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Preachers' Problems.

D. A. EWERS.

A. B. Maston once said, "The work of an evangelist is to preach the gospel and do everything else that others leave undone." While this may not commend itself to all as a correct definition, it will be unanimously conceded that a preacher's first and principal work as stated is to proclaim the gospel. This is so well understood that he is generally called an evangelist rather than a minister or pastor.

The problems he has to face in the work of the gospel are legion. Passing over those connected with his choice of this vocation and his physical, spiritual, mental and educational equipment therefor, also those connected with his selection of a field and commencement of work—and in all these matters there are many and important questions to be decided—we will assume that he is fairly settled with a church when the following among other problems will soon demand his attention.

Holding an audience.

1. How to attract and retain his audiences. Every sermon must be a gospel discourse. His one supreme object is to win souls, and the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The "old, old story," therefore, has to be told repeatedly and yet to be made ever fresh. Peter preached his great Pentecostal sermon over several times, as we find in the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th chapters of Acts, but while the same gospel facts were preached on each occasion, they were presented in different settings. We, unlike Peter, have to preach in the one place for many years, and there is ever a temptation to leave the simple gospel and deal with great social or political questions, or to substitute essays or lectures on moral or intellectual abstractions for the great themes of salvation. I recognise that current events and topics may well be used to illustrate Scriptural truths, and that a preacher should be in touch with the world's great thoughts on all subjects, but after all these are useful only as they become the setting in which to present Christ. "There is power in the blood," and if we cease to "preach Christ and him crucified" we lose our hold upon men. The absolute failure of the so-called liberal churches and preachers clearly indicates

that we cannot solve the problem by abandoning the ancient gospel.

Handling side issues.

2. How to deal with many subjects occupying public attention and which have a more or less direct bearing on the work of the gospel constitutes a difficult problem; such subjects as evolution, the apparent conflicts between science and revelation concerning the origin of the world and of man, destructive criticism in reference to the authorship and inspiration of the Scriptures, and kindred topics. These cannot be ignored, and yet if dealt with from the pulpit much harm may be done unless the preacher has fully mastered the subject. My own impression is that while every preacher should, as time and opportunity permit, keep himself conversant with the arguments of intellectual giants, in order to be able to deal personally with those whose faith is affected, he should, as a rule, leave the public discussion of such themes to experts who have devoted the requisite time to their special study, and who by virtue of knowledge and intellectual ability are peculiarly fitted for such work.

Winning souls.

3. How to bring men to decision for Christ is a problem not easy of solution. We have all had experiences of disappointment in our endeavors to lead hearers to open confession. And yet this is our one supreme object. A preacher may be richly endowed with intellectual and oratorical abilities; he may secure large audiences and rapt attention; he may be an eloquent and popular minister; but if he is unsuccessful in gaining converts he is as an evangelist only a splendid failure. He need not trouble his head about "apostolic succession," but he must about apostolic success. Failing here, he fails everywhere. Fortunately absolute failure is impossible to the faithful evangelist, for the gospel is certain to win some. And yet there is comparative failure. I believe we are second to no people in the world in the measure of our evangelistic success, but who amongst us has not had his sleepless nights and his blue Mondays

over this very problem? My own experience leads me to the conclusion that personal dealing with hearers will often lead to decision those who have not responded to the pulpit appeal. The nails driven in public may frequently be clinched in private. A special mission conducted either by the home preacher or some qualified evangelist will generally lead many of the halting ones over the line. Every church, in my opinion, should have a mission occasionally, and in most cases one every year or two is not too often.

Renewing strength.

4. Not among the least of the problems confronting us is that of the renewal of our spiritual strength. It is possible in the midst of our labors and anxieties, the many calls upon our time and attention, to neglect our own spiritual culture. If Paul with his many rich gifts and experiences found it necessary to "keep his body under" and devote his mind to the cultivation of his spiritual life, "lest having preached to others he should himself be rejected;" how much more it behoves us to see to it that our "inner man" is "renewed day by day." In our contact with the "seen and temporal" duties and difficulties of life, we are apt to lose our vision of the "unseen and eternal" verities, the sight of which is so requisite to strengthen for service and qualify for success. If the Saviour and his apostles needed to go "apart into the desert and rest awhile," we also need our times of quiet contemplation and restful communion with the great Source of strength and wisdom. The ploughman counts it no waste of time to spell his horses while he cleans his mould-board, the carpenter finds it necessary to leave his work to sharpen his plane, and we too must keep our tools in order by waiting often upon the Lord.

In our gospel service there are many other problems to be considered: Work among the children, the Adult Bible Class, the weekly prayer meeting, the singing in gospel services, the construction and length of our sermons, the formation and use of a library, our relation to other preachers, how to spend our holidays (for every up-to-date church will give its preacher a

month's holiday every year), how to reach non-church-goers, how to decide when to change our fields of labor, and others, but time will only permit me to deal with a few problems connected with pastoral work.

Unscriptural terms.

Whether rightly or wrongly, in all our churches we preachers are expected to be also pastors, and in most cases the greater portion of the pastoral work falls to us. We are therefore really pastors, and in America the preacher is often called "the pastor." Of course, as every fully organized church has a plurality of elders or pastors, this term, "the pastor," as applied to the preacher is both unscriptural and incorrect, and I should be sorry to find it adopted in Australia. As our principal work is the proclamation of the gospel, we are rightly termed evangelists, though I prefer the English "preacher" to the Greek "evangelist" or the Latin "minister." An objection, too, may be fairly lodged against the word minister when used exclusively as "the minister," on the ground that elders and deacons are equally ministers or servants of the church. But however we may differ as to preferable names, we are all agreed that we must be pastors as well as preachers, and in this department of service there are problems to be faced.

Preachers and officers.

1. Should the preacher be regarded as an officer of the church, and as such have a place in the officers' meetings? Unhesitatingly I affirm that he should. By virtue of his position he generally has a much greater knowledge of the members and of the church work in general than any or perhaps all of the other officers. He is in touch with every department and auxiliary of church service, and hence is peculiarly qualified to counsel with the other officers respecting the welfare of the church. Whether called an officer of the church or not, he is as truly an officer as any man in the congregation, and if unfitted to take part in the officers' meetings he is unfitted for the office to which he has been appointed by the church. Of course any preacher with an atom of self-respect would absent himself from a meeting in which his re-engagement or salary were being discussed. I may say that during my whole career as a preacher extending over 28 years, in every church with which I have labored I have enjoyed fellowship with the officers in their regular monthly meetings. In the ordinary course there should be no friction between the preacher and officers, as they have the one object in view, the salvation of souls and the welfare of the church. And yet it is sometimes a problem how to avoid friction. Spurgeon is credited with saying, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you, but resist the deacons and they will fly at you." However, the wise preacher and wise officers will find it to their mutual advantage to

work harmoniously. If as preachers we cannot always persuade the other officers that our plans are the best, let us bow heartily for the time being to their decisions. I confess I have on more than one occasion had reason to be glad that my recommendations were not adopted.

Getting all to work.

2. Another problem is that of getting every member of the church into active service. Who has satisfactorily solved it? "An effectual working in the measure of every part" is the New Testament ideal, but where is this to be found? And yet this is the standard set for our attainment. No preacher can rest satisfied while there are idle members. The splendid system of committees as in the C.E. Societies might with advantage be adopted in many of our churches, but I fear the great majority of church members would, in C.E. phraseology, come under the heading of "honorary" rather than "active" membership, and therefore take no work on such committees. In small churches the difficulty is not so great, but in a large one it is indeed a difficult problem. Personally I do not favor the growth of large churches as a rule, to which I cheerfully admit there may be desirable exceptions. About from 250 to 350 members are as many as the ordinary preacher can look after or keep profitably employed.

The preacher and the purse.

3. Should the preacher have anything to do with church finance? In my earlier ministry I thought he should not—but now I believe that as a rule he should. The grace of liberality, like every other grace, requires cultivation, and the preacher who neglects this neglects his duty. Giving is as much a part of Christianity as singing, prayer, or attendance at the Lord's table, and no preacher is justified in omitting the cultivation of this part of religious duty merely because it is distasteful.

Etceteras.

4. What is the limit of a preacher's duties? Who will solve this problem by giving us a detailed and satisfactory definition of his work? In addition to those obviously connected with evangelistic and pastoral pursuits, many other claims press on his attention. Recently one of our well-known preachers announced through his church monthly that any wishing to adopt a girl could apply to him, while another paragraph stated that he was prepared to recommend a suitable home to those who desired to reside in a particular suburb. He evidently felt these matters formed a part of his work as a preacher. It is, of course, always understood that every deserving or undeserving beggar has the privilege of calling on the preacher for assistance, a privilege of which they readily avail themselves. The preacher is also frequently regarded as a labor bureau

agent, and expected if possible to find work for the unemployed. He is even sometimes treated as a matrimonial agent, and approached by would-be brides or, more often, bridegrooms, with a view to finding congenial partners for them. This has been my experience on more than one occasion. Perhaps I may have been wrong, but I confess I have drawn the line at this point, and declined to acknowledge this as a legitimate part of a preacher's duties. He is also expected to act the part of "guide, philosopher and friend" in connection with a hundred and one details of social, domestic, and business life. Who is prepared to accurately define his duties or fully describe his work?

As the conscientious preacher reflects upon the number, the variety, and the importance of the duties connected with his calling, a final problem presents itself in the words of the apostle, "Who is sufficient for these things?"

AUCKLAND DISTRICT CONFERENCE, N.Z.

The thirteenth annual Conference of Churches of Christ in the Middle District of New Zealand was held at Wellington South, April 9 and 10.

The proceedings opened with a short devotional meeting led by Bro. Franklyn, and at 10 a.m. the President, Jas. T. Hunter, took the chair.

