

Victorian Conference, 1910.

TEMPERANCE DEMONSTRATION.

The Temperance Committee was honored with the first meeting of the General Conference, on Thursday evening, March 24. The Masonic Hall was not so well filled as was desirable. The quality of the programme, however, made up for lack of quantity. The Conference President, T. Bagley, efficiently presided. The musical programme was much enjoyed, and the addresses were of a specially high order. H. Kingsbury gave a very interesting and encouraging report of the present state of the temperance cause in U.S.A. A. W. Connor delivered a fine, rousing address, containing a strong indictment of the liquor traffic from the economic, national and moral standpoints. Both addresses were much appreciated. The following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting views with alarm the degrading and debasing influences of the liquor traffic, and resolves to do all in its power to banish it from the Commonwealth of Australia." The gathering dispersed just before ten o'clock.

SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

A full report of the Sisters' Conference will appear in next issue. For the present it will be sufficient to say that the meetings were well attended and a very happy time was spent by all who were present. The sisters are conservative in the matter of presidents, and do not like change. This year, however, Mrs. J. A. Davies, who has been President for many years, resisted the pressure brought to bear upon her, and declined to stand for re-election. Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook was therefore chosen to fill the important position.

THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

The Annual Conference of the Churches of Christ in Victoria was held in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., Carlton, on Friday, March 25, and subsequent days.

At 9.30 a.m., a devotional service was held, conducted by A. W. Jinks, who delivered a very impressive address on prayer.

At 10 o'clock the President, T. Bagley, took the chair, and after the opening hymn called upon H. G. Harward to engage in prayer.

ROLL CALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The roll of representatives was then called, when the following were found to be present:

Ascot Vale: C. A. Batt, W. Flood, J. Y. Potts. Bordertown: E. Edwards. Burnley: O. A. Carr Green, C. Newham. Brunswick: C. Peters, W. Hardie, W. Thompson. Ballarat: C. Morris, — Pittock, — Benson and — Morrison. Bayswater: T. Clements, G. Beard. Berwick: N. Meyer, T. Colliss, Brim: W. W. White. Brighton: F. Pittman, J. Sharp, F. M. Ludbrook, H. Watts. Blackburn: — Redman, — Piercy. Cosgrove: J. C. Skinner. Carlton (Lygon-st.): H. Kingsbury, W. C. Thurgood, W. C. Craigie, F. Payne, J. McColl. Carlton North: Allan Stewart, F. Hare. Collingwood: A. Strongman, W. J. Brooker. Cheltenham: T. B. Fischer, W. Woff, P. Bryce, F. W. Martin. Colac: A. W. Connor. Castlemaine: H. Leng, J. B. Gray. Chinese Church: J. Young, D. Gow. Doncaster: G. Gordon, H. McDowell, G. Petty. Dandenong: J. Proctor, A. Jones. Dunolly: J. Beasy. Emerald: W. Wright, W. Bolduan. Footscray: J. E. Allan, C. Saunders, — Jenkins. Fitzroy: C. W. Mitchell, J. McGregor, H. Swain. Fitzroy North: A. Millis, J. McMillan, L. H. Shirt, A. Hagger, J. Collings. Geelong: A. W. Kelly, H. F. Christopher. Gordon: A. B. Chappell. Harcourt: J. A. Millar. Hawthorn: P. A. Dickson, Campbell Edwards, T. McDowell. Kaniva: A. R. Benn, W. Strongman, R. Lyall. Kyneton: W. G. Harman, T. Price. Lancefield: A. C. Friece, W. A. Kemp. Lillimur: P. B. McMaster. Melbourne (Swanston-st.): F. G. Dunn, C. M. Gordon, B. J. Kemp, B. Huntsman. Melbourne North: M. Wood Green, M. Dale, R. McCance. Melbourne South: T. Bennetts, R. J. McSolvin. Montrose: R. Langley, W. Proctor. Meredith: J. E. Shipway, A. McKay. Malvern: J. Barnett, P. S. Dawson. Moreland: J. Holloway, J. J. Anderson. Middle Park: J. Jones, W. Mill. Newmarket: J. Hatty, J. Hancock. Northcote: J. D. Lang, J. Woodgate. Pakenham: J. Binney, J. Gibson. Preston: C. A. Walker, T. W. Greenway. Prahran: J. Marrows, W. Hancock. Richmond North: E. Davis, T. Darnley, J. Salisbury. T. Collins. Richmond South: W. Gale, — Whiteley, W. Fenn. Surrey Hills: A. R. Main, W. Holten. South Yarra: W. H. Nightingale, D. A. Lewis, J. Gall. Stawell: T. Bagley. St. Kilda: T. M. Davis, — Davey. St. Arnaud: W. G. Oram. Taradale: R. Miller, A. Clark. War-

ragul: G. Black. Windsor: J. Pittman, J. Flood, S. Holland. Wampony: H. G. Harward. Williamstown: E. C. Kenney, R. Macdonald. Wedderburn: G. Duckett. Wilkur: T. Everett, H. Baker.

NEW CHURCHES.

The following churches, on application, were admitted into the Conference, namely, Burnley and Moreland. On the motion of F. G. Dunn it was resolved that the application of the Central Church of Christ, Ballarat, be referred to the Executive and Home Mission Committees for consideration, and that the said committees be empowered to take such action as they may deem necessary.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Fraternal greetings were read from West Australia; T. J. Gore, Adelaide; G. P. Pittman, Daltonganj, India; T. C. Walker, Secretary of N.S.W. Conference; L. Gole, on behalf of Queensland brethren; Federal Conference, per D. A. Evers, who also sent a personal message; S.A. Conference, through H. J. Horsell.

Resolved that the messages be received and suitably acknowledged.

The President gave a hearty welcome to the visitors from other States, among whom were Sister Webster, from Queensland. E. Pittman from S.A., and J. C. Sears from W.A. Recent additions to our preaching ranks, in the persons of H. Kingsbury and F. Pittman, were also welcomed.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON.

After the adjournment for lunch, the Conference re-assembled at 1.30, when a devotional meeting was held, conducted by W. Gale.

At two o'clock the President took the chair, and the business of the Conference was resumed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

We have much pleasure in submitting our annual report for the consideration of the Conference. We are deeply grateful to God for his care and guidance during the year that is past, and pray for his blessing on the coming year.

Treasurer's Statement, Victorian Mission Fund.

RECEIPTS.		
Balance, 1909	£2	14 6
Collection at Conference Meetings	64	1 0
Annual Collections	251	17 11
Contributions from Churches	208	18 4
Special Centennial Contributions	£314	1 2
Centennial Home Mission Rally	48	2 0
Individual Contributions	362	3 2
Conference Fees	205	14 6
Transferred from Hymn Book Account	25	10 0
From Churches, for Evangelistic Services—	54	2 10
Kaniwa District—		
Kaniwa	110	0 0
Wamboony	40	16 9
Lillimur	40	10 0
Border Town	35	0 0
Mallee District—	226	6 9
Brim	65	0 0
Wilkur	37	0 0
Castlemaine	102	0 0
Geelong	100	0 0
Colac	74	10 0
Lancefield	57	0 0
Warrnambool	50	6 0
Shepparton District—	45	0 0
Shepparton	27	0 0
Cosgrove	14	10 0
Meredith	41	10 0
St. Arnaud	16	7 7
Warragul	11	0 0
Advance from Treasurer	3	10 0
	408	18 4
	£2311	10 11

EXPENDITURE.		
Salaries—A. W. Connor	182	0 0
H. Leng	182	0 0
Theo. Edwards	172	5 0
A. R. Benn	143	0 0
E. Edwards	143	0 0
J. G. Shain	143	0 0
W. G. Oram	130	0 0
T. Bagley	101	13 4
H. Baker	90	5 0
M. McLellan	52	0 0
A. B. Chappell	38	0 0
H. M. Chipstone	36	0 0
J. E. Shipway	31	9 6
L. Johnston	30	6 8
A. D. Strongman	29	5 0
F. Goodwin	23	13 4
W. Smedley	21	13 4
G. Black	11	10 0
A. C. Friece	7	19 6
S. H. Mudge	6	0 0
Subsidies—Montrose	27	6 0
Dandenong	26	0 0
Lancefield	15	0 0
Wonga Park	4	17 6
Railway Expenses—Shepparton	25	2 2
Lancefield	10	16 0
Brim	1	5 0
Financial Agent	1	19 6
Removal Expenses—Colac	8	18 4
St. Arnaud	7	15 10
Centennial Appeal Expenses	16	14 2
Tent Missions Expenses	27	5 10
Printing	39	2 2
Postage	9	17 8
Exchange	3	2 0
Conference Expenses	8	2 0
Picnic Expenses	3	9 1
Rent, Masonic Hall	4	4 0
Mite Boxes	2	7 11
Sundries	2	0 0
Repaid to Treasurer	72	4 10
Cash on Hand	496	0 0
	0	14 8
	£2311	10 11

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

5th March, 1910.

Audited and found correct,

THOS. RENTON, F.I.A.V.
A. R. LYALL

Auditors.

Note.—There is an outstanding liability of £112/18/4 owing to the Hon. Treasurer. Salaries have been paid up to March 3, 1910.

I. SISTERS' CONFERENCE.

It is exactly a quarter of a century since the formation of the Sisters' Conference. At its inception it was stated by the sisters that it was intended to be an "auxiliary of the general Conference," and as such would render all assistance to the progress of the work that they possibly could. As year after year has come and gone, bringing with each renewed and increasing responsibilities, we can bear testimony to the loyalty of the sisters in their faithful and continuous co-operation for the progress of the churches. The last year has been no exception. They have given splendid assistance. Their co-operation in the special Centennial appeal was most helpful. They have raised altogether £257/17/- during the year for Home Missions, including the amount realised at the Centennial Home Mission Rally. We very cordially thank them for all they have done to assist Home and Foreign Missions, and assure them we highly value their helpful co-operation.

On the motion of Bro. Saunders, Footscray, the above clause was adopted, and a hearty vote of thanks given to the sisters for the splendid work they had done.

Summary of Treasurer's Statement, HOME MISSION FUND.

Balance owing to Treasurer, March, 1909	£200	0 0
Expenditure to March, 1910	1815	10 11
	£2015	10 11
Receipts to March, 1910 (including £2/14/6 cash on hand, March, 1909)	£1902	12 7
Balance owing to Treasurer, March, 1910	112	18 4
	£2015	10 11

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

II. FINANCE.

By a reference to the financial statement it will be noticed that we are in arrears to the Treasurer in the sum of £112/18/4. This is an improvement on last year, when the arrears were £200. The actual receipts during the year were £1899/18/1, not including advances by the Treas-

urer. This is by far the largest amount ever received during any previous Conference year. The greatest factor in attaining such a splendid result was undoubtedly the work of Bro. C. M. Gordon, assisted by Bro. Swain, in so successfully piloting the special Centennial appeal. This was generously responded to by members all over the State of Victoria, and resulted in the aggregate to £362. We desire to specially recognise the arduous labors of Bren. Gordon and Swain, and thank them for their timely and valuable assistance. The annual collections are about £50 less than previous year, but this is accounted for by the date coming so soon after the Centennial appeal. We have again to thank our worthy Treasurer for the splendid way he has financed us through a heavy year's expenditure, requiring many advances, which were always given with every confidence that he had the brotherhood behind him. We are sure the Conference will heartily endorse our thanks to the Treasurer.

The following brethren spoke to above report, viz.: J. Pittman, P. A. Dickson, J. Tully, and W. C. Craigie. The clause was adopted on the motion of H. G. Harward, seconded by B. J. Kemp.

On the motion of R. Lyall a hearty vote of thanks was given to C. M. Gordon, H. Swain and W. C. Craigie for their valuable services during the past year.

It was stated that since the balance sheet was made out, contributions had been received, which brought the overdraft down to £36. In the course of the afternoon a special collection was taken up to wipe off the deficit. The collection amounted to about £55, thus leaving a credit balance to commence the new year.

III. STATISTICS.

By referring to the statistical schedule it will be seen that there is an increase in church membership of 62. The gains are: By faith and baptism, 668; letter 358; formerly immersed, 41; restoration, 58; total, 1125. Losses: By letter, 385; death, 63; removal and revision of roll, 615; total, 1063. Increase, 62. There are 6532 scholars in the Sunday Schools, and 635 teachers, being a decrease of 9 scholars and an increase of 10 teachers. Additions to the churches from Sunday Schools, 308, being 124 more than last year.

B. J. Kemp, in moving the adoption of this clause, expressed the opinion that our losses were largely increased by those who had received letters not presenting them in this direction would be a great gain. The motion was seconded by W. G. Harman. The clause was spoken to by R. J. McSolvin, W. T. Marsden, F. G. Dunn, J. Y. Potts, J. Tully, D. A. Lewis, A. Chaffer and T. Bagley.

IV. DATE OF ANNUAL COLLECTION.

At last Conference a recommendation was made that the date of taking up our annual collection should be altered to the second Lord's day in December. In view of the fact that the Federal Conference would be held at Sydney, and would probably deal with this matter, it was deferred till after the Federal Conference. Since then we have received a communication from the Secretary of the Federal Conference stating that they recommend the first Lord's day in March for all the States to adopt. This date was considered quite unsuitable for Victoria, coming as it does so near to our annual meeting. So it was decided to recommend that in future the date for the annual offering be the first Lord's day in December of each year, and we hope this will be confirmed by the Conference.

On the motion of M. McLellan, seconded by C. W. Mitchell, the above clause was adopted.

V. CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

At the Conference of 1908 a resolution was passed forming "The Church Extension Fund," from which it was intended in the future to help churches requiring assistance to build their chapels by way of loans at very low interest. The receipts up to end of last year were £15, but as the result of a recent appeal to the brethren in Victoria, a further £400 was promised in donations and loans without interest. A sub-committee to administer the Fund was therefore appointed, consisting of Bren. W. C. Craigie, A. Millis, C. Hardie, and R. Lyall, who submit the following report:—

The Church Extension Fund Committee considered the appeal of the church at Colac for assistance to secure a building, and decided to make their case its first charge. A piece of land had been bought, but after inspection by the Committee it was decided to recommend the church to sell it and purchase another block of land in a prominent position on a main street.

