

THE Australian Christian

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

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a newspaper.

Vol. XII., No. 12.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1909.

Subscription, 6s. per annum. Single Copy, 14d.

New South Wales 24th Annual Conference, 1909.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS.

Tuesday, April 6.

Sisters' Auxiliary Conference. Morning at 10.30.
Afternoon at 2. Evening at 7.30.

Thursday, April 8.

8 p.m. C.E. Demonstration.

Friday, April 9.

9.30 a.m. General Conference.
(Luncheon and tea provided at 6d. each meal.)
7.30 p.m. Great Home Missionary Demonstration.

Saturday, April 10.

2 p.m. General Conference (Continued).
7.30 p.m. Bible School Demonstration.

Lord's Day, April 11.

3 p.m. Conference Sermon.
Preacher:—H. J. Banks, of W.A.
Theme, "Calls of To-day."

Tuesday, April 13.

7.45 p.m. Temperance Demonstration.

All the meetings in the Tabernacle, Metropolitan rd., Enmore, except the Bible School Demonstration, which will be held in the Protestant Hall, Castlereagh-st., City.

EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

With thankfulness to our heavenly Father for his leading and blessing, we are pleased to present the following report, covering the period from March 1, 1908, to Feb. 28, 1909.

I. SISTERS' AUXILIARY CONFERENCE.

We desire to again place on record our appreciation of the work of the Sisters' Conference. In addition to the usual channels of activity, early in the year the sisters determined to do some special collecting for the Home Mission Fund, with the result that they have paid in the sum of £11/7/4. We trust that in the incoming year they will be able to do even more in this direction, and that eventually they will provide sufficient for the support of at least one of the evangelists laboring with your Committee.

2. NEW CHURCHES.

This Conference has the pleasure of receiving applications from six new churches for admission into the co-operation; four of these are in the country, and two in the metropolitan area. There are also churches in Kellabakh, Hornsby, Merrylands with 23 members, and Rockdale with 16 members, which are not yet associated with the Conference.

3. STATISTICS.

This year 31 churches are on the statistical register, and these show 426 additions by faith and baptism 185 by letter from sister churches, 41 as baptised believers, and 19 by restoration. The losses have been:—By letter to sister churches 180, by death 29, by discipline and revision of roll 314. The present combined membership is 3817; the increase for the year 177; the increase would have been much larger but for the leakage from a few of the churches. The aim adopted by last Conference—600 souls for Christ—was not realised, but good work has been done. There are 23 Bible Schools reported with a total of 233 teachers, and 2551 scholars; an increase of three schools, 11 teachers and 209 scholars. The churches received 100 additions from the ranks of the Lord's day School scholars.

FINANCE.

Last Conference adopted as the financial aim for the year—£1200 for Home Missions. The total receipts have been £1161/8/7, the expenditure £1258/8/5. The debit balance was £133/4/8, as against £36/4/10 at the close of the previous Conference year. The debit would have been £98/4/8 if all the assisted churches had met their obligations. The receipts show an increase of £166/7/2 over those of last year; this is exceedingly gratifying, coming as it does after the substantial increases of recent years. Just here the Committee would like to place on record its great appreciation of the splendid services rendered by J. Stimson as Treasurer.

5. FEDERAL CONFERENCE AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.

Sydney has been honored with the meetings of the Federal Conference of this year, and also with the Australian celebrations of the centenary of the declaration of the "The Declaration and Address" by Thos. Campbell. These meetings and celebrations will

follow immediately after this Conference, and we hope that the Sydney brotherhood will rise to the responsibility and privilege of the occasion.

6. ISOLATED BRETHREN.

During the year the Organising Secretary has kept up, as far as possible, a correspondence with brethren scattered throughout the State. 284 letters have been sent out, and 62 replies have been received. The claims of the Home Mission work have been kept before these brethren, with the result that £42/16/- has been received. There are 291 names on the isolated members' roll, of which number 212 are members of N.S.W. churches, and the balance are not. If church secretaries would take an interest in this matter, and keep the correspondent posted up, much more effective work would be done. One or two brethren isolated at Albury are conducting a Lord's day school; this is an example worthy of imitation.

7. HOME MISSION RALLIES.

On Nov. 3 the second H.M. tea and rally was held in the City Temple, and was the means of helping the work. Splendid addresses were delivered on that occasion by J. Hindle and A. E. Illingworth. The Organising Secretary has also conducted local rallies in connection with most of the churches in the State.

8. LITERATURE SALES.

Throughout the year F. J. Burcher has continued the work of selling our literature, and the Conference is asked to express its hearty appreciation of the work he has done in this direction for some years past. The sales for the past year have amounted to £30/6/10; and the profit made £5/11/5. It is hoped that these sales will eventually grow into a central book depot in the city of Sydney.

9. BUILDING FUND.

Immediately after last Conference a sub-committee, consisting of G. T. Walden (Sec.), G. Arnott (Treas.), and S. G. Griffith, was appointed to enquire into the legal standing of such a fund, and to inaugurate the same. This Committee will report verbally to Conference.

10. HOME MISSION FIELDS AND WORK.

(a) NORTH SYDNEY.—J. Colbourne has been located in this district throughout the

N.S.W. STATISTICAL REGISTER, 1909.

N.S.W. STATISTICS																															
LOCATION OF CHURCH	Membership, March 1, 1908.	Church Additions				Church Losses			Increase.	Decrease.	Bible School.				Church Additions from Bible School.	Seating Capacity of Meeting House.	Isolated Members on Church Roll.	EVANGELIST.	Home Mission Contributions, including Individual Gifts.			Foreign Mission Contributions, including Individual Gifts.			Amount Raised for all Purposes.						
		Faith and Baptism.	Letter.	Baptised Believers.	Restored.	Letter.	Death.	Discipline and Revision of Roll			Membership, Feb. 28, 1909.	Teachers, 1908.	Scholars, 1908.	Teachers, 1909.					Scholars, 1909.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.			
1 Auburn ..		46	4	13		1			62	62				4	41	4	250														
2 Bangalow ..			4						6	6							100														
3 Belmore ..	94	15	10	2		1		17	103	9		12	166	14	218	4	180	14		G. H. Browne	10	18	7	11	9	1	143	12	8		
4 Bungawalbyn ..	22	1	1		1	3		1	21		1	3	25	4	30		80			W. H. Wooster	5	18	9	3	19	0	26	15	2		
5 Canley Vale ..	36	3				7			32		4	3	38	3	40	2	150				15	12	2	5	5	2	58	10	0		
6 Corowa ..	13			1					14								250				4	10	0	0	7	3					
7 Enmore ..	851	67	14	5	1	22	7	25	884	33		42	552	45	513	12	800			G. T. Walden	98	7	4	100	0	0	874	15	10		
8 Erskineville ..	148	21	8			13		30	135		13	18	166	18	180	8	250			H. G. Payne	12	2	3	6	18	0					
9 Hurstville ..	24	26	16	1	2	3			66	42		5	34	5	45	8	250				8	6	6	3	9	1	76	9	6		
10 Inverell ..	121	46	2	1		6		8	156	35		5	56	5	65	2	250			W. Uren	49	6	6	17	0	1	272	4	4		
11 Junee ..	7	1		1					9	2									W. B. Hayes	3	14	6	2	0	0						
12 Lilyville ..	25	5	5					6	29	4		6	48	5	50	2	150				3	0	1	3	14	6	47	5	0		
13 Lismore ..	320	27	3	3		10	1	3	339	19		9	106	11	106	1	350	100		F. T. Saunders	23	5	0	6	0	4					
14 Marrickville ..	131	7	2	3				32	110		21	13	114	13	125	3	120			F. M. Moore	5	3	9	11	10	1	156	8	6		
15 Marrar ..		2	6						8	8				2	10		35			W. B. Hayes	1	15	0				6	15	6		
16 Merewether ..	77	9	2		6	2	2	16	71	3		7	80	8	70	3	250			E. J. Waters	5	13	6	4	11	0	140	0	0		
17 Moree ..	41	11	4	2	2	3	1	2	54	13				4	43	2	200	5			22	16	7	19	17	6	169	7	0		
18 Mungindi ..	8					5			3		5	1	4								7	12	0	7	10	0					
19 Mosman ..		25						25	25					3	9		50			J. Colbourne	2	19	0	1	8	3	18	1	7		
20 N. Sydney ..	122	8	8	2		7	2		131	9		7	75	5	82	1	250	16		J. Colbourne	8	1	8	3	9	8	115	9	7		
21 Paddington ..	437	31	9	2	2	35	3	28	415	22		30	294	29	290	8	340	44		A. E. Illingworth	29	15	0	19	2	10	443	18	0		
22 Petersham ..	397	24	22			6	4	47	386	11		19	270	19	310	15	400	69		J. Clydesdale	34	18	11	17	8	10	360	0	0		
23 Rookwood ..	95	11	3			11	2	8	90			5	14	107	13	117	11	150	4	E. Neville	21	0	6	6	1	7	145	13	1		
24 Seven Hills ..	8					1			7		1										3	10	0	1	0	0					
25 Sydney ..	415	13	13			24	5	76	336	79		20	140	13	115		600	10		S. G. Griffith	89	6	7	32	8	8	449	0	6		
26 Sydney, Chinese	23	6				2		1	26	3							100	3			1	13	10	14	2	7					
27 Taree ..	94	2		1	1	2	1		95	1		5	44	7	45		260	20		W. J. Williams	18	7	10	9	0	0					
28 Tyalgum ..		5	11					16	16								100				1	11	0	0	15	0					
29 Tuggerah Lakes		2	5	1				8	8												2	4	6	1	12	5	10	13	5		
30 Wagga Wagga	44	36	6	1	2	16		14	59	15		3	23	3	47	14	300	23		W. B. Hayes	13	2	6	3	15	1	69	10	11		
31 Wingham ..	37	1		1					39	2							50			W. J. Williams	4	9	3	1	19	6	35	9	6		
Isolated members ..	50								79	29										Thos. Hagger, State Evangelist	42	16	0	20	10	0					
Totals ..	3640	426	185	41	19	185	29	314	3817	342	165	222	2342	233	2551	100	6265	324											3620	0	1
Reported last year		484	208	24	69	149	27	261	3640	458	110																				

Increases:—Churches 6, chapels 1, church members 177, Bible Schools 3, scholars 209, teachers 11.

*Including 30 scholars and 4 teachers in the Woollahra School.

Home Mission contributions do not include sums contributed by assisted churches towards own Evangelists' support.

year, and a good consolidating work has been done. He has also been able to devote a little week-day work to the new church at Mosman. The Home Mission fund receives £1 per week from the church at North Sydney towards the support of the evangelist. The church has unanimously requested that Bro. Colbourne be retained in that field another year. Additions:—By faith and baptism 8, baptised believers 2. Total 10.

(b) ERSKINEVILLE.—Till the end of July the church here had the assistance of G. H. Browne, since when H. G. Payne has labored with the brethren as evangelist. A good work is being done, and Bro. Payne is deservedly popular. The church has agreed to contribute £2 per week towards the support of the preacher, and in addition has an ever-increasing building fund. Additions:—By faith and baptism 21; baptised believer 1. Total 22.

(c) BELMORE.—On the removal of A. G. Day to South Australia, G. H. Browne removed to this district. The work has made steady progress. The need of a larger building is much felt. The church has agreed to contribute 25/- per week towards the evangelist's support. Additions:—By faith and baptism 15, baptised believers 2. Total 17.

(d) MANNING RIVER.—On April 1, 1908, the churches in this district began to contribute sufficient to support the evangelist laboring there, but at the request of the brethren the Committee has continued to supervise the work until now. W. J. Williams has labored hard in extending his circuit and consolidating the work, and has been ably assisted by the local brethren. Work of this nature will have to be done in all the country districts. The churches have unanimously asked Bro. Williams to labor in this field another year. Additions:—By faith and baptism 3, baptised believers 2; restoration 1. Total 6.

(e) MOREE.—E. J. Waters commenced work in this difficult field at the end of March last year. He has shown that something can be done in hard places by persistent and continuous labor. The church was subsidised to the extent of 10/- per week for the first six months, and 5/- per week since. The church has unanimously re-engaged Bro. Waters for an indefinite period. Additions:—By faith and baptism 11, baptised believers 2, restoration 2. Total 15.

(f) WAGGA-JUNEE-MARRAR.—Just about last Conference time, but in the period covered by this report, a successful mission

was held in Wagga by Thos. Hagger, after which Fred T. Saunders continued as evangelist there, and also paid monthly visits to Junee and Marrar. At the latter place he organised a church. In December Bro. Saunders took up the work at Lismore, since when W. B. Hayes has been laboring in this district. Wagga has agreed to contribute £1 per week, Junee contributes 5/-, while Marrar sends all possible (one-third of total receipts towards the preacher's support). Additions:—By faith and baptism 39; baptised believers 2, restoration 2. Total 43.

(g) HURSTVILLE.—At last Conference the church in this district was received into the co-operation. During the year a successful tent mission was held. G. H. Browne devoted eight Lord's day evenings to the work, and J. Ernest Allan was engaged by the Committee to labor there for three months. The results have demonstrated the fruitfulness of the field. During Bro. Allan's term the church contributed £1 per week towards his support. Additions:—By faith and baptism 26, baptised believers 1, restoration 2. Total 29.

