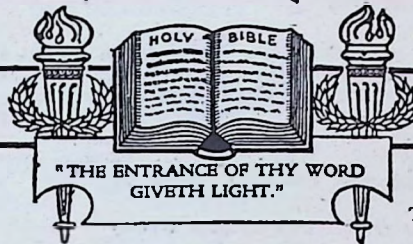


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The Visitors of Bethlehem.

THE ANGEL of the Lord appeared at night. Shadows had hovered over valleys and had enveloped hill tops. Stars had sparkled in a heavenly setting. Sheep had been gathered into folds. Then, suddenly, midnight was transformed by a glory that was richer than the dazzle of mid-day. The angel of the Lord had brought the glory of heaven to earth, and darkness disappeared.

Men were living "in darkness and in the shadow of death." Gloom stifled the glow of hope. Philosophies failed to comfort. Plato, one of the greatest of their philosophers, could see no hope for mankind unless some heaven-born messenger revealed a new way of life. Religious ritualism had crushed life out of the worship of the people of Israel. Seeking spiritual food, they often only found husks.

Thus, as the glory of the angel had dispersed the shadows of night, the message of the angel was to dispel the gloom of the human heart.

"Fear not," the angel said, "for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Heaven had sent a Saviour who would give light and salvation. The event was so significant that heaven rejoiced. There was joy in heaven because sinners were being provided with a Saviour and because a way of redemption was being opened.

As if to confirm the truth of the words of the angel of the Lord "a host of heaven's army suddenly appeared," praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

THE SHEPHERDS aroused themselves from a paralysis induced by holy fear; for the angels had disappeared, the night had returned and the fire was again ablaze.

The shepherds were carrying on the traditional vocation of David, the great king of ancient Israel. David had led his father's sheep over the hills that these men

knew so well. Bethlehem, where David lived as a boy, was perhaps their home town.

Bethlehem was set upon a hill. It was an ancient resting place for travellers. An inn provided shelter for man and beast.

The shepherds now turned their eyes toward the town and said:

"Let us be off to Bethlehem to see this thing that the Lord has told us of."

Hurrying down the hill and then climbing up to the town, the humble shepherds made their way to the inn and then to the stable. This stable was no "bright and graceful portico that Christian painters have imagined." "The real stable," Giovanni Papini writes in "The Story of Christ," "consists of four rough walls, a dirty pavement, and a tiled roof supported by beams. The real stable is dark, dirty and evil smelling; nothing in it is clean save the manger, where the master prepares the forage." There the shepherds found Joseph and Mary. There they found a "babe wrapped in swaddling clothes," lying in the manger. There they found the Saviour who is Christ the Lord. Be-



"There was no room for them in the inn."

fore the child they bowed in holy awe. They related to Mary and Joseph all that they had seen and heard.

The shepherds returned to the hills to take care of their flocks, very likely forgetting much of what they had seen and heard, but Mary kept all their words stored up in her heart and guarded them as a rich treasure.

THE WISE MEN from the East reached Jerusalem a few days later. They kept asking a question that startled all: "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" they enquired.

The magi, of ancient Persia, were looked upon as being gifted with the power to penetrate to the meaning of dreams, to interpret the portents of the heavens, and to foretell the events of the future.

The magi who reached Jerusalem had been anticipating the coming of a king. They had seen the sign of his arrival in the appearance of a star in the East. News of their arrival reached the cruel Herod. Fearful of the rise of rebellion under a new king, he sought information. He gathered the priests and scholars of Israel and enquired where the Messiah was to be born. They replied, "In Bethlehem belonging to Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet:

*And you Bethlehem, in Judah's land,
You are not least among the rulers of
Judah:*

*For a ruler will come from you,
Who will shepherd Israel my people."*

Herod called the magi in secret and questioned them about the time of the star's appearance. Sending them to Bethlehem, he begged that they return and tell him of the child.

Reaching Bethlehem and the house of Joseph, the wise men saw Mary and the child. They fell down and worshipped Jesus. Opening their caskets they presented him with gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. Such presents were fit for a king; and as a king the magi honored him.

To wise men Jesus was the King of the Jews whom they must worship; to the angels he was the Saviour for whom they gave glory to God. If we are wise we shall join in worship during the Christmas season and honor Jesus as our King and Saviour.

The Star = Led Wizards.

Matthew
2: 1-12.



R. L. Williams, B.A., B.D.

"Oh, glory be to God on high for these Arabian kings,
These miracles of royal faith, with eastern offerings;
For Gaspar and for Melchior and Balthasar, who from far,
Found Mary out and Jesus by the shining of a star!"

BURNE JONES, the artist, said that this story was too beautiful not to be true, and he has depicted the scene in a lovely tapestry. It really amounts to sacrilege to apply the cold implements of historical criticism to a narrative which breathes the spirit of such pure poetry. In relation to the main event, this story is quite secondary, and yet it has the peculiar facility to add to the record of the birth of Jesus that touch of romance which we so much appreciate. Even the lowly Christmas card, with its picture of some Easterners on camels at the bottom and a shining star at the top, starts a peculiar response of warmth in our hearts.

The spirit of adventure is called up as we think of those old wizards setting out from the seclusion and luxury of their oriental homes to brave the unknown in search of a deliverer.

Who were the Men of the East?

The Venerable Bede gives us their names and their personal appearance. Melchior was an old man, with white hair and long beard; Gaspar, a ruddy and beardless youth; Balthasar, swarthy and in the prime of life. Where the venerable gentleman obtained his information it is difficult to say. The facts of where they came from, how long they had been in travelling, how many they were, what was their rank, whither they went: all these questions remain unsolved. They slipped in upon the scene, played their silent part, and as silently slipped away. Like shooting stars, they came into view then disappeared into silence never to be heard of again. All that we know is that they came from the East, and as the original word magi signifies, they were astrologers; practitioners of the art which professed to read in the stars the destinies of men and nations, and which persists with incredible notoriety in our strange and bewildered times.

What was Their Mission?

Roman and Jewish historians tell us that there prevailed throughout the entire East at this time an intense conviction, derived from ancient prophecies, that before long a powerful monarch would arise and gain dominion over the world. When the brilliant star shone in the East, these wise men, according to the rules of their art, interpreted the phenomenon as proof of the birth of this mighty king. And they set forth to find him and pay him their homage. Far and wide they sought with dogged persistency until they found a clue to his probable whereabouts. Under the influence of Israel's Messianic Hope, rumor had it that the king was to arise in the Holy Land. Hearing of this expectation, the wise men headed for Jerusalem. Now that they were sure of their destination they hastened in the hope that they might arrive in time for the national celebrations and perhaps be permitted an audience with him to make their costly presentations. Imagine their disappointment when they found that nobody in Jerusalem knew anything about their King. The question indicates the utter bewilderment of the searchers, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the East and are come to worship him."

But with the further information gained from Herod, these strangers in their enthusiasm hurried to Bethlehem, "And, lo, the star, which they saw in the East, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

The Discovery of the King.

The retreating star guided them to a humble house in a little town. Surely their faith would be put to a severe trial by the poverty in which they found the King. "The great paradox of Christianity, the manifestation of divinest power in uttermost weakness, was forced upon them in its most startling form.

They must have felt a shock at the contrast between what they expected and what they found. They learned the lesson which all have to learn, that Christ disappoints as well as fulfils the expectations of men, that the mightiest power is robed in lowliness, and the highest manifestation of God begins with a helpless infant on his mother's knee. These wise men were not repelled. Our modern 'wise men' are not all as wise as they."

"And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh."

The Journey Home.

The tedium of the journey home was doubtless beguiled by blessed memories and long, absorbing conversation. They carried home richer treasures than they had brought. They had found more, far more, than they sought. They had sought a king and found a Saviour.

"No Flickering Torch — But Light!"

Howard Earle.

"The soft light from a stable door
Lies on the midnight lands;
The wise men's star burns ever more
Over all desert lands.

"Unto all peoples of the earth
A little child brought light;
And never in the darkest place
Can it be utter night.

"No flickering torch, no wavering fire,
But Light the Life of men;
Whatever clouds may veil the sky
Never is night again."

THUS sang Lillian Cox as she glimpsed something of the significance of the Incarnation—the most stupendous event in the history of the world. For the doctrine of the Incarnation declares that the transcendent Creator has entered into the order or process of space and time, of nature and history, in the person of Jesus Christ.

Zacharias, standing in the dim light of the dawn as the "Sun of Righteousness" arose, sang the Benedictus. It was given to him to see the essence of the Incarnation. "God hath visited and redeemed his people," "Because of

the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high shall visit us, to shine upon them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of peace."

A new day dawned for the world with the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. Light broke upon the world's darkness, the "light that never was on sea or land."

Light That Lights Up God.

In the Incarnation the Eternal God became Immanuel—God with us, and men beheld the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. That is the supreme thing about the birth of Jesus. God entered human life. The invisible God took form. The unknown God revealed himself. He tabernacled amongst men so that they beheld his glory.

We see the handiwork of God, his majesty, his might, his holiness, his justice, in nature and in history. But in Jesus Christ we see the very heart of God. And it is a heart of mercy. At the centre of the universe is this heart of mercy! Let every bewildered and dis-



On the Road to Bethlehem.

tressed soul rest securely in this belief. Nothing else can account for the advent of Christ.

"And God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

"He's God himself, come down from heaven to raise us when we fall;
He's come to heal us when we're sick, and hear us when we call;
If he hadn't come to do us good, he wouldn't have come at all.