This has been done, and a most desirable site has been secured. Bro. W. Meekison has given his services as honorary architect to the Committee, and has prepared plans and specifications for a building at an estimated cost of about £450 to £475, including seats. The Committee are glad to acknowledge Bro. Meekison's very valuable assistance. Tenders will be called immediately for the work, and before Conference is over the Committee hope to report the contract as being let. They will be glad to receive additional help by way of donations and loans without interest to the Church Extension Fund to further develop this important branch of Home Missionary enterprise.

R. Lyall spoke of the importance of this work, and exhibited the plan of the new building to be erected at Colac. He urged the brethren to assist in the work.

H. Swain moved and W. C. Craigie seconded a hearty vote of thanks be given to R. Lyall for his enthusiastic work in connection with church extension. The motion was carried with applause.

On the motion of B. J. Kemp it was resolved that W. C. Craigie, R. Lyall, A. Millis, and C. Hardie be appointed trustees to the Church Extension Fund.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We desire to thank the officers of the churches at Lygon-st. and Swanston-st. for the use of their buildings during the year. We have also to thank Bren. T. Renton, A. R. Lyall and J. Barnacle for their valuable services as auditors, and to all who have assisted to carry on the good work. Sincerely hoping that the deliberations of the Conference will redound to the honor and glory of God,

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

THOS. BAGLEY, President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

On the motion of J. Collings, the report was adopted as a whole.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the year 1910-1911 resulted as follows:—

President: J. W. Baker.
Vice-President: C. M. Gordon.
Treasurer: W. C. Craigie.
Secretary: M. McLellan.
Assistant-Secretary: H. Swain.

Home Missionary Committee: B. J. Kemp, F. G. Dunn, A. Millis, H. Kingsbury, P. A. Dickson, J. Pittman, J. McGregor.

Foreign Missionary Committee: Secretary, F. M. Ludbrook; Assistant-Secretary, T. B. Fischer; Treasurer, R. Lyall. W. A. Kemp, J. C. F. Pittman, C. A. Quick, J. McColl. Appointed by Sisters' Conference: Mrs. Lyall, Mrs. J. C. F. Pittman, Mrs. Huntsman.

Kindergarten Committee: Mrs. Davies, Mrs. Haddow, Mrs. Millis, Miss Jerrens, Mrs. Tully; W. C. Craigie, R. C. Edwards, H. Swain, J. Sharp.

Temperance Committee: W. H. Nightingale, J. G. Barrett, H. Peacock, W. G. Oram, W. C. Thurgood, E. Davis, R. J. McSolvin.

Conference Sermon: J. C. F. Pittman.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

In submitting our report for the year, we assure the members of the Conference that it has been a time of much thought and anxiety, with so many workers in the field and so little money at our disposal. We have gone on with the work, however, with implicit confidence in the Victorian brotherhood that they would see that the necessary funds were supplied.

Notwithstanding the fact that the financial outlook was not as good as it might be, we decided to take a bold step, and did so by giving effect to the resolution of Conference in reference to the appointment of a State Evangelist and Organising Secretary. We were fortunate in securing the services of Bro. T. Bagley, and the results up to the present have fully justified his appointment. In making this appointment we are satisfied that a policy has been inaugurated which will tell for good on the future work of the Conference. For some time the principal work that Bro. Bagley will be called upon to do will be to make those fields self-supporting which have for years been assisted by the Conference. He has succeeded already in doing something in this direction, and we are confident much more will be done in the coming year. Bro. Bagley is a good organiser, and the absence of proper organisation in our churches has been one of the great defects of the past.

We have much pleasure in submitting the following report of work done since last Conference.

The chief features of this clause having been previously discussed, it was adopted without discussion.

I. KINDERGARTEN WORK.

The following is the report of the Kindergarten Committee:—

Kindergarten Report.

In submitting a report of the Kindergarten Centre, we desire first of all to tender our unfeigned thanks to the church at North Melbourne for the continued use of the chapel, the editors of the *Australian Christian* and *Pure Words*, the young lady helpers who have attended the meetings, and all those who have so kindly and generously assisted with money and gifts.

During the year there has been a steady and marked improvement at the centre both in method and numbers, and even are fully justifying the wisdom of the Conference in organising so philanthropic and Christlike an undertaking.

The Centre is held every morning save Saturday, from 9.30 to 12.30, with an attendance of from 35 to 40 children, ranging from three to six years, at which latter age they are compelled to attend the State Schools.

The February report of the director, herewith enclosed, will convey to the members of this Conference some idea of the character of the work performed.

During the year there have been some changes in the staff of the Committee. Miss Annie D. Allan, having ably filled the position of Secretary during a very trying and difficult period, found it necessary to resign, and Miss Alexander, the director, also relinquished that position. To both of these ladies the members of the Committee tender their great appreciation for the splendid services rendered to the movement during its initial stages. Miss Edith Vial was appointed to fill the position of director; and in view of the growing needs of the Centre, it was also decided to appoint an assistant, the choice falling upon Miss Bessie Holden. Both of these ladies are well qualified for the work, and the prospects for a successful year are most apparent.

The Centre will be open for inspection during the Conference week, and the delegates are urged to avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting the North Melbourne chapel, so that a practical knowledge of the working of this interesting feature of Christian service may be obtained.

On behalf of the Committee,

E. DAVIES, President.
H. SWAIN, Hon. Sec.

*Report of North Melbourne Free Kindergarten,
from Feb. 1 to Feb. 28, 1910*

We have 50 children on the register, with an average attendance of 34.2, 34.6 for the last two weeks. 28 visits have been paid to the mothers to enlist their interest, sympathy, and co-operation in our work. Through visiting we understand the environment of the children, and so are able to help them individually, mentally, morally, and physically.

There were 18 mothers present at the mothers' meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 23, when Miss Semmens, from Burnley Free Kindergarten, gave an address on "Aims of the Kindergarten," and Misses Healey and Shain sang. A meeting of voluntary helpers is held every Thursday afternoon to discuss and prepare work for the following week.

We are aiming to develop the children's sympathies towards nature, man and God, and as a means to that end we every week give special thought to reverence, and show them high ideals in stories, talks, games and table lessons, so that they shall reverence the good.

In other districts we have proved that the influence of the Kindergarten does not stop at the children, but penetrates very strongly into their homes, and the parents are softened, sweetened and made susceptible to further good thereby. "A little child shall lead them."

Visitors are welcome any morning. Friends have shown their sympathy in our work both by visiting us and also by sending practical expressions in the shape of picture books, clothing, cases of fruit, gifts of jam, tea and other groceries, scones, toys, etc.

In closing this report, I should like to thank the ladies who come regularly one morning a week to help us, and to ask any others who can spare the time to come too, for we have need of many more.

EDITH VIAL, Director.

FREE KINDERGARTEN, CHURCHES OF CHRIST.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for
Period ending 3rd March, 1910.

Receipts.

To Cash in hand on March 25, 1910	£168	0	7½	
Contributions from Individuals,				
Churches, C.E. Societies and Sun-				
day Schools for General Purposes	51	3	1	
Contributions for Special Objects—				
Garden Tools	0	5	0	
Christmas Tree	1	0	0	
		1	5	0
	£220	8	8½	

Expenditure.

By Salaries—			
Miss Alexander	£37	10	0
Miss Vial	17	10	0
Miss Holden	7	10	0
Maid	11	0	0
Caretaker	0	17	6
		<hr/>	74 7 6
Petty Cash (Miss Alexander)	£9	1	0
Secretary's Expenses	3	19	10
Garden Tools	0	10	0
Printing and Advertising	3	1	2
Sale of Gifts (Portion of Expenses)	3	2	3
Children's Clothing	0	10	0
Sand Tray	0	5	0
Buildings	21	10	0
Collection Boxes	0	15	0
Gas	0	7	0
Picnic Expenses	3	2	3
Sundries	0	12	6
Cash in hand	99	5	2½
		<hr/>	£220 8 8½

Audited and found correct,

THOS. RENTON, F.I.A.V.) Auditors.
A. R. LYALL

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.
14th March, 1910.

H. Swain, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the Committee fully

appreciated the help which the brethren had given to this movement. On behalf of the Committee he gave all present a cordial invitation to visit the Kindergarten School and see it in practical work at North Melbourne.

A. Millis also spoke, advocating the claims of the Kindergarten, and testifying to the good it had done.

T. B. Fischer supported the motion for the adoption of the report. He regarded the work as most important, and testified to the efficiency of Miss Vial.

W. C. Craigie said that from a treasurer's point of view the Committee's work was most satisfactory. It had a balance to its credit. As to the work, it not only did the children good, but the mothers also.

J. T. T. Harding, whose name was mentioned in connection with this work, not being able to be present through illness, it was resolved on the motion of F. M. Ludbrook, that this Conference express its sympathy with him in his affliction.

II. TENT MISSIONS.

Bro. T. Bagley commenced his labors as Organising Secretary and State Evangelist on November 10. Since then he has held tent missions at Geelong, Meredith and Dandenong. The additions at these places are: by faith and baptism, 68, and restoration, 4; total 72. Bro. Bagley has also visited St. Arnaud, Maryborough, Kaniva and Ballarat. He has already done good work as Organising Secretary, and we look forward with confidence to reaping much good from our brother's ability in that capacity.

Clause adopted.

III. COLAC.

Bro. Connor has labored here during the past year. It has been a year of consolidating and seed sowing. Four have been added by faith and baptism. The nature of the town with its wealth and strongly established churches precludes the doing of the best work in a building rented for Lord's days. The church has secured a site in the very best part of the town, and expects soon to see a building erected. The church is united and earnest, and the members are giving a splendid financial support to the work.

A. W. Connor said that he was the only representative from Colac. The clause under consideration represented what was being done. What had been accomplished was satisfactory, considering all the circumstances. The prospects for the future were good.

IV. CASTLEMAINE DISTRICT.

Bro. Leng has labored here during the past year. The work has been mostly confined to the Castlemaine church, and the fact that owing to the depression in mining the town has been slowly going backward has made the work somewhat hard. Nevertheless, the meetings have been good and the church is moving quietly along. The little church at Newstead has only three or four resident members at present, but meetings for worship are held by the local brethren. Occasional visits have been made by Bro. Leng to Taradale and Kyneton, and a month's mission was held at Mildura, when there were 18 additions by faith and baptism, 21; restoration, 4; baptised believer, 1; total, 44.

J. B. Gray said that this was the first Conference he had attended. He found that most of the speakers spoke of the laxity of individual effort. If it had not been

for this, Castlemaine would have been self-supporting by this time. On his return he would strongly advocate individual effort to secure this purpose. In regard to the present meeting, he was highly delighted with it, and thought it the best he had attended.

V. GEELONG.

Bro. Theodore Edwards has continued in this district since last Conference. The meetings have been good. A tent mission was recently held there by Bro. Bagley. Additions during the year, by faith and baptism, 28 (including 20 at the tent mission); formerly baptised, 1; restored, 1. Bro. Gifford Gordon succeeds Bro. Edwards at Geelong from the beginning of April.

H. Christopher said that he very largely agreed with what Bro. Bagley had said in his presidential address. The church at Geelong had received help from the Home Mission Committee, and he was somewhat ashamed that it had continued so long. They, however, had made a promise to Bro. Bagley which they intended to keep.

C. Morris, of Ballarat, also spoke of the good work that had been done at Geelong.

R. Lyall referred to the good work that had been done by Bro. Theo. Edwards, and moved that the Conference express its best wishes for his success in his new field of labor.

VI. WARRNAMBOOL.

The work here has been earnestly carried along in the face of much opposition, and although the struggle at times raged fiercely, a band of disciples still remain ready for all emergencies, hoping, watching, praying and working for greater victories in the future than the past. Additions by faith and baptism, 20; formerly immersed, 2; total, 22.

J. G. Shain was not present, but expressed his sorrow that circumstances prevented him being with the brethren.

VII. WEST WIMMERA CIRCUIT.

Bren. Benn and Edwards have continued in this large district on the borders of South Australia. The principal places are Kaniva, Border Town, Lillimur, South Lillimur, Dinyarrak, Wamponny and Mundalla. Bro. Benn reports 5 additions by faith and baptism, and 1 formerly immersed. Bro. Edwards, 8. Total, 14.

A. R. Benn said that they had received a good deal of help in the past from the Home Mission Committee, but he thought they could say now that it was the last year they would require financial aid.

E. Edwards said that he agreed that it was time that the West Wimmera circuit should be self-supporting. Bro. Bagley had helped them to realise that it was their duty to be no longer a burden on the Committee.

VIII. ST. ARNAUD.

Br. W. G. Oram has been laboring at this place since last Conference. The meetings have not been so encouraging as we would have liked, and in view of the state of the finances it is not intended to recommend the continuance of an evangelist for the present. Bro. Oram goes to labor with the church at Doncaster, after eight years of faithful service under the Conference.

In the temporary absence of W. G. Oram W. C. Craigie stated that a local brother had promised £50 towards the reduction of the debt on the building.

IX. SHEPPARTON DISTRICT.

Comprising Shepparton and Cosgrove. Bro. A. D. Strongman labored here till October last, when he was succeeded by Bro. F. Goodwin. One addition by faith and baptism.

This was adopted without discussion.

X. MALLEE DISTRICT.

During the past year Bro. H. Baker has been laboring in the Mallee Circuit. There are only two preaching points, but there is a large area to be covered by visitation. At Wilkur there has been a fine interest manifested in the work. At Brim there has been a steady increase in the attendance of outsiders. Bro. Baker has visited the following places: Warracknabeal, Lah, Wilkur, Beulah, Galaquil, Bangerang, Pine Grove, and Galaquil East. There are isolated brethren all over the Mallee. No additions to report.

W. W. White said the Mallee district in future intended to be self-supporting. They would be glad to have Bro. Baker back with them for another year. They thanked the Home Mission Committee for what it had done for them.

XI. LANCEFIELD.

This field was occupied by Bro. H. M. Clipseon till December last. Upon his resigning he was succeeded by Br. A. C. Friece, a local brother. Gains for the year, by faith and baptism, 4; restoration, 2.

A. C. Friece said that on behalf of the Lancefield church he desired to thank the Conference for the help it had received in the past, but he believed that in the future Lancefield would be self-supporting. They had made considerable improvements in the building and expected a good time in the future.