(h) AUBURN.—This is one of our baby metropolitan churches. A few earnest baptised believers who were conducting a

mission there decided to be organised into a Church of Christ. This was done, and preachers were supplied until it was found possible to conduct a tent mission. The mission has closed since the Conference year ended with 80 confessions, and 6 baptised believers added; 48 of these persons are included in this year's statistics. Bro. Hagger still labors there, and efforts are being made to locate a suitable evangelist.

(i) TUGGERAH LAKES.—A few disciples in this district set up the Lord's table, and organised themselves into a church. The Committee has sent up preachers once a month with the result that two have been added by faith and baptism.

(j) MARRICKVILLE.—At last Conference the H.M. Fund was supporting Bro. Clydesdale in the work there; this was continued till the beginning of September, since which time the church has supported her own evangelist without help. One addition by faith and baptism during the time of assistance.

(k) MEREWETHER.—E. Neville having kindly offered to devote his month's holiday from Rookwood to evangelistic work under your Committee, we were able to help Merewether to that extent. Bro. Neville had splendid meetings there; 6 confessions, and 10 restored to fellowship.

(l) STATE EVANGELIST'S WORK.—[Paragraph had not arrived when this section of the paper went to press.—ED.]

(m) SUMMARY OF ADDITIONS.—The year's work has resulted in 206 additions by faith and baptism, 17 as baptised believers, and 18 restored. Total 241.

II. FUTURE WORK.

The work of the past year has been highly successful, and the Committee is of the opinion that this success should be used as a stepping-stone to greater things. We, therefore, recommend:—

1. That the work be continued at North Sydney, Erskineville, Belmore, and in the Wagga-Junee-Marrar districts; but that the churches thus helped be expected to contribute more towards their evangelist's support in the incoming year.

2. That the claims of further work on the Richmond and Tweed Rivers receive immediate attention. The brethren there have promised 30/- per week towards the support of another evangelist.

3. That efforts be made to locate a suitable evangelist at Auburn.

4. That, if satisfactory arrangements can be made, an evangelist be stationed at Hurstville during the year.

5. That the claims of Junee for additional work be considered by the incoming Committee.

6. That wherever possible future assistance from the Home Mission Fund be in the form of a gradually-reducing subsidy.

7. That as soon as convenient to himself Bro. Hagger be re-engaged as Organising Secretary and State Evangelist.

8. That our aim for the year 1909-10 be 600 souls for Christ and £1200 for Home Missions.

12. MEETINGS.

14 meetings have been held during the year, and have been attended as follows:—S. G. Griffith, 13; G. T. Walden, 13; J. Stimson, 12; T. C. Walker, 12; A. W. Shearston, 13; W. Macindoe, 13; G. Arnott, 12; G. Stimson, 12; A. E. Illingworth, 14; A. Price, 14; E. J. Hilder, 14; A. Brown, 12; T. Hagger, 7.

13. THANKS.

The thanks of the Conference is due to the Home Missionary collectors in the various churches for their valued assistance; to the Sydney and Enmore churches for the use of their buildings; to the auditors, Bren. Scouller and Roberts; to the sisters for their catering arrangements; and above all to our heavenly Father for his presence and blessing throughout the year.

S. G. GRIFFITH, President.

T. C. WALKER, Secretary.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

New South Wales Churches of Christ Home Mission Fund, from 1st March, 1908, to 28th February, 1909.

RECEIPTS,	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Annual Fees—Belmore ..	0	10	0			
Corowa ..	0	10	0			
Enmore ..	1	0	0			
Erskineville ..	1	0	0			
Hurstville ..	0	10	0			
Inverell ..	1	0	0			
Lilyville ..	0	10	0			
Lismore ..	1	0	0			
Merewether (2) ..	1	0	0			
Moree ..	0	10	0			
Mungindi ..	0	10	0			
Petersham ..	1	0	0			
Rookwood ..	0	10	0			
Sydney (2) ..	2	0	0			
Taree ..	0	10	0			
Tuggerah Lakes ..	0	10	0			
Tyalgum ..	0	10	0			
Wagga ..	0	10	0			
Wingham ..	0	10	0			
				14	0	0

Collections from Assisted Churches—

Belmore ..	70	18	3
Bungawalbyn ..	1	3	0
Erskineville ..	92	15	9
Hurstville ..	26	10	0
Lismore ..	10	0	0
Moree ..	6	0	0
Marrickville ..	52	0	0
Nth. Sydney ..	55	8	0
Taree, Wingham & Kellabakh ..	151	0	6
Junee, £14 ..			
Wagga, £36/6/- ..	51	6	0
Marrar, £1 ..			
			517 1 6

Per Collectors—

Belmore ..	7	4	7
Bungawalbyn ..	4	6	6
Canley Vale ..	10	12	2
Corowa ..	3	1	0
Enmore ..	64	1	1
Erskineville ..	6	11	9
Hurstville ..	3	13	8
Inverell ..	5	10	4
Lismore ..	10	12	6
Lilyville ..	1	12	7
Marrickville ..	1	1	5
Merewether ..	1	10	0
Moree ..	0	6	7
North Sydney ..	3	15	7
Paddington ..	19	8	0
Petersham ..	13	12	2
Rookwood ..	0	10	3
Sydney ..	39	19	7
Taree ..	5	4	9
Tuggerah Lakes ..	1	7	9

Wagga ..	5	17	6
Wingham ..	1	18	0
			212 6 9
Home Mission Lord's Day Collections—			
Auburn ..	1	7	6
Bangalow ..	0	10	0
Belmore ..	2	14	0
Bungawalbyn ..	1	12	3
Canley Vale ..	3	0	0
Corowa ..	0	17	0
Enmore ..	22	4	3
Erskineville ..	3	10	6
Hurstville ..	3	2	10
Hornsby ..	5	3	3
Inverell ..	8	11	8
Junee ..	3	10	0
Lismore ..	4	10	0
Lilyville ..	0	17	6
Marrickville ..	3	11	4
Marrar ..	1	15	0
Merewether ..	1	6	0
Moree ..	5	10	0
Mosman ..	0	10	9
Mungindi ..	2	0	0
North Sydney ..	3	6	1
Paddington ..	4	11	0
Petersham ..	9	9	4
Rookwood ..	2	15	3
Seven Hills ..	1	0	0
Sydney ..	8	12	6
Sydney (Chinese) ..	0	12	4
Taree ..	4	5	1
Tuggerah Lakes ..	0	6	9
Tyalgum ..	0	11	0
Wagga ..	1	0	0
Wingham ..	1	19	3
Individuals ..	26	15	5
			141 7 10

Miscellaneous—

Bible School (for Printing) ..	0	8	4
Collected at Annual Session ..	10	12	3
Foreign Missions (for Printing) ..	1	9	4
Home Mission Rally Collection ..	6	14	0
Tea Receipts ..	10	1	1
Individual Contributions ..	185	7	3
Literature a/c ..	29	3	5
Meetings Katoomba, Fellowship ..	0	18	0
Refund, Secretarial Allowance ..	6	0	0
Sisters' Conference Collections ..	11	7	4
(for printing) ..	0	10	8
Sydney Dorcas Class Donation ..	0	10	0
Sydney Churches for Printing ..			
Speaking Plans ..	1	16	6
Temperance Committee (for ..			
Printing) ..	0	10	4
Wagga Tent Mission, Refund ..			
on Freight ..	3	19	6
Y.P.S.C.E. ..	2	0	3
Tyalgum ..	0	10	0
Mosman ..	2	8	3
Sevenhills ..	1	0	0
Chinese ..	1	1	6
Junee ..	0	4	6

Balance Owing to Bank .. 276 12 6
133 4 8

1294 13 3

EXPENDITURE

Bank Balance ..			36	4	10
Salaries—Allan, E. J. ..	13	0	0		
Browne, G. H. ..	182	0	0		
Clydesdale, J. ..	60	0	0		
Colbourne, J. ..	132	0	0		
Day, A. G. ..	63	0	0		
Ewers, D. A. ..	36	0	0		
Hagger, T. ..	172	10	0		
Hayes, W. B. ..	30	2	6		
Payne, H. G. ..	44	10	0		
Saunders, F. T. ..	100	4	6		
Williams, W. J. ..	159	6	6		
				992	13 6

Secretary's Allowance

Miscellaneous—					
Advertising Meetings ..	3	5	0		
Secretary's Telephone ..	7	11	5		
Stamps & Exchange ..	12	16	10		
Stationery ..	2	6	10		
Printing, &c. ..	29	0	11		
Tent Expenses (Repairs, &c) ..	11	12	1		
Moree Church Subsidy ..	17	5	0		
Hurstville Tent Expenses ..	19	10	3		
Wagga do. ..	16	5	8		

Nth. Sydney Tent Ex. (Balance)	3	11	6
Belmore do.	22	8	8
Auburn do.	32	0	2
Travelling Expenses	13	1	9
do. (Preacher to Moree)	13	10	0
Literature a/c	25	14	4
Repairs to Tent Shed	1	15	0
Burcher, J. F., Tracts, etc.	1	14	0
Repairs to Gasometer	4	7	3
Federal Committee Expenses (portion)	4	17	9
Hurstville Preacher's Board	9	15	0
Bank Charges	0	10	0
Interest on Overdraft	5	18	0
Sundry Expenses	0	17	6

259 14 11

1294 13 3

Audited and found correct.

J. SCOULLER.

EVAN ROBERTS.

Summary of Church and Individual Contributions.

*Auburn	£3	7	6
†Belmore	81	16	10
*Bangalow	0	17	6
*Bungawalbyn	7	1	9
Canley Vale	15	12	2
Corowa	4	10	0
Enmore	98	7	4
†Erskineville	104	18	0
Hornsby	5	3	3
†Hurstville	34	16	6
Inverell	49	6	6
†June	17	14	6
*Lismore	33	5	0
Lilyville	3	0	1
†Marrickville	57	3	9
†Marrar	2	15	0
Merewether	5	13	6
†Moree	28	16	7
Mosman	2	9	0
Mungindi	7	12	0
†North Sydney	63	9	8
Paddington	29	15	0
Petersham	34	18	11
Rookwood	21	0	6
Seven Hills	3	10	0
Sydney	89	6	7
Sydney—Chinese	1	13	10
†Taree	169	8	4
†Tuggerah Lakes	2	4	6
*Tyalgum	1	11	0
†Wagga	49	8	6
†Wingham	4	9	3
Brethren—Isolated and other States	42	3	9
Miscellaneous	83	12	0

£1161 8 7

*Assisted with missions.

†Assisted churches.

†This amount includes Wingham and Kellabakh contributions towards evangelist's support.

BIBLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

This Committee is yet in its infancy, having only been appointed at last Conference. As at the time of its appointment the Bible School Union was in existence, it was considered advisable to step warily until the annual meeting of the Union, for which notice had been given of a motion to hand over the functions of that body to the Committee. At that meeting the Union decided to hand over the reins of government to the Committee, and also transferred their small credit balance to help in the Committee's work.

The secretary was instructed to write to America and obtain the nucleus of a library suitable for reference for the teachers, and this arrived in September last.

The prizes gained at the examination conducted by the Union were presented to the successful competitors in the Enmore Tabernacle on October 1, 1908.

Acting on the suggestion of the Foreign Mission Committee, your Committee agreed to support the teaching of a Foreign Mission lesson in the schools each half-year, and this matter has been taken up heartily by many of the schools, leaflets being provided by the joint Committees.

It has been decided that at least once each year a teachers' conference shall be held, and each half-year a social will be arranged, so that the teachers may become better acquainted with each other.

The Committee have taken a great interest in Teacher Training, and are pleased to report that many of the schools have classes in operation, and at others such are to be commenced.

The names of the isolated members have been obtained, and these have been communicated with, with a view to the establishment of schools in their respective neighborhoods.

We have found our work greatly hampered by the lack of funds, and we would recommend that an annual collection be taken up in the churches for this work, and ask for your endorsement of this recommendation.

It is the desire of the Committee to employ an organising secretary, whose duties would be to assist the schools already in existence, and to establish new schools in suitable localities.

The Committee desire to place on record their high appreciation of the work done by the Bible School Union, and again express their thanks for the courtesy received from that body.

We would suggest for the opening year the motto:—"All the church in the Bible School and many more."

Six meetings of the Committee have been held, and the members have attended as follows:—G. Stimson (Pres.), 5; S. G. Griffith, 4; A. Browne, 4; T. Morton, 4; F. Burcher, 5; F. S. Steer, 5; R. E. Jeffery, 6.

GEO. STIMSON, President.