"He didn't come to judge the world, he didn't come to blame,
He didn't only come to seek, it was to save he came;
And when we call him Saviour, then we call him by his name."

It was for us men and our salvation the Incarnation took place in Bethlehem of Judea long ago.

Light That Lights Up Man.

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him?" We cannot entertain low thoughts of man after seeing him in the light the Incarnation sheds upon him. Man has value, and high value, for God!

The Eternal Son revealed the Heavenly Father. All other attributes of the divine are interpreted in that supreme and dazzling light. And in that light we see man, the child of God; all men, the children of God. It was a universal status for all humanity, this sonship of God, with nevertheless stern distinction between those who truly qualified for it by an inward harmony with God and those who denied their sonship by wrong spirit and life.

It means a great deal to us in peace of mind and personal comfort and inspiration to close soul to soul with the truth of the divine Fatherhood, but there is another side to it. If we accept his love to ourselves it becomes binding upon us to show that love to all men. It is no easy status the Incarnation confers upon man.

Light That Lights Up Life.

With Jesus the ineffable wisdom of God became available for men. With him came light, crystal-clear and health-giving upon all the problems of life and upon its way. He came to a world surrounded by the unrelieved mystery of sin and suffering, sorrow and death.

Peace, Goodwill —

Keith Gerrand.

I HOPE that Christmas Eve will be clear. I want to go out and lie on my back on the grass, as shepherds watching over their flocks by night lay long ago in Galilee.

For I desperately need to feel and see the glory of the Lord that shone round about them, and hear the multitude of the heavenly host—if it be not choirs of visible angels, then the equally assuring hosts of stars singing together.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill . . ." It seems as remote as the stars from to-day's earth that is not earth, but steel and blood.

Cold, far, impotent, meaningless, it sounds beside the burst of a bomb, the rape of a city, the drowning of a thousand men.

Yet the farthest stars, seeming cold and still and unrelated to anything in our existence, burn and move with heat and motion unimaginable, and hold in perfect balance as it rolls upon its course this flung-off, burnt-out bit of a star on which we now make war.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth

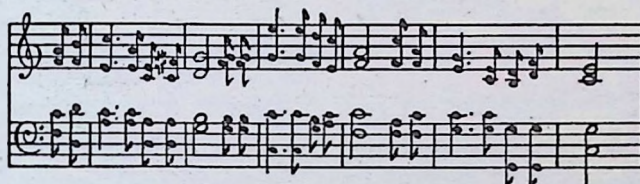
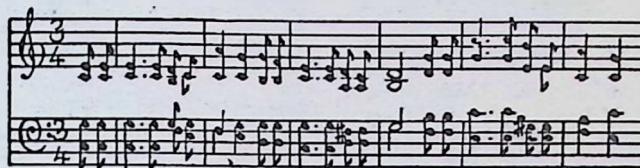


BETHLEHEM

A Christmas Carol

Words by J. Pittman

Music by M. E. Pittman



Never in all human story
Was a sight so wondrous seen,
Jesus Christ; the King of Glory,
Cradled in a manger mean,
Angel heralds in the sky,
Lowly shepherds kneeling by.
Then the lamp of life was lighted,
Brighter than the rising sun.
Then were heaven and earth united,

Peace of God on earth begun.
Peace the troubled world to fill,
Peace to men of holy will.
Prince of Peace! Thy way before thee
Lies through nameless grief and pain:
Death's dark shadow ever o'er thee,
But it leads to highest reign.
Glory that could never be,
But by way of Calvary.



Concerning all these he said: "I am come a light into the world. He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness."

And how plainly the truth and love in him shed light on the path of conduct. In the light he sheds upon life we see and know what must be done. The Incarnate Lord desires to guide our feet into the way of peace. We must take his way if we are to reach the goal. Peace on earth can be secured if only every one of his followers will take, at all risks, his way, the way of goodwill and forgiveness, of service and love.

The light is there shining. How incredible it seems that souls should avoid its rays! Welcome it, and walk in it!

before the babe that they found lying in a manger.

To me, looking back, where they looked forward, wondering, the will of God, for the life of man is revealed between the manger and a cross.

His way for man and men is love, the fulfilling of the law that is himself, that will make in all the complex relations of mankind a new order in harmony with the singing of the stars together—"on earth peace, goodwill. . . ."

Though like the shepherds I shall kneel before the King of kings in uncomprehending awe and adoration, not knowing what lies ahead, I shall know this—that all the earth shall yet kneel before him, and that kingdom will come (how, I cannot know) in which the earth shall join the host that sings: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill. . . ."

Maybe the Christmas sky will not be clear, but clouded darkly as the whole earth now is clouded.

I still will know that, though the great conquerors down to to-day's Hitler have influenced the world profoundly, it is the men of goodwill who follow the Babe of Bethlehem—men individually powerless, but in line with the inevitable God-will—who ultimately will rule the earth.

CHRISTMAS.

Above the din of battle strife,
Make known the way of endless life!
Ere this old year has passed away
Rejoice in hope this Christmas day.
Ring loud the bells of "Peace on earth,"
Ye sons of men, proclaim his birth.

Christ has for sin atonement made,
He on the cross the price has paid;
Redeemed thy soul from deepest sin—
Immanuel, give peace within!
Son of the Highest! Christ our Lord!
Tell all the world his fame abroad,
Make known his love to earth's far bound,
Acclaim him King where men are found.
So may his love abide. —Selected.

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. Pittman.

CHRISTMAS EVERYWHERE.

EVERYWHERE, everywhere, Christmas to-night,
Christmas in lands of the fir tree and pine,
Christmas in lands of the palm tree and vine,
Christmas where snow peaks stand solemn and white,
Christmas where cornfields lie sunny and bright.
Christmas where children are hopeful and gay,
Christmas where old men are patient and grey,
Christmas where peace, like a dove in his flight,
Broods o'er brave men in the thick of the fight,
Everywhere, everywhere, Christmas to-night.



For the Christ child who comes is the Master of all;
No palace too great and no cottage too small.

OUR COMPANION.

NOT long ago there was held in London a magnificent parade in memory of the death of a great inventor. He was a man who had begun life as a common shop mechanic. Most of the machine-shop men of that city were in the parade and they carried a banner which read, 'He was one of us.' In Bethlehem, Christ, the Son of God, was born in a manger, in order that he might be our companion."

THE FOUNTAIN OF GOODWILL.

BEFORE that wondrous night in Bethlehem no man lived for others in such full and unstinted measure as thousands have done since that night. There from the Bethlehem manger there flows forth all of the Goodwill this old sin-cursed, war-reeling world knows. Men and nations must come more and more, and rapidly, to drink of that fountain of Goodwill."

LOWLY BIRTH.

IT is a fact often overlooked that many of the world's best helpers had barnlike birth-places. Lloyd George was born in a rude

hut in the backwoods of Wales. Lincoln was cradled in a log cabin in the wilderness. Moses saw the light in a slave's hut on the Nile. Christ was born in a bare barn! And from there he stepped forth to win men's hearts! What name is mightiest to-day? Jesus! Who has more friends on earth than any other?—Jesus!"

TIME WANTED.

"Christmas comes but once a year," said the cheery citizen. "No use of its coming twice a year," said the morose person. "Must give a man a chance to save a little money before he can spend it."

The Family Altar.

TOPIC.—STEADFASTLY CONTINUING IN PRAYER.

*

Monday, December 22.

THEY continued steadfastly in . . . the prayers.—Acts 2: 42.

This was as necessary as the other three-named exercises, for power is largely dependent upon prayer. The consciousness of divine help drove the early disciples to their knees, whilst the reception of the needed grace lifted them up again and sent them forth on their errands of love.

Reading—Acts 2: 37-42.

Tuesday, December 23.

We will continue steadfastly in prayer.—Acts 6: 4.

Without being distracted by such duties as serving tables, which could be attended to by those who were appointed as deacons, the apostles resolved to spend their whole time in prayer and the "ministry of the word."

Reading—Acts 6: 1-6.

Wednesday, December 24.

He continued all night in prayer to God.—Luke 6: 12.

Our Lord is, in all things, our perfect Exemplar. Whenever we feel inclined to stay away from the prayer-meeting or curtail our private prayers, it is well to re-picture to ourselves our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though perfect in thought, word and deed, climbed the mountain alone at the close of day, and "continued all night in prayer to God."

Reading—Luke 6: 12-19.

Thursday, December 25.

Continuing steadfastly in prayer.—Rom. 12: 12.

A Christian should, as far as possible, find some place where he can at times be alone with God. He should also cultivate the spirit of prayer, so that, wherever he goes, he breathes the air of heaven and feels its comforting and strengthening influence.

Reading—Romans 12: 9-21.

Friday, December 26.

Let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually.—Heb. 13: 15.

No longer is there need of blood-shedding, for Christ has suffered without the gate, once for all. Yet we must penitently go forth unto him, bearing his reproach, and through him offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually.

Reading—Hebrews 13: 10-15.

Saturday, December 27.

Praying in the Holy Spirit.—Jude 20.

This is named as one of the essential conditions of Christian progress. First, we must build ourselves on our most holy faith. Second, we must pray in the Holy Spirit. Third, we must keep ourselves in the love of God. Finally, we must look for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Reading—Jude.

Sunday, December 28.

Praying for us also.—Col. 4: 3.

How greatly preachers would be encouraged, and doors hitherto barred and bolted would be thrown widely open, if only all Christians daily prayed for the messengers! Failure to do so is the greatest obstacle to progress.

Readings—Psalm 90; Colossians 4: 1-6.

The Gift of Love.

John 3: 1-17.