XII. MEREDITH.

Bro. J. E. Shipway has been preaching at Meredith since last Conference. He also assisted the tent mission at Geelong by conducting the singing. He reports 2 added by faith and baptism. These are in addition to 13 confessions at Bro. Bagley's mission at this place.

J. E. Shipway said that the work during the past year had been progressive. The officers and members were earnest workers, and expected the church would be self-supporting very soon.

XIII. GORDON.

Since last Conference Bro. A. B. Chappell has continued fortnightly visits to Gordon. One addition by faith and baptism.

XIV. SUBSIDIES.

The following churches were subsidised during the past year: Dandenong, Montrose and Wonga Park, 5 additions by faith and baptism—36 at Dandenong, and 2 at Montrose.

XV. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports: By faith and baptism, 165; restoration, 11; formerly immersed, 5; total, 181.

CHURCH VISITATION.

At last Conference the advisability of a representative of the Home Mission Committee visiting the churches supported by the Conference was suggested, and early in the year H. Swain, the Assistant Secretary, was appointed to that work. He continued in the position until the appointment of T. Bagley as State Evangelist and Organising Secretary rendered it no longer necessary for him to do so. The following places were visited and reported upon: Geelong, Warrnambool, Colac, Montrose, Dandenong, Warragul, Border Town and Castlemaine. Bro. Swain had also the opportunity of visiting many of the suburban churches in the interests of Home Mis-

sions. His labors have been much appreciated by the Committee.

The thanks of the Conference were given to H. Swain for the good services he had rendered so freely to the Conference.

ATTENDANCES OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 13. Thos. Bagley, 7; J. W. Baker, 8; W. C. Craigie, 12; M. McLellan, 12; H. Swain, 12; F. G. Dunn, 12; H. G. Harward, 10; B. J. Kemp, 13; A. Millis, 9; C. M. Gordon, 11; T. R. Morris, 4; P. A. Dickson, 9.

On behalf of the Home Missionary Committee,

THOS. BAGLEY, President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

The Home Missionary Committee's report was adopted as a whole.

HOME MISSIONARY SESSION.

After the lunch adjournment on Friday afternoon, the Conference re-assembled at 1.30, when a devotional meeting was conducted by W. Gale, after which the Home Missionary Session was opened by T. Bagley delivering the presidential address.

We give a synopsis of the addresses delivered by the President and others on this occasion. They were all good and to the point.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

T. Bagley said that he appreciated the honor that was done him when he was elected President, but did not expect when he was so appointed that he would have had the honor of being appointed State Evangelist and Organising Secretary. He wanted, on this occasion, to speak of the work of the future, and of the plans for carrying it out. One of his plans was to make the churches under the auspices of the Conference self-supporting. His work in the past had been on these lines, and he hoped to continue that kind of work as far as possible. He was of opinion that we were not growing as fast as we ought. Some thought that making progress was not in our hands, but in the hand of One higher. He would point out, however, that the blessing from above came upon those who were earnest and enthusiastic in their work. The churches at present helped by the Conference were disposed to lean too much upon it for assistance. The time had come when churches which had been supported by the Conference for many years should not only become independent of its support, but should also become helpers of other churches. Those churches that still clung for support from the Conference were hindering the extension of the cause in new fields. He advocated the circuit system, and would insist that each circuit should become self-supporting as soon as possible. He would advocate the appointment of two State Evangelists for the conducting of missions and doing organising work. A great deal depended upon the spirit in which we entered into the work. More enthusiasm and consecrated zeal should be manifested in the work of spreading the gospel.

An address, "Difficulties of the Field," by A. W. Connor.

A. W. Connor said that the President had brought before them some of the difficulties of the field, and he was sure that if they adopted his suggestions they would do much to overcome them. There was an inspiration in the idea of difficulties, because to overcome them brought into exercise every faculty to triumph over them. There were many difficulties that were merely local and seemed to be trivial, but were not. There were others which loomed out more largely and demanded our attention. The first difficulty that came before us was that of vastness. The vastness of the field was a thing that sometimes daunted us. The question of distance was one which handicapped us. Fields widely separated could not help each other. Then there was the difficulty of prior occupation. We entered into new fields as strangers and were not welcomed. Other religious bodies were long established, and resented our intrusion. The difficulty he found in this case was to convince people that it was possible to be unsectarian—that is, Christians only. Other difficulties were a socialistic materialism, and a religion that seemed to put its faith in bricks and mortar. There was also the difficulty and danger arising from the intrigues of the Romish Church.

An address, "The Local Congregation and Home Missions," by C. A. Quick.

C. A. Quick said that undoubtedly we needed to have a larger vision of the field. He could sometimes wish that there were no distinctions in missions, but that all were supported from one common fund. He believed in sending help to our dusky brethren in other lands, but he could not forget the cry that came from nearer home. The cry of the ignorant and those who were perishing round about them came into their ears, and demanded to be heard. He wanted to urge that the responsibility for the evangelisation of our land rested on the local congregation. He wanted our churches to look beyond their own doors and see round about them the demand there was for help. The failure to realise this accounted for the lack of funds which was so frequently deplored. It was possible that our deficiency in this respect was owing to our lack of spirituality. He noticed in the New Testament that the greater the spirituality of the churches, the more they abounded in the grace of giving. It was certain that if our churches realised their duty and their privilege in this respect the whole of Victoria might be very speedily evangelised.

An address, "Present Prospects of Home Missions," by H. Leng.

H. Leng said he believed that at this time there was a little pessimism in our midst. He was not a pessimist himself, but always tried to take a hopeful view of things. He believed that we ought to get rid of this pessimistic spirit. We ought to look at the bright side of things and rejoice in the possibilities of the future. We

had the grandest plea in the world. Every time he came to this Conference he felt more and more the power of the plea. Another thing to make them hopeful was the experience they had gained. This experience would enable them to avoid the mistakes of the past and make better progress in the future. They had also splendid facilities for the spread of the gospel. Our Austral Publishing Co. was doing a good work, and never better than now. The College of the Bible, too, was a part of our stock-in-trade, and gave infinite promise for future evangelistic work. The Kindergarten movement was also another asset that must not be overlooked. Another important element in our future success was the appointment of an organising evangelist. Bro. Bagley was doing a work that would tell for good in the years to come. Everything pointed to success in the future. Difficulties there would be, but these were as nothing compared to the advantages in our possession and those yet to be realised. The prospects of Home Missions were as bright as the promises of God.

THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

H. G. Harward, in speaking of the College of the Bible, said that there was a close connection between the work of the College and Home Missions. The great need of the past was the need of trained preachers. It was the function of the College to provide these. It therefore ought to have a place in our sympathy and interest. The College of the Bible could scarcely exist without Home Missions. The two went together. An institution like the College required to be supported and deserved the practical sympathy of all the brethren. He could bear testimony to the splendid character of the young men who were in the College. They had now a fine College building, and he gave a hearty invitation to all present to come out and see it on Easter Monday.

SATURDAY'S SESSION.

On Saturday morning the Conference re-assembled at 9.30, when a devotional service was held, conducted by W. A. Strongman.

The President took the chair at 10 o'clock, and the further consideration of the reports was proceeded with.

At 1.35 p.m. C. M. Gordon, President of the Sunday School Union, took the chair. The proceedings were opened with a hymn and prayer by T. B. Fischer.

The President called attention to the great importance of Sunday School work, from which nearly fifty per cent. of the accessions of the year were derived. He was sorry that a more favorable hour could not be secured for the consideration of school work.

An address, "The Adult Bible Class," by J. C. F. Pittman.

This was a very fine address, and later on we hope to publish it in the columns of the CHRISTIAN. The following brethren

spoke in support of the Adult Bible Class movement: H. Kingsbury, J. B. Gray, H. G. Harward, D. A. Lewis and R. C. Edwards.

A hearty vote of thanks was given to Bro. Pittman for his splendid essay on "The Adult Bible Class," and at the same time the thanks of the Conference were given to the Editor of the AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN for the prominence he had recently given to this and Bible School work generally.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The General Committee of the above Union has very great pleasure in presenting the following report of work accomplished during the year.

We are gratified to state that there are now 39 schools connected therewith, which is the highest number recorded since its formation in 1881, which goes to prove its widening influence in Sunday School work, and others are negotiating with a view to affiliation. The desire of our Committee is that at our next Conference we will be able to report that all schools throughout this State will have joined its ranks. Country delegates are asked to take note of this and assist us in the accomplishment of our aim. With this object in view our Committee has decided to hold the annual examination in future some time during the month of August (instead of April as in former years), so that the disadvantages under which the country schools labored during the first quarter might be removed. For the information of those in Conference assembled, we append the names of schools connected with the Union:—Ascot Vale, Brunswick, Bayswater, Brighton, Ballarat, Bendigo, Collingwood, Cheltenham, Castlemaine, Doncaster, Footscray, Fitzroy Tab., Golden Square, Hawthorn, Lygon-st., Middle Park, Moreland, Mildura, North Melbourne, Northcote, Newmarket, North Richmond, South Richmond, Preston, North Fitzroy, South Melbourne, Swanston-st., South Yarra, Surrey Hills, Taradale, Windsor, Williamstown, North Carlton, Dandenong, Bet Bet, Hunter-st., (Richmond), Harcourt, Geelong, and Maryborough. The last six joined this year.

Our meetings are held monthly for the purpose of discussing subjects which pertain to the best interests of the schools. It is pleasing to mention that the delegates chosen (in most cases) have taken an active part in all matters brought forward for their consideration, which included recommendation carried at last Conference re the holding of an evening demonstration in connection with the Conference meetings, to take the place of our Saturday afternoon session; also that the S.S. Union become affiliated with Conference. This was a suggestion only, which the President promised to lay before the General Committee in order to obtain their views thereon.

Re recommendation:—Unable to arrange a suitable night owing to all evenings from the 23rd to the 29th March inclusive being engaged.

Re affiliation:—A sub-committee was appointed to consider this question, and to furnish their report to the General Committee, so that same might be fully discussed and finally dealt with by the representatives of the various schools. Recommendations of sub-committee were submitted to the delegates as instructed; in the end the proposal was rejected.

The average attendance at these meetings is 40, as against 38 last year, which points to a growing interest in these conclaves, and augurs well for their future.

Annual examination. This was held on the 5th April, 1909, and resulted in 18 teachers and 277 scholars competing. Of this number 61 per cent. were successful in obtaining awards, as follows:—26 received prizes; 68 certificates of merit, and 86 certificates. Although this percentage is not as high as last year, we trust that at our next it will be exceeded in both instances. Great interest is manifested in these examinations, which must prove beneficial to all who take part therein.

The annual demonstration was held on the 29th July, 1909, in the Independent Church (Collins-st.). This gathering was presided over by C. M. Gordon, President. The retiring President, R. J. McSolvin, presented the awards to the successful candidates, and congratulated them on their brilliant achievements; he also spoke words of encouragement to those who failed. The various items were well rendered by scholars from schools represented, and much appreciated by the audience. The chairman, on our behalf, thanked the performers and all those who had assisted to make the meeting a success.

Bible Sunday (British and Foreign Bible Society) was observed on Lord's day afternoon, 13th June, 1909, in most of our schools, for the purpose of rendering financial assistance to the said Society, to help its committee in their work of disseminating the Bible in all parts of the world. The appeal was well responded to and thankfully acknowledged by F. G. Barley for our splendid support.

Our Teachers' Conference and social were held on the 13th Sept., 1909, when T. B. Fischer read an excellent paper on the subject "How best to arouse the interest of members in Sunday School Work." The paper was of a very interesting character. It was well received, and evoked a considerable amount of discussion. Our essayist was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Pleased to record that this was the best meeting of its kind that has been held for some time, and was thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

Our 9th half-yearly demonstration took place in the Lygon-st. chapel on the 1st December, 1909. C. M. Gordon, President, advocated sympathy and zeal amongst our members in the work of the Union. Exercises given by the scholars were greatly appreciated by the audience.

Children's Day (Foreign Missions) was observed on Lord's day, 7th Nov., in most of the Union schools. Special collections were taken up and forwarded to F. M. Ludbrook, proceeds of which it was decided to devote to benevolent work amongst the heathen. The appeal was responded to most liberally, and resulted in over £20 being received from schools of the Union, as acknowledged in the columns of the *Australian Christian*.

Lord's day, 19th December, schools were further appealed to on behalf of the Church of Christ Free Kindergarten movement to assist its Committee in their work financially.

Finances.—Our financial position, though not so strong as last year, still shows a credit balance, and as the expenses of annual examination are heavy, we would be pleased to enrol life honorary members who are willing to render assistance to meet same. Any of the brethren who would like to occupy this honorable position are asked to confer with Bro. F. W. Martin, Treasurer, who would gladly give to all such the necessary information. We tender our heartfelt thanks to those brethren who by their liberality have assisted us in this matter, and trust for a renewal in the coming year.

Visitors Reports.—Bren. R. J. McSolvin and B. J. Kemp deserve the best thanks of this Union for the splendid services rendered during the year, having visited all schools in the city and suburbs. The former has also visited some of the country schools. Their reports as presented have been of an encouraging and interesting character. They were well received, and no doubt their presence and words would cheer the hearts of those engaged in this noble work.

Our Committee take this opportunity of conveying our best thanks to the N.S.W. board of examiners for preparing and answering questions in connection with examination; to the officers of the Swanston-st. and Lygon-st. churches in allowing us the use of their buildings; to Bro. Nat Haddow and Sister J. Dickens for assisting us at all our public gatherings, and also to the editor of the *Australian Christian* for publishing reports.

In conclusion we render our gratitude to our heavenly Father for the many manifestations of his love; for the harmony that prevails in our midst, and for the success that has blessed our

March 31, 1910

The Australian Christian



efforts in the past. Our prayer is that we may have a continuance thereof in the coming year that will enable us as a Union to achieve even greater results.

On behalf of the Committee,

C. M. GORDON, President.
J. Y. POTTS, Hon. Sec.

* On the motion of C. W. Mitchell the report was received.

In moving its adoption, the Union Secretary, J. Y. Potts, said that the number of schools in the Union was 39, and one other had just determined to come in. Greater interest was being manifested than formerly.