R. E. JEFFERY, Secretary.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We have the honor to report another year of faithful work on the part of your Committee along the lines of moral and social reform. We have taken an active part in all matters relating to the social well-being of the people. Your Committee took part in the crusade against the gambling evil which was spreading so fast in our midst, and have pleasure in reporting that legislation for the suppression of racing sweeps has been placed on the statute book. We have united in a protest against the letting of the Town Hall for Sunday concerts, and are glad to report that they have ceased. We aided the protest against the brutal and degrading exhibition of prize-fighting lately held in our city. We are glad to report the application by the Department of Justice of the "Pollard plan"

of dealing with drunkards in our police courts, believing that it will help to check drunkenness, as it has done wherever tried. Your Committee has taken an interest in the question of the resumption of slum areas, and has forwarded a resolution to the Royal Commission now sitting in relation to the same. We have helped to keep alive, to the best of our ability and opportunity, the campaign against the liquor traffic and in favor of No License, by holding public meetings in connection with practically all our city and suburban churches, and arranging for addresses to be given to the children of the Bible Schools right through the State. We have financed, as far as our funds would permit, the No License meetings held by Bro. Hagger in the mission tent, and where possible have co-operated with and assisted the N.S.W. Alliance in the work. We have representation on the Public Morals Association.

Your Committee has arranged a stall in connection with the Alliance Exhibition and Fair (Church of Christ Temperance Stall), which we expect will mean a large and welcome addition to the No License fighting fund; and our thanks are due to Sister Edwards for the splendid work done by her in connection with this, and also to the sisters who so readily responded to the appeal for help.

Your Committee, at the suggestion of the Centennial Celebrations Committee, have arranged for a scholars' pledge-signing crusade in connection with our Bible Schools, issuing special souvenir pledge cards. We have pleasure in recording the opening of Bands of Hope at Rookwood and North Sydney; it would be good if all our churches would do likewise. "Prevention is better than cure."

We have been much encouraged in the work by the splendid success of the No License party in New Zealand, and we trust the brotherhood in this State will keep this question ever to the front and educate and agitate in season and out of season in view of the coming No License poll, when we trust that with God's blessing we shall have many No License victories to report.

We would thank those churches which have helped us financially by taking up an evening collection for No License work, and earnestly urge all our churches to help in this way in the coming year. Our work has been much hampered by the lack of funds.

Individually the members of the Committee have been right in the forefront of the work in their several districts.

Ten committee meetings have been held, at which the attendance was as follows:—G. T. Walden (Pres.), 10; G. W. Logan (Vice-Pres.), 7; J. Colbourne (Vice-Pres.), 5; J. Clydesdale, 8; S. G. Griffith (resigned), 1; H. G. Payne (elected in place of Bro. Griffith), 9; Sister Edwards, 9; Sister Campbell, 7; Sister Madsen, 6; Sister Maston, 5; Bro. Morton (Sec.), 10.

BALANCE SHEET.

RECEIPTS.

By Balance March 1, 1908	£0	7	6
Collected at Conference Meeting	2	7	6

Donations—Churches—Petersham	...	0	8	6
Sydney	...	1	16	1
Rookwood	...	0	12	8
Enmore	...	4	16	6
Lismore	...	1	0	0
Inverell	...	1	0	0
Col. at Public Meetings—North Sydney	...	0	10	6
City Temple	...	0	11	4
Paddington	...	0	6	0
Petersham	...	0	4	8
Marrickville	...	0	6	10

£14 8 1

EXPENDITURE.

Expenses Conference Meeting—				
Advertising	...	£0	11	0
Share Conference Printing	0 10 4			
Expenses of Public Meetings—		£1	1	4
North Sydney	...	0	6	9
City Temple	...	0	13	1
Paddington	...	0	10	0
Petersham	...	0	9	8
Marrickville	...	0	6	9
To Share Expenses Meeting in Mission Tent	...	0	12	0
Donation to N.S.W. Alliance	...	4	4	0
" Alliance Exhibition (Inverell Don.)	...	1	0	0
Printing No License Hymn Sheets	...	1	7	6
" Letterheads	...	0	6	6
" Centennial Pledge Cards	...	2	12	6
Sec. a/c, Stamps, Stationery, etc.	...	0	16	6
Credit Balance	...	0	1	6

£14 8 1

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

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION REPORT.

In presenting the first annual report of the N.S.W. Churches of Christ C.E. Union we do so feeling that an advance movement has been made in bringing the Endeavor Societies connected with the Churches of Christ together for the purpose of deepening the spiritual life of the youth of the church, promoting co-operative effort, rendering more efficient the service of the young people, and of increasing the number of societies among the Churches of Christ in N.S.W.

At the invitation of the Enmore society, delegates met on June 23, 1908, to discuss the advisability of forming this Union. That meeting, unanimously deciding that it would be in the best interests of C.E. work that the Union should be formed, framed a constitution which was accepted by all the societies.

Seven societies affiliated, with 258 active, 15 associate, and 27 honorary members. This has since been increased to 9 Y.P. societies having a membership of 338 active, 20 associate, and 26 honorary members; and 6 junior societies with a total membership of about 160.

The special efforts of the Council have been in the direction of building up the weaker societies, and in this they have been very successful.

The Union has held one united rally, which proved a great success, on Nov. 16, 1908, and another has been arranged to be held on Thursday, April 8, 1909.

The monthly Council meetings have been well attended, and keen interest is shown by the delegates.

We are thankful that we have been able to do something to advance the Master's king-

dom, and are looking forward to better service in the coming year.

J. CLYDESDALE, President,
ALFRED A. BARRATT, Sec.

DIGEST OF LETTERS FROM CHURCHES.

AUBURN.—The tent mission just closed has been a great success, and there is every indication of a splendid church being built up in this place. The building has been renovated, and presents quite a nice appearance. It is hoped that in the near future an evangelist will be located in the district.

BANGALOW.—The church here consists of 6 members, who meet for breaking of bread once a month, sometimes oftener. With the location of an evangelist, which it is hoped will take place in the new Conference year, to work Bungawalbyn, Tyalgum, and this place, we expect that progress of a substantial nature will be made.

BELMORE.—Our membership now stands at 103 after revision of the roll; but 14 of these are isolated. We desire to thank the H.M. Committee for its interest in the work here, especially for the services of an evangelist, and for the tent mission held last Nov. The debt on the chapel has been reduced by £6 during the year; the balance £274 falls due in Nov. next. The prospects are bright, and we believe the cause in Belmore is bound to succeed.

BUNGAWALBYN.—We have not made any progress worthy of printing. The school has increased slightly, and the church has purchased an organ. We have had visits from Bren. Hagger, Davis and Morrison during the year.

CANLEY VALE.—We have to chronicle a decrease of 4 in our membership, 3 through the organisation of the church at Tuggerah Lakes. The Bible School is in a flourishing condition, and in 1908, for the fourth time in succession, gained the Honor Certificate of the Union. With our small population we are somewhat hampered in our work, but the Lord is with us, and we cannot fail.

COROWA.—Bro. Waters will represent us at Conference, and we hope that something will result from it on our behalf. Meetings are going on in the usual quiet way.

ENMORE.—The past year has been one of quiet progress. Large audiences are the rule on Lord's day evenings, and the worship and prayer meetings are well attended. The various auxiliaries are doing efficient service. Bro. Colbourne left us during the year to take up the work at North Sydney; his visitations among us were very inspiring, and we watch with pleasure the success of the work in his new field. The mission conducted by C. M. Gordon stands out as one of the prominent features of the period under review; his able addresses not only carried conviction to the hearts of the unsaved, but were a source of much spiritual profit to the church.

ERSKINEVILLE.—During July last Bro. Hagger conducted a mission in our meeting-place which was well attended, considering the bad weather we had to contend with.

Our building fund is slowly growing; we now have £34 in the bank. H. G. Payne's influence is beginning to tell, and we believe, in the near future, splendid progress will be made.

HURSTVILLE.—The work continues to progress. During Sept.-Oct. a tent mission was conducted by Bro. Hagger; the meetings were well attended, and a great amount of good was done. This effort was followed by the location of J. Ernest Allan for three months; our brother labored zealously and well. The Sunday School continues to grow. Our great need is a building of our own, and by a division of our finances a fund for this purpose has been started, which at the end of Feb. had £5/6/9 to credit. We desire to thank the H.M. Committee, and the brethren who have filled our platform, for all the help rendered. In such a promising field we look forward confidently to greater results in the future.

INVERELL.—The work here has prospered much during the year; but the church is about to sustain the loss of both secretary and evangelist. The Lord will provide, and other workers will be raised up.

JUNEE.—Two additions have been received during the year, and the church has enjoyed monthly visits from F. T. Saunders and W. B. Hayes. With a suitable chapel, the cause will make headway.

LILYVILLE.—The feature of the year has been the assuming of full responsibility for the work here, thus relieving Paddington church. J. Fox continues his splendid gratuitous labors in the gospel.

LISMORE.—The church shows a net gain in membership, which is mainly due to the mission conducted by Bro. Hagger. At the close of the mission F. T. Saunders took up evangelistic work, and we look for much good from his labors. Our well-known paper, *The Friendly Visitor*, was revived in Jan., and promises to maintain its reputation under Bro. Saunders. We are endeavoring, in connection with the churches at Bungawalbyn, Bangalow, and Tyalgum, to secure another evangelist for these parts, and we trust that he will be the "advance guard" of a large number of "vineyard laborers" in this prosperous and fruitful part of the State.

MARRICKVILLE.—The work has been faithfully carried on. During the year Bro. Clydesdale relinquished the work here; he was followed by F. M. Moore, who has done a good work. Plans and specifications are in hand for a new chapel. We are grieved to report the death of Richard Morrison, for many years an honored deacon.

MARRAR.—F. T. Saunders organised the church here during the year, and W. B. Hayes now pays monthly visits. A Bible School was also started, which so far has not proved a very great success.

MEREWETHER.—During the year the inside of the building has been thoroughly renovated. We have been helped by visits from S. G. Griffith and Thos. Hagger, for which the church is very grateful. We lost Bro. Hayes some three months back, since when the brethren have held the fort. At the time of writing we are enjoying a month's visit from E. Neville, through the H.M. Com-

mittee; the results are very gratifying. We believe it would be a splendid move to start the cause in Hamilton, and to work that place and Merewether with one strong man.

MOREE.—E. J. Waters commenced work here on March 29, 1908, and he has met with success in this somewhat hard field. He has organised a Bible School, which now has 43 scholars, a Band of Hope in which 105 pledges have been taken, and a C.E. class. During 11 months' service 11 souls have been baptised into Christ.

MUNGINDI.—The church has been reduced to three faithful sisters, who meet on the Lord's day to break bread.

MOSMAN.—This church has recently been organised, and has good prospects ahead. A Bible School has been started; but so far the church has not ventured on gospel proclamation meetings. Bro. Colbourne renders some valued week-day aid.

NORTH SYDNEY.—The church has enjoyed a spiritual time under Bro. Colbourne's ministry, and the work is in good condition. During the year £25 has been paid off the building debt. We desire to thank the H.M. Committee and the other brethren who have helped us for their assistance.

PADDINGTON.—Thos. Hagger ceased work at Paddington during the year, and the church extended an unanimous invitation to A. E. Illingworth to succeed him. We are entering another year full of hope, believing that the good spirit existing, and the amount of solid work being done by the evangelist, must tell.

PETERSHAM.—J. Clydesdale succeeded Bro. Illingworth as evangelist here during the year. The Bible School has had a good increase. Prospects for the new year are bright.

ROOKWOOD.—The past year has been one of difficulty, but prospects for the future are not dreary. The work in all departments is improving. In May last year E. Neville commenced work with us as evangelist, and terminates the same on March 14. The C.E. holds interesting and enjoyable meetings, and the Bible School is in good condition.

SYDNEY.—The increase of suburban churches affects the Sydney church considerably. In spite of this the attendances at the various meetings during the year have been very fair. The gospel services have been especially good, and although there have not been many decisions, the clear and powerful preaching of Bro. Griffith has done an immense amount of good to those who have heard it. The work of the various auxiliaries is well sustained. A Teacher Training Class with Bro. Griffith as leader has had an auspicious start. We are hoping to accomplish much in the incoming year in service for the Master.

SEVEN HILLS.—The church here consists of one family, but the table is spread every Lord's day, and generally we are favored with visits from some of the Rookwood, and occasionally other, brethren. We hope for good developments in the future.

SYDNEY (Chinese).—The church meets in the school-hall at Campbell-st., and the services are conducted in Chinese. The need of a Chinese evangelist to work among the large number of Chinese in the city is greatly felt.

TAREE.—The past year has been a time of sowing. The preaching of the gospel is being carried on at various places by Bren. W. J. Williams, Edwards, Lee, and P. G. Saxby. We expect that with the coming of the railway our sphere of usefulness will be greatly extended. The church sustained a great loss during the year by the death of Geo. Newby.

TYALGUM.—The meetings were started here by members of the Stewart and Robinson families from Bungawalbyn. During the year visits have been paid by Bren. Hagger and Davis, and 5 have been baptised. We have the field practically to ourselves, and a splendid work can be done here by means of regular help from an evangelist.

TUGGERAH LAKES.—Brethren from Petersham and Canley Vale set up the table, and having obtained the use of the Union Chapel one Lord's day in each month, asked the H.M. Committee to send up preachers for that day. Brethren from Sydney and Merewether have helped, and a litile progress has been made. The brethren are full of hope for the future.