The roll call of delegates was as follows: Lower Moutere, C. Limmer. Lower Hutt, A. Anderson. Nelson, W. L. Jones, E. Jackson, F. J. Phillips. Petone, W. Taylor, —Murgatroyd. Spring Grove, E. Lewis, A. Knapp. Stanley Brook, J. Griffith. Takaka, J. G. Price. Wai-iti, W. Wadsworth. Wanganui, H. Allen, H. Siddal. Wellington (Vivian-st.), Geo. Gray, A. Williams, G. Laurenson, J. J. Franklyn. Wellington South and Kilbirnie, D. Campbell, H. Hearle, J. Owen, J. Bewley. Pahiatua, Jos. Griffith, J. R. Hay, A. Thomson.

Bro. Campbell extended a welcome to the delegates on behalf of the Wellington South church.

In his Presidential address, Bro. Hunter made feeling reference to the loss sustained by the hand of death, and paid a fitting tribute to the memory of the absent ones. After touching on the statistical returns, wherein we show an increase by faith and obedience of 69, he noted that the average attendance at the meetings for worship was only about half of the membership—this was unsatisfactory, and called for immediate attention. He urged more generous interest in the work of evangelisation in the Dominion, pointing out the advantage of closer relationship in opening up fields. Special reference was made to the Centennial of the Restoration movement, and the circumstances leading up to the signing of the famous Declara-

tion. Emphasis was laid upon the necessity of studying the life and work of the pioneers, and a greater loyalty for the principles for which they so strenuously labored.

The President then gave a warm welcome to the new preachers—Bren. Jones, of Nelson, and More, of Palmerston North, and also the visitors.

It was resolved to send a written greeting to the Convention to be held at Pittsburg on the occasion of the Centennial celebrations.

Part of the annual report was as follows:—"A number of changes have taken place in the personnel of the Committee during the year. Bro. Dick, who for a number of years had acted as Secretary to this Conference, removed to Auckland soon after the year opened. On Bro. Dick resigning from the Secretaryship, Bro. Vickery accepted that position, Bro. Turner being chosen to fill the vacancy on the Committee. Bro. Vickery also left Wellington for Auckland, and Bro. Franklyn was appointed to act as Secretary. Bro. Gray, who was appointed to the position of Vice-President, felt compelled to resign his position, and Bro. Davis was elected to that post."

The result of the annual appeal to the churches was somewhat disappointing, as we aimed at reaching the sum of £150, but the amount received was only £107/1/- . It was urged upon the delegates and the churches they represented, the necessity of bringing this annual effort more prominently before the brotherhood, as the success of our work depended largely upon the result of these appeals.

OUR MISSION FIELDS.

Pahiatua.—In accordance with the decision of last Conference, Bro. Mortimer started in this field in April last. He, however, accepted an invitation to Ballarat, Victoria, so that he left this town in January. No one has yet been engaged to fill his place, and this question will be brought up for your consideration.

Nelson District.—The Conference last year, in re-engaging Bro. Price for this field, instructed that he be located in a central position and remain there so long as the circumstances were favorable. The special committee set up by Conference to consider the best location decided to recommend that Bro. Price be located at Takaka. He has accordingly devoted his whole time to the work in this town and its immediate surroundings, with a fair measure of success.

Palmerston North.—The small church in this town decided to make a special effort to carry out evangelistic work, and entered into an engagement with Bro. More to preach for them. This he has done for some time now, the result being a satisfactory increase in the membership. An appeal was made by the church to the Executive for assistance, and it was decided to grant the church £1 per week.

At the General Conference held at New Year a committee was set up to consider the question of establishing a church magazine for N.Z. The initial report of this committee was received, and a good deal of consideration given to it. The matter was finally referred to the churches.

D. M. McCrackett then read the Conference Essay, entitled, "Centennial Aims," which proved to be a very interesting and thoughtful production. The main points were:—1. A call to greater earnestness in the great mission of the church. 2. The arousing of a keener missionary spirit. 3. A revival of interest in Bible School work. 4. A Bible study campaign.

At the Home Mission Rally held on Friday evening there was a very large gathering. Five brief addresses were given on, "The Church of God," as follows:—"The Church Foretold," Bro. McCrackett; "The Church Established," Bro. More; "The Church in Apostasy," Bro. Price; "The Church Restored," Bro. Franklyn; "The Church Triumphant," Bro. Jones. These were interspersed with musical items.

SATURDAY.

The session opened by a devotional meeting led by Bro. Lewis.

Recommendations for future work from the retiring Executive were then considered and adopted as follows:—

Pahiatua.—That it be a recommendation to the incoming Committee to secure a preacher for this field at the earliest opportunity.

Palmerston North.—That it be a recommendation to the new Committee to thoroughly investigate the work in this town and give favorable consideration to its claims.

Taranaki and Taihape.—That it be a recommendation to the incoming Committee to consider the question of giving evangelistic assistance to the cause in the districts.

The election of the new Executive was then attended to, and resulted as follows: President, Jos. J. Franklyn. Vice-President, R. B. Davis. Treasurer, D. Campbell. Secretary, Jno. Bewley. Committee, Bren. Taylor, Day, Owen, and Williams.

Bro. Campbell then read a paper on "The Consolidation of the Churches," and after some discussion it was resolved to refer the matter to the churches.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORT.

Our Foreign Missionary Committee, consisting of Sisters Craig (President), Richards (Secretary), G. Richards, Owen and Pritchard, and Bren. Burnett, Campbell, Owen and Williams, have much pleasure in presenting their report.

We regret that owing to Sister Carter's removal from Wellington, her resignation had to be accepted. The vacancy has been filled by Bro. Burnett. During the greater part of the year our enthusiastic Secretary has been on the nursing staff of the hospital or laid aside by illness, so that her valuable services have been lost to the Committee. She leaves shortly on a

trip to England. We wish her a pleasant trip and safe return.

During the year thirteen ordinary meetings and one rally have been held, and keen interest has been manifested by all in the reports from our mission field. A letter was received from Agrippa, thanking the Conference for the gift sent to him last Easter. In accordance with his own desires, we have recommended that he be relieved from teaching, and allowed to devote himself entirely to evangelistic work. Bro. Hadfield suggests that huts be erected on our Forest Vale Station, and that promising young men be housed and trained as native preachers. The erection of each hut would cost something like £15, and the maintenance of each student would be about £18 per year. This is a grand scheme, and one we should endeavor to support.

We have also been asked to formulate some scheme for raising funds to meet the expenses of our missionary's furlough, which has been promised in less than three years' time.

Whilst our Committee could not see its way to form an auxiliary of the American Christian Women's Board of Missions, we are pleased to report that a number of our sisters have resolved to form a N.Z. C.W.B.M. The object of this is to create a deeper interest in Home and Foreign Missions. We are approaching the Sisters' Conference at Oamaru with a view to securing their co-operation. We trust that they will unite with us, and form a strong society. We would be glad if delegates would bring this before the sisters in their respective churches, and urge them to form auxiliaries. We shall be glad to receive the names of those willing to act as F.M. representatives in each church.

Brethren and sisters, the fields are now white unto harvest, and as stewards of God's bounty it behoves us to give of our means, that the harvest may be gathered. Let us also pray for the success of this great work, and as we bear up at the throne of grace those who are laboring in foreign fields, our own souls will be blessed, and we shall realise more fully than ever what it is to be co-workers with him who has died for our redemption. Yours in the Master's service.—M. H. CRAIG.

Recommendations.—(1) That we endeavor to raise £150 this year. (2) That the F.M. offering be taken up on 1st Sunday in October.

The following F.M. Committee was then elected:—Sisters Craig, G. Richards, Owen and Pritchard, Bren. Williams, Campbell, Nimmo, Owen and Hearle.

It was decided to hold the next Conference at Spring Grove.

The following resolution was then carried:—"That this Conference of delegates representing the Middle District of the Associated Churches of Christ wishes to place upon record its thankfulness to God for the result of the last No License poll, and that it gives approval to the principle embodied in the No License platform that the total prohibition of the sale of alcoholic liquor would be conducive to right living, and thus further extension of the work of God."

On Saturday evening the Bible School Session was held, when an essay on "Bible School Work" was read by Miss Richards.

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The Leader.

The Centenary Celebrations.

The Centennial number of the CHRISTIAN is now in the hands of our readers, and from its contents a fair idea can be formed of the way in which the Centenary of the Restoration movement was celebrated in Australia. It will be admitted, we think, that our Centennial number is a very fine specimen of the printer's art, and is worthy of the occasion which brought it forth. We are conscious, however, that the printing press has its limitations. Its mechanical processes may be perfect, but, after all, it is only mechanical. It may record with great fidelity the events which have transpired, but there is one thing it cannot do—it cannot reproduce the atmosphere in which the events took place. It is easy enough to record the words which a speaker used on a great occasion, but you cannot reproduce his voice, nor the effect which the speech made upon the audience. There is an emotional atmosphere in all great occasions which can only be realised and felt by those who were actual participators in them. Those who read the Centennial number and were not present at the celebration meetings will miss the fire, the enthusiasm, the sense of brotherly unity, which permeated all the gatherings, and which all conspired to make them an epoch in one's life.

Kinship in Christ.

Irrespective of the great occasion which called so many brethren together, there was something exceedingly impressive in observing the spirit of unity which prevailed. Geographical distinctions seemed to be forgotten. It was as if one great family had met together and had realised their unity in the Lord Jesus Christ. One realised that kinship in Jesus Christ meant something. There is nothing finer on this earth than this same kinship. One has only to travel round

the world and to seek out his brethren in Christ to understand that the whole globe is encircled by the fellowship of Christian love. And the Sydney gatherings have given us a splendid object-lesson of this. In this city of beautiful surroundings, there were gathered together brethren from all parts of Australasia, from Great Britain, from Africa, from India, and from the islands of the sea, all of whom received a hearty welcome and abundant hospitality and fraternal kindness from their brethren in the Mother State of the Commonwealth. Many fine scenes were looked upon during the course of the celebrations, but not the least impressive was the great demonstration of welcome which greeted the visitors, when their long and weary journeyings came to an end at the railway station in Sydney. It is no mere figure of speech to say that they were at once taken to the homes and hearts of their brethren in New South Wales.