The following brethren spoke to the report: F. Martin, C. W. Mitchell, Marsden, F. G. Dunn, P. Conning, J. Collings, R. J. McSolvin, H. Swain, A. Millis and D. A. Lewis.

It was resolved on the motion of F. G. Dunn, that it be a recommendation to the Home Mission Committee to appoint an organising secretary and evangelist for Sunday School work.

The report, after a very general discussion, was adopted.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

Another year has come and gone, and with it your Committee, in fulfilment of its duty, presents its annual report.

We have not had such a fruitful period, as far as public meetings are concerned, as some of the Committees previously elected by Conference. We have, however, patiently pursued the object for which we were elected, and thus endeavored to fulfil our mission.

Many meetings planned by the Committee have clashed with other church fixtures, and in some cases the interest has not been as great as in previous years. Another reason was that delays occurred in arranging meetings. The replies to the request of the Committee in planning out work were not in some cases attended to, or were delayed. These and other causes have not produced the results that we expected at the commencement of our work.

Looking over the temperance horizon, however, there is much cause for thankfulness. There is a keen desire in most of the States comprising the Commonwealth to use the weapons already provided by the Legislature for the suppression of the drink traffic, and while we believe that much may be accomplished through this agency, after all, the more solid and enduring work is by and through personal effort.

The promotion of temperance principles, especially amongst the young, must eventually produce in the citizens of the future a right understanding of the baneful effects of intemperance.

Towards the end of the present year, the second triennial poll of the electors in the State of New South Wales will take place, and much activity will shortly be shown, and the prayers and good wishes of those who are fighting against sin and evil in any form will go with our comrades in the neighboring State.

The temperance friends in South Australia are also promoting in a number of districts Local Option polls, for reduction, and it is fully expected that in most of these they will be successful.

There are no material changes in the other States, the political situation in Queensland and West Australia dominating the position, and preventing for the time being the alterations of the law that was expected a short time ago.

The work in our own State we consider satisfactory. The Reduction Board have closed in Victoria, in a little over two years, 311 houses without cost to the taxpayers, the compensation

being paid by a special tax levied on the liquor sellers. These figures are up to 31st December, 1909.

It may not be out of place to refer in a report of this character as to what our American churches are doing in respect to the prohibition sentiment in that great country. The Temperance Board is composed of 12 members, 6 ministers and 6 laymen, amongst whom we find prominent workers such as Judge Aitman, Professor Jabez Hall, Judge Barnett, Dr. Homer, J. Hall, and Oliver W. Stewart. At the International Centennial Convention, held last October in Pittsburg, Pa., where there were more than 40,000 members in attendance. A Temperance Superintendent was appointed in every church to co-operate with the Temperance Board in having efficient temperance work taught in the Bible Schools. Each evangelist was requested to preach at least one temperance sermon annually, and take an offering for the Temperance Board to carry on its work. The issue of a temperance leaflet prepared by the Temperance Board was urged on teachers and officers of Bible Schools, who were requested to contribute one collection annually, their ultimate aim being for the utter destruction of alcoholic beverages, both their manufacture and their supply to the people.

Turning to the work of the Committee, at our first meeting J. G. Barrett was re-elected President of the Committee, a position which he has held consecutively for six years; Vice-President, W. C. Thurgood; Press Correspondent, H. G. Peacock; R. McSolvin, representative to the Victorian Alliance. Our esteemed Bro. W. J. Woodbridge was also re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer.

Bro. Peacock was unable through ill-health to devote as much time as he desired to the office to which he was elected, and some difficulty was experienced in this respect. Bro. C. A. Wilson resigned on account of removal to New Zealand, and Wm. Wilson was not able to do as much as he desired, and through a business appointment could not undertake work this year. We hope, however, to see him actively engaged in a future committee.

Public meetings were held during the year in Melbourne and other parts of the State. We beg to report we sent out the usual letters to the churches and evangelists soliciting their co-operation.

We also carried out the system adopted in previous years, and requested the churches to take up a collection for the Victorian Alliance to enable it to carry on its work. The total received was £11/8/4, as against £7/17/6 received last year.

We have again to thank the editors of the *Alliance Record* and the *Australian Christian*, Bren. Barrett and Dunn, for space in their pages, and for assistance rendered at temperance meetings from a number of workers who by their music and elocutionary efforts have contributed to their success. Our best thanks are due also to Bro. W. C. Thurgood for the use of his rooms for holding the meetings of the Committee.

The Committee held 10 meetings during the year, and were attended as follows: J. G. Barrett, 8; W. C. Thurgood, 9; H. G. Peacock, 7; R. J. McSolvin, 8; C. A. Wilson, 3 out of a possible 3; C. Peters, 9; W. J. Woodbridge, 10.

J. G. BARRETT, President.
W. C. THURGOOD, Vice-President.
W. J. WOODBRIDGE, Sec.

BALANCE SHEET, 1909-10.

Receipts.

Balance from last year	£1 13 5½
Collection, Annual Meeting	6 11 1
Donation from Cosgrove Tem. Com.	1 2 6
Collections at Demonstrations	2 9 4
Collections from Churches in aid of Victorian Alliance	11 8 4

£23 4 8½

Expenditure.

Austral Pub. Co., Printing Account	£3 0 0
Postage	1 9 8
Travelling Expenses	1 15 2
Donation, Victorian Alliance	2 2 0
Special Donation, Victorian Alliance	
Debt Extinction Fund	2 2 0
Amount forwarded from Church Collections to Victorian Alliance	11 8 4
Balance in hand	1 7 6½

£23 4 8½

Audited and found correct.
9/3/10. J. McCLELLAND.

R. J. McSolvin moved the adoption of the report and regretted that the Committee had not been more aggressive during the past year.

The report was spoken to by Bren. Marsden, A. R. Main, H. Swain, H. G. Harward, W. J. Woodbridge, A. W. Connor, A. Millis, T. B. Fischer, F. G. Dunn, H. Christopher and Benson.

The motion was carried with the excision of part of paragraph 13.

The following resolution was carried: "To the task of destroying the liquor traffic, that it may no longer be, as it has been, the greatest obstacle to the progress of the kingdom of our Lord, the Churches of Christ in this State have consecrated themselves, and will never cease their efforts until every vestige of the accursed traffic is abolished from our land. We urge people everywhere not to vote for any person running for office who is known to be in sympathy with the liquor interests. Hasten the day when the liquor traffic shall be completely abolished from our sunny South, from our nation, and from the whole world. That the Premier be commended for the stand he has taken on the temperance question."

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION.

In presenting our annual report we lift our hearts in gratitude and thankfulness to our heavenly Father for the great care he has showered down upon us, and the successes that have attended our humble efforts as a Union.

Our membership is: Societies, 63; membership, 2400 (approx.), showing an increase of 7 new societies and 245 new members.

Right throughout the year the reports (which are submitted quarterly) show splendid work accomplished by the various committees, especially the Lookout, Prayer, Sunshine, and Tract branches. One society has doubled its membership, while another (Junior) had 25 new members at one meeting. The work done by the various Sunshine committees in bringing temporal and spiritual gifts to those who stand in great need of them is grand. Truly great is the work that has been accomplished for the Master, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes became poor, that we through his poverty might become rich.

It would be useless for us to try and outline the work of the various branches of the Union. Every report is full of work that has been done in the several districts allotted to the committees. But we must not rest on the victories gained in the past. We are to forget what is behind us, and to strive to accomplish that which lies before us, in order that we may win the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

During the year the Union contributed £45 towards the purchase of a motor launch for the use of Bro. F. Filmer, at Pentecost Island, in order that our brother might have better facilities for travelling around the Island.

The metropolitan societies held a combined picnic at Studley Park on Nov. 27, and a most enjoyable time was spent there.

Owing to pressure of business, our Secretary, Bro. Clarence Timmins, had to tender his resignation. This was received with profound regret, as we all knew what a good work our brother had done during his term of office. The present Secretary, Bro. Arthur J. O'Neill, was elected to the position in Bro. Timmins' place in November, 1909.

The election of officers for 1910 was held in January, and resulted as follows: President, Mr. T. B. Fischer; Vice-Presidents (4), Mr. H. Kingsbury, Mr. H. J. Baker, Mr. R. Enniss, Mr.

C. M. Gordon; Hon. Treasurer, Miss R. Lee; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Arthur J. O'Neill; F.M. Treas., Mr. W. A. Kemp; F.M. Study Class, Sec., Miss K. Feldmann; Leader, Mr. P. A. Dickson, Junior Supt., Miss M. Mitchell; Visitation Committee Convener, Mr. E. Rowland. We close now by thanking all who have helped us in any way, whether great or small, and enter the new year in the full assurance that God is with us, and that we will strive to do whatever he would have us do.

On behalf of the Council,

THEO. B. FISCHER, President.
ARTHUR J. O'NEILL, Hon. Sec.

T. B. Fischer, in moving the adoption of the report, said that it required to be corrected in one particular. The Endeavor Union had not purchased a motor boat, but had contributed the sum of £45 towards it.

The following brethren spoke to the report: C. W. Mitchell, D. A. Lewis, H. Swain, W. J. Brooker, and A. Stewart.

Foreign Mission Fund, Victorian Statement.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Contribution received to March, 1910—		Chinese Mission, Melbourne—	
From Church Members ...	£602 14 2	W. Jame—Allowance ...	£99 0 0
From Sunday Schools (used for Benevolent Work) ...	34 19 2	Travelling Expenses ...	6 7 6
From Endeavor Societies ...	23 16 6	Expenses of Mission ...	33 0 9
From Endeavor Societies—Special Contributions to cost of Motor-boat, Pentecost ...	45 0 0	Interest on Money owing Mission Building, Melbourne ...	44 18 0
From Chinese Brethren ...	48 12 11	Repairs to Mission Building ...	16 10 1
From Sisters (collected by Mrs. Zelius)—			199 16 4
For Miss Thompson's Bible-woman ...	£8 0 0	India—	
For Miss Tonkin's ...	15 0 0	Miss Thompson for Bible-woman ...	8 0 0
For Miss Thompson to support orphan ...	4 0 0	Miss Thompson for support orphan ...	4 0 0
	27 0 0	China—	
Special Contributions for John Thompson, Childers Mission, Queensland ...	52 0 0	Miss Tonkin for Bible-woman ...	15 0 0
			27 0 0
		Other Expenditure—	
		Special Contribution to John Thompson, Childers Mission, authorised by Vict. Conference ...	52 0 0
		Amount Transferred to Chinese Mission Building Fund ...	48 6 8
			327 3 0
		Amount included in Federal Expenditure ...	506 19 9
	£834 2 9		£834 2 9

Audited and found correct.

R. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 14, 1910.

THOS. RENTON, F.I.A.V. }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors

Chinese Mission Building Fund, Melbourne.

Amount Transferred out of Contributions from Victoria ...	£48 6 8	Balance, March, 1909 ...	£748 6 8
Balance ...	700 0 0		
	£748 6 8		£748 6 8

Audited and found correct.

R. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 14, 1910.

THOS. RENTON, F.I.A.V. }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors

Bequest and Annuity Fund.

Amounts Received to March, 1910 ...	£700 0 0	Balance, March, 1910 ...	£700 0 0
	£700 0 0		£700 0 0

Audited and found correct.

R. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 14, 1910.

THOS. RENTON, F.I.A.V. }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors

Mission Property Account.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
Amount Owing on Chinese Mission Building, Melb. ...	£700 0 0	Chinese Mission, Melb., Land & Building, at cost ...	£1301 17 6
Balance, being Total Amount Expended on Mission Property ...	1509 6 5	Land & Buildings at Baramati, India, at cost ...	404 10 0
		Land & Buildings, Tandawaladi, India, at cost ...	20 0 0
		Land & Buildings at Diksal, India, at cost ...	100 0 0
		Land & Buildings, Pentecost Is., New Hebrides, at cost ...	221 18 11
		Motor Boat, Pentecost Is., New Hebrides, at cost ...	161 0 0
	£2209 6 5		£2209 6 5

Foreign Mission Fund, Federal Statement.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Contributions received to March, 1910—		Balance—March, 1909 £270 15 8	
New South Wales—		Amounts Expended to March, 1910—	
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools (including £174/11/8 Balance on hand, March, 1909) ...		India—	
	£697 15 2	Miss Mary Thompson—	
Queensland—		Allowance (part year) 79 6 8	
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools		Travelling Expenses to India 22 18 0	
	116 5 5	Travelling Expenses visiting Churches	
South Australia—		New South Wales 7 19 0	
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies, Mission Bands and Schools (including £54/8/1 balance on hand March, 1909)		Travelling Expenses visiting Churches	
	718 18 7	Victoria 7 14 10	
Tasmania—		Cost of Lantern and Slides provided by N.S.W. Committee 11 10 2	
From Churches, Members and Schools		Cash to Miss Thompson by Sisters N.S.W. 15 0	
	29 18 1	Sarubai, Miss Thompson's Bible-woman 8 0 0	
Western Australia—		For Benevolent Work 10 0 0	
From Churches, Endeavor Societies and Schools		For Support Orphan and Native Student 10 0 0	
	214 11 9	M. J. Shah, Native Preacher—Allowance (part year) 33 0 0	
Victoria—		191 3 8	
From Churches, Endeavor Societies, Mission Bands, Schools and Sisters' Special Contributions 782 2 9		Australian Station, Baramati, India—	
Special Contributions for John Thompson, Childers Mission 52 0 0		H. H. Strutton and Mrs. Strutton 150 0 0	
	834 2 9	For Native Workers 45 0 0	
		For Benevolent Work 30 0 0	
		For Industrial Work 30 0 0	
		For Building Additions 37 10 0	
		Cost Framing Pictures a/c Baramati Mission 1 5 0	
		293 15 0	
		Miss E. Terrell—	
		Allowance 43 6 8	
		Travelling Expenses to India 22 18 0	
		Cost of Outfit 10 18 1	
		For Benevolent Work 3 15 0	
		80 17	
		China—	
		Miss R. L. Tonkin—	
		To June, 1910 120 0 0	
		For Bible-woman 15 0 0	
		For Benevolent Work 10 0 0	
		145 0 0	
		Japan—	
		P. A. Davey and Mrs. Davey 120 0 0	
		For Benevolent Work 11 3 0	
		131 3 0	
		South Sea Islands—	
		Pentecost, New Hebrides—	
		F. G. Filmer, Mrs. Filmer and 18 Native Teachers 235 14 6	
		Cost of House, Including Freight 221 18 11	
		" " Furniture, Including Freight 37 15 0	
		" " Motor Boat, Including Freight 161 0 0	
		Travelling Expenses Mr. and Mrs. Filmer 22 10 0	
		678 18 5	
		Chinese Mission, Melbourne—	
		W. Jame—	
		Allowance (part year) 99 0 0	
		Travelling Expenses 6 7 6	
		Expenses Mission 33 0 9	
		Interest on Money owing Mission Building 44 18 0	
		Repairs to Mission Building 16 10 1	
		199 16 4	
Forward £2611 11 9		Forward £1991 9 10	

Note.—Contributions from Sunday Schools are used for benevolent work.