WAGGA.—Steady progress has been made since the tent mission of about a year ago; the greatest difficulty is the lack of men in the church, there are so few to take part. However, this will be overcome in time. The work of W. B. Hayes is much appreciated.

WINGHAM.—This is one of the churches in the Manning River circuit, and has, along with Taree, been enjoying the labors of Bro. Williams. A number of the members live at Kellabakh, and regular meetings for worship, and also for gospel preaching, are held there, as well as at Wingham.

Federal Centennial Conference.

PROGRAMME.

Wednesday, April 14—Round Table Conference. Chairman, G. T. Walden (N.S.W.). 2.30 p.m., Preachers' Reception to Interstate Speakers and Evangelists, by invitation. Theme, "The Preacher's Problems," D. A. Ewers (S.A.) to open the talk. 4 p.m., The Education Question (open to all). Two addresses on "The Significance of the Education Movement." (1) F. G. Dunn (Vic.), (2) H. G. Harward (Vic.). 6 p.m., Monster Federal Tea Meeting. Orchestral selections during tea. Tickets, 1/- each. 7.30 p.m., Musical Reception to Visitors. Chairman, S. G. Griffith (N.S.W.). Brief red-hot five-minute responses by T. Bagley (Vic.), J. E. Thomas (S.A.), H. J. Banks (W.A.), C. Watt (Qld.), W. J. Way (Tas.), interspersed with choice musical items. *All at Enmore Tabernacle.*

Thursday, April 15—5th Federal Conference at Y.M.C.A. 9.30 to 10.30 a.m., Devotional. Leader, T. B. Fischer (Vic.). Address, "He hath Led Us," T. Bagley (Vic.). 10.30 a.m., Business Session. Minutes, greetings, responses. 11.30 a.m., President's Address, T. H. Brooker. Subject, "Jesus Christ—The World's Everlasting

Power." 12. a.m., Reports: (a) Acting Executive, (b) Bible College, (c) Foreign Missions. 1 p.m., Adjournment for Lunch. 2 p.m., Devotional. 2.15 p.m., Nomination and Election of Officers. 3 p.m., "An Hour with the Missionaries." Address: (1) Miss Mary Thompson (India). (2) Mr. F. Filmer (Pentecost Island). 4 p.m., Business resumed. 4.15 p.m., Address, G. P. Pittman, "The Influence of our Literature." 4.30 p.m., Reports (discussion continued). 4.30 p.m. (for sisters only), at City Temple, Sisters' Reception by N.S.W. Sisters' Conference. 5.30 p.m., Adjournment. Great Federal F.M. Demonstration, Protestant Hall, 7.30 p.m. Chairman, R. Lyall (Vic.). Theme, 100 Years, "The Marvels of Missions (Sowing and Reaping)": Addresses (a) "The Gathered Sheaves," F. M. Ludbrook (Vic.), (b) "The Ripening Harvest," P. A. Dickson (Vic.), (c) "The Call for Reapers," A. C. Rankine (S.A.). Combined singing and excellent music. Conductors, N. Haddow (Vic.), J. G. Tingate (N.W.).

Friday, April 16—Special Centennial Day, at Y.M.C.A. 9.30 a.m., Federal Business (continued). 1 p.m., Lunch. 3 p.m., Centenary Thanksgiving Service. Chairman, T. Hagger (N.S.W.). Theme, 100 years, "Restoration Work in Australasia: Struggles and Triumphs." (a) "Initial Difficulties," D. A. Ewers (S.A.); (b) "Rising Hopes," F. G. Dunn (Vic.); (c) "Present Problems," J. Colbourne (N.S.W.); (d) "Future Prospects," C. Watt (Qld.). Lygon-st. Quartette Party and others will sing. 7.30 p.m., Centennial Consecration Meeting. Chairman, A. E. Illingworth (N.S.W.). Theme, 100 years, "The Cause we Celebrate: An Historical Motto." (a) "Its Relationship to Apostolic Christianity," S. G. Griffith (N.S.W.); (b) "Its Relation to Protestant Reformation," H. J. Banks (W.A.); (c) "Its Relationship to Modern Christendom," T. J. Gore (S.A.). The Melbourne Musical Society and others will furnish the music.

Saturday, April 17—2 p.m., Complimentary Federal Harbor Trip to Federal Delegates. Open to all visitors at 6d. per ticket. A splendid outing for all! A round trip up the beautiful Middle Harbor. Orchestral music, etc. 8 p.m., Grand Concert by Melbourne Musical Society at Enmore Tabernacle.

Lord's Day, April 18—11 a.m., United Communion Service, Sydney Town Hall. President, T. J. Gore (S.A.). Supporters, W. C. Craigie (Vic.); J. Kingsbury (N.S.W.), Enmore; R. Leck (N.S.W.), City Temple; T. B. Verco (S.A.). Readers, J. Fischer (S.A.); F. T. Webber (N.S.W.). Speaker, H. G. Harward (Vic.). Subject, "Ye Shall Receive Power." Conductor of singing, J. G. Tingate (N.S.W.). 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., Special addresses in all Sunday Schools and churches.

Monday, April 19, 7.30 p.m.—The Crowning Meeting, Pitt-st. Congregational Church (kindly lent us for the occasion). The Grand Monster Centenary Demonstration. Chairman, T. H. Brooker (S.A.). Theme, 100 years, "The Plea of Disciples of Christ." (1) C. M. Gordon (Vic.), "The Genesis of

Continued on page 148.

THE Australian Christian.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

528-530 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Editor - - F. G. DUNN.

Manager & Sub-Editor - G. P. PITTMAN.

All Communications should be addressed to the AUSTRALIAN PUBLISHING CO., 528-530 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

All Cheques, Money Orders, etc., should be made payable to G. P. PITTMAN.

TERMS.—In Australian Commonwealth, Two Copies or more to one address, or Single Subscription posted Fortnightly, 6/-; In New Zealand, Four Copies or more to one address, or Single Subscriber posted Monthly, or Two Subscribers posted Fortnightly, 6/-; Single Copy posted Weekly to any part of the world, 7/-.

The Leader.

Regaining Power.

At the recent Wesleyan Conference sessions, the most prominent theme brought under consideration was the falling off in attendances at church meetings. It was made all the more prominent owing to the fact that the Melbourne daily newspapers took up the theme and discussed it from the secular or "man in the street" standpoint. On this occasion, the daily press took up the attitude of a candid friend, and freely pointed out the shortcomings of the churches, and even went so far as to indicate the way in which the churches might make improvements in their methods. We are very far from regarding this kind of criticism as a thing to be deprecated. It is good for the churches to know how the matter is regarded from the outside. Self-criticism is likely to be partial and blind to the more serious defects which are patent enough to the outside observer. Not that the latter is always right in his criticism, but he sometimes happens to put his finger upon the weak spot. In criticising the churches, for example, it will generally be found that the non-church-goer has a somewhat hazy idea of what really constitutes a church. For this haziness he is not altogether to be blamed. The churches themselves do not always make clear pronouncements upon the subject, and show a growing tendency to mix up the church and the world. The drift of things is in the direction of lowering the New Testament ideal, and making it accommodate itself to a lower and wider standard.

Christ and the church.

In the minds of many men and women who would repudiate the idea that they were not Christians, there is great confusion of thought in regard to Christ and the church. They assume that a man may be a Christian without being a member of any church—that their Christianity is independent of any church and therefore the churches may be ignored. Of this type, there are a greater number than people imagine. Some people go as far as asserting that Christ did not institute the church—that his whole interest was in the kingdom of God, which is

assumed to be another and a better thing for which the church may well be abandoned. Professor Denney, referring to this, says: "It is not fancy, but fact, that Jesus chose the twelve, and that the testimony of the apostles to the Lord gathered those who received it into a fellowship of faith, hope and love round his Name—a communion of saints. The souls to whom the gospel brought in living experience of the forgiveness of sins, the life of the Spirit, and the assurance of immortality, could not stand apart from each other; they were united from the beginning, and had no choice but to unite, in a new and divine fellowship." No one who understands his New Testament can disassociate Christ and the church. Nor can the plea of a divided church be legitimately urged for separation from the communion of saints. It is the rankest Pharisaism for any man to stand outside the churches, and say that none of them is good enough for him.

Closing the churches.

Then again, the question is raised by the *Avon* as to whether the closing of the churches would result in any serious loss to the community. Apparently, this question is raised for the purposes of discussion only. But does the question call for serious discussion? Is not the fact of asking the question a confession of an ill-balanced mind, unable to take in the facts of history? The question is a further proof of the inability of some minds to understand the vital connection that exists between Christ and the churches. The closing of the churches would mean that Christianity was dead, and the decease of Christianity would mean the non-existence of Christ. It would mean that "the gates of hades" had prevailed, in spite of our Lord's emphatic utterance that they never would. Now whatever may have been the faults and failings of the churches, and we are not disposed to minimise them, the indisputable fact remains that they have been arrayed on the side of truth and righteousness. Has the world reached that stage that it can afford to dispense with any of its uplifting forces? The Christianity which the churches represent and sometimes misrepresent is, after all, the greatest uplifting force the world has any knowledge of. "Take it from us," says Dr. Thomas, "and you will freeze up the fountains of our spiritual energy and blight the springing germs of our hopes; you will turn our landscapes into deserts, and our hemispheres into midnight. Take it from us and what are we? Frail barques struggling with the heaving billows of life, without chart to direct us, or a star to break the darkness that enshrouds us on the heaving wave." Christ, Christianity and churches stand related as cause and effect, and one without the other has no meaning; the difference between them being that the two first are perfect, while the latter is the imperfect seeking after perfection.

The glory of the church.

While Christianity remains there must be churches. Their extinction would mean that Christianity had lost its vital force, or, in other words, was dead. The bare contemplation of this thought makes one shudder.

Our world is bad enough under present conditions, but without the arresting force of Christianity, the triumph of evil would be complete. We know of no more ungrateful man than he who boasts that he no longer needs Christianity, and that he is quite as good as those who call themselves Christians. Granting that he is, why is he so? What would he have been if Christianity had not made it possible for him to reach a certain measure of goodness? It is only a simpleton or a wilfully blind person who denies the fact that Christianity has created a purer atmosphere and made it possible for men to live better lives than otherwise would have been the case. Selfish men take the indirect benefits reaped from Christianity, and are too mean to acknowledge their indebtedness to it. They ignore the churches and talk about nature as a church. Ruskin, speaking of the churches, says: "Men say their pinnacles point to heaven. Why, so does every tree that buds, and every bird that rises as it sings. Men say their aisles are good for worship. Why, so is every mountain glen and rough sea-shore. But this they have of distinct and indisputable glory—that their mighty walls were never raised, and never shall be, but by men who love and aid each other in their weakness." And so, when all is said that can be said about the shortcomings of the churches, it is indisputable that their membership, in the main, consists of men and women who desire to help and uplift mankind, and constitute the mightiest force in the world in the direction of righteousness.

The churches not without blame.

But the churches are not without blame for the aloofness of men and women in regard to them. In many cases they repel instead of attract. In an imaginary conversation given in the *Age*, one of the parties to it is made to say: "I want the church to pull the mote out of its own eye and to recognise that at no time in the history of the world was the gospel of love more demanded than at present. I want the gospel to be the first care of the churches, and I want the bickerings of the Nashite supporters and the absurdities of the Gladstone supporters to be the last. Give me the pure gospel of love from every pulpit." We know of no greater foe to the attractive power of the church than its internal dissensions. A wrangling church had better close its doors and cease to be, than be to the world a synonym of strife and bickering. Every religious body in the world has felt the force of this—we, not less than others. The world expects much from the churches. It knows something of the ideals of Christianity, and is swift to mark any departures therefrom. It knows that the distinguishing characteristic of Christianity is love—that it gives to the world the highest and most perfect exemplification of this, the chief of the trinity of graces. Any outrage perpetrated on this divine quality makes the church a scandal and a byword, and discounts a thousand eloquent sermons.

Love the attractive force.

That which commended the church to the ancient world was its exemplification of the

principle of love. It gave a new meaning to the word, and created an attractive force hitherto unknown. When the *Argus* asks, "What is the church to do? If it is not to dabble in mere entertainment or in mere politics, how is it to regain its hold?" we agree with its reply: "There is only one way. It must get back to its original work and its original spirit. . . . Its power was the supernatural power of the great Healer who stood behind it and who worked through it. Such a church may not draw all men to it; but it draws the minority so powerfully that they become the light of the world." This is a force the world cannot afford to lose, and never will lose.

Editorial Notes.

N.S.W. Conference Reports.