The biggest demonstration.

It is a safe thing to say that the Centennial celebrations were the biggest thing in the matter of demonstrations that the Churches of Christ have hitherto attempted. It was a great occasion calling for great efforts. Failure to respond to the call was easy, to be equal to it a matter of great difficulty. We only voice the views of all the visitors when we say that the brethren in New South Wales rose to the occasion. They had faith in themselves, faith in their visitors, and faith in the occasion which called them together—and this faith removed the mountain of difficulties which stood in the way. From personal knowledge we happen to know that one of the initial difficulties which confronted the Acting-Executive was the question of finance. It had no funds worth talking about at its disposal, but in the face of this it decided to conduct all its public meetings without taking up collections. There should only be one collection taken up, namely, that at the united communion service, at which only brethren were present. It was believed that this would meet all their needs—and it did. Faith met its reward in the splendid collection of £100. To members of other religious bodies it must have been something surprising that so many religious meetings should have been held without the plate being sent round! The effect upon them could not be otherwise than good.

The primary object.

We now come to the primary object of these great gatherings. It was to celebrate the Centenary of the Restoration movement. One hundred years ago, a work had been set on foot to restore the ancient landmarks and to put before the world a propaganda which should have for its object the union of all Christians upon the common basis of New Testament truth. The Centenary year of this movement was considered to be a fitting occasion for thanksgiving and rejoicing—an occasion, also, in which the past might be reviewed, and additional emphasis be given to the great truths of the divine plea. Well, it was a season of great rejoicing and thanksgiving, a splendid testi-

mony to the fact that great demonstrations may be conducted without the violation of a single New Testament principle. It was also a season of inspiration and education. Never before in our history were the principles of primitive Christianity so largely and so clearly set forth. It was an inspiration to listen to the respective speakers as they dealt with the old familiar themes; familiar, that is, to many of us, but not so familiar to the younger members of our churches. But to both alike it was an inspiration to steadfastness.

An educational force.

One of the things that gave us pleasure about these gatherings was the number of young men and young women who were found present at all of them. With these especially the celebrations must be a great educational force. Not only with them, but with all, as a result of the lucid and eloquent setting forth of the primitive faith and our part in the restoration of it, there must of necessity be a great accession of strength and the impartation of more spiritual backbone. Nor will the benefits arising from these meetings be confined to ourselves. In the great city of Sydney, many who knew little about us will have learned more clearly what we as a religious body stand for. Many persons will be enquiring who these people are and what are their religious views. This awakening of interest should not be allowed to pass without making a profitable use of it. The spoken word should be followed by the printed page. A period of literary activity should follow up the advantage gained by the celebrations.

The summit not yet reached.

Periods of spiritual exaltation are frequently followed by periods of spiritual depression. This should be guarded against in the present case. The enthusiasm generated should not be allowed to run to waste, but should be utilised for present and future aggressive work. The Centenary year we have reached is not the end of the journey, but only a halting-place, where for a while we look back at the work done and look forward to the work yet to be accomplished. As yet we have done little more than commence the climbing of the hill—the summit to be reached is yet in the distance. There are many years of toil before us—years of great endeavor and heroic struggle. We have learned afresh that the work in which we are engaged is worthy of our best and noblest efforts. It only remains a question as to whether we as a people have enough courage and faith to surmount the difficulties that lie before us and thus bring victory to the cause of Christ. To do this, we will have to unite with our courage and faith an intelligent perception of the principles involved in the plea we advocate. Our presentation of New Testament truth must not be rude and repelling, but have all the attractive power of a beautiful simplicity. Let our conservatism be of the right kind—a conservatism which someone has defined as follows:—"True conservatism is substantial progress; it holds fast what is true and good in order to advance in both."

Editorial Notes.

The Meetings in Sydney.

Our great Centennial Conference is over, but its effects, like the soul of "Old John Brown," will still "go marching on." The large audiences, the able addresses, the warm enthusiasm, the unbounded hospitality, the splendid singing, and in short the whole arrangements, were well calculated to produce an indelible impression on the minds of those fortunate enough to be present. It may be that in Melbourne or Adelaide, where the brotherhood is stronger, the audiences would have been larger, if buildings large enough were available, but they could not have excelled in interest and enthusiasm. The immense communion service in the Town Hall was especially impressive. Never before in our history in Australia have so many brethren met at the table of the Lord. Indeed, it is doubtful whether in connection with any religious body beneath the Southern Cross between two and three thousand people have partaken together of the memorials of the Lord's death. It was a soul-elevating service, "a fellowship of kindred minds," and an experience of communion with the Unseen that can never be forgotten. But with all the interest and enthusiasm of these Centennial gatherings, we doubt whether much impression was made on that city of six hundred thousand. A prize-fight, mis-called a boxing contest, a race meeting, or a divorce case would have been fully reported in the daily press in all its details, but a religious convention with thousands of attendants and with hundreds of delegates from all parts of Australasia was hardly worthy of notice, and the reports were meagre in the extreme. Scarcely a ripple was made on the surface of that sea of humanity; but it may be that the influence was greater than appears, and it is certain that the stimulus received by those present must result in increased zeal and more effective service.

The Financial Problem.

The *Christian-Evangelist* has recently drawn attention to the problem of how to get church members to realise their responsibility in the matter of church finance. It is a simple matter of fact that many do not appear to have any conscience on this subject. Judging from what appears in our American papers, we are inclined to think that on the whole our Australian brethren are in advance of those in America, but no one will question the need for great improvement. As a rule a low measure of giving is a true indication of a low spiritual life. It is also significant that, generally speaking, the churches which give least for Home and Foreign Missions miserably support the local work. The grace of giving like every other grace requires cultivation, and the officers and preachers who do not educate the church on this subject are culpable of serious neglect of duty. Happy the church whose leaders set the example of generous giving. The neglect of a large congregation to contribute freely for

the work of the gospel was once explained to us as being the result of the example of its officers. If under Mosaic law a tithe was devoted to the support of religion, surely Christianity, with its larger blessings, should receive a more generous offering. But how many of our church members do not even devote one-tenth of their income to the work of the Lord! As all the brethren share in blessings received, so all should share, in proportion and ability, in the expenses incurred by the erection of buildings, support of preachers, etc. But how are the debtors to be reached? As a rule they do not read our papers, and this note will not meet their eyes. Russell S. Thrapp suggests in the *Evangelist* the system adopted in the church at Jacksonville, Illinois, and which is not uncommon in America. "We began what we call the 'voluntary apportionment plan,' some years ago. Each member receives through the post an explanatory circular giving his apportionment for the year with the privilege of raising or lowering the amount. If in ten days no objection is raised, the apportionment is entered upon the books as a pledge." A financial secretary is employed and paid for his work, and at the end of six months a statement is sent to each member. The result according to Bro. Thrapp is highly successful. "We raise two dollars now easier than one dollar under the old system of going about and asking pledges." New members receive their apportionment shortly after baptism. Objections will readily present themselves. As the writer states: "To be sure at first there will be objections, with cries of 'assessment' and 'the abomination of taxation.' But every plan will meet with some complaint, and this is the most equitable and common-sense to be tried." It remains to be proved whether this system would work in Australasia. That some means is required to reach those who neglect their duty in giving all will admit. Systematic and regular giving will enhance the happiness and increase the efficiency of the church. What the writer quoted calls "a courageous and persevering financial committee" is required to the effectual working of any plan of church finance.

Centennial Roll Books.

The Centennial Secretary has sent to all the Australian churches roll-books to be filled up with names of members and sent to Pittsburg. Books have also been sent to the churches in England, Canada, Scandinavia and all the mission stations as well as to those in America, and these will be all preserved in America in commemoration of the Centennial. It would be well for the secretaries of all the churches to see that these are promptly filled up and forwarded as directed in the circulars sent.

Concerning the Book,

"That they All may be One."

We have still 3000 copies of this book to dispose of, and we appeal to the brethren everywhere to help us for the following reasons:—

1. The book is a good one, full of information, up-to-date, just the thing to keep as a work of reference, or to give to non-members to let them know all about the Churches of Christ in all the world.

2. It is a marvel of cheapness, the cheapest book ever issued by the Churches of Christ in Australia.

3. The Austral undertook all the work and expense and risk in production. With the exception of planning the chapters, and allotting the writers, the editorial work was done in the Austral office, free of charge. As the Centennial Committee had no money, we advanced nearly £300 to print, bind and publish the book, knowing that it would be years before we got all our money back. As we are selling so cheaply, the probability is that even if we dispose of the whole 5000 copies we shall in the end be out of pocket. We did not ask the Centennial Committee to purchase copies, and they have not been able to order any.

4. We published the book for the good of the cause, and the advancement of the interests of the churches, realising that this is what we are in existence for as the publishing house of the Churches of Christ in Australasia.

We think, therefore, that we have a right to appeal to all our readers to help us in the circulation of the book. You will be doing a good work if you buy a copy for yourself and one at least to give away. Send us the name and address of some person to whom you would like us to post a copy. There are scores of ministers, church officers and Sunday School teachers, among other bodies, who should have a copy of this book. Send for a copy to be placed in the reading-room in your district, or to be sent to the editor of your local paper for review. Who will help?

G. P. PITTMAN, Manager.

Middle District Conference, N.Z.