Federal Statement continued on page 206.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

FOREWORD.

The achievement of the past in missionary enterprise and the record of the year's work in the regions beyond, compel us to raise our voices in praise to God, as we exclaim, "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad."

I.—INDIA.

A.—HARDA.

After a furlough in Australia, during which time the missionary fire was fanned into a larger flame, MISS MARY THOMPSON, our first missionary, returned to the work she loves at HARDA. Many evidences are to hand that her devoted labors in zenana work are bearing fruit for the Master. Her self-sacrifice and zeal are everywhere spoken of. She has a fine helper in SARUBAI, as together they plant the seed of the kingdom.

The latest reports concerning Bro. M. J. Shah speak highly of his continued consecrated labors in pastoral work, and teaching in the schools, and recommending an increase of £1 per annum in his salary, which has been agreed upon.

The above mentioned work in connection with the American F.M. Society, but are supported by the Australian brotherhood.

Additions at HARDA for the year, 9. Present membership: Church, 101; S.S., 800; C.E., 90.

B.—AUSTRALIAN STATION.

The work at our own AUSTRALIAN STA-

FOREIGN MISSION FUND, FEDERAL STATEMENT—Continued.

Forward £2611 11 9	Forward £1991 9 10
New South Wales F.M. Committee—	
Expenses Chinese Mission, Sydney ...	15 12 0
Printing	10 3 6
Expenses Children's Day Exercises ...	7 16 3
Sundry Charges, Postage, etc., ...	7 18 9
Cost of Leaflets and Maps ...	6 7 5
	47 17 11
Cash in Treasurer's hands ...	42 12 1
	90 10 0
South Australian F.M. Committee—	
Expenses, including cost Chinese Mission, Adelaide ...	15 15 10
Cash in Treasurer's hands ...	87 7 0
	103 2 10
West Australian F.M. Committee—	
Expenses Chinese Mission, Perth ...	21 2 0
Sundry Charges, Printing, Postage, &c. ...	7 3 7
	28 5 7
Cash in Treasurer's hands ...	25 14 9
	54 0 4
Charges—	
Allowance Organising Secretary ...	39 0 0
Printing... ..	66 14 5
Cost of Typewriter ...	22 0 0
Books & Papers sent to Missionaries ...	4 6 1
Sundry Charges, Postage, Exchange, Interest, &c. ...	27 18 8
Amount Transferred to Chinese Mission Building Fund from Victorian Contributions ...	48 6 8
	208 5 10
Other Expenditure—	
Special Contributions forwarded through Victorian F.M. Committee to John Thompson, Childers Mission, Queensland ...	52 0 0
	2499 8 10
Balance in Victorian Treasurer's hands ...	112 2 11
£2611 11 9	£2611 11 9

Audited and found correct.

R. LYALL, Treasurer.
Melbourne, March 14, 1910.THOS. RENTON, F.I.A.V. } Auditors
A. R. LYALL }

TION at BARAMATI has fully justified its establishment. BRO. and SISTER H. H. STRUTTON are a great power for righteousness in the district, preaching and conducting Bible Classes every day, visiting neighboring villages and controlling the industrial part of the mission. The weaving work is growing considerably, and Government officials and other missionaries declare the work to be superior to the same grades elsewhere. The demand far exceeds the output. The weaving apart from paying its way gives employment to a number of orphans, who under Christian influences will shine for Jesus in India. DIKSAL and TANDALWADI are also being worked, and faithful native teachers are located there. Bro. Strutton has lately interested himself at WADGAON, where the Bampton or professional thieves live, and interesting developments are anticipated.

There was great rejoicing on the far-flung battle line on the arrival of NURSE EDITH TERRELL, our new missionary. Her beautiful farewell talks linger in our hearts' memories. At present language study engages four to five hours daily, and medical work takes up two hours per day. Bro. Strutton writes of her, "We both feel she is the one that was needed out here; her vivacity and spirituality being a great asset to our home."

One of our workers, BRO. S. LUDBROOK, will, from the beginning of this month, be no longer under the control of the Committee. Bro. Ludbrook has right from the first practically supported himself by the practising of his profession, and will continue in the future as in the past, in preaching amongst the English speaking population, whilst perfecting his knowledge of

Marathi. The Committee wish him God's blessing in his future work.

The PERMANENT NATIVE EVANGELISTIC STAFF on the Australian Station is as follows:—

GANPATRAO R. KANSE, preacher, Baramati.

WAMANRAO GAIKWAO, preacher, Diksal. VINAYEKRAO POWER, teacher, Tandawadi.

SARAHBAI KANSE, Bible woman, Baramati.

DINKA B. GARDE, preacher in training at Bombay.

TABAJI KRISHNAJI, preacher, Diksal.

C.—DALTONGANJ.

Whilst not coming under the control of the Committee, reference is gladly made to BRO. and SISTER G. P. PITTMAN, who severed their connection with the Committee in Sept. to proceed as missionaries under the British brotherhood to DALTONGANJ. We record our high appreciation of the valuable services they have rendered to the Committee, for many years, and commend them to God, at whose call they have nobly gone forth to swell the ever increasing number of missionaries of the cross.

D.—STATISTICS.

Statistical report by F.C.M.S. for INDIA is as follows:—Additions for year, 123. Present membership: Church, 953; S.S., 2968; C.E., 335.

R. Lyall moved the adoption of the report as it dealt with India. He spoke in high terms of the work done by Bro. and Sister Strutton.

2.—CHINA.

Our living link among China's millions, MISS ROSA L. TONKIN, is assisting to pull down the strongholds of Satan at SHANGHAI. She has deeply interested herself in training girls, and has four at present under her, whom she hopes to see develop into teachers and Bible women. With the return of Bro. and Sister J. Ware, Miss Tonkin has been relieved from some of the strain of the work, and hopes to do more country evangelistic work in the future. STATISTICS.—19 additions are recorded at Shanghai. The church numbers 173. There are now 788 members in China, 111 being added during the year.

3.—JAPAN.

In the land of the rising sun BRO. and SISTER P. A. DAVEY are our living links in TOKYO. Bro. Davey's work is evangelical, educational and clerical. In the Bible Department of the boys' school he teaches 12 hours weekly, as well as taking the oversight of the work at Tokyo, Chiba, Ota, Toride, Mito, and Shizuoka. Mrs. Davey has held meetings for women and children, and visited many homes, as well as correcting music for a new S.S. Hymnal. STATISTICS.—There are now 1237 church members in Japan, 24 being added during the year. There are also 3013 S.S. scholars. On the whole the future outlook is very bright.

4.—SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

A.—ISLAND OF PENTECOST.

The story of the PENTECOST MISSION might well form a chapter in the romance of modern missions. Truly there have been Pente-

costal blessings. Two years ago BRO. F. G. FILMER went to the Islands as our representative. After a year's stay he returned, and we were enraptured with his message. Not a year has passed by since he again landed at Pentecost, taking with him SISTER MRS. FILMER. Together they have labored, enduring hardship, suffering from fever, yet with a steadfast faith in God, toiling on to bring the gospel to the Kanaka "boys." About 18 teachers are now engaged assisting Bro. and Sister Filmer, and the work is continually growing. Tabymancon is still true to God, and associated with him are: Thomas Tantuni, Moses Warback, Luke Bussar, Samson Malaita, Philip, James Warong, Peter, Philip Simsim, Joseph Bulagrew, David Bullamerris, Samuel Pavio, Daniel Bulavariup, Abraham, Tom Tumout, Timothy, Joseph Liguria and Simon Boulesko. A missionary house has been built, and a little industrial work engaged in, cocoa-nut palms having been planted. The motor boat has been very useful in reaching distant schools. Several minor mishaps have occurred, but have been rectified, and the boat will prove a valuable "Servant of the Isle." Towards the boat, the Victorian C.E. Union, under President C. M. Gordon, have collected about £46, and contemplate a further effort in the near future. As usual, N.S.W. Committee have kindly sent supplies to the Island as needed.

We rejoice that altogether over 300 Kanakas have now turned from darkness to light.

B.—ISLAND OF OBA.

For some time a mission has been conducted on the ISLAND OF OBA by Mr. F. J. Purdy, and 410 Kanakas have been baptised. The Island of Oba is the neighboring island to Pentecost, lying about 15 miles to the north-west. This mission has been offered to the Committee, and the matter is having the consideration of the various State Committees, and important developments are likely to take place in the near future.

F. G. Dunn congratulated the Foreign Mission Committee on their acquisition of the mission at Oba.

C. Morris also referred to the work amongst the Kanakas.

Sister Webster of Queensland also offered some remarks on the work in the South Seas.

The following brethren also spoke to the report: W. Strongman, F. M. Ludbrook, T. B. Fischer, and T. R. Morris.

5.—CHINESE MISSION.

Foreign work at home centres around our Chinese work in Sydney, Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne, and in each place good work is being accomplished. BRO. JAME, our Chinese evangelist, has labored in South Australia and Victoria, and is now in N.S.W. We could sincerely wish for a Bro. Jame in each State of the Commonwealth. Bro. J. Pittman continues as Supt., to the pleasure of the teachers and to the profit of the taught. Miss A. Baker is Secretary, Mr. F. Morgan Treasurer, and Mr. R. H. Parker Supt. of S.S. Each of these is doing a good work for God. The Secretary reports as follows: "We notice a slight decrease in the meetings, owing to the need of more teachers. We do wish we could persuade more of our members to help in this corner of the Lord's vineyard." STATISTICS are as follows: Number of scholars on roll, 79; average attendance, 39. Number of teachers on roll, 66; average attendance, 19. Sunday evening, number on roll, 44; average attendance, 39.

J. Pittman moved the adoption of the Chinese Mission report, and gave a number of details in regard to the work. The motion was seconded by Bro. Pang.

Bro. Wong also spoke to the clause, as did also P. A. Dickson.

6.—FINANCIAL.

The Committee have again to express their gratitude to the brotherhood for their continued

interest and handsome liberality in responding to the frequent appeals made for Foreign Mission work. The total receipts this year amount to £2611/11/9 compared with £1890/9/11 for 1908-9, and £1863/10/6 for 1907-8, in which year £231 19/3 additional was contributed for Famine Relief in India and China. The expenditure totals £2343/15/1, and a balance is shown in Treasurer's hands in New South Wales of £42/12/1; South Australia of £87/7/-; Western Australia of £25 14/9, and Victoria of £112/2/11, or a total amount of £267/16/9 as credit balance. Remembering the fact that for several years past there has been rather a heavy deficiency between Receipts and Expenditure, the Committee report the altered conditions with great satisfaction and thankfulness. Every State reports increase in total contributions for the year.

There has been special outlay in connection with the mission at Pentecost Island, New Hebrides. Bro. Filmer has been provided with suitable dwelling house and motor boat. Additions and improvements have also been made at Baranati. A reference to the Statement of Mission Property Account shows that up to the present £1500/6/5 has been expended on mission property at various stations.

The Bequest and Annuity Fund remains as reported last year. Brethren are reminded of this fund, out of which the Committee desire to provide for buildings in mission fields.

H. Swain expressed his satisfaction with the financial statement, and congratulated the F.M. Committee on the splendid work they had done.

F. M. Ludbrook moved that a vote of thanks be given to the auditors, T. Renton and A. R. Lyall. Motion carried.

7.—SECRETARIAL.

The Victorian Committee, being also the Executive, has been in constant communication with all the States and missionaries in the field. The State Secretaries, G. T. Walden (N.S.W.), Ira Paternoster (S.A.) and H. J. Yelland (W.A.) have helped considerably. Sisters Lyall, Ludbrook, and Kemp have corresponded with the lady missionaries, and Bro. Lyall has sent cheques and cheer. A departure has been made this year in appointing an Organising Secretary, who has been supplied with typewriter and necessary conveniences to cope with the ever increasing work of the Committee.

8.—EDITORIAL.

The Committee acknowledge with gratitude the assistance given by contributors to Foreign Mission literature. The *Australian Christian* for two columns of space for missionary matter. *Pure Words*, for the opportunity of increasing missionary influence. Bro. A. R. Main for helpful F.M. matter in the C.E. Page. Bro. H. Gray for the missionary helps in the S.S. Lesson Leaflets, and Bro. G. P. Pittman for his assistance in the F.M. Column prior to his removal to India. The annual F.M. number of the *Christian* was a highly creditable issue, and ranks amongst the finest of the many splendid numbers of our church paper.

9.—CHILDREN'S DAY EXERCISES.

The first Sunday in November has become quite an institution in the schools throughout Australia. Two services were used this year. The N.S.W. and a few other schools used the American Exercises, whilst the other schools used the service arranged by the Victorian Committee, entitled, "The World Wide Call." Contributions, as notified in the Treasurer's Statement, were very liberal, and those who gave will have the satisfaction of knowing that their gifts for benevolence and medical comforts will in no wise lose the great reward. A well known brother will be asked to prepare the exercises for this year, and it is hoped that all schools will see their way clear to use the Australian service this year. The S.S. Union rendered valued assistance in the C.D. Exercises.

10.—MEMORABILIA.