Our New South Wales brethren are about to celebrate the close of another Conference year of steady progress. Their church membership now numbers 3817, and there are 2551 scholars in their Sunday Schools. The baptisms for the year were 426, but against this 314 names have been removed by revision of church rolls. However, notwithstanding this serious leakage, the figures show substantial growth. The net increases are 6 churches, 177 members, 3 Sunday Schools, 11 Sunday School teachers, and 209 scholars. This success follows on two years of satisfactory growth, and the evangelistic spirit of the brethren of the Mother State is seen in the fact that during the three years just closed no less than 1673 have been added by faith and baptism, and the net increase of membership has been 1165, or over 43 per cent. There has also been a corresponding development in Sunday School and other activities. The Home Mission receipts attained the respectable total of £1161, an increase of £161. Three years ago they were under £500. Foreign Mission receipts also show a gratifying growth of interest in "the regions beyond." Altogether, the N.S.W. brethren are to be congratulated on their decided advance during recent years and the excellent prospects before them. They have in their forward movement become an object-lesson for the whole brotherhood of Australasia.

Methodist Progress.

The Methodists are a numerous and influential body, or rather number of bodies, as in America alone there are 17 subdivisions. As among the forces which make for righteousness we may well rejoice in their influence for good. Mr. Bray, the retiring President of the W.A. Conference, in the opening session, referred with pardonable pride to the rapid progress of Methodism in the past and its influence on the world to-day. We are not sure, however, that the figures given are strictly accurate. We are told that "in the United States there are 22,000,000 Methodists, a proportion of one in every four of the population." According to H. K. Carroll, LL.D., who publishes in the *Christian Advo-*

cate at the beginning of every year the statistics of all religious bodies in the United States, there were at the beginning of last year 6,660,784 members in the 17 Methodist denominations. Mr. Bray has doubtless included those known as adherents, but as there are nearly 33 millions of members in all the churches, if each claimed a similar portion of adherents the population of the United States would be nearly 120 millions instead of about 80. The Methodists are to be congratulated on their remarkable growth, which is sufficiently great to command attention apart from any estimate based upon insufficient or inaccurate data.

Federal-Centennial Conference.

Continued from page 146.

the Movement"; (2) J. E. Thomas (S.A.), "The Strength of the Appeal"; (3) G. T. Walden (N.S.W.), "The Possibilities of Achievement." A Combined Interstate Choir of 300 voices (with orchestral accompaniment), led by N. Haddow, of Victoria, will sing four grand selections.

The intervals may be taken up with numerous excursions for which suggestions will be made from day to day.

You are invited to come and spend this one week, April 13 to 20, in a review of God's goodness during the past 100 years.

A Note to Visitors. The Hospitality Committee have arranged free accommodation for 350 guests, the whole of which has been allotted. If any vacancies occur we shall be glad to know immediately, as others are enquiring for rooms. There will be provision made for paying guests if intimation is sent to J. Hunter or A. E. Illingworth.

It is inadvisable to visit Sydney at Easter without pre-arrangement for rooms, as the city is full of country visitors who come to the Royal Agricultural Society's Show.

Bring your rugs, as you may require them at night.

Wear a badge (Austral Co. supply), so that our Reception Committee will be able to identify you.

Souvenir Programmes, with full details, 6d. each (posted free), from H. G. Payne, 202 Wilson-st., Newtown.

A. E. ILLINGWORTH, Hon. Fed. Sec.

From the Field. New Zealand.

GORE.—For some time Bro. Ladbrook, senr., has done most of the preaching with acceptance. We have secured the services of Chas. Ha'e for a few weeks. There were good meetings last Lord's day. We are hopeful that much good will be accomplished during our brother's stay. T. M. Middlemiss and W. G. Ladbrook have been appointed to represent Gore church at the Conference in Oamaru.—W.G.L., March 7.

SOUTH DUNEDIN.—The annual meeting of members was held on the 24th ult. James Miller presided. The secretary (W. H. Palmer) read the report, which referred to the faithful services rendered by T. M. Turner, who has always been found ready to preach the gospel. Thanks were also tendered to Bren. Elborn, Irvine, Lowe and Scurr for able assistance in the services. Special reference was made to brethren who had willingly come forward and filled vacancies, viz., Bren Hastie, J. Inglis Wright, Innes, Thornley, McDonald, Routledge, T. Mathieson, Greenwood, Mortimer, Bro. Pittman of Australia, and Bro. Edmonds of Arkansas. The organist, Sister Alice Scott, and Sister Alice Robb, were thanked for their services. Additions by faith and obedience, two; letter, nine; removals, seven; death, one; total on the books, 126. Average attendance, morning, 75; evening, 70. Thanks were accorded Sisters Edmonds and Miller, deaconesses. Bible School teachers, 17; scholars, 100; average attendance, 12 and 80 respectively. Receipts, £20/6/5; disbursements, £21/8/3. Votes of thanks were accorded Sister Robb and Walter Lowe (superintendent). Bro. Yorke (treasurer) submitted his report, which set forth receipts, £137/2/3 (including £10/17/- for Foreign Missions and £10/4/9 for Home Missions); disbursements, £118/1/5; average offerings, £2/3/11.—W.H.P.

ASHBURTON.—For seven weeks the present writer ministered to the still young church in this town. Under the ministry of F. W. Greenwood, who has succeeded me, the church will doubtless go on unto perfection. Sister Neill, one of the Bible School teachers, was tendered a farewell social on the eve of her departure for Ireland (her home). Teachers, scholars and friends gave her as keepsakes a Bible and autograph album, which were presented by the superintendent, J. Olsen. G. Manifold is removing to Hobart at the call of the church there.—T. J. BULL.

MATAURA.—On Lord's day, March 7, I resumed my ministry here. During the months I was absent a fine new organ was introduced for use at the various services except that on Lord's day morning. Thanks are due to the sisters for their energy and enterprise in securing such a valuable instrument. A choir has been organised under the leadership of Henry Osborne, and this is improving our service of song. Removals to other parts have lessened the membership, but we face the future hopefully in the Master's name.—T. J. BULL.

Victoria.

PRESTON.—Bro. and Sister Greenway, from Fitzroy, were given the hand of fellowship. The Bible Girls' Class has decided to form a Teacher Training Class, with Bro. Goodwin as teacher. To-night's gospel meeting was the largest yet held. Bro. Goodwin gave a powerful discourse on the subject, "The Power of God unto Salvation."—W.A.S., March 21.

POLKEMMET.—We held our annual tea-meeting and concert here on the 10th inst. We had Bro. Garden with us from Melbourne. It was a great success. Bro. Garden preached on the 14th at half-past two; also spoke in the morning very acceptably. Bro. Collins is doing a good work. One made the good confession three weeks ago.—H. OLIVER, March 17.

ASCOT VALE.—A pretty wedding took place in the Lygon-st. chapel on March 2. Sister May Payne, of Ascot Vale church, was married to S. J. Southgate, a member of Lygon-st. church and teacher in the S.S. Sister Payne is the daughter of Fred Payne, an officer of the Lygon-st. church. The ceremony was con-

ducted by Chas. A. Wilson, evangelist of the Ascot Vale church. The guests, about 150 in number, adjourned to the Oddfellows' Hall, Victoria-st., Carlton, where a very happy evening was spent.

MARYBOROUGH.—On the 14th inst. we held a harvest thanksgiving service. The chapel was nicely decorated. There was a large exhibition of fruits and vegetables, for which we thank the Bet Bet brethren. The attendance at the evening service was large. On Monday evening a social was held, which proved enjoyable.

NEWMARKET.—The 25th anniversary of the church was celebrated on March 14 and 16, and proved a great success. The meeting for worship was well attended by past and present members. J. Pittman, of Windsor, a former evangelist, exhorted the church. In the afternoon C. A. Quick, of Brunswick, interested a large audience on the subject of "Nails." The chapel was crowded at night, when G. P. Pittman preached. On Tuesday the tea-meeting, provided by the members, was largely attended, and at the after-meeting the building was crowded. Stirring addresses were delivered by T. Bagley and H. G. Harward, and selections by the choir and the Lygon-st. Quartette Party. A comprehensive vote of thanks was moved by Bro Hatty. The chapel has been renovated, a number of members giving their services and working well.—J.H.

MELBOURNE (Swanston-st.).—Last Lord's day morning we had a good meeting. Amongst our visitors were Sisters Mrs. Marsden and Mrs. Wickliffe Black, from England. Splendid meeting at night. Bro. Gordon's subject was "A Tale of Two Cities." There were seven confessions, four of one family—father, mother, and two daughters—the others being two lads from the Sunday School, and one young man.

CHELTEMHAM.—Bro. and Sister Sidney Pittman were this morning received into fellowship from Windsor. We gladly welcome them. Visitors present included Sister Miss Dickson, Lygon-st., Bro. and Sister Gilmour, senr., Sister Hanger, Sisters Carver. Good meetings all day, with Sunday School reaching an attendance of 160 scholars and 15 teachers, a record we believe for an ordinary Sunday.—T.B.F., March 21.

COLAC.—On March 17 we met to welcome Bro. Connor. Bren. Lacy, Bauer and Lewis spoke regarding their knowledge of the good work done by our brother, and gave him a hearty welcome. Bro. Connor suitably responded. On Lord's day, 21st, we had a good meeting. Bro. Connor presided and exhorted. Good meeting in the evening. Sister Lacy presided at the organ in the absence of Sister Best.—J.G.L., March 22.

MOOROOLBARK.—On March 21 E. Davis gave a helpful address in the morning, and preached a splendid sermon to a large congregation in the evening. Our contractor, Bro. Helling, is busy with our new building, and expects to have it completed by the end of April. We are making a special effort to support a regular speaker for week-ends, and Bro. Davis has agreed to take up the work for us.—ROBT. LANGLEY, March 22.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.).—Meetings good both morning and evening. A young man from Nelson, N.Z., was received by letter. At night Bro. Bagley discoursed upon "A Young Man's Ways," and one young man confessed Christ. At a special business meeting of the church on Thursday, Bro. Bagley was invited to remain twelve months beyond his present three years' engagement, which terminates next November.—J. McC., March 22.

GEELONG.—Last Wednesday a farewell social was tendered to Sister East. She will be greatly missed by all, for she has been an active worker in the church, Sunday School and C.E. On behalf of the members, Bro. Brownbill presented her with a beautiful lamp and wished her success in her new home. On account of the nearness of the Conference and the rapidly approaching stormy weather, it has been decided to postpone the tent mission for a few months.

SOUTH YARRA.—Last Lord's day 94 broke bread. Wm. Nightingale exhorted. We had with us Sister Nightingale, sen, from Emerald. In the evening we had a harvest thanksgiving service. The chapel was tastefully decorated. The hay and produce was very kindly lent by R. Lyall. Bro. Nightingale delivered a very appropriate address to a crowded meeting, 228 being present.—T.M., March 22.

BRUNSWICK.—We had meeting with us Sister Perriam, from S.A., Sister Archer, from Warragul, Sister Kingshott, from Braaimeadows, and Bro. Archer, from Asterton. Bro. Quick addressed the church and proclaimed the gospel; topic, "The Power of Thought." D. Abgan, who was ill, was welcomed back.—W.T., March 21.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.—We regret that Sister Morris has been called home. J. S. Garden's address was much appreciated. Our Bible School is still increasing. At the gospel meetings Bro. Stevens has commenced a series of addresses on "The Divine Covenant." A. MacDonald is again in the hospital through relapse.—SAMUEL NORTHEAST, March 21.

LANCEFIELD.—Good meetings Lord's day. One received into fellowship, who obeyed the Lord the previous Sunday.—ROBT. GERRAND, March 22.

West Australia.

KALGOORLIE.—One young man confessed Christ last night, H. P. Manning preaching. The work is progressing steadily, especially in the Bible School, which has increased considerably since the beginning of the year.—E.R.B., March 8.

CLAREMONT.—G. Payne has been preaching for some weeks now with increasing attendances and interest. He will shortly pass on to Subiaco, when we hope to have the help of A. Lucraft. On Wednesday we had a social to say farewell to Bro. Inverarity and give him a small memento of our love and esteem. He was the originator of the work here, and has most faithfully carried out the duties of church secretary and S.S. superintendent for a number of years. Our Sunday School picnic, held on the 13th at Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe, was a great success. Liberal donations were received. Every child won a serviceable prize.—W. C. COOK, March 14.

South Australia.

PORT GERMEIN.—We held our first meeting in the institute hall, on the 7th, and had a splendid gathering. The three young men who were previously baptised were given the right hand of fellowship. Another splendid meeting again on the 14th. Bro. Mitchell preached on both occasions.—J. H. HALL, March 16.

GLENELG.—We have had some interesting meetings of late. On two occasions the Chinese evangelist, Bro. Jame, succeeded in drawing a fine audience, and aroused considerable interest by his earnest talks. On March 11 we had a book social in connection with the Bible School. We spent a very pleasant

and profitable evening, and the library will benefit to the extent of 150 new books. The programme was provided by the Misses Burford and Messrs. MacDonald and Pittman. The Home Mission collection amounted to over £8, more than £2 over our apportionment. We have been saddened by the news that Bro. Farr, secretary of the Bible School, after undergoing a serious operation, passed away to be with the Lord he loved and served so faithfully. All departments of the work are in a healthy condition.

STRATHALBYN.—The writer has been preaching here for the past two months, spending week-ends in the township. Sunday evening services are well attended, numbering about 50. We failed to raise our allotment for Home Missions on March 7, so members generously gave the following Lord's day's offering—thus exceeding the amount—GEO. W. JENNER.