Prayer Meeting Topic for December 24.

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

AT this season of the year we make and receive gifts, but how few comparatively link this and the season with the coming of Christ in the flesh—God's gift to men. "God so loved the world that he gave." It might be well for us to dwell on the thought of a God who gives.

God's Gift to Us.

We sometimes think of God as creator and sovereign ruler and not so frequently of him as a benefactor. True it is that we mark out for special consideration anything we think he fails to give us. But his manifold gifts are never fully appreciated. He gives us life and then sustains it. There are blessings innumerable. They are so much a part of the every-day life that not till they are withheld from us do we take notice of them. We receive without so much as a "Thank you."

But the greatest of all gifts is that of his love in Christ Jesus. He so loved that he gave. The most precious love gift for a Hebrew would be an only son. If a Hebrew desired a special gift it would be a son, and the worth of an only son was greater even than with us. The call to Abraham to sacrifice Isaac was the greatest demand that could be made of any one. And God gave—first that his Son should lay on one side his glory and take on the form of a man—and that he should be a sacrifice for sin. The incarnation was part of the giving of God's Son in sacrifice.

Our Gift to God.

We are onesided in thought. We want it all for ourselves. The Hebrew believed that his gift to God should be of the very best, and so he offered a sacrifice "without blemish." He would not bring the blind or the cripple from his flock. God should have the best. Even the heathen, out of his poverty, will sacrifice to his gods. The Christian with all the wealth of good things he enjoys and his high standard of living, however, often makes offering of the second or third rate. He may even scheme to avoid making any; or if he does give, it is with ostentatious display. May the Lord forgive us the motive that sometimes prompts our giving.

Why Do You Give?

Some give because they fear. The heathen mother may sacrifice her child for she fears the wrath of the god. We have swung to the opposite pole, and have no fear at all and often little reverence for God.

For some the gift is one of necessity and duty. We give not because we want to, and because we love God, but because the church couldn't pay the preacher and for other incidental items if we didn't. If the church expenditure is low our giving is small. But it is all much a matter of duty as for some is the rendering of service or loaning of money in war-time. We feel it our duty to contribute to missionary work, that is, if we ourselves do not thereby suffer any lack. We give God the left-overs instead of making him a gift of the first-fruits.

Sometimes it is a gift of pity as when we throw a beggar a coin or when we give on the occasion of famine relief. The gift of love is greater than all, and it is God's motive. We have not reached the best till we give because we love. It is then a loving sacrifice as Christ was.

TOPIC FOR DECEMBER 31.—"TARRY YE."
—Luke 24: 36-53.



God is Love.

A. R. Main, M.A.

"God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him."—1 John 4: 16.

IN one of the latest books of the New Testament the Apostle John gives three great final statements regarding God: God is righteous; God is light; God is love. The three natural corollaries of these in order are: Therefore be righteous, walk in the light, and love your brother. John emphatically declares that "whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother." He also says that "if we say we have fellowship with God, and walk in the darkness, we lie." No more binding or searching Scriptures can be found than these.

With the greatest of statements, "God is love," we close this series of Supper talks. The apostle does not simply say that God is loving; rather he puts it that "God is love"—love is of his very essence. God is always love. In times of great sorrow, perplexity or suffering, we may be tempted to forget this great truth. Yet great numbers of Christians, painfully conscious of the woes of the world, their own weaknesses and failures, bewildered as they face the problems of man's sin and eternal destiny, have been content, even when they cannot trace the workings of divine providence, to stay their souls on the truth expressed by the greatest of our philosophical poets, "God! Thou art Love! I build my faith on that!"

We must not misinterpret or distort the fact of God's love. He is always love, but his character must not be supposed to have in it nothing but gentleness and tenderness. He is just also. He is not loving at one time, and just at another; he is always loving and ever just. Because he loves, he also hates. He must ever love truth and hate a lie, love goodness and hate evil. There is a necessary reaction of the holiness of God against sin. An apostle of Christ could urge his readers to "behold the goodness and severity of God"—goodness manifested to the obedient and penitent, severity to the sinful and wilfully disobedient.

God's love is revealed to us in his Son. "Even while we were yet sinners, he commended his own love to us in that Christ died for us." We must put the two great passages together: "God is love"; "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son."

Let us ever remember the Father's kindness. Let us keep ourselves in the love of God. A sense of his constraining love would illumine and sweeten all our lives:

"For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

"If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word.
And our lives would be all sunshine
In the sweetness of our Lord."

Bischoff, was preceded by a get-together session. The evening session was in charge of the Unity Committee. The discussion group work proved stimulating. The rally was under the auspices of the Eastern District Conference.

The Christmas train-for-service-camp at Warragul is attracting a number of young campers. This is heartening in view of the war machine's claim on the older young men.

WE COULD TRY THIS!

THE Christmas mail idea has developed into "big business" in the J.C.E. world at Moreland. Last year 3300 cards and 200 parcels were despatched. This is the way the idea works:

Christmas cards and parcels are sent from friend to friend among church members, Bible school scholars and Christian Endeavorers; but instead of posting them in the usual manner they are placed in a mail box at the church, unstamped.

On the Saturday previous to delivery the J.C.E. attend to, sorting, stamping with a rubber stamp, and arranging in alphabetical order. Rubber bands are used to keep each person's cards separate. If they have a parcel as well as cards, a colored paper wound round the band is used and the person concerned collects parcel after church.

On the Sunday before Christmas the mail is delivered, a plan of the seating in the church is prepared, and during morning service the names of all present are inserted on it. Bundles of cards are then sorted accordingly and placed on trays.

The congregation is asked to remain in place after morning service, and delivery is then made by six or eight juniors who each have a section of the church to cover. This takes not more than five minutes.

Cards and parcels not handed out then are delivered by Endeavorers and preacher during the week.

South Australian News-letter.

H. R. Taylor, B.A.

Messages from Overseas.

A CIRCULAR letter sent by the Union Executive last August to the men and women in the fighting forces overseas has brought a number of replies expressing appreciation of the message. A particularly interesting reply from one of the men who was a church and Bible school treasurer before he went away contains this helpful paragraph: "I am in a position where I become conversant with the personal history of each man passing through the company, including his church relationship, and have in that way met many chaps from the churches throughout the State, particularly new arrivals from Australia, and I feel sure that the talks we have had and the advice I have been able to give—especially to the younger chaps, boys, some of them—has been instrumental in helping them and me to keep before us always the example of the life lived by Jesus himself in this country of Palestine." Other letters speak of the desire of the men for the fellowship of the church and their attempts to maintain their devotional life.

Bro. and Sister Douglas H. Pike.

A hearty welcome is being given to our new workers in the Edwardstown West and Colonel Light Gardens field. Mrs. Pike, formerly Miss Hagger, has many friends which were made during her father's ministry at Grote-st. The father of Bro. Pike is affectionately remembered by those who were associated with him here while he was on furlough from C.I.M. work, the first occasion nearly thirty years ago. Our esteemed Sister Florence Cameron, of Shrigonda, came under the influence of the missionary from China before she decided to offer her life for service in India.

New Bishop for Adelaide.

Bishop B. P. Robin has been welcomed to the diocese of Adelaide, and is creating a good impression of his ability and wide-awakeness as a leader in our religious thought and life. He has made a startling statement in one of his first addresses. "I believe," he said, "that Germany has met in Russia a readiness as great as or greater than her own to regard the outpouring of blood, the holocaust of human lives, as a little thing beside the end in view. God forbid that I, as minister of a faith that must always hold human freedom and each human personality as the most sacred and priceless of earthly things, should preach such a gospel. I am only concerned to declare that I doubt if yet even England, still less Australia, is awake to the depths of sacrifice that this conflict will demand. Terrible as are these sacrifices, I believe that we have no choice but to accept them."

Disturbing Social Condition.

The Chief Justice (Sir George Murray) at the criminal sittings of the Supreme Court which have just closed, in which twelve cases of sexual offences were dealt with, said, when dismissing the jury, "It is rather disturbing to know that in these times we should have to put up with this sort of thing. It is hoped that the world is going to be better after the war, but something more than peace is required for the happiness and prosperity of modern society."

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Conducted by W. R. Hibburt.

CURRENT EVENTS IN VICTORIAN YOUTH WORLD.

Awareness.

BRO. P. FOSTER, chairman of the Young People's Department, is now serving in the Air Force. At the request of the Department, he is retaining office while in Melbourne and as duties allow. Over a number of years he has been the "big brother" of the Boys' Club Explorer Movement. A new enthusiasm must be found. War conditions are now thinning out the young men holding responsible positions in the churches.

"Youth's Own Diary" is meeting with a splendid reception. Copies are available from local church agents or the Department office at 6d. each.

Service tasks are in evidence in Christmas tree gifts to the aboriginal people and Christmas party at Guest Home. The amount for launch for New Hebrides has now reached three figures—£106.

Explorer Club leaders and members climaxed the year's work with a combined rally at North Fitzroy on December 15.

Members of the Girls' Fellowship fraternised on Tuesday, December 16, at a tea hour function. The gathering proved the wealth of the churches by reason of so many beautiful lives devoted to the service of Christ.

Eighty young men and women gathered in fellowship at Blackburn on Saturday, Dec. 6. A happy tea session, presided over by H. C.



Here and There.

We wish our readers every blessing in the Christmas season.

On Monday we received the following telegram from Sydney:—"Had splendid week Loftus Park mission, despite distractions; forty-one decisions.—Hinrichsen."

To assist in keeping records up to date, preachers and secretaries of churches are asked to notify changes of address, which are inserted in our columns free of charge.