The spirit of consecrated progress is notice-

able all along the line. Societies, churches and States are doing much in supporting teachers or evangelists. The various States Committees possibly possess additional records that were not available in time for this report, but the following support can be tabulated:—QUEENSLAND: Ma Ma Creek, teacher on Pentecost; Brisbane, teacher on Pentecost. WEST AUSTRALIA: Lake-st., Perth, a native student in India; W.A. Sisters, teacher on Pentecost; two C.E. Societies have also just offered to support helpers. NEW SOUTH WALES: Several churches and auxiliaries support teachers, whilst Enmore church from all sources contribute enough to make them a living link church (for particulars, see N.S.W. report). SOUTH AUSTRALIA: York, orphan at Damoh, India; the Sisters, C.E. and Bible Classes, Miss Terrell as living link; Bro. and Sister Smith, Unley, orphan at Damoh; Norwood church, student; Unley, teacher on Pentecost; Glenelg, native student at Daltonganj. VICTORIA: Sisters, per Mrs. Zeliuss, Bible women for Mrs. Strutton, Miss Thompson and Miss Tonkin, also an orphan through Miss Thompson; Bible College, native teacher, India; Kaniva C.E., native teacher, India; Doncaster Mission Band, native evangelist, Harda, India; Bendigo, teacher on Pentecost; the Endeavors through W. A. Kemp have also assisted nobly, as per financial statement. To all of the above the Committee express their high appreciation.

We are living in the joyful anticipation of a visit during the year from F. M. Rains, the popular talented Secretary of the F.C.M.S. of America. We feel sure his coming will arouse us to attempt even greater things for God, and expect greater things from God.

11.—COMMITTEE AND MEETINGS.

The personnel of the Committee changed somewhat during the year. G. P. Pittman resigned and J. McColl, of Lygon-st., was welcomed into his position. Mrs. W. A. Kemp was appointed in the place of Mrs. G. P. Pittman. Mrs. Ludbrook also resigned on account of ill health early in the year. Committee meetings, 11. Attendances: F. M. Ludbrook, 9; R. Lyall, 11; G. P. Pittman, 3 (resigned); W. A. Kemp, 10; A. R. Main, 8; C. A. Quick, 6; J. McColl, 2 (appointed Dec.); T. B. Fischer, 11; Mrs. Lyall, 8; Mrs. Ludbrook, 3 (resigned); Mrs. Pittman, 3 (resigned); Mrs. Kemp, 4 (appointed Oct.).

THE LAST WORD.

The mystic future with its privileges and possibilities lies before us. Shall we not bring Christ to the world and the world to Christ?

THEO. B. FISCHER,

Organising Secretary

The Foreign Missionary Committee's report was adopted as a whole.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

In the absence of R. Lyall, F. G. Dunn moved the adoption of the motion standing in his name, viz.: "That it be a recommendation to the Executive Committee to arrange quarterly or half-yearly meetings of officers and evangelists of city and suburbs to discuss matters pertaining to the conduct of church meetings for worship, and other subjects pertaining to the interests of the churches." The motion was carried.

It was resolved on the motion of H. G. Harward, "That it be a recommendation from this Conference to the Executive, that in the preparation of future programmes, a joint committee be appointed from the different committees to arrange for the same."

On the motion of A. Millis, it was resolved, "That this Conference authorise the Executive Committee to secure an allotment of ground in the new Melbourne

Cemetery (between Coburg and Campbellfield) for use by members of the Churches of Christ."

C. M. Gordon, in a most happy vein, moved a comprehensive vote of thanks to all who had assisted in making the Conference meetings so successful and interesting.

HOME MISSION NIGHT.

During the interval between the tea adjournment and the public meeting, a song service was held.

At 7.30 the President took the chair, and after the singing of a hymn, called on P. A. Dickson to open the meeting with prayer.

The President introduced to the meeting the newly-elected President, J. W. Baker. Bro. Baker thanked the Conference for the honor they had done him and the church at North Fitzroy, of which he was a member.

We give a brief synopsis of the addresses delivered, which were all of a very high order.

An address, "The Business Man and Home Missions," by F. M. Ludbrook.

F. M. Ludbrook said that the Lord Jesus had called into partnership all men in the greatest business in the world. The business man was a shrewd man, and in the Lord's business shrewdness of the right kind was a good thing. Business men, in many cases, had responded to the call of the Lord and had given their business qualities to help on the work of the gospel. Many names could be mentioned who had distinguished themselves in the world of commerce, and who had been devoted in their service to the Master. The business instincts of the members of the Conference were appealed to in all the various avenues of usefulness in connection with church work. We were all partners with Christ in the great work of the salvation of the race. It was a big business this, in which we were partners. We had to contribute our portion to the partnership account. Capable business men who were making money should contribute in proportion to their success. This remark would apply to all, whether great business men or not. He wondered what the angels in heaven would think of our giving if they knew as much about it as Mr. Prout Webb, the Commissioner of Taxes did. It was a fact that could not be disputed that in the Lord's business we could not get more out of it than we put in it. What was going to be the reply of the business man to the spirit of missions? Let us be careful that the spirit of Mammon worship did not interfere with our worship and service to Christ. Our money would be as dirt beneath our feet in the golden streets of the New Jerusalem, but souls that we had saved would be as precious jewels in our crowns of glory.

Solo, "O Rest in the Lord," Miss Lena Kemp.

Address, "The Spiritual Aspects of Home Missions," by H. Kingsbury.

H. Kingsbury said he was to speak of the "Spiritual Aspects of Home Missions," but he did not think that there were any unspiritual aspects about it. Perhaps the idea was to make a distinction between the financial and the spiritual. He thought really there was not a great line between the two. They were complementary one to the other. In all probability the idea in connection with the spiritual aspect of Home Missions had to do with the spiritual tone in our various churches. In his view spirituality meant implicit obedience to the Master. We could not be spiritual in any true sense of the word, unless we had, in obedience to the divine Word, sent abroad the gospel message to all the world. The commission of Jesus was all inclusive. It not only meant the evangelisation of foreign lands, but it meant also the evangelisation of the land in which we live. He would impress upon his brethren the blessings that came to those who were filled with the missionary spirit. The obedience to the divine command in regard to missions would create within us the unselfish spirit — the unselfish spirit of the Lord Christ. In regard to the church itself, a great blessing came to it if it had the missionary spirit. When a church was obliged to close its doors, it was sure sign that it was not a missionary church. Our churches were bound to be missionary churches, because of their motto, "Where the Bible speaks, we speak," for the Bible is full of the idea of missions.

Quartette, "Lead Me Gently Home."

Organ Solo. by S. Pittman.

Address, "Personal Responsibility in Home Missions," by Gifford Gordon.

Gifford Gordon said that the word personal was to be emphasised in what he had to say. Personal responsibility was specially emphasised in the life and work of Jesus Christ. He himself in his teaching gave the idea of personal responsibility a prominent place. Therefore in what he had to say he had behind him the authority of the great Teacher. The responsibility which rested upon every one was the salvation of human souls. The word of God to the prophet Ezekiel on the banks of the river Chebar were a solemn warning to all who disregarded their responsibility. Our Lord's commission placed us in the same position as Ezekiel. It was a solemn charge to all of us to sound a note of warning to the sinner. Our responsibility in this case meant the evangelisation of the State of Victoria. This responsibility was not realised by all the churches in the State. Some of them did not render support to the Home Mission Committee, because they did not agree with all that the said Committee did. He did not consider this attitude a right one. This was shirking responsibility without adequate reason. We could discharge our personal responsibility by seeking help in our petitions to the Almighty to

enlarge our hearts and endow us with the grace of giving. We could also do so by talking about missions and dwelling upon their importance, and, finally, we could do so in a practical way by giving liberally. J. W. Baker closed the meeting with prayer.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

The meeting was preceded by a song service, and at the time appointed F. M. Ludbrook took the chair and called upon R. C. Edwards to open the meeting with prayer.

T. B. Fischer read a letter from F. Filmer, of Pentecost, in which he asked for donations of old Bibles and Sankey's hymn books. Anything in the shape of clothes, old or new, would be acceptable.

E. Pittman, as President of the Foreign Mission Board of South Australia, conveyed the greetings of his Committee to the brethren of Victoria.

Congratulations were also received from G. T. Walden, N.S.W., Bro. M. J. Shah, Miss Terrell, and Miss Thompson, of India.

Resolved on the motion of R. Lyall, "That we, at this Foreign Missionary meeting of the Conference of the Churches of Christ, held at Melbourne, Easter, 1910, send most cordial greetings to our missionaries—in India, to Sister Thompson, Sister Terrell, Bro. and Sister Strutton, and their co-workers; in China, to Sister Tonkin and her co-workers; in Japan, to Bro. and Sister Davey and their co-workers; Pentecost, to Bro. and Sister Filmer and teachers, and Bro. and Sister Purdy, now at Sydney, going to Oba; also to Bro. and Sister G. P. Pittman, at Daltonganj, India."

Solo, Miss Ruby Finlayson, of South Australia.

The chairman said that they were in a happy state of mind that night, for they were in a prosperous condition. The contributions of the brethren had placed them in a good financial position. He expected, however, that Bro. Fischer, their Organising Secretary, would devise schemes that would make inroads on their pockets. And although Victoria had done very well, it only took third place. South Australia and N.S.W. were ahead of it in *pro rata* contributions.

Address, "Out of the Spoiled Stone," by C. M. Gordon.

Bro. Gordon's address was a splendid effort, and later on we hope to publish it in full. The idea was taken from Michael Angelo's spoiled piece of marble which he transformed by his genius into a thing of beauty and power. This illustrated the transforming power of the gospel. Bro. Gordon gave several examples of this in the conversion of those who had once been degraded and cruel savages.

Solo, "I gave My Life for Thee," by Miss Ruby Finlayson.

The concluding part of the evening's meeting was a series of biograph views of

scenes in Japan, China, India, Africa, and Nazareth. These were very interesting and instructive, and helped to complete one of the most successful Foreign Mission Demonstrations yet held.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

On Sunday afternoon Gifford Gordon preached the Conference Sermon, taking for his subject, "The Ideal Church." H. Kingsbury read the lesson, and H. Leng engaged in prayer. The Lygon-st. chapel was crowded to overflowing.

CONFERENCE PICNIC.

The Conference Picnic was held this year in the grounds of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris. It was probably the largest and most enjoyable picnic held in connection with our Conference gatherings. It is estimated that over 1200 persons were present, all of whom expressed themselves as being delighted with the handsome and commodious building and the lovely grounds and beautiful surrounding scenery. An open-air meeting was held in the afternoon to celebrate the opening of the new College buildings. F. G. Dunn, the chairman of the Board of Management, presided, and called upon J. Pittman for the opening prayer. Addresses were delivered by H. Kingsbury, A. R. Main, C. M. Gordon, F. M. Ludbrook, and H. G. Harward. Solos were given by Mrs. Roy Thompson and J. Binney.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR RALLY.

Lygon-st. chapel was again packed on Monday evening. Nat Haddow conducted a preliminary song service. Under his leadership, with the assistance of Miss Dickens and S. H. Pittman, the singing was unusually good and hearty.

After prayer by J. C. F. Pittman and Scripture reading by H. Baker, C. M. Gordon, the retiring President of our Victorian C.E. Union, presided over the first part of the meeting. In his remarks, the chairman reviewed the satisfactory report for the year, marked the splendid increase in membership, and appealed for a continued interest in the purchase of the Pentecost mission boat. Bro. Gordon mentioned that Lygon-st. society at present leads in holding shares in the boat, having 25¼ shares; Kaniwa comes next with 24; Footscray and Border Town tie for third place with 18. The two country societies were especially commended. It is still open for others to deprive these of the pride of place. He welcomed new officers, and introduced to the gathering the new President, T. B. Fischer, who then took the chair.

After a solo by J. Binney, which was heartily encored, the President thanked the societies for the honor conferred on him, re-welcomed the newly-appointed officers, and afterwards paid a high tribute to the work of the late Secretary of the Union, to whom on behalf of the C.E. Council he presented a silver cake basket. C. Timmins suitably responded.

T. Bagley delivered an earnest address on what he emphasised as a suitable daily prayer for Endeavorers—Psa. 119: 117. "Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe."

A decided improvement was made on the usual responses by individual societies. The

societies collectively responded, as did the Juniors also.

Mrs. Horton and Miss Ivy Woff contributed to the fine programme with a solo and recitation respectively, which were both much enjoyed. Greetings were read from the South Australian Union.

The Incarnate Word, and the Written Word.

Both are "Living."

Of the many statements which the Bible makes concerning the Word of God, none is more significant, and surely none is of greater importance to dying men, than the statement that the Word of God is a living Word.

In Philippians 2: 16 we have the expression "The Word of Life." The same expression occurs in 1 John 1: 1. It is here used of Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word; whereas in Philippians it is apparently the written Word that is spoken of. The Written Word and the Incarnate Word are so identified in Scripture that it is not always clear which is referred to. The same things are said of each, and the same characters attributed to each. The fundamental resemblance lies in the fact that each is the Revealer or tangible expression of the Invisible God. As the written or spoken word expresses, for the purpose of communicating to another, the invisible and inaccessible thought, so Jesus Christ as the Incarnate Word, and the Holy Scriptures as the Written Word, express and communicate knowledge of the invisible and inaccessible God. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." "Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me" (John 14: 9, 11).

In Hebrews 4: 12 we find the statement that "The Word of God is living and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword" (R.V.). Clearly this refers to the Written Word. But the very next verse, without any change of subject, directs our attention to the Searcher of hearts (Rev. 2: 23), saying: "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

Again, in 1 Peter 1: 23 we read of "the Word of God which liveth," or, more literally, "the Word of God living." Here again there might be uncertainty as to whether the Incarnate Word or the Written Word be meant; but it is generally understood that the latter is in view, and the quotation from Isaiah 40: 6-8 would confirm this idea.

From these passages we learn that the Word of God is spoken of as a "living" Word. This is a very remarkable statement, and is worthy of our closest examination and most earnest consideration. Why is the Word of God thus spoken of? Why is the extraordinary property of life, or vitality, attributed to it? In what respects can it be said to be a living Word, or Word of life?

But the expression "living," as applied to the Word of God, manifestly means

something more than partaking of the kind of life with which we are acquainted from observation. God speaks of himself as "the Living God." The Lord Jesus is the "Prince of Life" (Acts 3: 15). He announced himself to John in the vision of Patmos as "He that liveth." Eternal life is in him. (1 John 5: 11.)