STIRLING EAST AND ALD GATE VALLEY.—The Sunday School picnic was held at Aldgate Valley on March 20. A happy time was spent. The Mutua Improvement Society has been started once more. The membership is rapidly increasing.—R.H., March 22.

HENLEY BEACH.—The anniversary tea and public meeting was held on March 17. H. D. Smith presided over a large audience. The secretary's report stated that five had been added, two had been transferred, and one called home. There are now sixty on the roll. The spiritual and financial condition of the church was good. The chapel was free from debt. Special mention was made of the splendid help received from various speakers who spent much time and energy in the work. Addresses were delivered by A. C. Rankine on "The Origin and History of the Church," and D. A. Ewers on "The Marks of a Successful Church."—H.J.H., March 21.

YORK.—We had with us Sisters Bartlett and Lawrie, of Alma, and Bro. Mitchell, of Port Pirie, this morning. Our Home Mission offering reached £18. Good meeting of school in afternoon, and specially well attended meeting at night.—H.J.H., March 21.

NORWOOD.—The church anniversary services were continued on March 18. A large number were present at the tea. The public meeting was presided over by T. J. Gore. The secretary, Bro. Jenner, read the annual report. Forty-six members united with the church during the year, and allowing for transfers, deaths and revision of roll, the number now stands at 799 to March 12. Bren. Sage and A. W. Lawrie, building fund committee, handed the title deeds of the whole of the church property, free from all encumbrances, to the writer, who received them on behalf of the church and handed them to the treasurer, S. P. Weir. The audience sang the doxology. Congratulatory addresses were given by the chairman and Bren. Ewers, Smith, and T. H. Brooker. Congratulations were received from a number of brethren. The choir, under Bro. Bristow, with Miss Mobsby as organist, rendered special selections. Lindsay Gordon gave a good address at the service yesterday morning.—A. C. RANKINE, March 22.

QUEENSTOWN.—March 21—Good meetings through the past week. On Tuesday two were baptised. Bro. Hawkes addressed the church to-day. In the afternoon Bro. Wicks gave a splendid illustrated address. Evening, full house, Bro. Brooker preaching. Bright singing under the leadership of Bro. Pilkington.—R.H.

Queensland.

CHILDERS.—The weather continues favorable for the growth of the cane crops, and there appear

hopes of a light crop this year. Since my last report I have visited most of the camps where the men are working, also the schools in the district. One very pleasing feature of the temperance work in the State Schools is that the head teachers at two of the schools are trying to encourage the children to sign the pledge of total abstinence. Aided by the teachers, a good work may be done amongst the children. The meetings at the mission chapel continue to be fairly well attended. Much of the prejudice seems to be dying out.—JOHN THOMPSON.

WEST MORETON ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—The Conference of 1909 was the most successful ever held. The treasurer was able to present a clean balance sheet. The various delegates reported good interest and attendance at the meetings, and the discussion of business was marked by the spirit of love and forbearance. Delegates were present from Vernor, Rosevale, Mt. Walker and Marburg, and greetings were received from Toowoomba and Brisbane. The retiring President (W. Berlin) referred to the good work being done by the evangelist, and the satisfactory state of affairs in all matters of church work throughout the circuit. For the first time for many years, the Treasurer, Mr. Albert Henrichsen, was able to report a balance in hand. The Secretary's report showed a circuit membership of 142. There were 92 scholars in the Sunday School, with some 15 teachers. During the past year the churches have all revised their roll books. The subject of a second evangelist was freely discussed, and the outcome was favorable to the securing of one. It was left in the evangelist's hands to draw up a local speakers' plan. The sisters were thanked for their support in keeping the penny-per-week fund in existence; during the day they handed the Treasurer a sum of £5/11/3. The evangelist was granted a fortnight's holiday at Easter for the Sydney Conference, and is to be given a free ticket. All office-bearers were re-elected. In the evening a splendid programme of speaking and singing awaited a full house. The choir from Marburg rendered selections. Chas Watt held the audience with a fine address on the theme, "Being Useful." Bro. Hansen's subject was "Consecration."—E. BERLIN, March 17.

New South Wales.

AUBURN.—Splendid meetings yesterday. 80 at the Lord's table in the morning, when four of those baptised in the tent were received into fellowship. 62 present at school in the afternoon, when we organised a young men's and young women's Bible class. Chapel crowded at every service, when four were baptised and another made the good confession.—T.H., March 15.

MEREWETHER.—There was a crowded meeting at the Merewether church on the 12th inst. to bid *bon voyage* to C. Nesbit, who leaves for a visit to Scotland. He has been associated with us for nearly twenty years, and has been a very active worker, latterly occupying the position of secretary. He has won the love of all who have met him, and as a slight token of the high esteem in which he is held he was presented with a travelling-bag.—S. G. GODDARD, March 15.

AUBURN.—Our mission closed on March 7, and has been a grand success. We closed with a great thanksgiving meeting, at which S. G. Griffith, J. Colbourne, E. Neville and T. Hagger gave stirring addresses to a crowded audience. The special collection for Home Missions amounted to £10/5/4. During the period of eight weeks 80 made the good confession. Of this number 69 have been baptised, and 58 have been re-

ceived into fellowship. Six baptised believers have united with us. One pleasing feature of the mission is the bringing in of 15 young men, some of whom have already begun to take part in the meetings. Of the 86, 36 are males and 50 females. On Friday, 12th, the old members (10 in number) gave a welcome social to the new converts, at which most of the Conference Committee were present. Several 5-minute addresses and sacred songs were productive of a very pleasant evening. Splendid meeting on Lord's day. Bro. Macindoe addressed the church, when about 80 were present, the collection amounting to £3/2/-. Crowded audience at night, and one confession. Our building has just been done up ready for starting afresh, and is decidedly improved by the renovation.—A. ALLEN, March 15.

WAGGA.—Since last report six have been baptised. The three churches, Wagga, Junee and Marrar, are making progress. On the 15th the church at Wagga bid farewell to Bro. and Sister Wilkins, who are leaving for Sydney. Bro. Wilkins, who has kept the church together at Wagga for many years, will be much missed, as he is a good speaker, and his influence has been a power for good in the district. Sister Mowsar, on behalf of the church, presented them with an illuminated address, which was quite a work of art, executed by our young Bro. Davidson. The evangelist also presented him with a set of brushes. Bro. Hayes and Rich bore testimony to the splendid work done by our brother. Bro. Wilkins feelingly replied.—W.B.H., March 18.

INVERELL.—The church here tendered H. E. Tewksbury a farewell social on the 19th inst. The chapel was filled and a good programme was rendered. Some addresses were delivered, expressing regret at our brother's departure. He was handed a valuable present as a memento from the brethren. He was one of the principal members in establishing the church in Inverell, and since then has proved himself a capable and faithful secretary. He was also an elder of the church.—THOS. HOBSON, March 13.

BROKEN HILL.—Our mission has been well attended throughout, and a very deep interest taken. Bro. Thomas has been working hard, speaking every evening, and visiting many homes. Bro. Beiler has been a great help in connection with the singing. 12 confessions this week, making a total of 15. Three were previously members. Our secretary, Bro. House, has been taken seriously ill. Splendid congregations to-day. J. E. Thomas spoke with great power. Two young men confessed Christ.—E. J. TUCK, March 20.

PADDINGTON.—We received into fellowship to-day an immersed believer, who has for over 20 years been a good worker with the Sydney City Mission; also Bro. and Sister Thurgood, of Norwood, S.A. Amongst our visitors was Sister Fairbrother, from Timaru, N.Z. There was a good attendance at the gospel service to-night, and one confession.—A.E.I., March 21.

ROOKWOOD.—This morning Bro. Dixon addressed the church. This evening A. Brown conducted the evening service, which was fairly well attended. Bro. Brown will continue preaching a few weeks. The senior class in the Bible School spent an interesting and profitable time this afternoon on the subject of "Infidelity." Two or three good papers were read.—MARK ANDREW, March 21.

Church of Christ, Sandringham, Vic.

Worship, 11.15 a.m., Library, Abbott-st. Open-air gospel meeting, foot of Melrose-st., 8 p.m. Brethren spending holidays in neighborhood specially welcomed.

N.S.W. REPORTS.

The following paragraph arrived too late for insertion in its proper place in the Executive and Home Missionary Committee's Report:—

STATE EVANGELIST'S WORK

The work of Organising Sec and that of State Evangelist has been carried on through the year by one man, Bro. Hagger, and the manner in which he has discharged his double duty is a matter for much satisfaction. The churches have nearly all been visited by this tireless worker, and all known isolated disciples have been written to, so that as never before the whole body of the church in the State is in touch with the work. Missions conducted by Bro. Hagger have totalled 119 baptisms, as follows:—Erskineville, 11; Marrickville, 1; Hurstville, 21; Belmore, 5; Lismore, 17; Bungawalbyn, 1; Tyalgum, 1; Auburn, 63. In these efforts 7 already baptised have identified themselves with us, and 2 have been restored to fellowship, so that we are the richer from Bro. Hagger's work to the extent of 127 souls. At the same time our State Evangelist has labored with the task of gathering from the brethren the funds to meet our growing needs, and in the year £671/10/9 has passed through his hands.

Here & There.

Decisions reported in this issue, 33.

Read page 153 and help us to realise our Centennial aim.

Our list of American books will be found on page 154.

We were pleased to receive a call from W.B. Taylor and R. Hutton of Tasmania.

J. E. Shipway reports good meetings at Meredith, Vic., with interest steadily growing.

Sister Henshaw, of the church at North Adelaide, is spending a few weeks in Victoria.

E. Neville concluded his labors with the church at Rookwood, N.S.W., last Lord's day.

Mr. Goddard, James-st., Hamilton, Newcastle, is now secretary of the church at Merewether, N.S.W.

Bro. Nesbit, of Merewether, N.S.W., who has left on a trip to Scotland, called upon us on his way through Melbourne.

Alan Stewart has taken the platform at North Carlton, Vic., for the past two Lord's days, and his services have been greatly appreciated.

We waited till the last moment for the New South Wales Foreign Mission Report, but as it did not come to hand, we had to go to press without it.

Badges to be worn by visitors to Sydney, so as to be recognised by the Reception Committee, may be purchased of the Austral Co. 2d. each, posted 3d.

The members of the Foreign Mission Study Class (Melb.) are asked to read the notice under the Coming Events heading. Visitors are always welcome.—R. C. FELDMANN.

We wish to call the attention of evangelists and speaking brethren to the special effort which we are making to add 500 subscribers to our list for the Centennial year. Preachers can do a great deal to help us by speaking of the matter from the platform, and personally urging the members to take the paper. The CHRISTIAN is the preacher's most effective auxiliary, and should be in every home.

S.S.U., VICT.—The next meeting of the General Committee will be held in the New Hall, Swanston-st., on Monday, March 29, at 8 p.m. All delegates requested to attend.—J. POTTS, Hon. Sec.

The Austral Co. has decided to purchase a linotype machine at a cost of between £800 and £900. This will enable the company to produce our distinctive literature cheaply in large quantities, as fast as the churches can purchase and distribute.

The annual Easter concert of the Musical Society promises to eclipse all former efforts. A number of stirring choruses will be rendered, and leading Melbourne artists will take part. The society has been rehearsing consistently for some time, and is well worthy of the support of all the brethren.

Thos Hagger desires to acknowledge with thanks one baptismal gown from the Paddington Dorcas Class, one baptismal gown from the Erskineville Dorcas Class, one baptismal coat and 10/- from the Sydney Dorcas Class, 5/- from the Marrickville Dorcas Class, and two dozen Bibles from J. Stimson, for the new work at Auburn, N.S.W.

S.S. Union (Vic.) Examination.—Brethren who have kindly consented to act as supervisors over city and suburban schools (Union) are asked to call at W. C. Thurgood's, Swanston-st., Melbourne, on Friday, April 2, for question papers, etc. They are particularly requested to see that the printed form is filled in by each competitor and securely fixed to the respective answers.—J. Y. POTTS, Hon. Sec.

There are seventeen candidates for baptism at Jubulpore and Nainpur, India, as a result of the labors of Paul Singh, the native evangelist working under the direction of the English Foreign Mission Committee. Bro. Singh is now located at Daltondgunj, a town of 7000 inhabitants, in a district containing 3000 villages, where the gospel has not yet been proclaimed. He is commencing medical work, and has converted his verandah into a reading-room, hoping in this way to get the ear of the people for the gospel message.

"Congratulations to Federal Executive, editors, and publishers! 'That they All may be One' is a splendid shillingsworth. What the old people will do, the young ones ought to do—get it and read it. The pictures of the pioneers are admirable, and the reading matter of intense interest. The historical and statistical portions make it a standard book of reference for years to come. Including, as they do, an impartial and comprehensive world-view of the movement, the book ought to sell in thousands not only here but in England and America. Please send six copies for posting to friends."—F. M. LUDBROOK.

Circulars have been sent to the officers of all the churches in Australasia, laying before them a scheme for the wider distribution of our distinctive literature. We trust this matter will receive early and careful attention, as we believe it will, if taken up thoroughly, solve the problem of the circulation of our books, pamphlets and tracts, in every part of the land. We are not asking the officers to do very much—just to appoint a member to get into touch with the Austral office. When this is done, we will do the rest, supplying the person appointed with all needful information for the prosecution of the good work.

