brown was not a man who sought prominence; he was a quiet, unobtrusive, thoughtful Christian gentleman, and a man who loved peace. His optimism and quiet cheery word won the love of those who came into close touch with him. When health was failing he would never complain, and very shortly before life closed he was advising a friend to "count your blessings." Bro. Brown was born at Heidelberg. During the ministry of Bro. Con. Gordon at Prahran, he made an open confession of faith in Christ, and was baptised. He was a foundation

member of the church at Camberwell, and most consistent in attendance at the Lord's table. His wife, four sons and two daughters survive him. They, and all the elder grandchildren, are active members of the church, and to them the sympathy of the church is extended. His earthly tabernacle was laid to rest on July 16 at Burwood.—Harold B. Robbins.

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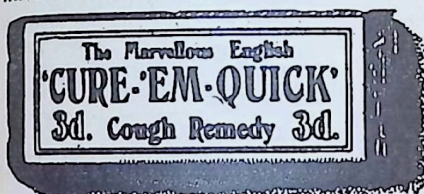
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