It is clear, then, that when we read: "The Word of God is living," we are to understand thereby that it lives with a spiritual, an inexhaustible, an inextinguishable life—in a word, a divine life. If the Word of God be indeed living in this sense, then we have here a fact of the most tremendous significance. In the world around us the beings and things which we call "living" may just as appropriately be spoken of as "dying." What we call "the land of the living" might better be described as the land of the dying. Wherever we look we see that death is in control, and is working according to its invariable method of corruption and decay. Death is the real monarch of this world; and we meet at every turn the gruesome evidence and results of the universal sway of him who has "the power of death, that is, the devil" (Heb. 2: 14). "Death reigned" (Rom. 5: 17), and still reigns, over everything. The mighty and awful power of death has made this earth of ours a great burying ground—a gigantic cemetery.

Can it be that there is an exception to this apparently universal rule? Is there, indeed, in this world of dying beings—where the forces of corruption fasten immediately upon everything into which life has entered, and upon all the works of so-called living creatures—one object which is really living, an object upon which corruption cannot fasten itself, and which resists and defies all the power of death? Such is the assertion of the passages of Scripture which we have quoted. Surely then, if these statements be true, we have here the most astounding phenomenon in all the accessible universe; and it will be well worth while to investigate an object of which so startling an assertion is seriously, if very unobtrusively, made.

—From "Life in the Word."

What do you suppose "no night" means? It means that there shall be no interruption of the joy—no darkness of doubt, nor of sorrow, nor of sin. No eyes shall fail for the morning, no hearts tremble at the approaching gloom.—Anna Warner.



West Australia.

NORTHAM.—Last night we had the joy of seeing one make the good confession at the close of the gospel service. W. L. Ewers preaching. This is the third addition since last report. On Feb. 16, we had H. J. Banks here, who conducted a gospel service, and at the close of a very fine address one from the Bible School came forward and confessed the Christ. We regret to state that we have lost Bro. Mannering, supt. of the Bible School, who has left the district. Bro. Mannering was a great source of strength to the Bible School, and in Bro. Ewers' absence at Brookton, he preached the gospel acceptably with fruitful results. His place will be indeed difficult to fill. The work promises much.—G.L., March 14.

KALGOORLIE.—W. B. Blakemore, of Perth, who was conducting a mission in connection with the church here, closed the series of meetings last night. This mission has been a source of great blessing to us, and the influence of good is being felt outside. As a result of the mission, four have confessed Christ, but we know that seed has been sown in good ground, and hope to reap the harvest in the coming days. Before the meetings closed, Bro. Mill took the opportunity of saying a few words of appreciation and thanks to Bro. Blakemore for what he had done for us; and further, that we were greatly indebted to the Lake-st. church for letting our brother come and conduct the mission. Bro. Blakemore then spoke a few farewell remarks, and the meeting closed with "God be with you till we meet again."—J.M., March 21.

New Zealand.

DUNEDIN.—There were two confessions at the Tabernacle on the evening of Lord's day, March 13, and one last evening.—L.C.J.S., March 21.

NELSON.—Tenders have been accepted for a new church here. The present chapel is to be used after additions and renovation for an up-to-date Bible School. A few of the brethren are making large sacrifices. The new building will provide accommodation for about 300.—G. M. Jackson, March 10.

WELLINGTON SOUTH.—Since last report we have had two confessions, and a brother and sister were received into fellowship by letter. We are having splendid addresses from Bro. Wilson. Our gospel services are well attended by strangers. The average set for the midweek prayer meeting attendance for this quarter is 50. Last Tuesday there were 52 present. The brotherhood are having some splendid meetings. This has Bro. W. as president, and J. Day sec. The Endeavor Society is still on the increase. The task of delivering our monthly magazine has devolved upon them. The society carries out its duty well. A number of the brethren are leaving us this week to attend the Conference which is to be held at Spring Grove, Nelson, among them being Bro. and Sister Wilson. During Bro. Wilson's absence, Bro. Hardham, from the Hutt church, is to occupy the platform. The Bible School is preparing a programme for a concert. The funds realised are to be used for furnishing a library for the school. Bro. Weston, the school secretary, has the scholars in hand, which I am sure will ensure success for the concert.—H.H., March 23.

NEWTOWN.—One decision on Sunday evening last. The C.E. Convention held in Wellington last week had a communion service at the close of the consecration service on Friday evening last. I do not agree with this practice.—C.A.W.

MOTUEKA.—We are very pleased to report progress in the Motueka district. The work is going steadily but nicely forward, and a church has recently been established in the centre, with a membership of nine. There have been four recent additions by immersion; the numbers are small yet, but we are looking forward to better things in the near future. Bro. Price has been working very assiduously for months past, and is now seeing some of the fruits of his labors. The meetings are at present being conducted in the Masonic Hall, Motueka. Kindly forward any communications to the church at Motueka to Castle. ♀

Victoria.

MELBOURNE (Swanston-st.).—Amongst our Conference visitors last Lord's day morning were Bro. Harman and Miss Harman from Kyneton, Bro. and Sister Connor from Colac, and Bro. and Sister Oram from St. Arnaud. Sisters Yeland and Mann, from Unley, S.A., were also present. Bro. Connor addressed the church most acceptably, and the other visiting brethren took part in the meeting. Bro. Gordon preached in the evening.

PAKENHAM.—On March 27 one young sister who confessed her faith in Christ the previous Sunday evening was baptised. Good meetings yesterday. Visitors present from Williamstown and Swanston-st. churches.—H.S.R., March 28.

CHELTENHAM.—Grand meetings. Visitors, Bro. and Sister Eaton, South Yarra; Reg. Coventry, Brighton; Bro. and Sister Bishop, Bayswater. Two received in by faith and obedience. Bro. Benn, of Kaniva, assisted at Bible Class and gospel service with helpful talks. Harvest festival on April 10. Come.—T.B.F.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.).—Conference Sunday, in the morning, we were pleased to have a large number of visitors present. One received by letter. J. W. Baker gave an encouraging and helpful address. Horace Kingsbury discoursed at night to a full house; subject, "Down and Out." The sisters of the church as usual entertained the visitors who wished to stay with dinner and tea in the lecture hall.—J.McC.

ST. ARNAUD.—We regret losing Bro. Oram, who left here on the 22nd inst. He has taken up the work at Doncaster. Bro. Hansen is now preaching for us, and will most likely be with us a few weeks. A business meeting of the church was held on the 21st inst., when the following deacons were elected: Bros. Edelsten, Green, McPherson, Probyn (treas.), Benson (sec.). At the conclusion of the business Bro. Oram announced that a brother who did not wish his name to be known had donated £50 to the church. This handsome gift manifests the confidence placed in our brother as a teacher of the Word. A few words of farewell were spoken by some of the brethren to Bro. and Sister Oram, to which our brother feelingly responded. The Endeavor Society presented them with an autograph album and a memento from the Junior Endeavorers. Last Lord's day we were glad to have with us Bro. Elder, from Ballarat, and

Bro. Larkins, who have not been with us for some time.—H.B., March 28.

NEWMARKET.—On Lord's day, March 20, the church celebrated its 26th anniversary. In the morning Allan Stewart exhorted. In the afternoon Bro. Abercrombie addressed the children on "Grubs and Apples." At the evening service our brother preached a powerful sermon, his subject being "The Mighty Magnet." The meetings were all well attended, the chapel at night being full. At the close of the meeting one young lady who had made the good confession the previous Sunday was immersed. On Monday, 21st, a social was held, when we took the opportunity of saying farewell to Bro. Abercrombie, who has been with us for the past six months, and on behalf of the church Bro. Hatty presented to our departing brother a handsome pair of sleeve-links and a set of brushes. We are sorry to lose our brother, as the meetings of late have been the best attended we have had for some considerable time. At all the meetings the choir by their splendid singing contributed largely to the success of the meetings.—J.W.

ASCOT VALE.—Last Lord's day morning our meeting was well attended, and we were delighted at having as visitors our Bren. Leng, from Castlemaine, Benson, from Ballarat, and also Sister Clark, from North Adelaide. Bro. Leng gave us a splendid exhortation on "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." In the evening our evangelist delivered an excellent gospel address, which was listened to most attentively, and although no visible results accrued therefrom, we feel confident that good was accomplished. Pleased to report that new schoolroom is now in course of erection, and will be completed next month.—J.Y.P.

HARCOURT.—Bro. Leng, of Castlemaine, held a midweek gospel meeting on March 4. Two baptisms at close by Bro. Millar. On March 14 a social was held to welcome Bro. Millar to our midst. Bro. Hogarth extended a cordial welcome on behalf of the church. Several other brethren heartily supported it. Bro. Millar responded and thanked the brethren for their welcome, and urged the members to work unitedly together, and hoped that he would justify their bright hope and confidence. On Lord's day last Bro. Bagley was with us, addressing church and Sunday School. Two scholars confessed Christ. It was a time of deep joy for all who had the privilege of hearing Bro. Bagley. In the evening Bro. Millar preached to a large and attentive audience, his subject being "The Gospel Ladder," illustrated by chart. Interest good.—J. Bauer.

MARYBOROUGH.—We had splendid meetings on Easter Sunday: a record attendance at the Lord's table. Two were received into fellowship, one by faith and baptism and one received by letter from St. Arnaud. We are shortly to hold our Sunday School picnic. The evening meeting was especially good, there being to present.—J. G. Bridgman, March 28.

HORSHAM.—Splendid meetings all day yesterday. In the morning two adults were baptised and welcomed into the church, and broke bread with us at the same meeting. Both of these had been prominent members in the Methodist Church—one of them a local preacher. We are much encouraged by the fact that this is an addition to six that were baptised about a month ago. Bro. Parker's harvest is coming in fast. We hope for a greater ingathering in the near future.—A. J. Abbott.

Queensland.

BRISBANE.—Last Wednesday we had the pleasure of Linley Gordon's company all day. As the "Marama" did not leave for Vancouver till 11 p.m., he was able to meet with us at our midweek service. All present listened with great interest and profit to his discourse on "Is the Church Essential?" It is to be regretted that brethren travelling en route to America, or vice versa, have only a few hours ashore at Brisbane. It would prove profitable both to them and the

brethren here if they could come on a few days ahead when going to the States, and board their steamer on its arrival in Queensland waters. There is much in this capital of the great northern State to interest and attract the visitor, which cannot possibly be seen in five or six hours. Inclement weather was responsible for small meetings yesterday. Two confessions at night.—L. Golc.

New South Wales.

MARRICKVILLE.—On Sunday at 3 p.m. we held our Bible School anniversary in Excelsior Hall, with a large attendance, and a good address by Geo. D. Verco. The singing by the children, under the leadership of T. C. Walker, was a most attractive feature. On Monday evening, in the same hall, there was a children's entertainment and distribution of prizes that proved a highly successful function. The choruses by the children were so splendidly rendered that it stamps Bro. Walker's tuition as of a very high order. The individual items were good; piano-forte solo by Ruby Burnett, song by Adelaide Thomas, recitations by Beatrice and Birdie Follett, Ida Matthews and Willie Walker. The two first were splendid, and received hearty encores. Duet by Misses Coomber and Follett. The secretary, R. Miller, and treasurer, Sister Annie McDonald, read reports that were both encouraging and optimistic. The chairman, Bro. Watt, distributed the prizes. Record meetings in the church, morning and evening.—W.

ENMORE.—Monday, March 21, was a red-letter day at the Enmore tabernacle. The church stepped right off the beaten path, which has been trodden with fair success for so many years, on to a broader musical platform. They turned down the old American organ, and installed an up-to-date powerful pipe organ for the betterment of their Sunday song service. This instrument was presented to the church by Bros. John and Dr. A. E. Bardsley, at a cost of 200 odd pounds. Such an act is deserving of the highest commendation. It is not often that two young men make so noble a gift. In memory of their father and mother, two members of the Australian Church of Christ, who were known throughout the Commonwealth for their liberality and for their Christianity, was the gift made. The good name of Bardsley is more than ever a permanency in the church. It can never fade. Every time that great instrument is opened and played, it will remind the hearers of the many kindly acts, and of the very estimable lives of the two Christian leaders who inspired it. Enmore, through the teaching and example of a good father and a good mother, is now the proud possessor of a musical instrument that can and will be used for the advancement of our cause and to the glory of God. As was only to be expected, the building was crammed to the doors. Indeed, many could not gain admission. The meeting began with a few introductory remarks by Geo. T. Walden, who told the company something of the history of the church's attempts to procure a powerful pipe organ. It is interesting to know, that had the Messrs. Bardsley not made the presentation, Mr. Thomas Savage was willing to do so. Enmore, fortunately, has a following of loyalists, who know the value of the good work done by Mr. Walden, and are not afraid to put their hands in their pockets to send matters along. Mr. John Bardsley, junr., opened the instrument with a golden key, and dedicated it to the glory of God. The programme given by the choir was much appreciated. The services of several of Sydney's professionals were procured, which made the programme a pronounced success.—W. D. Rankine.

MOSMAN.—Best meetings on record last Sunday, March 20, both morning and evening, it being Geo. D. Verco's first Sunday with us. Meetings on Lord's day, the 27th, were well attended. Bro. Verco gave us an Easter message in the evening from "The Empty Tomb." We have every reason to feel encouraged in the work.—G.H.O., March 27.

ENMORE.—Well attended meetings all day. F. J. Purdy, New Hebrides missionary, preached morning and evening. We were glad to have several visitors to the morning meeting. All the Conference meetings were held at Enmore, which proved to be the most suitable building for that purpose. Enmore choir did good work during the week. Several special anthems were sung and were much appreciated. The choir attended in good numbers every night. John Lockley conducted the singers, and Percy Dixon took charge of our new pipe organ, and played some sweet music, which showed the instrument off to advantage.—W. D. Rankine.

South Australia.

HINDMARSH.—March 19, 11 a.m., we had the pleasure of listening to an address from S. G. Griffith, of the Norwood church. 6.30, I. A. Paternoster gave a good address on the temperance question, and impressed on all those present to vote in the top square. Good attendances at both meetings. Our Home Mission collection taken up recently so far amounts to £17/6/7.—J. W. Snook.