(Continued from page 251)

A remit from the General Conference containing several recommendations was also considered, and a very lively interest was shown in the discussion by those present.

Instead of the usual picnic on Easter Monday, meetings were held both morning and evening for deepening the spiritual life of the church. In the morning the themes were:—"Complete Surrender," E. Lewis; "The Spirit-filled life," Bro. Price; "God's Witnesses," Bro. Jones. And in the evening:—"Watch Ye," Bro. Hunter; "Stand fast in the Faith," Bro. Price; "Be Strong," Bro. McCrackett; "Pray without Ceasing," J. Griffith; "Rejoice Evermore," Bro. Franklyn. These meetings proved to be so helpful, and were attended by such a large number of the brethren, that it was decided to continue the innovation next year.

This ended one of the most enjoyable and profitable Conferences of the churches in the Middle District.

S.A. Home Missions.

H. J. HORSELL.

No Committee meeting was held in April, on account of so many being in Sydney at the Centennial Conference.

Reports to hand from the field are very encouraging.

PORT PIRIE.—Bro. Mitchell in his letter says, "I have held meetings in Pirie, Port Germain and Baroota. Have been visiting (2½ weeks) in the latter district for the first time. Four young men confessed Christ and I baptised them in the Telawie Baptist chapel (kindly loaned). This makes eight baptisms from the new fields. Good meeting at Pirie and one baptism."

MILE END.—Two received by faith and baptism, and two by letter; and two more confessions.

NARRACOORTE.—Bro. Thomas reports, "We have had a good time this month. Largest meetings since I commenced the work, and two baptisms. Special singing practices and prayer meetings have been held each week in preparing for our mission. D. A. Ewers welcomed with a prayer meeting. Mission commenced April 25. Had a heavy rain, but about 70 present; Monday 55, and Tuesday 57."

GOOLWA.—Bro. Train has had a holiday at Sydney, and supplies have been sent from the city. R. Harkness commenced a mission there April 25.

STRATHALBYN.—Bro. Jenner has also been enjoying himself in Sydney. Preachers have gone up from Adelaide for the Sunday.

MAYLANDS.—Bro. Smith is hard at work at Maylands, and having good meetings. Some 36 brethren and sisters have given in their names to establish a church. We urgently need a chapel there.

WEST COAST DISTRICT.—Bro. Forrester is having splendid meetings at Butler. He has commenced meetings at Tumby Bay, with the idea of establishing a cause there. He visits each place alternate Sundays. There are good prospects.

KADINA.—Bro. Warren appears to be having good meetings, and there have been two baptisms.

GLENELG.—I hear of improving meetings and one baptism. Bro. Pittman has started a series of lantern lectures Wednesday evenings.

Total additions from the nine fields, 16.

FINANCES.—To date, nearly all the churches have sent in their annual offering. Will the remainder forward as soon as possible? We need a lot of money to keep all our fields going. Others are appealing. Send to day to H. J. Horsell, Charles-st., Beverley.

From the Field.

South Australia.

GROTE-ST.—We were pleased to have Bro. Thomas back with us to-day, and this morning he gave a very interesting and instructive talk on the Centennial gatherings. To-night he delivered a good discourse to a large congregation. The S.S. anniversary will be held on May 23 and 26. A service of song entitled "Singing Jim" will be rendered.—E R M., May 2.

MILE END.—Since last report we have had six additions to our membership, four by faith and obedience, and two by letter. Splendid meetings all to-day. 30 at the Junior Endeavor, 45 at the morning meeting, 101 at the Sunday School. Two more confessions at the evening meeting.—M., May 2.

UNLEY.—Good meetings both morning and evening to-day, Bro. Gore taking for his text "Compel them to Come In." Special mission services commence

next Sunday (May 9), under the leadership of Arthur G. Day. A welcome social will be tendered him on Friday.—P.S.M., May 2.

KADINA.—Last Lord's day week the writer took the confession of a man in his sick room. At the gospel service in the evening a brother who had wandered from the Lord returned. Thursday week a young girl was baptised. To-night a young man made the good confession. There was a fine congregation.—E. G. WARREN, May 2.

YORK.—In the absence of the writer (who assisted the church at Stirling East on April 25), E. McPhee exhorted the church, and A. Fischer preached the gospel. To-night we had an in memoriam service, reference being made to our departed Sister Mrs. E. G. Todd. One woman confessed Christ.—H J H., May 2.

HENLEY BEACH.—A. Fischer and W. Mathews assisted here on April 25. The annual social and business meeting of the church was held on April 28. The treasurer reported a balance in hand £ren. Lewis and E. Stanford were elected to the diaconate. Morton Noble was appointed secretary.—H J H., May 2.

NORWOOD.—At the gospel meeting last night a young woman confessed Christ. We have arranged with Mr. Jno. Urquhart, of Melbourne, to give two addresses in the Tabernacle on May 20 and 23. A presentation was made by the Sunday School to A. L. Read, who has been secretary for some time, and has resigned to become the superintendent of the Maylands Sunday School.—A. C. RANKINE, May 10.

GLENELG.—At our Wednesday evening service Mr. Lange, from Roseworthy Agricultural College, made the good confession before a splendid audience. Sunday morning we were favored with an inspiring address from Bro. Burford on "Echoes from the Centenary." Baptismal service at night, and another large audience.—ERNEST W. PITTMAN, May 10.

UNLEY.—Special mission services commenced yesterday. Arthur G. Day, the missionary, spoke splendidly in the morning to a good audience on "Soul Winning," and in the evening preached to a packed meeting, taking for his subject, "Why does God Save Men?" when two made the good confession. Great interest is being manifested in this special effort. A welcome social was tendered to Bro. Day on Friday, and a very pleasant evening was spent. Bro. and Sister Charlick and family have returned after spending the summer months in the hills. P.S.M., May 10.

HINDMARSH. Sunday, April 25, good meetings, two confessions. May 2, A. Dodson addressed the church; 630 J. Blackett, from the Bowden Methodist Church, took the service; good attendances both meetings. May 8, I. A. Paternoster spoke; two immersed believers received the right hand of fellowship. Bro. and Sister F. Plant and their daughter were welcomed. At 3 p.m., under the auspices of the Robert-st. Church of Christ Brotherhood forward movement, Mr. John Urquhart gave an interesting and instructive discourse on "Is the Doctrine of the Atonement Credible?" Special singing was rendered by the choir, and solos by Mrs. A. Edquist.—J. W. SNOOK.

MILANG.—We were pleased to have our Bro. Hall back from Sydney. Good meeting morning and evening; fine addresses. Bro. and Sister Ogilvy spent last Sunday with us. We were pleased to have them back again.—H.G.

GOOLWA.—Good interest maintained in the mission being held here. We are continuing three more nights. One confession last week.—J T., May 9.

Victoria.

SOUTH YARRA.—One young woman confessed Christ last Lord's day.—T M., May 3.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.—Good meeting at 11. Bro. Kingshott, from Broadmeadows, addressed the church. Record attendance at gospel meeting despite the inclement weather, and at the close of address by Bro. Stevens two young women made the good confession. Many of our members are sick.—S. NORTHEAST, May 3.

PRESTON.—Our golden offering for the building fund has realised £7/10/-. Another £2 to come in yet. Twenty-five partook of the emblems this morning. To-night's meetings filled all seats. Bro. Goodwin's subject was "Paul before Felix or Felix before Paul?" One decision, a daughter of Bro. and Sister Styles, from Burnie, who are meeting with us. Our Bible School anniversary is on the 16th. Visitors welcomed.—W.S., May 2.

WARRNAMBOOL.—A mission was started here last Lord's day, with fine attendance and splendid interest. Brethren, pray for us.—J. G. SHAIN.

NEWMARKET.—Three boys from Sunday School confessed Christ last Lord's day week.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.)—F. M. Ludbrook exhorted the church. Bro. Smith, from N.Z., Bro. Lockyer, of Northam, W.A., and Sister Wilson, from Perth, were present. One sister restored. Nice meeting at night. Bro. Bagley was the preacher.—J. McC., May 2.

BENDIGO.—Last Lord's day a full house listened to our evangelist on the subject of "Signals." Bro. and Sister Ball have recently returned from their wanderings. Our brother will be welcome for the work at Bendigo, Golden Square, Derby and Kangaroo. The Bible School is preparing for the anniversary on the 23rd and 26th inst., a good time being assured; Golden Square school to follow in August, after which Derby expects to surprise everybody.—J.S.

MORELAND.—The church held its first meeting on Sunday, May 9. We commenced the cause with 38 members on the roll, and 41 broke bread. Bro. Bagley exhorted the church very suitably, on "The Duties of a Christian."—H. CLEGG, May 10.

BRUNSWICK.—Our Bible School anniversary services were held in the local Town Hall on 2nd and 4th inst., the hall being crowded at every meeting. At worship Bro. Parker exhorted. In the afternoon F. M. Ludbrook addressed the children on "Puffing Billy," and Bro. Harward preached the gospel in the evening. On Tuesday, R. McSolvin, the president of the S.S. Union, presided and gave out the prizes. The secretary's report showed the school to be third largest in Victoria. Bro. Hardie, the superintendent, did good work, and was well assisted by teachers and friends.—W. THOMPSON, May 9.

HUNTER-ST.—On April 14, at the church business meeting, Bro. Slimon was asked to continue as evangelist. C. Newham was accorded a vote of thanks for his work as secretary, from which office he retires on account of ill-health, and A. Elliott was elected to the position. All meetings are well attended. We have started open-air services, which are conducted by Bro. Elliott, assisted by the brethren. The secretary's address is A. D. Elliott, 5 Hunter-st., Richmond.

HAWTHORN.—Three confessions last Lord's day. **PRESTON.**—One confession last Lord's day, and another to-night. We gratefully acknowledge 10/- from Sth. Yarra and 10/6 from Meredith churches for our building fund.—W.A.S., May 8.