Owing to the difficulties of the times, the study school arranged by the National Missionary Council to be held at Mount Evelyn, Vic., from Jan. 24-31 has been cancelled.

"He who learns the peace of ever-reliance in God will have no fear. He can make this day of days one of rejoicing and praise-giving. Awake and salute the happy morn!"

In view of the present situation the executive and retreat committee of the Victorian Ministers' Association have unanimously decided to cancel all arrangements for the usual retreat and conference of the ministers in February, 1942.

In connection with the Western Suburban District C.E. Fellowship (Melbourne) a tea and rally were held at Williamstown on Dec. 13, about 50 being present. At tea Bro. Colin Thomas gave a greeting from Baramati, India, and Bro. Hibburt gave an address. Endeavorers from the four churches represented took part in the rally, and an address on "The Faith Column" was given by Bro. Hibburt.

Bunbury, W.A., is a well-known holiday resort. Sometimes the number of visitors exceeds the local population. This year the Bunbury church is introducing a campaign to meet a great opportunity. The home mission tent is to be erected near the main beach. People are to be urged to use the tent during the day for a social centre, while at night convention meetings will be held in it.

The following paragraph tells of opportunities in factory meetings in Sydney. "What will win the last race?" yelled a young man at a factory meeting the other day, as the evangelist was proclaiming the gospel. "That's easy," replied the preacher, "I'll tell you. (Of course, every one of the eighty or so listened intently.) The winner of the last race is Death. He always wins in the human race; and after death comes judgment."

The Church Extension Committee of Churches of Christ in Victoria, which has been operating since its inception in 1910, has now been incorporated by Act of Parliament of Victoria and bears the new name of "The Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ in Victoria." The members are J. McGregor Abercrombie, F. N. Lee, G. L. Murray, R. Enniss (secretary) and Robert Lyall (chairman and treasurer). About the final act of the Church Extension Committee was to arrange and provide for the erection of the new church building at Frankston, an account of the opening of which appears in this issue.

Readers have enjoyed the series of studies on "The Lord's Table" by Bro. A. R. Main, M.A. The final article appears in this issue. The talks, with the valuable introduction giving helpful suggestions on the way to conduct worship services, are to be issued as a book by the Austral Co. The Victorian Literature Committee recommends this work to all who take any public part in church services. Details of price and date of issue are to be announced later. At the commencement of the new year Bro. Main is to contribute regular comments on current thought and events. We are looking forward to this new feature.

W. Gale, Victorian H.M. organiser, writes: "The annual offering day has come and gone. On every hand there has been splendid co-operation. It has been delightful to see preachers and secretaries at work for the offering. It has been truly great to see the enthusiasm shown by those whose own church debts were large and incomes small. It demonstrates a fine brotherhood conscience—a readiness to support the weaker churches and those more seriously affected by adverse conditions. It is too early yet to forecast the result. Church secretaries could greatly help the committee by reporting the offering, as the committee is even now reviewing its fields, its plans and its subsidies, for immediate action in the light of its financial resources. We hope to make a statement regarding the offering at an early date. We heartily thank one and all, and ask this one additional favor of our secretaries."

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the new church building at Frankston, one of the popular seaside resorts about 26 miles from Melbourne, was opened by special service in the afternoon. In the presence of a large company of members and friends, Mrs. Nicholson, the oldest in membership of the church at Frankston, turned the key of the front door and opened the building. After the congregation was seated the Doxology was sung, and R. Lyall, chairman, read portion of 95th Psalm. Suitable hymns were sung and prayers of thanksgiving offered. Brief addresses were given by Mr. Enniss, on behalf of the Church Extension Committee; Mr. Hinde, secretary of church, who acknowledged several greetings; Mr. Sage, president of Shire of Frankston; Mr. Harris, Presbyterian minister; Mr. T. Hagger, and Mr. J. E. Allan, president of Victorian conference, who delivered the dedicatory message. The offering amounted to £35, including promises. The ladies provided very generous hospitality after the service. On Sunday very successful meetings were held with good attendances. Bren. G. L. Murray, J. E. Webb, Thos. Hagger, J. Methven and W. R. Hibburt (young people's organising secretary) all assisted the church in these opening celebrations. The building is a beautiful brick structure, well furnished with handsome seats and platform, table and chairs. Members have been most generous in their gifts in these matters.

Help Our Young Men.

WITH the developments in the Pacific, conditions in Australia are rapidly assuming a state of preparation for any emergency. There are signs of vigorous action and strong leadership. The consequences are reacting upon our church life. Young men are taking up military duties. They have set aside, for the time being, their tasks in church organisations. Their services will be sadly missed. Our prayers and good wishes go with them. We believe they will stand true to the high ideals of the Lord under trying conditions. We trust that churches will organise some way of keeping in touch with them so that they may be conscious of moral and spiritual support while away from home. Now is the time to concern ourselves how to meet the problems after the war. The first duty to attend to is to hold the bonds of fellowship with our young men. Time and money spent now may be worth more than ten times the expenditure after the war. Young men long for news of their home and of their church; they will never forget kindness and consideration shown at this time.

Who will take up the tasks they have been compelled to set aside? There are people ask-

ing what can they do in these days. No better work could be undertaken than that of taking over the church duties that many have set down to answer the bidding of their country. Sacrifices are demanded of us all. May we talk less and do more for the church in these days of national anxiety. This is the day of opportunity for the church. We must lay hold of every occasion and recover the ground lost in the last twenty-five years.

Churches must continue to minister to the young men who have gone out into military service. Churches must minister to a community regaining its seriousness in anxious days. Do not plan what we shall do after the war, then it will be too late; let us act now.

College of the Bible, Glen Iris.

EXTENDING THE CURRICULUM.

Principal T. H. Scambler.

AT the Federal Conference held in Sydney in 1937, the College Board of Management was requested to take steps towards strengthening the course of study in the college. Accordingly a commission was appointed, which investigated the possibilities, by examining the curricula of various theological colleges in Australia, England and America. The Federal Conference in Adelaide (Sept., 1941), as a result of the findings of the commission and of the Board of Management, approved the following recommendations:—

That the college course be extended, and that students be given the option of securing the diploma by doing either of the following courses:—

(1) A Bible course of at least four years' lectures at the college, during which time three approved university subjects in Arts or other prescribed course be taken in addition to the college subjects; or

(2) A Bible course of at least three years' lectures at the college, plus a two-years' course of directed reading.

Obviously the recommendations cannot come into full operation until students who have been accepted under the old conditions have completed their courses. It is proposed, however, to make the additional work available at once, and students who receive diplomas during the next three years; after a three-years' Bible course, may undertake the two years of directed reading. Students entering their third year of study in 1942 may plan their work to include the proposed university subjects, and extend their course at the college through the fourth year.

It is proposed, for the time being, to present the diploma at the conclusion of the third year's work, and to add an additional seal when the extra work has been completed.

The faculty also suggests certain adjustments in the courses of study. In some cases a change of name indicates a somewhat different emphasis. In others, definite changes are proposed. Thus New Testament Greek will extend over three years, and will include Hermeneutics and Exegesis. Homiletics, Practical Church Work and Elocution will all be included under the general subject of Pastoral Theology. Missions and Comparative Religion will become a third-year subject, instead of being attempted in the first and second years of the college course. Church History I. and Church History II., which include definite work in the history and thought of our own movement, will be covered in the first and second years of the Bible course, instead of in the second and third years. Logic will be dropped from the curriculum, and Ethics substituted for it. Doctrine and Religious Education will become alternative subjects in the second and third years of the course. People interested in courses of study will realise that these suggestions represent a real strengthening of the college diploma course.

News of the Churches.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Kalgoorlie.—On Dec. 2 the Girls' Club held a concert and annual sale of work; Women's Mission Band was in charge of cake stall. Half proceeds went to mission work and the other half toward proposed kitchen. Bro. H. R. Fitch spoke on Dec. 7, gospel message being "Cities of Refuge." Bro. Ross Smith rendered a solo.

Maylands.—On Nov. 25 the Girls' Club held a break-up party. The young ladies are thanked for donation of £2 to help hall fund. At worship service on Nov. 30 Bro. E. R. Sherman, of Inglewood church, exhorted. Bro. T. Bamford gave the gospel message. At midweek prayer meeting Bro. Sherman gave a very earnest message. A patriotic talkie picture was presented by Vacuum Oil Co. in church hall on Dec. 5, proceeds to help Silver Chain Nursing Association and Y.M.C.A. war service work. At worship service on Dec. 7, the evangelist presided and spoke earnestly on "Need for Co-operation in Christian Service." He also preached at night. Good meetings for the day.

Perth.—On Dec. 3, after an inspiring talk by A. G. Elliott on "Without the Camp," a concert hour, arranged by Bro. Cyril Cook, church organist, was enjoyed. Refreshments were served, and presentations made to Sister Dorothy Payne on eve of her departure for Melbourne. She has rendered excellent service as a member of the choir and secretary of Young Married Ladies' Club. On morning of Dec. 7 Bro. Elliott delivered a powerful address on "The Parable of the Great Supper." Visitors included Sister Mrs. R. H. Burns (Prospect, S.A.) and Bro. Walkely (Forestville, S.A.). At gospel service Bro. J. Wiltshire gave a heart-searching message on "Will a Man Rob God?" Afterwards he delivered a broadcast address on "Christ's Value of Life."