NOW READY.

**The Centennial Handbook,
"That they All may be One."**

Paper 1/-, posted 1/4.
Cloth 2/-, posted 2/6.

AUSTRAL CO.

W. J. Hastie, of Dunedin, writes protesting against a resolution passed at the N.Z. General Conference and which was printed in our "Here and There" column in the CHRISTIAN of Feb. 25. After due consideration, we decided that owing to the strain in which the letter is written it was inadvisable to give it publicity. Our decision in this matter had nothing to do with the merits of the case in dispute, but was owing to our determination that if controversy is unavoidable, the parties to it must express themselves in terms that are free from bitterness. In addition to this, the publication of Bro. Hastie's letter would have provoked a controversy that we did not consider desirable. We consider, however, that it was only right that it should be known that the resolution was the subject of protest, and that we should give our reasons for not publishing the letter. One portion of it, however, may be given. It forms the postscript of the letter, and reads as follows:—"The resolution was passed in the very last hours of a long session when many delegates had left. If it had come up for consideration in the early part of the Conference, when sufficient time and thought could have been given to it, it would, I am confident, have never passed. Many afterwards so expressed themselves to me.

P. A. Davey writes:—"I have just cashed a cheque for £7/10/- to be used for benevolent and Christmas gifts, and we thank the givers very much for sending it. We have changed our address from Hongo ward in Tokyo to Koishikawa ward, as one of our workers had to return home suddenly on account of the sickness of his eldest daughter—Bro. Hagin, one of our best workers. We now live in a mission home for the first time since Mrs. Davey came here. We were to have bought land and built, but did not succeed in finding a suitable lot at a suitable price. I expect to remain in this house for some time at least, if not permanently, although for that matter nothing is permanent here—we have lost five families on account of breakdowns during the last four years. Our family, I am glad to say, are in fine health, but have far too much to do just at present to do the efficient work one would like to do. In the Koishikawa chapel, Bro. Kawai is a fine preacher and personal and Sunday School worker, fast getting a national reputation. Mrs. Kawamura holds in our home women's meetings each Friday. Fourteen, I think, were present last Friday. I have a class in the Formosan College near by, and also in the chapel. Teachers' meeting on Saturday in our home. Cottage prayer meetings begin next week. Three Sunday Schools in immediate neighborhood, and several outstations. This being the jubilee of Japan missions, we look forward to an evangelistic revival."

Acknowledgments.

N.S.W. HOME MISSION FUND.

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THOS. HAGGER

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MARRIAGE.

MCCRACKETT—ELDRIDGE.—Silver Wedding. On March 18, 1884, at Hurtle Square, Adelaide, S.A., by Mr. E. Rorke, Duncan McLaren McCrackett, first son of the late Peter McCrackett, of Greenock, Scotland, to Ellie Eldridge, eldest daughter of William Eldridge, of Adelaide, S.A.

IN MEMORIAM.

SARGENT.—In loving memory of our dear husband and father, John Sargent, who died at Taradale, March 24, 1904.

Asleep in Jesus, blessed sleep,
From which none ever wake to weep;
A calm and undisturbed repose,
Unbroken by the last of foes.

Inserted by his loving wife and daughter, A.S. & M.S.

Coming Events.

APRIL 8.—Grand Concert by the Musical Society in Lygon-st. chapel, Thursday, April 8, at 8 p.m. Splendid programme. Leading artists. Secure tickets early. Admission, 1/-.

APRIL 2.—The Foreign Mission Study Class will meet in the lecture hall, Swanston-st., on Friday, April 2, instead of the third Friday in April, owing to the Centennial Celebrations. Leader, Mr. C. M. Gordon. Subject, Africa, "The Morning Cometh." New members heartily welcomed.

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CONDUCTED BY A. R. MAIN.

(All correspondence for this department should be addressed to Suffolk-rd., Surrey Hills, Vic.)

Risen with Christ.

TOPIC FOR APRIL 12.

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS AND READINGS.

The rising of the soul ...	Eph. 2: 1-10
A symbol of resurrection ...	Rom. 6: 1-5
Our new life ...	Col. 2: 8-16
Resurrection power in us ...	Eph. 1: 15-23
The risen Christ within ...	Rom. 8: 9-14
The spiritual uprising ...	John 5: 23, 24
Topic—Risen with Christ ...	Col. 3: 1-4.

(Easter Meeting.)

OUR Easter topic this year suggests not simply the importance of Christ's resurrection for our justification, but also of our rising with Christ in order to appropriate the blessings.

Before a person can be "risen with Christ," there are certain other things which he must do "with him."

Dying with Christ.

He must have died with Christ. It was so in the case of the Colossian Christians. See 2: 20 and 3: 3, R.V. The idea is not that they were "dead" when the apostle wrote, for dead Christians would be no Christians, but that in the past they died, and now were risen to a new life. So in Gal. 2: 20 Paul says: "I have been crucified with Christ, yet I live," etc. Andrew Murray in one of his sermons says: "We often ask earnestly, How can I be free from the self life? The answer is: Get another life. Have the old life crucified, and receive a new life, in Christ." "God's word takes us to the cross of Christ, and it teaches us about that cross two things. It tell us that Christ died for sin. We understand what that means; that in his atonement he died as I never die, as I never can die; he died for sin and for me. . . . He died unto sin. . . . God be praised, he gave up his life rather than yield to sin. He died to sin, and in dying he conquered. And now, I cannot die for sin like Christ, but I can and I must die to sin like Christ. Christ died for me. In that he stands alone. Christ died to sin, and in that I have fellowship with him."

Buried with Christ

Christ not only died, but was buried. The Colossians had not only died, but had been buried. They had been "buried with him in baptism (2: 12). Only those who have died to sin can properly be buried in baptism—hence see the subjects of baptism. They are buried "with him"—hence see the efficacy.

Risen with Christ.

But there is no benefit to a person who goes no further. That Christ should have died and been buried would have availed us nought; our living hope springs from the glorious fact of his resurrection. He rose, therefore have we hope; without this, we would be yet in sin and of all men most miserable. Now just as truly as is the case that without his resurrection Jesus would never have

been our Saviour, so true is it that it avails nothing for us to die and be buried with Christ; we must rise too with him. Col. 2: 12 again states that in baptism the Colossians were "raised with him through faith in the working of God," who raised Christ from the dead. Rom. 6: 4, 5 is in harmony therewith.

With him all the way.

A notice then of Col. 3: 1, "If then ye were raised together with Christ," teaches us two important things: (1) We have supplied the necessity of the completed process. We perhaps need to be reminded, and to see that we remind others, of the fact that baptism to be efficacious means union with Christ in the likeness of his death and his resurrection. (2) There is a lesson for others. Many talk of being "risen with Christ" who utterly ignore the previous burial with him. Col. 3: 1 cannot be understood when divorced from Col. 2: 12. It is grossly unfair to sever the two passages, to talk in generalities when the apostle himself has shown that the rising with Christ had specific reference to the initiatory rite of baptism. Need I point out that the "If ye then" is with Paul, a hypotheticala form serving to introduce a favorite form of argument, and that it does not express doubt. He says the Colossians really had died, been buried and risen (3: 5; 2: 12), yet he puts it "If ye died" (2: 20), "If ye were raised" (3: 1)—then do something else. But since for us the first of these lessons may be in special need of emphasis, we note it in greater detail.

The new life.

The point has been succinctly put by Moses E. Lard: "We are to be one with him by a life like his life after his resurrection. After he was raised, he no longer lived the life he lived before death. So with us. When raised in immersion, we are not to live the life we lived before. We are to live a new life, and hence we cannot continue in sin."

Every man, when he becomes a Christian, is introduced to a new life. In the case of some, it may seem that little change is necessary, so exemplary was their pre-Christian walk. But there is no exception. No man can dispense with a death to sin, a burial with Christ, and a resurrection to a new life. He who has become united with Christ has entered into a new state, a new relationship. He now lives for Christ, not for self. He represents Christ, who indeed lives in him, and who is his life. He ceases to be self-centred and self-contained. In the life of any man this can mean no less than a revolution.

The hidden life.

A. Maclaren says: "This risen life is a hidden life. Its roots are in him. He has passed in his ascension to the light which is inaccessible, and is hidden in its blaze, bearing with him our life, concealed there with him in God. Faith stands gazing into heaven, as the cloud, the visible manifestation from of old of the divine presence, hides him from sight, and turns away feeling that the best part of the true self is gone with him. So here Paul points with his finger upward to where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God, and says—We are here in outward seeming, but our true life is there, if we are his." By-and-bye the life will be manifested. We shall appear with him in glory. "Then shall the life which here is but in bud, often unkindly nipped and struggling, burst into the consummate

beauty of the perfect flower 'which fadeth not away.'"

"My knowledge of that life is small,
The eye of faith is dim,
But 'tis enough that Christ knows all,
And I shall be with him."

Two injunctions.

"Seek" and "set your mind on" things above, says Paul. The one injunction "points to the outward life of effort and aim; the other to the inward life of thought and longing." "Set your mind on" these things, says the apostle. Let them occupy mind and heart—and this in order that ye may seek them. The direction of the aims will follow the set and current of the thoughts. 'As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.' How can we be shaping our efforts to reach a good which we have not clearly before our imaginations as desirable? How should the life of so many professing Christians be other than a lame creeping along the low levels of earth seeing that so seldom do they look up to 'see the King in his beauty and the land that is very far off'? John Bunyan's 'man with the muck rake' grubbed away so eagerly among the rubbish, because he never lifted his eyes to the crown that hung above his head."

At Easter.

Easy 'tis for hands to bring
Easter offerings to the King;—
Lilies of Ascension, white
As the prisoned soul of Light;
Anthems ringing forth amain,
"He who died is risen again!"
While the heart lies in a grave
Deeper than his power to save.

"Deeper"? Ay, the will divine,
Leaves unfettered will of mine.
Self may wrap me, fold on fold,
In its tissues fine and cold,
Burying the good which strives
With a power that still survives.
Not for me the Easter glow
Gilds the way that mortals go,
Though the rarest gifts I bring,
Sweetest strains exultant sing!

But if I have crucified,
On thy cross, my willing pride;
Taught the clings of desire
From their earth-mould to aspire;
If my brother I forgave;
Stretched a hand to help and save;
Loved, because thy form I trace
Where no comeliness finds place—
Lowly thankful, I may say,
"See, I bring thee all to-day!"

—Charlotte M. Packard.

A sick convert, uncertain as to the issue of his sickness, said: "If I die, I go to Christ; if I live, Christ comes to me, to be with me and guide me still."

On a written examination one Sunday a little girl wrote one of the golden texts of the quarter thus: "God so loved the world that he gave it to his Son." Christ for the world: the world for Christ! Let us make good both these gifts.

500

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OUR CENTENNIAL AIM.

THE Centennial year should be an inspiration and incentive to greater efforts to make more widely known the principles for which the Churches of Christ are pleading. One of the most effective ways of doing this is through the medium of the press, and as representing the press, by means of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN.

The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN stands for the advocacy of New Testament principles, and as representative of the Churches of Christ in Australasia gives full particulars of the progress of the churches and deals with important questions relating to religion and morals. As an educational factor it ought to be read by every member of the Churches of Christ in Australasia. Every new convert ought to be induced to become a subscriber, and preachers and office-bearers who have the welfare of their churches at heart should do all they can to increase the number of its readers. Get the

members of our churches interested in our journal, and they will take a deeper interest in their local churches and the rest of the churches throughout Australasia.

In addition to this, an effort should be made to get the CHRISTIAN into the hands of non-members of our churches. Every reader of the CHRISTIAN might constitute himself an agent in getting new subscribers, and thus make the restoration movement more widely known than it is.

NOW will be a good time to make a forward movement in this direction. Let us mark our Centennial year by gaining **500 NEW SUBSCRIBERS** to the CHRISTIAN. To assist in this effort we will supply the CHRISTIAN to new subscribers from now on to the end of the year for 4/-. This will take in the splendid Centennial number we propose to issue.

TO OUR AGENTS.—Please have the following announcement made at the meetings of the church and the gospel services for several Lord's days:—

The Agent for the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN (*state name*) will be glad to receive orders from non-subscribers for the special Centennial number, which will contain illustrations and full reports of the Centennial Celebrations in Sydney. Price, 1½d. per copy.

The Agent also wishes it to be known that in order to celebrate our Centennial year a special effort is being made to increase the subscription list of the paper by the addition of 500 new subscribers. Those who do not take the paper are urged to do so, and all the members of the church are asked to co-operate with the agent in trying to induce others to become subscribers. Subscription, 4/- to end of year.

Yours in the work,

G. P. PITTMAN, MANAGER.

On Garvin's Division.

By Mabel Earl.

CHAPTER VI.—THE POWER OF THE STORM.

"Has Keith gone?" Mrs. Garvin asked as Jean answered her bell. "I thought—O, there is the front door closing now. No, don't call him back. But just to make an old woman's heart easier, my dear, will you look and tell me whether he has taken his heavy overcoat? The wind is rising, so I think it is going to storm."