WEDDERBURN.—Bro. Miller arrived, and preached on the evening of May 2. The following Wednesday evening we held a social gathering. A programme was rendered. Bro. Petterd occupied the chair.—G.D., May 10.

COLAC.—Bro. and Sister Connor were received into fellowship to-day. Bro. Connor spoke on the Conference held in Sydney. In the evening the hall was comfortably filled.—J.G.L., May 10.

SOUTH RICHMOND (Balmain-st.)—Eight confessions on May 2. A lad from the Bible School confessed Christ last Lord's day evening. Sister Mrs. Neate passed away on Saturday last, and was buried the following day (May 9). She celebrated her 100th birthday on Feb. 4 this year.—WM. GALE.

MELBOURNE (Swanston-st.)—Last Lord's day H. J. Banks, of Subiaco, W.A., addressed the church very acceptably. Herbert Smith, of Auckland, and Sister Manning, of Mile End, S.A., were amongst other visitors. Bro. Gordon preached in the evening on "The Gentile Pentecost."

KANIVA.—Last Thursday a young man who has been an earnest worker among the Methodists was baptised by Bro. Benn. Good meeting at Yanipy in the afternoon, and also here in the evening, Bro. Edwards preaching.—W., May 10.

SOUTH MELBOURNE.—Two received into fellowship Sister L. Morris, from N Fitzroy, and P. Burns, from Wampony, S.A. now in the College of the Bible. Bro. Noble, from the Bible College, addressed the church. Thirty-four at last C.E. meeting.—S. NORTH-EAST, May 9.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.)—We were pleased to have with us Sister Halliday, of Mildura, Walter Kemp, Emerald, also Linley Gordon. W. W. Mantell presided, and Joseph Pittman exhorted the church. At night Linley Gordon discoursed upon "The Charmed Life." There was one confession, a brother, who with his wife, previously connected with the church, will unite with us.—J. McC.

TARNAGULLA.—A. W. Jinks conducted a service here on the afternoon of last Lord's day. There were 30 present. Services will be held every fortnight. This is a good place for true gospel preaching. Several brethren and sisters are helping to prepare the way for a big mission here.

HORSHAM.—Last Lord's day evening J. Butler, of Powkemet, addressed one of the best meetings that has been held for some time.—H.J.K.

New Zealand.

OMARU—We held our Bible School anniversary on April 1, and everything passed off well. A bright programme was well rendered. Mr. Mathieson distributed prizes to about 50 scholars. The following Lord's day was Decision Day in the school. Bro. Mathieson spoke on the lesson of Peter and Cornelius, and two girls confessed Christ. The Conference gatherings have been a time of spiritual refreshing and Christian fellowship. F. W. Greenwood exhorted the church and W. D. Little preached the Conference sermon. Both addresses were splendid efforts.—W.K., April 17.

Queensland.

ROMA.—The monthly meeting at Yingerbay last Lord's day afternoon was well attended. A number of young men were present. Two decisions. The night gospel services at Roma, both open-air and inside meetings, were good.—T.G.M., May 3.

West Australia.

CLAREMONT.—Two additions, a fine young woman and man, Bro. Lucraft preaching. He has most ably occupied the platform for the past month. A. Johnston takes up the work here on May 2.—W. C. Cook, April 24.

PERTH.—A largely attended, representative and enthusiastic meeting was held on Wednesday, April 28, in the Lake-st. chapel, to welcome Bro. and Sister W. B. Blakemore, who have just arrived from U.S.A. to assist in the Master's work in Perth. Hy. Wright occupied the chair, and addresses were given by G. B. Moysey, A. W. Manning, A. Bell, H. P. Manning and R. W. Ewers. Bro. Blakemore expressed his delight at being with us and once more on mother earth. He had come from a land of warm hearts, and had heard before he left of the warm-hearted Australians. He thanked the brethren for their hearty welcome, and because they had made them both feel so much at home.—R.W.E.

New South Wales.

BROKEN HILL.—To-day 45 met to break bread. Bro. and Sister Spurr and daughter were with us as visitors from Grote-st. The writer is glad to be able to meet with the brethren again. Evening services well attended, quite a number of young men coming regularly.—R. J. HOUSE, May 3.

MOULDMEIN.—We started a Lord's day school here to-day. Eleven scholars, two classes. All sang lustily and made enough music for twice the number. Hope to get permission to conduct meetings in Presbyterian chapel. Broke bread in our own home; will be glad to know of any brethren in this district.—A.P., May 2.

AUBURN.—At a social we said good-bye to Bro. Hagger and welcomed Bro. and Sister Mudge. G. H. Browne, who took the confession of Bro. Mudge and baptised him some eight years ago, took the chair. A presentation was made to Bro. Hagger in the form of a kit-bag and leather writing-case. About 80 gathered around the Lord's table on Lord's day morning, and eight more were received into fellowship, making the total membership 106. Bro. Mudge is much encouraged by the splendid gatherings all day.—J. W. CLAY, May 3.

Here & There.

Decisions reported in this issue, 46.

Two confessions at Surrey Hills last Sunday night week.

We are glad to know that a Sisters' Conference has been started in Auckland, N.Z.

Thos. Hagger expects to sail per s.s. "Persic" from Melbourne on June 16 for London.

There will be a meeting of sisters at South Melbourne (Vic.), next Tuesday, 18th, at 3 o'clock.

Sister Mrs. A. Neate died on Saturday at Richmond, Vic., at the age of 100 years and 3 months.

Bro. Uren has been engaged by the Boonah church, Qld., and commenced his labors last Lord's day week.

W. J. S. Thompson is now the secretary of the church at Brunswick (Vic.). Address, 367 Edward-st., East Brunswick.

A brother closes a letter to this office with the earnest wish that the CHRISTIAN may survive to record another Centenary.

The article by D. A. Ewers on "Preachers' Problems," on page 249, was read at the Centennial Celebrations in Sydney.

A series of articles by J. C. F. Pittman on his travels through Palestine, etc., is appearing in the Register, an Adelaide daily paper.

Read the notice in Coming Events re the Christian Endeavor Demonstration at the Collins-st. Independent Church, Melbourne, on May 24.

James Parker, evangelist, is open to communicate with any church in need of a preacher. Apply c/o Mr. James Quick, David-st., off Alfred-st., East Brunswick.

F. J. Burcher, c/o Goldsbrough, Mort & Co., Sydney, is agent for the book, "That they All may be One," and for all Austral literature. Brethren in Sydney please patronise him.

While the Victorian Sisters' Conference Executive does not include politics in its platform, it is thought wise to remind the sisterhood of Victoria of the necessity of securing electors' rights.

Bro. Woodgate having resigned the secretaryship of the church at Northcote (Vic.) on account of ill-health, Bro. Chipperfield has been elected in his place. Address, "Mackay," Clyde-st., Northcote.

Miss Mary Thompson will go to Tasmania next Tuesday. She hopes to visit New South Wales early in June for about a month. Churches in Victoria desirous of a visit from Miss Thompson should write to F. M. Ludbrook.

The sisters at Bet Bet gave Sister A. W. Jinks a welcome tea on April 28. A pleasant evening was spent. Sister Jinks received some very useful presents, some of the Dunolly members joining in this pleasant function.

At the last moment we noticed a mistake in the headline of the New Zealand Conference Report on page 250. It should be "Middle District," not Auckland. That portion of the paper had been printed when we became aware of the error.

The N.S.W. Home Missionary Committee is looking for a young single man to take up the work of evangelist in a country district. The place will call for hard work, a moderate amount of common sense, and some travelling. Is there a young man willing to go?

Bro. Warren, of Kadina, S.A., had some money handed him the other day to be spent in tracts to be delivered in his house-to-house visitation. Brethren with a little money to spare could not do better than to supply the preacher with ammunition in the shape of Austral literature. It pays.

J. Fraser, of Merewether, N.S.W., writes:—"After attending the grand united communion service in the Town Hall, Sydney, I think with others it would be a splendid idea to have a united service at all our annual Conferences. I have heard many of the brotherhood express the same desire."

S.S. Union (Vic.).—Due notice has been given of the following alteration to the Constitution in Rule 3, which will be considered at the annual business meeting to be held on May 17 (see Coming Events):—"That the words 'Or presided over by a member of the Church of Christ,' be added thereto." The attention of all secretaries (Union) is drawn to the above, so that same may be considered by the officers of their respective schools.—J. Y. POTTS.

The hotel-keeper at Brim (Vic.) is leaving. He says he is glad to get away; he never saw such people for meddling in one's affairs as the Brim people. He is still very sore over the recent defeat. Bro. Oram is also leaving Brim, where he has labored during the past four years. He goes to St. Arnaud.

Paul Singh, who is laboring under the auspices of the English Foreign Mission Committee at Daltonganj, Bengal, India, is doing a good work and meeting with success. He has opened a reading-room, which was visited the other day by a judge, a doctor, and a number of students of the Government High School.

A brother at Croydon, Victoria, sowed three shillings worth of peas in his garden intending to devote the proceeds to the Foreign Mission fund. He has sent along so far nine shillings from sale of the produce, and may have more. Possibly others may be able to follow this brother's example for the benefit of Home or Foreign Missions.

During the Sydney celebrations a large number of visitors spent a short time in the Blue Mountains, enjoying the beautiful and sublime scenery of that wonderful district. One of these parties of about 40 brethren and sisters expresses indebtedness to T. B. Fischer, who acted as organiser, and contributed greatly to the pleasure of the trip.