Fremantle.—From Nov. 23 to 30 the church celebrated 49th anniversary with a week of special meetings conducted by Bro. C. H. Hunt. Encouraging attendances resulted. Musical items arranged by Sister Ruth Connolly were very helpful. Bren. Fitch and Wesley also helped with services. The church mourns the loss of Ron. Anderson and Roy Heritage (of Adelaide), who were always present at services when on leave and who have been posted as missing with H.M.A.S. Sydney. To parents and friends the church extends heart-felt sympathy. Sympathy is also extended to Sister Mrs. Scholey, whose husband was laid to rest in Fremantle cemetery on Dec. 4 by Bro. Raymond. War Comforts Organisation temporarily closed its work over Christmas season on Dec. 9, when C.E. society held a social. Mr. Bensley (Seamen's Mission) was speaker. Dorcas and Church Aid have raised £13/10/- each for sisters' home and foreign mission efforts. Their aim was £8 each.

QUEENSLAND.

Mt. Walker.—On Nov. 23 Bro. and Sister G. Miller, late of Ma Ma Creek, worshipped with the church, and members wished them well in their work in Charters Towers. Bro. Miller exhorted. Meetings are fairly well attended. Bro. P. C. D. Alcorn exhorted on Nov. 30. Bro. Alcorn is faithfully working among the circuit churches.

Boonah.—Bro. van Eerde has received much praise for his splendid work in making Christmas toys, etc., for church of Christ, Methodist and Presbyterian schools. Concert and Christmas tree in chapel on Dec. 4 proved a very happy occasion. Sister van Eerde and family have gone to Melbourne for Christmas and will be away for some time.

Monkland.—On Dec. 7 Bro. V. S. Dallinger, of Maryborough, addressed morning service, and at night Mrs. Dallinger conducted a pictorial service with Biblical pictures shown by

a projector. An offering was received for social service at night, while at the morning service a special thanksgiving note offering was liberally contributed. A presentation of a fountain pen and pencil has been made to Bro. J. Venning, who has joined the Air Force.

Roma.—Meetings are well attended, and interest is maintained. On Nov. 22 and 23 Bro. Greenwood visited the church. A tea was held on Saturday night, after which a public meeting was held, when Bro. Greenwood gave a lantern lecture on "The Scenic Beauties of New Zealand." Services on Sunday were of a high order. Bro. Greenwood spoke morning and night, and to Bible school; morning service was broadcast. On Dec. 3, at annual business meeting of church, all departments reported favorably. Treasurer's statement showed a greater credit balance than last year. All officers were re-elected, Bro. E. R. Butler also being elected to board of officers. Bro. Boettcher's term of engagement was extended a further twelve months.

Gympie.—Very successful meetings made 54th anniversary a happy event. The Mayor of Gympie distributed Bible school prizes at a concert on Dec. 1. Members of Fraternal addressed an inspirational service on Dec. 3, while a united C.E. consecration rally was held on Dec. 5. Kindergarten and cradle roll held a Christmas tree on Dec. 6. Services were largely attended on Dec. 7, when Bro. V. S. Dallinger, of Maryborough, spoke morning and evening, there being a thankoffering of over £30. Mrs. Dallinger used her projector to show Bible pictures to school in afternoon. The church sorrows at the home-call of aged Sister Mrs. Blake. During anniversary a Weymouth Testament was presented to Bro. J. Venning, who has joined the Air Force.

TASMANIA.

Launceston (Margaret-st.).—Services lately have been conducted by Bren. W. Duff, H. E. Tomlinson, T. Orr and J. P. Foot. On Dec. 7 Bro. J. Park, of Hobart, conducted a special H.M. meeting. The church is glad to have Bro. F. T. Saunders as visiting speaker for several weeks. On Dec. 14 one young lady made the good confession, and a young man was welcomed on 7th.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Victor Harbour.—A good company of airmen from Mt. Brechan camp were in attendance on evening of Dec. 14.

Prospect.—Junior department held Christmas party with a day at the beach. Kinder department had a Christmas party on evening of Dec. 13. Bro. Schwab conducted services on Dec. 14. One young lady, Martha MacAllister, was welcomed into the church. Evening service was inspiring.

Maylands.—Services on Dec. 7 were well attended, and speaker was Bro. Keith Jones. At night one young lady and a young man made the good confession. On Dec. 14 Bro. and Sister Hammer, from the New Hebrides, were welcomed. Bro. Hammer gave the church a very interesting talk. In the evening a baptismal service was conducted by Bro. Jones. Christmas parties have been given to Bible school scholars, gifts being brought which will be sent to various institutions.

Port Lincoln.—Services have been well attended, assistance being continued from Ungarra and Tumbay Bay churches despite travelling difficulties. On Nov. 25 Sister Curtis was baptised by Bro. Newell, and received into fellowship on Nov. 26. With the return of Bro. and Sister E. Jones, and the coming of Bro. Crouch, of Mile End, a general meeting was held on Nov. 23 to organise a church, when officers were appointed. Bro. Cliff. Jones has carried the brunt of the work for last 18 months.

Port Elliot.—Morning service for breaking of bread in Court House at 9.45 is proving a great blessing for visiting members as well as the few local friends who attend. Bro. and Sister Amos, of C.I.M., have been attending recently while on furlough.

Whyalla.—Fellowship was enjoyed with Bro. Ludbrook, secretary of Dulwich church, at mid-week prayer meeting on Dec. 3. On Dec. 7 Bro. Dealy, from Gawler, brought the message in the morning, and Bro. Arnold at night, to a record gathering of 29.

Norwood.—On Dec. 7 an offering was taken for Social Service Department. Bro. Ingham spoke at all services. On Dec. 14 a recognition and thanksgiving service for the life and ministry of Bro. A. C. Rankine was held at Norwood, where he labored for so many years. Bro. H. Greaves, the leader, brought a message on behalf of church; C. J. Parker for Bible school, and Bro. Wicham, for Fullarton church. Bro. A. J. Ingham preached to a good audience on "Life with Wings." Special music was rendered by choir.

Wolsley.—Helpful meetings have been held during past few months, and a fine spirit prevails. Three new scholars have been added to Bible school under leadership of Bro. H. Howell (sen.). On Dec. 7 a successful church anniversary was held, with splendid attendance at both services. Members from Mundalla, Bordertown and Wolsley brought messages in song. Bro. Russell's themes were "Life's Great Question" and "Mutilating the Scriptures." Offering was received for Minda Home and Children's Hospital.

Semaphore.—Bro. and Sister Paddick render pleasing service, their joint visits being especially appreciated. Attendances and interest are on the up-grade. Bro. Paddick's messages are enjoyed. One young woman recently confessed Christ. Y.P. and J.C.E. societies held combined rally on Dec. 4. A splendid programme concluded with supper. Dec. 7 was C.E. Sunday. At both services C.E. members provided singing and took active parts. Bro. Lough, after years of devoted work, has voluntarily retired as S.S. secretary in favor of Bro. Vic. Taylor, jun.

Queenstown.—On Dec. 7 Bro. Brooker addressed the church and preached at night on "Materialism and Spiritualism." The kindergarten department continues to grow. On Dec. 14 Bro. Hinde spoke at young people's meeting at 10 a.m. The numbers are keeping up well. Bro. J. Hall addressed the church, and at night Bro. Brooker preached. On Dec. 6 Bro. M. Schmidt, S.S. secretary, and Miss Foote, one of the kinder teachers, were married. On Dec. 9 the Ladies' Guild held last meeting for year. On Dec. 2 Girls' Wattle Club tendered a Christmas social to all older members of church.

Bordertown.—All meetings are well attended. Miss Elsie Caldicott has been a very helpful visitor, speaking at conference, Christian Endeavor and Mission Band, and giving a message at gospel service. Bro. Colin Thomas has been a visitor and speaker. On Dec. 14 Bro. Russell exhorted in morning and Bro. Peet (Grote-st., and secretary to Protestant Children's Home) at night gave a greatly appreciated address. Bro. and Sister Kirkham and Bae have been received by transfer from Victor Harbour. The church extends sympathy to Sister Mrs. Jack Martlew in the loss of her brother.

Hindmarsh.—At morning service on Dec. 14 Bro. W. L. Ewers gave a good address on Col. 3. Annual offering for Church Extension Fund amounted to £7/3/-. Dec. 14 was set aside for receiving of boxes with money for church renovation fund, £21 being realised. Membership in "The League of 500" is now about 30. At gospel service Bro. Ewers' message was "Vicarious Suffering." The choir sang an anthem and Mrs. Russell helped with a solo. A concert was given in school hall Dec. 11 by the Welland School Mothers' Club choir in aid of our kindergarten hall, £7 being realised to-

wards renovations. On Dec. 13 Sister Phillis Weeks was married to Bro. Doug. Pearce, Bro. Ewers officiating.

Naracoorte.—Following annual picnic, Bible school anniversary was held on Nov. 30, Bro. Shipway, of Nailsworth, speaking morning, afternoon and evening. The school rendered special singing. Kindergarten items were led by Mrs. Killmier. Bro. Shipway conducted meetings during following two weeks. His messages and fellowship were enjoyed, and the church was strengthened. After evening service on Dec. 11, words of appreciation were spoken and a presentation made to Bro. Shipway. On Dec. 14 Mr. Killmier spoke in morning, and Mr. Albright, of Temperance Alliance, preached at night. Bro. Davey has been elected an elder, and Bro. K. Foster secretary of the church.