Jean sought evidence from the old-fashioned hat-tree. Neither the black top-coat nor the grey fur-lined ulster was there, but she knew that Garvin often left one of them at the office. She hesitated a moment, and then, remembering how much comfort the trifling assurance would give his mother, she opened the front door and stepped out to look after the figure striding down the street.

"Do you want me to fetch him back?" Manning's voice queried from the lowest step.

Jean started, and blushed, and blushed again more deeply at the other unspoken question in his eyes.

"No, no," she said, seeing that her only possible refuge was in the unvarnished truth.

"Mrs. Garvin wanted to be certain that her son had worn his warmest overcoat on this trip he has to make to-day."

"Well, that's the ulster he takes along in blizzard weather," Manning said, gazing down the street. "If there's a warmer coat in Cameron at the present speaking, I don't know of it. He's likely to need it, too, if that north-west sky means anything. Lucky chap Garvin is. Wish I had somebody to worry about my overcoats."

He glanced at Jean's face, but the guilty colour was gone.

"He called me up an hour ago to ask whether his mother was well enough for him to leave her. I told him, yes, from all that I had seen yesterday. Then I thought I would come over this morning before the storm got any worse. I didn't know that he had left the house. Well, it's all right anyway. He had to go. I'll come in and see Mrs. Garvin."

The radiation of his splendid strength and boyish sweetness seemed to bring a new atmosphere into the room where Keith Garvin's mother lay shivering as she listened to the wind.

"See here, Mrs. Garvin," he said, "I'm jealous. Just because that one particular boy of yours has gone away you mustn't overlook the rest of us. I want you to be anxious about me, please. I'm not wearing a fur coat, and this one is getting shiny under the arms. And I believe I feel pale. Do give me a hand-mirror, Miss Davidson, and let me see whether I am."

Jean could not quite understand the ebullition of his fun, which sprang in part from his unreasonable sense of relief at the knowledge that Garvin would be out of the way for a day or two. He put out of mind the hurt which had struck him when the colour leaped into Jean's face at his question. Garvin was gone; there might be some assistance Jean would need, left here in the house with her patient and one servant through the coming storm, some help from him which would make her understand how gladly he would give her his all.

He dropped from his teasing presently into the sunny seriousness of his usual manner.

"There's another of your boys that you are forgetting," he told Mrs. Garvin. "You haven't asked me about Fred Bruner since I came in. Doesn't that prove that you're neglecting us?"

"Is he better?" Jean asked.

"Fairly comfortable now. Wants to know how soon he can go back to work."

"But can he? I thought—"

"O, who knows?" said Manning, half impatiently. For the first time in the two years she had known him his eyes met Jean's with a cloud upon their boyish frankness. She wondered at it, but said no more.

"And how is Mr. Dykes—that is his name, isn't it? The man you crawled under the engine to help." Mrs. Garvin asked.

"He's going to live, we think. It was a close call for him, but he has this same wonderful vitality in him. For a day or two we kept him

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under opiates, but now he is noticing every word that's said in the room. He's with Andrews in the special, off from Ward Three. And, by the way, he asked me this morning to tell you that he wanted to see you, Miss Davidson."

"To see me? I wonder why. I hardly knew him. He wasn't one of Stanley's special friends."

"I don't know why, but it isn't at all surprising; is it, Mrs. Garvin? But I wouldn't go up there for a week or two yet. We can't let him talk much. There, haven't I told you a pocketful of good news? And you're not looking half so pensive, either of you. Well, you must call me up if you want anything. Won't you let me send a man over to sleep here to-night and to guard the house? No? I don't like to think of your being alone here in this storm; but you have the telephone, of course, and you can call Linley or me or anybody you want. Only I claim first right, Mrs. Garvin. I feel as if your son left you in my hands."

The memory of Jean's startled movement and blush as he came up to the porch returned to him with a slight recurrence of alarm when he was walking away, but that could not chill the groundless gladness in his heart.

By twelve o'clock the yards and streets of Cameron were white with driving snow. The wind had not yet risen to any noticeable violence; but its long, unbroken wail about the chimneys and gables of the house foretold only too plainly to accustomed ears the story of the coming night. Mrs. Garvin grew restless as the storm increased. She laid her book down, saying that she could not read. Jean went about her duties with a matter-of-fact cheerfulness which found little response in either of her companions.

"I'm afraid to be away from home in weather like this, Miss Davidson," the successor of Mary Nolan announced. "This house stands out so all by itself, and ours is under the bluff, where we never get the wind like this. You don't suppose, now, that the roof is likely to go off, do you? or one of the chimneys blow over? My sister worked in a house once, at the Junction, where the chimney took fire one awfully stormy night, and them rushing out frightened to death. But it was there Lizzie met her husband for the first time—he was a flagman on Nine, just going home after he'd come in from the run; and he saw the fire, and rushed over and asked Lizzie could he help—"

"I'm afraid your flat-iron is too hot, Kate," Jean interrupted. "Be careful not to scorch Mrs. Garvin's table cloth. If you are too timid to stay here, you may go home. I couldn't promise to have any of the boys on hand to-night if anything happens to the house."

Kate decided to remain at her post. Indeed, the prospect of making one's way along the snow-swept streets was not inviting. By seven o'clock the drifts beside the front fence were level with the upper palings, and the whistles of the switch-engines struggling across the yards came up torn and beaten against the wind.

"Do you suppose that Keith is on the road yet?" Mrs. Garvin asked.

"I will call Mr. Linley," said Jean. "They will know at headquarters."

The answer came back promptly. Garvin's special was reported safe into the Junction ten

minutes earlier. She had spent nearly ten hours on the way. The drifts on the mountain sections were taking on the likeness of a blockade. One or two of the local trains had been cancelled.

So much Jean heard, followed by Linley's question whether he could be of any service to the superintendent's household; and then, while she still held the receiver, having called Stanley's number to tell him she had been detained at the Garvin's, the wire suddenly went dead; and no amount of ringing brought any further answer from any direction.

"I might have thought of that," Jean reflected, the first sense of dread stealing upon her in this sudden isolation. "Something is wrong, of course; probably the wires are down, and there isn't one chance in a hundred that we can be connected again while the storm is on. But there is no danger. We shall not need to send for anybody. It is only the feeling that we are alone."

She went back to Mrs. Garvin, giving her the assurance that her son was safe at the Junction. Details of blockades and cancelled trains she omitted, saying nothing about the broken telephone connection. There was no need to excite any useless alarm.

"Come and sit by me, my dear," Mrs. Garvin said, "I can't bear to be alone."

Jean drew up a chair and sat down, taking the older woman's hand in her own.

"Shall I read to you?" she asked.

"Not now. Tell me. I didn't ask Keith to stay with me this morning, did I? That is a lesson I learned when I was a young woman."

She lay silent for a moment, and then the old thoughts of far-off years found utterance again.

"You have no war-time memories to come back to you on a day like this. I was thinking of the time when Keith's father went away to join his regiment. Keith is very like his father. This morning, if he had been in uniform, I could have thought—but Keith's face is a little older. And yet he is only thirty-four. Should you think he was no older than that?"

"I am a poor judge," said Jean.

"His father came back to me from the war. And after that he was in the railroad service for years. I never saw him leave me without that same feeling that perhaps I might never see him again. It's in the blood with Keith. When his father lay dead, he came to me—he was only a little boy then—and he put his arms around my neck, and said, 'Don't cry, mother. I'm going to be a superintendent myself before long, and I'll take care of you.' I knew then what I must expect. But I have never held him back. Some men might take a position like his, and live in it easily; but he will not spare himself. I have been in Europe with an invalid sister of mine for more than two years, and I suffered with every cable report of the storms in the Rocky Mountain region. Snow blockades, and wrecks, and when the ice goes out in the spring, and high water—it all means risk for the men who are responsible for the roads, and suffering for the women who love them."

"Mr. Garvin is not in the most dangerous position," said Jean.

"No, I tell myself to remember that. I think about the linemen, and the work they do, keeping up the wires in weather like this; and the brakemen on the tops of the freight-cars,

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when the footway is all a glare of ice; and the boys in poor Fred Bruner's place. Oh, and the physical risk isn't all! God knows what they go through—the being away from home, and the strain that leaves them worn out, with no will power to resist; is it any wonder that so many of them go down, brave as they are, when the temptations are on every side? What should I do if I were Fred Bruner's mother? Of course, it is not like that for Keith, and yet I wonder how we all live. The work must be done, but we mothers and wives bear the hardest part of it."

"I know," said Jean; "my brother is an engineer."

"Your brother? The one I saw at the station, the dear, big boy with your eyes? Why didn't you tell me, my dear? Why haven't you talked to me about him? Have I been so selfish all day, thinking just about the things that concerned me, and perhaps he was out on the road in this storm?"

"No, he isn't out to-day," Jean answered, wondering what she could say if Mrs. Garvin pressed her other questions. She managed to turn the subject a little, telling about Stanley's boyish ambitions, and his hardships and adventures during the years when he was firing. Mrs. Garvin roused herself from sad memories and immediate anxieties to the same warm human sympathy which had carried her through the day of the wreck.

"O, my dear, what a pity it is for us to be so far apart from each other in this world!" she said. "And we really belong to each other—work, and love, and life, and dread—we can't live unto ourselves. Supposing I had my sister's nurse here; she was a most superior person, just barely aware of the fact that there are such things as working classes. How could she comfort me about Keith? But you touch the great toiling, struggling, splendid life of the world through your brother, as well as in your own work. You can understand. I want to talk to that big, sweet-souled Stanley of yours. You will bring him to see me."

She had spoken truly enough. Jean granted that, divided between warring sympathies. It was the ideal truth, the truth of ideal humanity, the message of the human Christ. But where this white bond of brotherhood should be lay the cruel scar of division and misunderstanding. Mrs. Garvin could reach out with a heart great and tender enough to gather Fred Bruner and Stanley Davidson into the same shelter where she held her son; but it was not yet twelve hours since Keith Garvin had given sentence against Stanley.

At eight o'clock the electric lights of the house suddenly sank into darkness. Jean went into the kitchen, fetching a lamp for Mrs. Garvin's room, and telling Kate to light candles. Returning for a glass of water, she noticed that the wind had lulled for a moment. The silence seemed uncanny, a thing of foreboding, worse than the wildest clatter of the storm had been.

With no other warning the wind veered from north-west to north-east; and the powers of the air, gathering fresh strength for the onset, swept down upon Cameron. The house shook

from foundation to ceiling; the timbers creaked and strained beneath the terrific force assailing them.

"Miss Davidson—oh! where are you?" Kate shrieked.

The candles went out beneath a sudden gust of air. There was a crash of falling plaster and thundering brick as the tall chimney at the centre of the house swayed and fell, crushing down through the shingle roof and the unfinished attic above the sitting-room.

—C.E. World.

(To be continued.)

Obituary.

LLEWELYN.—Mrs. R. Llewelyn passed away on March 7. She had been ill for about five weeks. During her illness a great number of enquiries were made by local and distant people and friends. Mrs. Llewelyn had a host of friends. She was of a quiet, kindly disposition, always had a smile for everyone, and ever willing to assist when needed. She was 30 years of age. She was a zealous member of the church. Sincere sympathy is expressed on all sides for Mr. R. Llewelyn. The writer conducted the burial service.

Dunolly, Vic.

A. W. JINKS.

GARD.—On March 3, William J. Gard passed away at his residence, Keswick, at the age of 68. He had been for some time in failing health. He came into the church at Grote-st., about forty-three years ago. During all the years since he has been a very earnest and faithful follower of Christ. He loved the church, and never neglected his duties. He was altogether a lovable man, and was greatly esteemed by the church and his many friends. He continued his attendance at the Lord's day meetings of the church as long as it was possible for him to attend. In his last illness he talked much of the church, and greatly desired its prosperity. He was a loving husband and father. Sister Gard, an excellent Christian, who came into the church about the same time, and the two sons, will greatly miss him. His two sons, J. B. and A. J. Gard, are earnest Christian men. A. J. Gard is the efficient leader of the Grote-st. choir. Bro. Gard has left three grandsons. He and his wife were among those who gave the writer of this a warm welcome when he came from America to Australia. We have had much fellowship in all the intervening years. As the last moments drew near he expressed a wish to see some old friends. Among them he mentioned my name, and his family sent for me. After service on Lord's day evening I went to see him. He was glad to see me. After some talk, he said, "I will not see you, Bro. Gore, again." Yes, the time had almost come for him to go to the bright land, and to behold the face of the Lord in glory. He was ready for the summons. Many times we had prayed together. In the years gone by his boy, Willie, a bright and loving young Christian, was called hence. We often met then at the throne of grace. I prayed with him and the family once more. In the presence of many sympathisers and loving friends, D. A. Ewers and myself laid his body to rest in the West Terrace Cemetery. J. E. Thomas, the evangelist at Grote-st., was and still is at Broken Hill conducting a three weeks' mission. In his absence I am sending this notice. Our sympathies are with our Sister Gard and all the family.

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