"It may be remarked that, according to Biblical and historical usage, the term 'church' is used equally incorrectly of the 'Roman' or the 'Anglican' or the 'Wesleyan' church. The New Testament knows of 'the church,' that is the 'universal Church,' and 'the church of Corinth' or 'Rome,' that is to say that part of the Universal Church which sojourns in Rome or Corinth: it knows nothing of a Roman church in Corinth or of a Jewish or a Gentile Church in Corinth, or a Church of Peter or Paul or Apollos; all these are impossible ideas."—*The Church Quarterly Review*, Jan., 1909

A brother who signs himself "Delegate" writes: "At the gathering which closed the great convention there was an unfortunate omission that we interstate visitors very much regret. No doubt Bro. Walden and Bro. Illingworth as well as Bro. Smith worked hard, and well earned the good things said of them. However, we country visitors feel that the convener of the Hospitality Committee, James Hunter, must have had a great deal of hard work in finding places for us to stay, and we deeply regret that no kind of reference was made to what must have been an arduous responsibility. We desire to place on record our hearty appreciation of the kindly efforts of Bro. Hunter on our behalf, and to assure him of our gratitude. And we further suggest that something should be even now done by the Executive and placed upon the minutes of the convention."

Acknowledgments.

FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

VICTORIA.

Churches—Northcote, 13/6; Bayswater, per Mrs. Clements, 16/3; Swanston-st., per Miss Bett, 10/10; North Fitzroy, 6/13/3; Mission Band, Doncaster, 6/6; W. Cust, Surrey Hills, 5/5; W. White, Brim, 1/1; A. Russell, Bayswater, 10/-; M. Bell, Bible College, 1/1; S. Beavis, Croydon, 9/-; Mrs. Mephan, Lygon-st., Carlton, 6/-; School, Cheltenham (Children's Day), 1/19/2.

QUEENSLAND.

A Sister, 5/5.

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CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Receipts—Fellowship, Communion Service, 598/4/-; Proceeds Federal Tea, 40/3/-; Sales Souvenir Programmes, 25/11/9; Proceeds Harbor Trips, 24/18/6; Contributions, N.S.W. Churches, 9/10/-; Rents, Federal Executive, 9/-; Stamps and Refunds, 3/15/2; Sales of Postcards, 3/7/9; Hospitality & Individual Donations, 2/16/2 Total, 217/6/4. Disbursements—By Souvenir Programme (Printing, 30/2/6; Blocks, 17/16/6), 47/19/-; Cost of Tea, 23/2/5; Printing Stationery, 20/12/3; Petty Cash (8/7/08 to 29/4/09), 20/1/-; Rents and Fees, 19/17/-; Music, 15/7/-; Hire of Boats, 12/10/-; Advertisements, 5/7/-; Communion Service, 3/2/7; Interest and Bank Charge, 1/15/-; Hospitality Fee, 1/-; Proportion of Special Platform (Enmore), 10/-; Honorarium to A. E. Illingworth (Sec), 10/- Total, 190/13/3. Credit Balance, 26/13/1. Grand Total, 217/6/4. Audited and found correct, E. J. Hilder, A.F.I.A.; Chas. J. Lea, A. E. Illingworth, Treas. Sydney, May 4, 1909. The credit balance will be handed over to the N.S.W. Church Extension Fund.

VICTORIAN HOME MISSION FUND.

Churches—Geelong, 4/-; Brighton, per Sisters, 2/19/-; Wortongie, Sea Lake, 2/10/-; Meredith, Mite Boxes, 1/4/6; Cosgrove, penny per week, 15/-; N. Fitzroy, collected by Sisters, per Mrs. W. Forbes, 7/4/2; Surrey Hills, per Mrs. Dent, 1/3/6; A Sister, Windsor, 5/-.

The following additional amounts have also been received towards liquidating the overdraft of £200.—"Home Missions," 10/-; A. R. Lyall, 5/-; E. C. Ludbrook, 5/-; E. Fisher, Lang Lang, 5/-; J. M. Goldsworthy, 5/-; "India," 5/-; C. M. Gordon, 10/-; H. Pang, 2/-; Sister Mrs. Pang, 10/-; Sister Carter, senr., Brighton, 1/-; Sister Eva McCallum, 1/-; Two Brethren, Windsor, 2/-; Berean Bible Class, Swanston-st., 2/-; Preston Endeavor Society, 1/-; Individual promise, Preston, 1/-; Shepparton and Cosgrove C.E. Societies, 1/-; Two Students, per A. D. Strongman, 10/-; Total, 47/10/-; Previously acknowledged, 55/1/-; Total to date, 102/11/-.

M. McLellan, Sec.,
890 Drummond-st.,
Carlton.

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treas.,
263 L. Collins-st.,
Melbourne.

Coming Events.

MAY 24.—You are invited to the Monster Christian Endeavor Demonstration to be held at Collins-st. Independent Church, Monday Evening, May 24 (Empire day), at 8 p.m. Excellent speakers and programme. Bright, inspiring, cheerful. Doors open, 7.15; song service, 7.45 p.m. Come early and secure your seat, and thus avoid disappointment. All seats free. No collection. Rally to the Rally!—C.W.T.

MAY 17.—The 28th Annual Business Meeting of the S.S. Union of Churches of Christ will be held on Monday, 17th May, at 8 p.m., in the new Hall, Swanston-st. All delegates and honorary members, also those interested in Sunday School work, are particularly requested to attend. Please reserve this date and come. Business, to appoint office-bearers, receive reports, consider notice of motion, etc.—J. Y. PORTS, Hon. Sec.

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BOARD AND RESIDENCE.

Comfortable Home. Kept by Sister Hutchison, "Liskeard," Cascade-st., Katoomba, N.S.W. Terms moderate.

BIRTHS.

PILKINGTON.—On April 24, at Harley Villa, Queens-town, South Australia, the wife of W. J. Pilkington—a daughter (stillborn).

LAWRANCE.—On April 14, at Kaniva, to Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Lawrence, of "Jennella," Lillimur—a son.

LUKE (nee Bavinton).—The wife of William C. A. Luke, of 11 Parker-st., Richmond, on April 25—a daughter. Both well.

MARRIAGE.

JINKS—CLARKE.—At Hawthorn, on April 6, by P. A. Dickson, evangelist, Alfred William, eldest son of Alfred William Jinks, of Glebe Point, Sydney, to Lucy, second daughter of the late Joseph Clarke, of Stanley-rd., Beechworth.

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CONDUCTED BY A. R. MAIN.

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

Lessons from the Birds and Flowers.

(Union meeting with the Juniors.)

Luke 12: 24-28.

TOPIC FOR MAY 24.

YOU can either get the lessons direct for yourselves or receive them readymade from the Scriptures. God's creatures all tell us something of him. The question, Why did God create birds and flowers? is itself suggestive. Whom were they designed to please? Man alone? Many die unseen by human eyes. Many feathered songsters delight no human ears. Gray lamented that many flowers waste their sweetness on the desert air. We may rightly deny the aptness of the word "waste." At any rate we are sure, though Gray may be read as hinting to the contrary, that no life of fragrant beauty is wasted because public appreciation is wanting.

Obviously we learn that God loves beauty. By the flowers he has told us to love beautiful things. God did not construct the world according to a strictly utilitarian plan: he doubtless means that our lives should not be so, either. We do not deny the usefulness of beautiful things. The very beauty has a use. Flowers are earth's adornment. So there are graces, beautifiers of character, fitly illustrated by these, which the Lord wants us to cultivate.

In our reading and in the parallel passage in Matt. 6 we have the great Scriptural lesson. Christ who loved all nature, makes the birds and flowers speak to us of the Father's care for them, and of his excellent care for us. Bishop Gore makes some good comments on the Saviour's words:—"If day by day you do his will simply, and cast your care on him, then you can have a wonderful freedom from anxiety as to the future, and can live at peace—the sort of peace which finds an illustration in the fascinating tranquility of the flowers of the field, and the lightheartedness of the birds of the air." Again: "You will see what he means to warn us against is anxiety, not provision. . . . Everything is done by bird and plant in view of the future, but done with a tranquility which reposes unconsciously upon the purpose of God. What they do unconsciously, we are to do consciously."

In a suggestive little outline, Mr. C. Mudd gives some lessons from the book of nature. Amongst others he notes the following:—*Compensation*. If we lack in one direction, we may excel in others. The boronia, with the least attractive color in the flowers, possesses the richest odor. *The usefulness of the humble* is taught by the mignonette. Lowly, non-attractive, but full of honey and odor. It is loved by the bees. *The principle of improvement—development*—is shown to us in the world of roses. They have all come from briars. *The sad law of degeneration* is clearly taught by the fact that all our garden fruits, vegetables and flowers,

become poor and worthless when neglected. The choicest rose, if its cultivation be neglected, will return to the original briar. *The duty of the strong to help the weak* is evidenced by the clematis, tecomas, and convolvulus climbing up the big trees. *The weak helping the strong* in the big trees of a forest bound together by the living ropes of climbing plants; hence a storm cannot blow them down.

Flower Lesson.

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| A Rose | Jesus the Rose of Sharon. |
| A Red Flower | The blood of |
| A White " | " purity " |
| A Golden " | " glory " |
| A Blue " | " heavenly character, " |

} Jesus.

Marigold, opens to sun.—Children to the Sun of Righteousness.

Violets, lowly and fragrant.—Children who are modest and sweet.

Lilies, white.—Children whose hearts are pure.—*Back to the Methods of Christ.*

Christian Unity.

TOPIC FOR MAY 31.

SUGGESTED READINGS.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| John 10: 7-18 | 1 Cor. 3: 1-5 |
| Eph. 4: 3-6 | 1 Cor. 12: 12-20 |
| 1 Cor. 1: 10-17 | Col. 3: 12-17 |
| John 17: 20-26 | |

FOR long, Christian union has been, to use a stock phrase, in the air. More recently it has seemed to be falling somewhat, so that it soon may touch the earth.