Edwardstown West.—There were attendances of over 70 at induction of and welcome to Bro. Pike. At the induction service on Dec. 7, Bro. Ross Manning presided and gave a charge to the church. Bro. H. R. Taylor gave a charge to Bro. Pike, who followed with a message. An enthusiastic welcome social was tendered to Bro. and Sister Pike on Dec. 9, welcome being extended by brotherhood representatives and church auxiliaries. Bro. Manning was chairman. At morning service on Dec. 14, Bro. A. G. Brown spoke on giving, and made an appeal for "The League of 500." At night Bro. Pike gave his first gospel message on "The Forgiveness of God." Two Bible school boys (brothers) decided for Christ.

VICTORIA.

North Richmond.—Good meetings were held on Dec. 14. Mr. Mellhagger preached at both services. There was one baptism.

Boronia.—At morning service on Dec. 14 Bro. P. R. Thickers exchanged with Bro. Burleigh, of Camberwell Baptist church. H.M. offering to date is £7/12/6.

East Kew.—The theme of Bro. Candy's very appropriate addresses on Dec. 14 centred round Psalm 71. Young people's work is in good heart, though loss of young men is felt severely.

Northcote.—Mr. Gale was speaker on morning of Nov. 30 and Mr. Atkin at night. Mr. Atkin was speaker at both services on Dec. 7 and 14. Offering for home missions totalled £50. The choir held a concert on Dec. 13, proceeds being devoted to Christmas cheer.

Brunswick.—At half-yearly business meeting Bren. Marsh and Gray were re-elected as church officers. Both Mrs. A. Cornish, who is in Melbourne Hospital, and Mrs. A. Mann are making satisfactory progress. Offering for Christian Guest Home totalled £9. An effort is being made to strengthen the Sunday school.

North Williamstown.—Attendances are well maintained. Bro. Thomas was speaker on morning of Dec. 14. At night Children's Day exercises were conducted, a number of S.S. children dressed in Indian costume taking part. Mrs. Lee was leader and Mrs. Colin Thomas speaker. Home mission offering to date is £13.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—H.M. offering has reached £25/10/-. On Dec. 14 Bro. Clipstone gave helpful messages. A kitchen tea was given on Dec. 10 in honor of the approaching marriage of Miss Gwen Miller. Kindergarten Christmas tree was held on Dec. 13. Sympathy is expressed to Sister Fowler in her recent bereavement.

South Melbourne.—The kinders had a day out on Dec. 13. Superintendent Mrs. G. Newman as their hostess and Bro. G. Newman as Father Christmas delighted the young folk. Bro. H. Campbell presented a challenging message to youth leaders at council meeting on Dec. 14. Bro. Ern. Stevens has been welcomed by transfer from Invermay, Tas. Soloists at gospel services: Dec. 7, Bro. E. Stevens; Dec. 14, Bro. Les. Hollow.

Swan Hill.—During Bro. Hughes' absence on holiday, helpful messages have been brought by local brethren. Morning meetings have good attendance. The church welcomes Sister Mrs. Smith and Norman, who have come from Ballarat to join Bro. L. Smith. By invitation Bro. Hughes presided at speech night of Donnington private school. Painting of the chapel is in progress.

Mildura.—On Dec. 14 Bro. Jas. Lewis spoke on "No Half Measures." Preceding evening meeting four young ladies who confessed Christ on the previous Sunday were baptised. Bro. Lewis spoke on "A Holy Ordinance," and there was another confession. On Dec. 13 a social was held on behalf of Boys' Club. Junior Christian Endeavorers celebrated third anniversary with a birthday tea on Dec. 13.

Bayswater.—Interest is maintained, and a happy spirit of fellowship is evident. On Dec. 7 Bro. Burns spoke at both services; morning subject, "The Greatest Business in the World"; evening, "The Submissive Face." Sister Finger, sen., is again meeting with the church. During absence of preacher on Dec. 14, Bro. Burns, sen., gave appreciated messages to well-attended meetings.

Malvern-Caulfield.—On Dec. 14, in absence of Bro. Buckingham through illness, Bro. R. P. Clark, welcomed back from India, where he has been serving the troops as Y.M.C.A. representative, gave a very informative talk on our mission work in India. Dr. Kemp spoke to an appreciative audience at pleasant Sunday afternoon gathering. At night Bro. R. J. Clow, of Queanbeyan, N.S.W., gave a forceful address. All meetings are fairly well attended.

Middle Park.—On Nov. 30 the church combined with local Baptist church in a well-attended gospel service, when Bro. D. Stewart gave a fine message. Bro. H. McCallum, of St. Kilda, was speaker on morning of Dec. 7. Members of Phi Beta Pi Club entertained their mothers at a social on Dec. 8. At both services on Dec. 14 Bro. Stewart delivered splendid addresses on "Christ's Second Coming." Bro. Ian Hall and Mrs. A. Harris are seriously ill in hospital.

Ballarat (York-st.).—Bren. Gale and W. G. Feary conducted an impressive induction service on Dec. 6, when Bro. Hubert Edwards was given charge of York-st. ministry. Attendances were large. The ladies also extended cordial welcome to Bro. and Sister Edwards, representatives of sister churches participating. Great activity is manifest amongst auxiliaries, special functions having been held. On Dec. 13 there were excellent meetings with splendid addresses by Bro. Edwards.

Coburg.—On Dec. 11 the boys' gymnasium club gave their annual display. On Dec. 13 Father Christmas visited kindergarten party, and on Sunday afternoon all mothers came to kindergarten and received a small present. Mrs. Myersecough, superintendent, was congratulated on the splendid kindergarten work done. At Endeavor on morning of Dec. 14 (Junior and I.C.E. combined), Mr. Alf. Reed spoke; about 60 Endeavorers were present. At gospel service a young lad made the good confession.

South Richmond.—On Dec. 14 Bro. R. J. Clow, foundation member and first preacher of the church over 40 years ago, addressed morning meeting, giving many reminiscences of the early church. At night a young man who recently made the good confession was baptised. Women's Sunshine Circle held last meeting of year on Dec. 11. Many visitors were invited, and Bro. T. Hagger, from Gardiner, was speaker. At the close the women presented the church with four splendid chairs for platform use.

Kaniva.—Attendances have been fairly good in spite of petrol rationing. Interest in the out places is very encouraging. Bro. and Sister Earle have won a place in the hearts of the people. The ladies have been busy with the work of Christmas cheer. Home mission offering stands at £108. Bro. John

Williams, on leave from military duties, addressed the church on Dec. 14, and Bro. Reg. Goldsworthy preached at night. Bro. Earle conducted evening service for Lillimur union Sunday school anniversary.

Ormond.—At prayer meeting on Dec. 10 Bro. C. L. Lang's message was on "Peter's Never Answered Question." On Dec. 14 he gave a good message to the church, and at night preached on "The Christmas Star." Offering to date for home missions is £14/10/-. Young Worshipers' League children each received a beautiful text on Dec. 14.

Doncaster.—Bro. Banks' addresses in reference to present-day conditions have been much appreciated. On evening of Dec. 14 several visitors were present. Sister Miss Crouch, from Adelaide, rendered a solo. A number of members have been unable to attend because of sickness. A complimentary social and kitchen tea were tendered to Sister Clarice McDowell on her marriage. Bro. Banks made a presentation on behalf of the congregation. Church and Bible school have received £50 each from the will of late Bro. John Tully.

North Carlton (Rathdown-st.).—Bro. Johnston has completed a series of six addresses, giving a comprehensive survey of the book of Revelation, illustrated by large chart, and which were followed with interest. The church sympathises with the family of Bro. Dan Buckley, serving on H.M.A.S. Sydney when lost. He was esteemed as a loyal follower of Christ. J.C.E. held a successful concert on Nov. 29 on behalf of Cumeroounga mission. Sister Peacock, kindergarten superintendent, with teachers entertained scholars on Dec. 13 in lieu of Christmas tree.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—A delightful social was held on Dec. 13 as a wind up of New Century Bible Class fixtures for 1941. About 30 men in uniform were guests of the evening. Home mission offering has reached £26. On Dec. 14 Bro. Baker spoke morning and evening. Bro. Jeff Millis was received into membership, and Bro. and Sister Simpson were received by transfer from Shepparton. The church has donated £5 to the Guest Home. At Bible class Bro. R. Enniss concluded a very helpful series of addresses on "Pictures of the Religious Life" (studies in the parables of Jesus). All deacons and presiding brethren have been re-elected.

Ballarat (Dawson-st.).—Dorcas held final meeting for year on Nov. 27. Bro. and Sister L. Smith were farewelled at Doveton-st. North, on Nov. 29, prior to leaving for Swan Hill. Bren. T. Comer and W. W. Saunders were speakers on Nov. 30. Annual temperance service was conducted in school. Bro. L. G. Bond (Baptist) was speaker, and a number of new pledges were signed. Bren. J. A. Wilkie and B. Feary were speakers at Doveton-st., and Bro. W. Reid at Mt. Clear. P.B.P. held final meeting for year at home of Bro. and Sister E. H. Price on Dec. 4. Bro. T. R. Morris, representing H.M. Committee, spoke on morning of Dec. 7. At night a parade of men from Show Grounds military camp was held. Bro. Saunders speaking; a young woman confessed Christ. Church and Sunday school anniversaries were observed at Doveton-st. with fine attendances. Bren. G. L. Murray, T. R. Morris and W. Gale were speakers for day. Bro. Saunders addressed morning meeting Dec. 14, when Miss Iris Liversidge was received into fellowship. Bro. J. A. Wilkie conducted gospel service, Bro. Saunders conducting Mt. Clear school anniversary. Church congratulates Bro. Saunders on appointment as president of Ballarat Council of Churches for ensuing year. Sympathy is extended to loved ones of late Bro. W. Wigley, church officer, who passed away Dec. 3, also to Sister D. Jenkyn in death of her mother.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Kingsford.—Meetings are well attended; several visitors, including Mrs. E. G. Murray, from Taree, daughter of church secretary. Bro. A. Hiles is leading the singers each Sunday evening with Christmas carols.