Happily professing Christians are practically agreed as to the desirability of union among God's people. Anyone who will read the New Testament aright will soon be convinced not only that it is desirable, but that it is indispensable to the conversion of the world, and that neglect of it is a positive sin against the Lord who died that all might be saved. The New Testament writers hardly seemed to have contemplated the thought that congregations of professed Christians might some day vote on the question as to whether in their wisdom "union" was expedient or not; they simply denounced as dishonoring to the Lord any sign of a party spirit.

We should all rejoice at the advance in sentiment. But a few years ago denominationalism was generally rejoiced in and defended. Now many who still cling to the thing have at least the grace to do it apologetically. Denominational walls used to be built high with spikes on top. The walls have now been lowered and the spikes removed; but the walls exist. When Jesus Christ is given his rightful place sectarianism will cease to exist.

This year particularly we have been led to review the advance of a century. We have been glad to think that the seed sown by faithful men a hundred years ago, and since watered by those of like belief and loyalty to Christ, is now bringing forth rich fruit.

A notice of the readings above leads us to emphasise one thought. What the religious world needs to recognise to-day is not so much that Christ wishes unity to prevail (for that is acknowledged), but that there is a divinely appointed basis of union. In many church congresses and conventions, where the basis of union is discussed, it is quite ignored that the Lord has given us adequate instructions on the subject. Eph. 4: 3-6 cannot be too much borne in mind. How can there be Christian unity if the

unity of the Spirit is ignored? It may be that one of the greatest dangers in the religious world to-day is that in a real desire for union there may arise a cry for unity at any price, on any compromise, even a giving up of the Lord's own basis. There is now a splendid opportunity for those who plead for union on N.T. ground. Our fathers' work is now telling in the change of sentiment; it is ours to point those who have the desire to the Lord's own plan.

There is another side to our topic. Christian unity is to be exemplified in the local church and in the lives of the individual Christians. If sectarianism is a violation of the spirit of unity, so is every unlovely and unloving act of any Christian. When two church members have a tiff, when noses are tilted at angles of forty-five degrees, when heads are averted, or a cold stare is substituted for brotherly greeting, there is need for a quiet talk on Christian unity. I fear lest we may be apt to lament the absence of unity in a "divided Christendom," and forget to correct tendencies in ourselves.

We need now, as of old, churches which will be of one heart and soul. Read the story of the growth of the Jerusalem church as recorded in Acts. See how very often Luke has told us of the unity and brotherly love, and of the consequent success of the gospel. He definitely states that the gospel message was more effectively given after a special manifestation of the spirit of unity and love (Acts 4: 31-35, etc.). Oh, let us plead for Christian union, and let us practise it too.

Notes and News.

The attention of all Endeavorers is directed to the notice in Coming Events re the great Endeavor demonstration to be held at the Collins-st. Independent Church on May 24. All Endeavorers should be there.

The first annual meeting of the Executive of the Churches of Christ Endeavor Union of New South Wales was held in the City Temple, Sydney, on Tuesday, April 27, the retiring President, Bro. Clydesdale, in the chair. Reports showed great interest in the various societies, and everything in a prosperous condition. Officers were elected as follows:—Pres., J. Colbourne; Vice-Pres's., S. G. Griffith and A. A. Barrett; Sec., J. Clydesdale; Cor. Sec., S. Brown; Treas., H. James; Look-out Supt., W. Morton; Organist, Miss May Holmes. All correspondence to be sent to either of the under-mentioned addresses:—Secretary, J. Clydesdale, 76 Yule-st., Petersham; Correspondence Secretary, Stewart Brown, 16 Victoria-st., Lewisham.

BROKEN HILL, N.S.W. — Our anniversary was held on April 27. E. J. Tuck, President, welcomed delegates from five Methodist, one Baptist and two Church of Christ Societies. Miss Hughes read a most interesting report, showing a nett gain of 12 active and 1 associate for the year, our present members being 36 actives and 3 associates. Several more were proposed to be received in at next meeting. 20 from the society have been baptised during the year. A beautiful banner has been purchased. Splendid attendance at all meetings. Good work has been done by the committees in Hospital visitation, missionary and Sunday School work. 15 members have enlisted as comrades of the Quiet Hour. The Junior C.E. is progressing. Solos were rendered by Misses Christopher and Donald and Mr. Harvey; a splendid recitation by Miss Litchfield; a very helpful address by Mr. Muller as representative of the District Union, and some good choruses were sung.—E. J. Tuck.

On Garvin's Division.

By Mabel Earl.

CHAPTER XI.

WHEN THE ICE WENT OUT.

A step sounded in the corridor, and a man's hand tapped at the door. Barely pausing for answer, Keith Garvin stepped into the room.

Jean started to her feet as Garvin entered. She saw the light pause of surprise with which he realised her presence, and the faint color flashing into his worn face.

"I beg pardon," he said, recovering himself instantly. "I am glad to find you here, Miss Davidson, not only for my mother's sake. I am on my way to the hospital now to see Dykes. This has been a busy day for me, but I am taking up this matter without delay."

His eyes met Jean's as she looked up. It was three weeks since she had spoken to him, weeks crowded with work and wearing anxiety; but she knew that neither the pressure of business details nor the dangers of the division in one of the most trying seasons of the year had brought about the difference which she recognized in him instinctively. Was it the suddenness of this meeting, giving no time for preparation and disguise, or the reversal of his impressions in Stanley's case, which had brought about this result?

She could not account for the fact; but she knew that somehow, across barriers of official station and inevitable misunderstanding, in spite of brief acquaintance and differing interests, this man had come close to her life demanding speech of her soul as an ambassador of some power too mighty to be met with denial. She shrank half frightened before the insistence which spoke in no outward language; and yet she remembered, with a strange sense of mingled awe and wonder, that she herself had turned to him for help, longing, but not daring, to appeal to him in her perplexity as she left Dykes yesterday.

"Have you had your lunch yet, Keith?" Mrs. Garvin asked, breaking in with matter-of-fact maternal concern upon a silence which seemed pretty thoroughly charged with electric possibilities.

"Lunch? No, I believe not, now that I think of it. I've been over at the bridge, watching the ice. It has broken up badly in this warm weather the last two days; we're going to have trouble there. O, don't ring, mother; I don't want anything, really and I haven't time. Green and Ackerman are down-stairs here waiting for me. I ran up here to tell you about this, but I fancy Davidson's sister has told you already."

"And the news has made me very happy, as you thought it would," Mrs. Garvin said. "Stanley belongs to me, you know. I was very good not to tease you to reinstate him; but then I was certain that there must be some explanation like this, and you would find it out in time."

"I wanted to find it badly enough," Garvin said. "Nothing that I've had to do since I came to the division has hurt me more than the necessity—as I saw it—for discharging your

brother, Mis Davidson. The men can't realise how hard it is on us sometimes."

Was it this that he had come to say to her, then, crossing the gulf between them to say one word in the name of that primal human sympathy which Stanley thought the representatives of capital had never known? Jean breathed more freely, recovering from her terror; and yet for the moment she could make no answer.

"I thought when I left my decision with Linley, that day I went up to the Junction, that I had examined every scrap of evidence bearing on the subject. It seemed the most merciful thing to do, not to keep the boy in suspense any longer. But while I was away certain things made me wonder if I had really gone to the bottom of the affair. I began to investigate very quietly, taking one man at a time. Some of them didn't know the bearing of the questions I asked them. It's possible sometimes to learn a good deal about one case when you are supposed to be examining another, and men will speak more frankly. I know the men on this division pretty well, as a rule; it hasn't grown beyond me yet, like the crowded work on some roads. But I didn't know Fleming. It seems he had only begun to go to pieces lately. The last I knew of him he was a fairly good man, with decent habits and a record that made us trust him. But I had learned some things about him that were opening my eyes, and I was just on the point of sending for him when McCartney came in to tell me that he had gone, and the reason why. I'm glad Mac came to me personally, without any red tape. He has pulled my car for thousands of miles in all sorts of weather. If there's one man on the division that knows what I want to do for the boys, Mac does."

Was this the man who ran his division by machinery, the cold-hearted, cool-headed commander who had no share in his mother's tender enthusiasm?

"I must go now," he added. "Green and Ackerman won't understand how my two minutes' leave of absence has extended itself. I am glad to have had this word with you, Miss Davidson. If I hold your brother partially responsible for the state of his engine, with some lighter discipline, you may be sure that I am glad to put his name back on the pay-roll."

"Jean, dear, did you know that you didn't speak to my son?" Mrs. Garvin asked as the door closed.

"O Mrs. Garvin! Surely——"

"Never mind. I am quite certain he didn't know it. And I am such a chatter-box that I know he must admire a woman who doesn't talk."

Jean was walking back to her home an hour later, when Mrs. McCartney waved a beckoning dish-towel toward her across the vacant lots between streets. She answered the signal, going up to the side door where Mrs. McCartney waited.

"They've gone to the hospital," the good lady assured her. "I saw them myself—Mr. Garvin, and Green, and that young fellow from the office. They've gone on this business about Fleming and your brother, I'll be bound. They can't hurt Dykes, but I wouldn't care to be in Andrews' shoes if they go to questioning him again to-day after his lying to them once. But

that's not why I waved for you. O Miss Jean, I want you to go in there and comfort Fred."

"Does he know?" Jean asked.

"The doctor was here just after two, and I think he must have told Fred while I was out here getting some hot water. Anyway, Fred laughed and joked all the rest of the time Manning was here, but the minute he'd gone Fred turned to the wall,—as far as he can turn himself, poor boy—and I can't get him to speak, only 'Yes' or 'No.' Do go in there and say something to him. If Mac was here, he'd know what to do, but I'm just lost."

It was no easy task for Jean to go into the silent room where Fred Bruner lay paying the penalty of Manning's guilt. If he had known from the first that his recovery was uncertain, the shock of this disappointment would have been spared him. He roused himself wearily as she spoke to him.

"Dr. Manning told me this afternoon that he was going to be a little more candid with you, Fred," she began at once, waiving useless preliminaries and trying to call up her usual cheerfulness. "Were you strong enough to hear it?"

"O, yes, I reckon," he answered. "I can't help wishing he'd told me that from the start. It hurts worse after a fellow's felt so sure. I thought, you know"—he hesitated a moment—"I thought Manning wasn't that kind. I know there's plenty of doctors believe in it, but I felt as if he was one of us; when he did all that for Dykes and everything, it seemed as if he'd be square and above-board."

If Bruner had ever heard the gossip which predicted Manning's marriage to Stanley Davidson's sister, it was not in his mind now. He poured out the bitterness of his heart like a child, looking up at her with grieved, questioning eyes, as if she could solve this strange problem in human nature. And Jean thanked God that the answer had not been delayed until it came too late.

"Dr. Manning has told you now," she said, "just as soon as he realised how necessary it was for you to know. Not every railroad surgeon would have done that."

"I should say not," Bruner agreed. "I've known them of all kinds, good and bad, the sort that will give you a square deal and the ones that join hands with the lawyers to treat a man like a black-mailer when he's risked his life for the company. Manning's a good friend to us, but I can't help wondering how long he'll keep his job if he won't play their game. We fellows might think the end of the world was coming with two men here in Cameron like Garvin and Manning, if they didn't have a few like Green and Hathaway and that set to balance things."

C.E. World.

(To be continued.)

Foreign Mission Fund...

Please remember our work in India, China, Japan, the South Seas, and among the Chinese in Australia. Donations should be sent to the undersigned who will thankfully acknowledge all remittances.

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R. Lyall, Treas.,
59 Leveson St., N. Melb.

Sisters' Conference, N.S.W.

The N.S.W. Sisters' Conference was held in the Tabernacle, Enmore, on April 6, Miss Marshman presiding. Morning session led by Mrs. Fox; address by Mrs. Epular. Afternoon session led by Mrs. Jones; address by Mrs. Clapham. Evening session led by Mrs. Hagger; address by Mrs. Russell. Mrs. Andrews, Sec., reported greater progress during the year. Our Vice-Presidents have led the devotional exercises, Mesdames Walden, Illingworth, Griffith. During the year Mrs. Hagger, Treasurer, reported receipts £55 9/1½. Collected for cutlery, £4; for Home Missions, special collection, £8/5 3½; special foreign, £3/12/-; Hospital, £7/5/8.

Mrs. Hackshall, Obituary, reported writing 27 letters of sympathy during the year. Mrs. Browne reported visiting ten societies. £70 has been collected, 700 garments made, besides work done for Alliance Fair.

Mrs. Espular, Bible Schools, reported visiting 14 schools. Scholars on roll, 2065; average attendance, 1353; teachers, 189.

Mrs. Potter, Hospital, reported 14 visits Newtonington Asylum; average attendance, 17; distributed 128lb tea, 437lb sugar, 10 pkts. cocoa, 100 lb lollies, 64 lb biscuits, 13 doz. fruit; books, etc., 394; cards, 250. Enmore, Sydney, and Rookwood Endeavorers have contributed money and goods. Money received, £7/5/8; expenditure, £6 2/3; balance, £1/3/5. Nine visits to Sydney, 25 Lewisham; Callan Park 5, also 31 visits to sick friends. Sister Coxhead paid 14 visits to Prince Alfred Hospital. Mrs. Clydesdale paid 3 visits. Mrs. A. Morris paid 13 visits to Lewisham Hospital. Texts, cards, 845; books, 845; fruit and biscuits.

Mrs. Fox, Prayer Meeting, reported meetings held at Enmore, Marrickville, Rookwood, Belmore, Petersham, City Temple.

Mrs. Campbell reported taking part in 100 temperance meetings, besides attending other No License meetings.

Mrs. Hindle, Foreign Missions, reported good work being done by Mr. and Mrs. Strutton and Mr. Ludbrook at Baramati, India; Miss Mary Thompson, Harda, India; Miss Tonkin, Shanghai, China; Mr. and Mrs. Davey, Japan; Mr. Filmer, Pentecost, New Hebrides, besides native teachers and Bible-women, all doing good work. Collected for Foreign Missions during year, £345/9/5. £3/12/- was collected at drawing-room meetings, and sent on to Miss Tonkin to educate a native woman as Bible-woman. Enmore Helping Hand Class, Petersham Sunday School and Pad-

dington unite in supporting a Bible student in Japan. Enmore contributed £6, Petersham £3, Paddington £3. Paddington Christian Endeavor paid for the support of a teacher in Pentecost.

Mrs. Morrison, Home Missions, reported total receipts for year, £1161/8/7. Number of additions for year by baptism, 206. Baptised believers, 17; by restoration, 18; total, 241. Toward the special fund started by our Sisters' Conference, £8/5/4 was collected from Sydney, Paddington, Enmore, Lilyville; £2 from funds; total, £11/7/4 in six months.

Mrs. Shearston, Press, reported writing several times to *CHRISTIAN* and *Herald*, also arranging programme for Sisters' Conference.

We had the pleasure of several visiting sisters from other States.

The following officers were elected for the year:—President, Miss Marshman; Vice-Presidents, Mesdames Walden, Russell, Jones; Secretary, Mrs. Andrews; Treasurer, Mrs. Morrison.

Superintendents as follows:—Home Mission, Mrs. Hagger; Foreign Mission, Mrs. Illingworth; Dorcas, Mrs. Clydesdale; Hospital, Mrs. Potter; Prayer Meeting, Mrs. Fox; Social, Mrs. Mitchellhill; Isolated, Mrs. McIndoe; Obituary, Mrs. Hackshall; Temperance, Mrs. Campbell, Miss Hall; Bible School, Mrs. Espular; Press, Mrs. Shearston.

The evening session was quite a success. The anthems were well rendered by the N.S.W. Musical Union. Mrs. Maston read a paper on "Women's Work in America." Solos, Mrs. Shearston, Miss Holmes, Mr. Tingate. Duet, Mesdames Ball and Mitchellhill. Recitation, Miss Stella V. Kingsbury. Conductor, Mr. Tingate. Pianiste, Mrs. Mitchellhill. Organist, Mrs. Shearston.

The sisters entertained 400 visiting sisters to a reception tea held in City Temple, this being the largest gathering we have ever had in our State.

E. SHEARSTON.

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Victorian Missions.

M. McLELLAN.

Since the recent highly successful and enthusiastic Conference held in Melbourne, the newly appointed Committee have held their first meeting. It was decided that the Home Missionaries should all return to their various fields, the only change being that, owing to the resignation of Bro. Smedley, W. G. Oram will be removed from the Mallee District and take up the work at St. Arnaud, beginning about the first Sunday in June.

Owing to the expressed wish of the Conference that some members of the Committee should visit the churches, Bren. Swain and Bagley have stated their willingness to assist in this as much as possible. During the present month Bro. Swain (Assistant Secretary and Financial Agent) will visit Geelong and Warrnambool. Later on Bro. Bagley will probably visit Warragul, and we expect that other members of the Committee will be able to co-operate in this visitation of Victorian churches.

Re finances. The estimated expenditure (not allowing for any expansion) will be £1600 for the current year, £135 per month. Financial assistance is therefore requested from all who can do so. The Committee is alive to the pressing needs of the country districts.

Will all the collectors please push on with the penny-per-week collections? The church officers are especially asked to facilitate all such efforts on the part of the collectors.

Obituary.

McMASTERS.—On Sunday, April 11, after a long period of suffering, Wm. L. McMasters was called to rest at the age of 83 years and 10 months. For over 40 years he has been a member of the church and a faithful follower of

Christ. During his recent years he has longed for the call to come. He always evinced great confidence in God, and believed in the abiding presence of the Saviour. Every kindness was rendered by the members of his family. He died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. McKenzie, of Moonee Ponds. We are loth to part with these aged members. One by one they are crossing the river. However, we realise it is for their good. They have fought the good fight; they have kept the faith; and now go to their reward. May the Lord bless the members of the family.

Carlton, Vic.

T. BAGLEY.

CONNOR.—On April 3, Sister Jeannie Connor entered into that rest which remains for the people of God. Though for many years she had been weak in body, and had been called upon to endure much suffering, yet her end came suddenly. Seventeen years ago she gave herself to Christ, and was baptised in Dunedin, N.Z., by Bro. Floyd. For 14 years she was in fellowship with the brethren at Cheltenham, and during the last two years at Collingwood, where her brother, A. W. Connor, has been ministering in the gospel. On April 5 our sister's body was laid to rest at Cheltenham, Bro. Judd, T. B. Fischer, with many other friends, taking part in the service. We rejoice that her dear ones sorrow not as those who have no hope.

Carlton, Vic.

H. G. HARWARD.

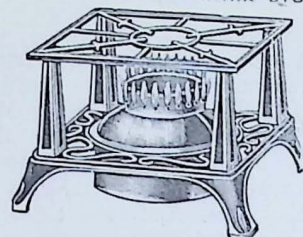
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PARTICULARS in regard to the College Course for Resident and Day Students, Correspondence Classes and Night Classes, will be furnished on application to the Principal.

The Correspondence Course in the Bible, conducted by H. G. Harward may be commenced at any time. Arrangements have also been made with W. W. Mantell to conduct Correspondence Classes in English, Greek, Hebrew, etc.

Further Particulars will be supplied on Application to H. G. HARWARD, 149 Pigdon St., N. Carlton

Treasurer: W. C. CRAIGIE, Little Collins St., Melbourne.

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