North Sydney.—Several Christmas functions have been held. On Dec. 14 the message from Bro. Reid, of Lane Cove, was appreciated. Three lads were welcomed into fellowship following their obedience. After Bro. Paternoster's address on the theme "Following Christ," four confessions were taken and two other candidates baptised.

Rockdale.—On Dec. 14 Bro. Carter exhorted. At night Bro. Hinrichsen preached to a large congregation. A number of young people from Sans Souci were present with Bro. Hunting. Three young people confessed their faith at close of address. At Bible school a deputation of boys from Pendle Hill Boys' Home enjoyed tea with teachers and officers.

Inverell.—A visit of the conference president on Nov. 16 coincided with church anniversary services. Bro. Stimson spoke morning and evening. Bible school scholars assisted with evening service and presented an enjoyable programme on Nov. 18. Ministers of Methodist and Presbyterian churches brought greetings and a welcome to Bro. Stimson. There was one confession on Nov. 16 and two on Nov. 23, when all three, Joan Morris, Rob, and Peggy Goode were baptised. These were received into the fellowship on Nov. 30. Bro. and Sister T. G. Cosh escaped serious injury in a head-on collision when returning home from anniversary services. Both have fully recovered.

Hornsby.—At annual business meeting of church encouraging reports were received. Finances showed a proportion of 38 per cent. of total income allocated to brotherhood work. Owing to the death of Bro. R. O. Sutton, who held office of deacon and secretary, Bro. J. Hanna was elected to fill the vacancy on diaconate, Bro. H. Simmons having previously been appointed secretary. Church membership shows no change; five received by faith and baptism, one by letter, six removals from district. Four brethren are serving with H.M. forces overseas. On Nov. 30 Bro. Weir (N. Bexley) addressed the church. On Oct. 7 and 14, the preacher being indisposed, platform was occupied by Bro. H. Gowans in mornings. Evening services were addressed by Bro. A. Surtees, of Chatswood. Preceding the meeting on Dec. 7 a young people's fellowship was held, about 40 participating. On Dec. 11 Dorcas ladies met, and a very pleasant programme was enjoyed. Speaker was Major Smith, of Salvation Army. On Dec. 13 the Christmas tree was arranged by workers from C.E. and Bible School.

N.S.W. Women's Auxiliary.

THE monthly meeting was held at City Temple, Sydney, on Friday, Dec. 6. The devotional was conducted by City Temple sisters. Mrs. A. Wakely was leader, and spoke from John 14: 27. Mrs. D. Wakeley rendered an enjoyable solo.

Mrs. W. J. E. Lewis, speaker for the afternoon, gave a message from Ephesians 4, "Walking Worthily."

Mrs. A. Wakely gave a report on a deputation to Mr. Baddeley, at which she had represented the church of Christ, led by Mrs. Evans, of W.C.T.U., to protest against the type of literature sold on bookstalls.

A committee was formed to enquire into the possibility of sending clothing to bombed church members in Britain. A recommendation from the executive and superintendents was read and carried that, "as the next meeting would fall on Jan. 2, 1942, it be cancelled." The next meeting will therefore be held on February 6, 1942, in City Temple, at 2.30 p.m. All churches are reminded that money for home mission special effort and Ashwood House should be in by the end of January, as books close Jan. 31.

At a meeting of superintendents held prior to general meeting, the social service superintendent reported the raising of £14/8/6 for Temperance Union's Sunshine Fair. This was done instead of taking the usual stall at the fair. Prayer meeting superintendent reported the holding of a combined prayer meeting in

northern suburbs at Chatswood. Three church societies were also visited by the committee. Home mission superintendent reported two different circulars sent out to 60 churches as well as personal letters. So far 20 replies have been received. 26 letters were sent to individuals and isolated members, 8 replies received. The special fund now stands at £51/11/11.—Miss D. Verco.

Women's Inter-church Rally.

THE fourth annual rally of inter-church women was held in the City Temple, Sydney, on Friday, Nov. 28, at 2.30 p.m. Miss Edna Cox gave an organ recital at 2.30, the national Anthem was sung and followed by praise, Bible reading and prayer.

The retiring president (Mrs. Bowden) enumerated the main activities of the council during the year—(1) The efforts of W.C.T.U., the Temperance Alliance, and other bodies to prevent extended facilities for liquor traffic, had been wholeheartedly supported by the Inter-Church Women's Council.

(2) Definite and helpful action had been taken in support of the Good Film League's efforts to secure better films for children's matinees, and to arouse parents to a sense of their responsibility in this matter.

(3) Patriotic needs had not been overlooked.

(4) Considerable interest had been roused in other States, and Mrs. Bowden expressed the hope that it would not be long before a Women's Inter-Church Council would be formed in every State.

The incoming president (Mrs. McCallum) was introduced and welcomed to the chair. Acknowledging the honor, Mrs. McCallum spoke of "Women's Contribution to the Church." It is not the prerogative of many women to-day to have the opportunity of wide leadership either in church or in the nation, but this fact must not rob either the church or the nation of women's contribution to the sum total for good. Woman has learned the value of co-operation in home life, and is desirous of seeing it extended to church life.

Mrs. McCallum commented on the work of the various officers of the council, and especially thanked Mrs. Bond, who, after three years' faithful service as honorary secretary, had retired, and asked her acceptance of two books as a token of esteem. Mrs. Bond assured all that the "spade-work" she had done for the council had been truly a labor of love, and said she much appreciated their gift.

Mrs. McCallum then introduced Miss Margaret Steel, M.A., S.Th., who gave an inspiring talk on "The Treasures of Darkness."

Miss Steel's address will long be remembered for its uplifting message, and Mrs. McCallum thanked her most heartily for it. She also thanked Mrs. A. Milne for her delightful solos and Miss Edna Cox for her able services as organist.

As the closing hymn was sung and followed by the Benediction we felt that it was indeed a helpful beginning of a new year, and augured well for the future of the inter-church work.

The Welcome Man.

THERE'S a man in the world who is never turned down, wherever he chances to stray; he gets the glad hand in the populous town, or out where the farmers make hay; he's greeted with pleasure on deserts of sand, and deep in the aisles of the woods; wherever he goes there's the welcoming hand—he's The Man Who Delivers the Goods.

"The failures of life sit around and complain; the gods haven't treated them white; they've lost their umbrellas whenever there's rain, and they haven't their lanterns at night; men tire of the failures who fill with their sighs the air of their own neighborhoods; there's one who is greeted with love-lighted eyes—he's The Man Who Delivers the Goods."

"One fellow is lazy, and watches the clock, and waits for the whistle to blow; and one has

a hammer, with which he will knock, and one tells a story of woe; and one, if requested to travel a mile, will measure the perches and rods; but one does his stunt with a whistle or smile—he's The Man Who Delivers the Goods.

"One man is afraid that he'll labor too hard—the world isn't yearning for such; and one man is always alert, on his guard, lest he put in a minute too much; and one has a grouch or a temper that's bad, and one is a creature of moods; so it's hey for the joyous and rollicking lad—for The One Who Delivers the Goods."—Walt Mason.

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BROADCAST SERVICES.

Christmas Day—Bro. C. P. Hughes will broadcast from station 3SH Swan Hill, from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., "The Birth of Christ in Song and Story."

Dec. 28, 11 a.m., Mildura church, Vic., will broadcast through 3MA.

IN MEMORIAM.

CADDY.—In loving memory of my beloved husband, Edwin John Caddy, who was called to higher service on Dec. 21, 1938, at Mansfield, Victoria.

Our lives, though parted, still are bound

By golden cords of love,

But the faith we hold by God is crowned,
And sealed in heaven above.

—Inserted by his loving wife, Alice Caddy

COOK.—In loving memory of James, loved husband of Bessie, and loving father of Myrtle, Wilson, Verona, Beryl and Gordon, who passed to higher life Dec. 18, 1938. Loving memories.

MILLIKEN.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Elizabeth Lucy Milliken, who passed away Dec. 15, 1939.

A silent thought brings many a tear

To your daughter, mother dear,

And I pray that God will grant to me

Unite in Paradise with thee.

—Inserted by her loving daughter Ione.

ROUGH.—A tribute to the memory of my dearly loved husband Ben, who died as result of an accident on Dec. 18, 1939. Sadly missed.

—Inserted by Verna and children.

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THE SEASON'S GREETINGS.

WE have been asked by missionaries on all fields to convey to the brotherhood sincere good wishes for the Christmas season and for the coming year. In passing these greetings on, the Federal Board and State committees pray God's richest blessing upon all. We pray for the homes who have dear ones in the fighting forces, and join our prayers with yours for their safe return. Our prayer to God is that, ere the coming year ends, the purpose for which Christ came might be abundantly realised—that peace will be on earth and goodwill among men.

"WE BELIEVE."

Missions in 1942.

WE are beginning to realise that we are facing grim and serious days, but there is something more lasting and real than the fleeting things of earth. The kingdom of God shall continue and survive all the shocks of war's alarms and world disorder. As we face the new year we are in the grip of new forces and sterner tasks than we have ever faced before. Those on whom the responsibility rests to continue our overseas missions and maintain the workers are indeed faced with gigantic problems. The major problems that face us now are—will those on furlough be enabled to return to India and the New Hebrides? Will those on the field be able to continue at their task, especially those in the New Hebrides?

We are prepared to face these tasks because we believe that God will open ways and reveal his will to us. Whether the new crisis in the Pacific will cause any serious interruption in our work we cannot forecast, but whatever the outcome, it is abundantly evident that our financial needs will be more, not less, than the past few years. This being so, it is important that we lay before the brotherhood the present financial position. The average income during the months of September to November (three months) during the past five years reached the magnificent sum of £806, or an average of approximately £268 per month. The months (September to November) this year brought in £606—a loss of over £200 in three months, when reviewing the past five years. If we review the past three years, a period when our income increased considerably, we find a monthly average for this period of £291; our average for the present three months shows a decline of £83 monthly. These figures are plain facts, and the result must be disastrous unless we can maintain the level of the past few years. We therefore urge that serious consideration be given to these things. This board will carry on, is prepared to shoulder the heavier responsibilities entailed, for "we know whom we have believed," but we do ask the prayers and the loving united co-operation of all.

HELP IN THE PRESENT CRISIS.

THERE are various ways in which financial assistance can be given, and directed to special channels if need be.

Orphan Support.—Let a family or a group unite and take over the care of an orphan in India. Others who are already listed as supporters can bring their support up to date. Cost per annum for an orphan is £6.

Native Teacher Support.—This is a very faithful ministry and should be entered into more by home churches. There are scores of churches throughout Australia who could take over the support of a co-worker (preacher, teacher or Bible-woman) in India. We have a large list, and those not listed as being supported must be underwritten by the board.

The support of a teacher, etc., ranges from £12 to £30 per annum.

China Work.—Ask yourself, Do these people need help in these present days of crisis? Ask a further question, Are those whom we are supporting worthy of our help? Eight years ago we left these workers, with the heavy responsibility of building on the foundation we laid down. They have added workers, enlarged the work, and now plan to conquer the territory west of Hucili for Christ, with the eventual plan of reaching Tibet. These plans are surely ambitious enough for anyone. Our subsidy continues at the rate of £250 per annum. Our guarantee period for these payments is past; we are continuing the subsidy because we believe the brotherhood want us to continue it. Let us not desert them now. A worthy gift towards the 1942 subsidy would be appreciated and greatly help the China section of our work.

Island Adjustments.—With the dismantling of the Pentecost bungalow, and its erection on Aoba, costs have been considerable. The exact costs are not yet known, but have to be taken up with our returned missionary, Bro. Hammer. These are known to be heavy, and adjustment will have to be made immediately. The result of this housing scheme means that our nurses have a comfortable dwelling, but we are faced with the cost.

Furloughs.—We feel that God will open the door for our workers to return to their work. Shipping costs have risen during the past few years, till now the advance is approximately 100 per cent. We will need your help in this direction. Some brother or sister or a family could undertake to return one of our workers to the field.

We have outlined only a few of the many ways in which special help can be given. Our new budget needs over £8000; in hand for the purpose is £606. If we do not increase our average monthly giving we can never hope to make up the balances in the July offering.

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Representative in Victoria: W. Gale, T. & G. Building, 145 Collins St., Melbourne, C.1.

Representative in South Australia: General S. Price Weir, 2nd Avenue, East Adelaide.

Representative in Western Australia: Roy Raymond, 260 Bagot Rd., Subiaco.

The Objects of the Fund are:

1st. To assist financially Aged and Infirm and Retired Preachers.

2nd. To control and manage an Endowment Fund to which Preachers may contribute.

In order to do this effectively, the Committee needs the practical sympathy and support of all the churches and brethren throughout the Commonwealth.

Please forward contributions to W. H. Hall, "Hurlston," Carysfort St., Blackheath, N.S.W., making money orders and postal notes payable at P.O., Blackheath (N.S.W.). Contributions may also be sent to W. Gale, S. Price Weir and Roy Raymond.

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WHEN THE SUN SHINES

— WINTER SEEMS FAR AWAY.

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Obituary.

Mrs. Elizabeth Chappell.

THE death of Sister Mrs. Chappell took place at her home in Wallaroo, S.A., on Nov. 30. She was 89 years of age. Born at Morphet Vale, S.A., she was brought up in the Baptist church and was baptised in the Onkaparinga River. At the age of 18 she moved to Kadina district, and in November, 1901, was received into the Kadina church of Christ which had started the previous year. Sister Chappell was a faithful Christian, and lived in close fellowship with her Lord. For the last seven years she was confined to her bed, where she constantly witnessed for her Lord by her bright and cheery disposition and contented and patient spirit. She was happy when others were happy. Her husband, one daughter and one son preceded her in death, and there remain two daughters and three sons to mourn their loss but rejoice in the Christian hope. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord." A service was held in the home, and the writer conducted the service at Kadina cemetery.—M.T.L.

Mrs. Kettle.

SISTER MRS. KETTLE, one of the foundation members of the church at Bambra-rd., Caulfield, Vic., fell asleep in Jesus on Sunday morning, Nov. 30. Our sister took a great interest in the work of the Lord, being a regular attendant at the services on the Lord's day. For many years she visited the Caulfield Convalescent Hospital every week, speaking words of cheer and comfort to the sick. The last three years of her life she was unable to come to the Lord's house because of illness, but her trust in the Lord never wavered. She was patient and happy. A number of relatives and friends gathered around the graveside to pay their last tribute of respect. To her loved ones the church extends deepest sympathy.—H.M.C.

Mrs. Eva M. Michau.

ON Dec. 2 our beloved Sister Mrs. Eva M. Michau passed to be with her Lord at the age of 76. She had been a member of the church of Christ for 53 years, having been baptised by Bro. P. A. Dickson in 1888. Her husband, Bro. E. A. Michau, predeceased her in 1915. The church at Bexley North, N.S.W., mourns her passing, as she was a foundation member of the church, and a faithful disciple of her Saviour. Her regular attendance at the Lord's Table was an encouragement to all who knew her, and her confident faith in Christ was an inspiration to all. She was a loving mother and grandmother, and will be missed by all who had intimate fellowship with her. The church extends loving sympathy to her daughters, Mrs. W. C. Roffey, of Carlton, N.S.W., and Mrs. S. Buckmaster, of Melbourne. The writer conducted the services at the parlors at the graveside, and was assisted by Bro. E. W. Roffey. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."—T.V.W.

Tasmanian News-letter.

Follitt T. Morgan.

Cruelty is Legal.

MUCH interest attached to the legal proceedings brought against the slipper of a Plumpton coursing club in the Launceston court recently, by the S.P.C.A. The court found the slipper guilty of cruelty, but the decision was reversed when an appeal was heard. Chief Justice Morris, who heard the appeal, declared that the slipper's action was legal under the provisions of the Totalisator Act, but expressed himself forcibly on the matter of the cruelty involved. "To put an animal in continuous fear," he said, "with frequent frustration as it attempts to escape, with the ultimate killing, and if not killed to use it again; to do this and not call it cruelty is only a species of self delusion." Plumpton coursing will continue because it is legal. The considered judgment of the Chief Justice that the sport is cruel, backed by the conviction of all right-minded people, will carry no weight with those who find pleasure and profit in this barbarism. We progress very slowly.

This Freedom.

A full meeting of ministers of all Protestant churches in Hobart decided recently that the demand of the A.B.C. that all ministers taking part in daily devotional services should submit the text of their talks for censorship purposes was against their principles. One result of this decision is that no morning devotional services are broadcast from the national station in Hobart. For the sake of the hundreds of people to whom the daily devotional service was a source of real help, it is to be hoped that some way out of the present situation will soon be found.

Congratulations.

Bro. L. A. Bowes was recently elected to the position of president of the State Council of Churches. Knowing the excellent service he has rendered on the council, we are confident that he will justify the choice of the members. Bro. J. Park, secretary of the Collins-st. Church of Christ, is secretary of the council.

Home Missions.

The day of the annual offering for home missions was the occasion of a round of visitation by members and representatives of the Home Mission Committee. Every church in the State was visited.

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You can materially help the committee
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At Christmas Dinner Table.

(Psalm 103: 2.)

I HEARD it over the 'phone yesterday! It
caught my ear to-day, as two persons passed
my study window near the street! Just this:
"I've a lot to be thankful for!" Yes, haven't
we all?

Now, even if our Christmas dinner table is
awkwardly placed or strangely circumstanced
this year, why not play the game of "Count
Your Blessings"? Go round the company and
through the alphabet, naming some things for
which we can most heartily give thanks to our
heavenly Father.

Here are suggestions.—A—Australia, Allies.
B—Bibles, Bravery. C—Christmas, Carols. D—
Dinner, David. E—Easter, Education. F—Faith,
Father. G—God, Growth. H—Home, Health.
I—Immortality, Imagination. J—Jesus, Joy.
K—Kisses, Kindness. L—Life, Leadership.
M—Mother, Memory. N—Nature, Nurses.
O—Oranges, Organs. P—Prayer, Postmen.
Q—Quietness, Quotations. R—Right, Rain. S—
Sundays, Sunsets. T—Truth, Teachers. U—Uncles,
Unselfishness. V—Vision, Victories. W—Wife,
Worship. X—X-rays, "Xtras." Y—Youth, Yoke-
fellows. Z—Zeal, Zion.

William Law, answering his own question,
"Who is the greatest saint?" used to say, "The
man who is most thankful."—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT.

*"Ah, dearest Jesus, Holy Child,
Make thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for thee."*

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The college Board, Faculty
and students trust that all
brethren will experience a
Happy Christmas season and a
Brighter New Year.



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