PROSPECT.—The inaugural meeting of the Young People's Society was held in the chapel on Monday evening, March 21. The supt., A. C. Belcher, presided. The following programme was carried out. Opening song, No. 54, Alexander's, society singing verses, the audience joining in chorus. Prayer, led by Bro. Jackson; Sunday's N.T. lesson, read by Miss B. Redman; chairman's welcome and address on the aims and objects of the society; society's motto (1 Pet. 3: 15), read by Master Thomas; secretary's (Miss D. McLaren) report of the two months' work. Recitations, Misses Treaton and Stella Davenport, A. Penn and D. Jackson; Songs and Solos, No. 51, by members; favorite texts by members; songs, by Misses Johnson; two very nice addresses by Mr. Hutton (from Hope Lodge Missionary College), and Dr. J. C. Verco; closing by singing Songs and Solos No. 370, to the tune "Sharon."—B.C.A.

PORT PIRIE.—Our anniversary services in connection with the Sunday School were held on March 20 and 22, and passed off very successfully. Our evangelist, Geo. Wilson, exhorted the church in the morning, his subject being "An Easter Meditation"—a very fine address. In the evening he preached especially to the young people, when his theme was "The Fading Leaf and the Rising Wind." In the afternoon the service of song entitled "Singing Jim," was rendered in a splendid manner by the scholars and teachers, Bro. Wilson giving the connective readings. The service was repeated on the Tuesday evening, when W. T. Mitchell read. Miss Pearl Palmer was the organist. The work is going on nicely. The newly-formed C.E. Society is becoming a good help to the young people, and is training them for usefulness in the church's work. A Bible Class social held last week passed off very successfully. We are glad that the interest in this class is increasing, as is also the attendance. We congratulate our preacher, Bro. Wilson, on taking unto himself a wife, and wish both much joy and happiness in their future lives.

Here & There.

VICTORIAN CONFERENCE JOTTINGS.

A gratifying feature of the Conference was the splendid attendance quite early in the business session. This denotes much interest.

The conductor of song, Nat Haddow, who places the Conference annually under a great debt of gratitude, was delighted with the rare experience of a deep, rich outburst of song from an audience mostly male.

"To put only a foreign interpretation on the commission of Jesus is foreign to its spirit."

"Going to heaven's just like learning to ride a bicycle—you've either got to go forward or get off."

Friday's meetings taxed Lygon-st. chapel to its utmost. The evening meeting overflowed into the vestibule, lecture hall and yard.

It was an inspiring sight to view the great Home Mission and Foreign Mission rallies. No wonder the speakers delivered eloquent and helpful addresses.

Wanted.—"Old Clo", old Bibles and hymn books (Sankey's), old umbrellas, old razors and new soap for the mission on Pentecost. Send to T. B. Fischer, Cheltenham, as soon as possible.

It was comforting to be told that the Sunday School statistics as printed were inaccurate. The Sunday School Union Secretary said there was no decrease, but an increase for the year of 73 scholars.

The change of order in Friday's programme was generally appreciated. The President's practical message and the stirring addresses on Home Missionary work, reached a much larger audience than usual.

"What an inspiring theme!" said A. W. Connor, as he began to speak of difficulties. Indeed, the speaker made it so, for he succeeded in convincing us that difficulties exist to be overcome, and are of value in calling out the best that is in us.

As usual, the sisters merited and received the hearty thanks of Conference for their financial help, and also for their very practical assistance in Conference arrangements. Many of the sisters give much time annually to the work of making us comfortable.

H. Kingsbury must have achieved a double success in his address on "The Spiritual Aspect of Home Missions." He pleased all with his Home Missionary speech; at the same time he delighted Bro. Wong with "a Foreign Missionary address on Home Missionary work."

The Conference President gave a most practical address. He appealed to the churches to be self-supporting. His remarks concerning the West Wimmera circuit's resolution to undertake the whole financial responsibility for the work in that district were heartily applauded.

The statistical table evoked quite a breezy discussion. Many suggestions for greater progress were made. The plea for greater individual effort seemed to be best received. The need of a "shaking-up" on Sunday School work was specially emphasised. Suppose we each "shake"!

H. Leng thinks we are improving in Christian courtesy and character. In bygone days a sister told him of her joy that the little wooden chapel had been deserted for a brick building with extra thick walls. "For," said she, "with our wooden walls, our business meetings could be heard two blocks off."

H. Kingsbury quoted the revised version of a familiar hymn. He wondered if we prefer the revision:—

"I must be carried to the skies

On flow'ry beds of ease.

Let others fight to win the prize:

I'm not so hard to please."

One of the most pleasing features of this year's Home Missionary reports was the prominence given to the idea of self-support. It is gratifying to know that two of the circuits—West Wimmera and Mallee—have pledged themselves to shoulder the whole of their financial responsibilities. Lancefield church has also fallen into line. Meredith looks that way.

With hearty applause the Conference showed its approval of the taking over on the part of the F.M. Committee of the work on the island of Oba. This gives us a mission field ready made, with nearly 500 baptised believers, 50 mission schools with 1000 scholars, and about 50 native teachers. Bro. Purdy, who will act as honorary supt., sails with Mrs. Purdy from Sydney for Oba at the beginning of April.

Miss Ruby Finlayson, from South Australia, sang most acceptably on Foreign Mission night, her selections being well chosen and most appropriate.

We gather from Bro. Filmer's letter there must be some agonised yells and gashed cheeks in Pentecost. The inventive natives shave at times with broken bottles!

One of the most appreciated items on the Home Missionary programme was the exquisite organ solo of S. H. Pittman. Bro. Pittman helps the brethren much with his musical gift.

"The Business Man and Home Missions." F. M. Ludbrook does not include our preachers among business men—they would never make preaching a business for the salary they get!

"You get out just what you put in." So F. M. Ludbrook told us concerning our mission work. He illustrated his point by the story of an American poultry farmer who wished to raise more money, and did so by experimenting on one hen. He fed her for days and weeks and months—on sawdust. She continued to lay eggs. He set her on thirteen of these eggs. And the result? Twelve of the issue had wooden legs, and the thirteenth was a woodpecker!

An excellent meeting at Collingwood, Sunday evening, A. W. Connor preaching. One decision.

It is requested that all accounts in connection with the late Victorian Sisters' Conference be sent as early as convenient to Mrs. B. J. Kemp, Holmes-rd., Moonee Ponds.

The General Dorcas (Vic.) will not meet until the third Thursday in April, when every member of the Committee is asked to be present at Swanston-st. lecture hall from 10.30 a.m.

Merewether Appeal.—C. Nisbet desires us to acknowledge the receipt of the following additional amounts:—A. W. Paterson, Balaklava, £6 14/6; E. J. Saxby, Taree, £4/7/-; A. Brother, Sydney, £2; G. Goudie, Ultima, £5; Hawera, 10/-; Total, £18/11/6.

The quarterly united meeting of the office-bearers of the Sydney churches was held on Friday, March 18, in the City Temple. J. J. Franklin in a very able manner introduced a discussion on "Church Discipline." It was a pity that every officer of every church was not present.

Queensland Conference proved the best held for many years, in numbers, representation, interest, and business carried through. The spirit of unity and co-operation was more manifest than ever before, and should ensure a forward move during the coming year in local and combined State work.

S.S. Union, Vic.—The next meeting of the General Committee will be held on Monday evening, April 11, in the New Hall, Swanston-st., at 8 o'clock. Full attendance of delegates requested. Business: To consider matters pertaining to Examination; to appoint auditors; to fix date of annual business meeting, etc., etc.—J. Y. Potts, Hon. Sec.

H. G. Harward has requested the Board of Management of the College of the Bible to relieve him of his College duties at the end of the College year in November. Bro. Harward intends resuming mission work, and has received several pressing invitations to take up evangelistic work both in this State and out of it. The brethren in this State hope to keep him in Victoria, as there is plenty of work for him to do.

J. W. Snook writes: "J. Delahanty, Secretary of the United Temperance Movement in S.A., speaking in the Robert-st. church of Christ, Hindmarsh, referred to a recent article in the press, and stated that he was glad he was speaking in a church building belonging to a people who would not tolerate such a man as a church warden who was secretary of a jockey club, and said it was lamentable that any church should tolerate such a thing."

H. G. Harward, Principal of the College of the Bible, in his speech at the Conference picnic, said that the College was still without a cow, and put the blame upon us for not being sufficiently

plain in our previous announcement that such an animal would be regarded as a distinct acquisition to the College property. To make amends for any ambiguity in our former statement of the case, we now say that the College authorities and the students would be glad if some brother would make them a present of a good cow.

In answer to the questions submitted by "Anxious Enquirer," we reply as follows:—(1) If a Christian desires to grow in the spiritual life, he or she will not be found frequenting the ballroom. Its tendency is to destroy spirituality. (2) There is nothing wrong in a Christian going to cricket matches or being a member of a tennis club. Card playing, from its associations, had better be avoided. (4) In our opinion every Christian should be a total abstainer. (5) There is no harm in singing secular songs of the right kind. A Christian, however, will find his chief delight in singing the songs of Zion. (6) It is not right to ignore or pass over any verse of the Bible that does not agree with preconceived ideas. This kind of thing is a fruitful source of error in the religious world.

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The Jubilee History makes a handsome volume for presentation. It is a good first prize for Sunday Schools.

Extract from letter of D. C. McCallum, of Everett, Mass., U.S.A., who is now on his way to Australia via England:—"I spent four days last week at Rochester in attendance upon the Quadrennial Convention of the Student Volunteer Movement. You will remember the reports we sent of the one Cecil and I attended at Nashville four years ago. These gatherings are wonderfully inspiring. Everything is conducted in such a splendid way. John R. Mott is the greatest master of ceremonies I know. By a motion of the hand or a change of the expression upon his face he commands the obedience of the vast audience. He is a statesmanlike man. And there are many other great men to be heard and seen at these gatherings. Best of all; though, is the magnificent student body to be seen on such occasions. Young men strong of body, mind and heart. Bright, cultured, queenly young women. The schools and colleges are not the strongholds of infidelity which some would have us believe when they send forth such men and women. And the time has not come for our treasured faith to be relegated to the backgrounds when our Christ can stir thousands of the brightest minds and the most forceful characters among the young to lives of heroic service."

The Bible School, says the *Christian-Evangelist*, is coming to its own. The time was when its faithful superintendents and teachers toiled on in a discouraged way, with little encouragement even from the local church. Now the Bible School has become the local church, discharging one of its most important functions. The ablest men of our time are giving their thought and labor to promote its interest. A vast amount of literature is being created for the benefit of teachers and pupils. Newspapers are exploiting the work, and great Bible Classes are now matters of public interest to the whole brotherhood. A new interest

in the Bible itself, and a better appreciation of the value of religious instruction as the groundwork of Christian character, are the forces which lie behind this great movement.

The usual guardedness of the utterances of Catholic leaders, says the *Christian*, sometimes leads to a concealment of their real spirit. "Father" Bernard Vaughan, when lecturing at Liverpool recently on "Joan of Arc," said:—"As I was coming here I saw over a Nonconformist chapel the words 'Get right with God,' which I suppose was a polite way of telling the Nonconformists they were a little wrong with God. Well, I am not going to insult you by taking as my motto, 'Get right with God,' because the Maid of France, not being a Nonconformist, but being a Catholic, is going to show you how to keep right with God. Let the High Churchmen play at religion; we must sweat at it. Among all the inventions of the sixteenth century Protestantism was the poorest. I would make a better religion myself with the stuff we have over from ours." Apart from the undesirable flippancy of such an utterance, it is instructive as indicating the inherent hatred that Rome feels to every form of faith but her own. And, yet more, it shows that having been treated with every—indeed, too much—consideration by the British public, she is now beginning to throw off the mask of assumed politeness, and to reveal the points of her fangs. *Semper eadem!*

Readers of Ruskin's delightful autobiography, and of the various accounts of his life which have been issued, will remember what importance and value the great art critic and sociologist placed upon the grounding in the Scriptures which, at the hands of his mother, formed so prominent a portion of his early education. One result of that wise action on the part of his mother was, not only his familiarity with the Psalms and other selected canonical Books, but a faithfulness to the study of the whole Bible which endured throughout all his life. This influenced deeply his personal conduct and thought, and colored all his noblest literary work. The story of that devout training is full of lessons for those who are neglecting the Bible as the basis of the education of their children. Happily, the encouragement which the practice offers to devout parents may be found in many quarters, for it is by no means difficult to-day to meet with distinguished men and women who owe all that is noble in them to the fact that they were taught at their mothers' knees to love the Word of God.

China is a land of wonders and surprises. The way in which it is dealing with its great opium curse furnishes a lesson to those of us who would apply more drastic methods to the national curse of Great Britain. From Shanghai comes the assurance that, in the backward province of Szechwan, the cultivation of opium has almost ceased. China, too, is alive to the benefits of a Western culture, and the Emperor has quite recently sanctioned some excellent rules for the government of the students. The girl students are to avoid "flashy" dress, and are to array themselves in a fairly neat and uniform fashion. Moreover, says this Imperial edict, girl students under fifteen "must not bind their feet, etc." So that this cruel and age-long habit is doomed! This may fairly be counted as one of the indirect victories of the Cross. *Per contra*, the Chinese Ambassador in this country read a paper to the Authors' Club last week upon "The Influence of China in the West." For ages, he maintained, China had been a magnet and Europe the filings. He further said that before long Chinese labor would "inundate the whole world, both politically and commercially." And so, steadily and slowly, China is awaking from its stupendous dream. May the Christian nations arise and show this mighty empire "the excellent way," now that the door of opportunity is so wide open!

Mauro's "Living Word" is a little book worth reading. The contention of the writer is that the Bible occupies a class by itself. He has therefore singled out for consideration one special attribute, or characteristic, of the Holy Scripture, namely, that signified by the word "living." The following chapter on "The Perennial Freshness

of the Bible" will indicate the line of thought pursued by the author:—

The Bible differs radically from all other books in its perpetual freshness. This characteristic will be recognised only by those who know the Book in that intimate way which comes from living with it, as with a member of one's family. I mention it first, because it was one of the first unique properties of the Bible which impressed me after I began to read it as a believer in Christ. It is a very remarkable fact that the Bible never becomes exhausted, never acquires sameness, never diminishes in its power of responsiveness to the quickened soul who comes to it. The most familiar passages yield as much (if not more) refreshment at the thousandth perusal as at the first. It is indeed as a fountain of living water.

The fountain is the same, but the water is always fresh and always refreshing. We can compare this to nothing but what we find in a living companion, whom we love and to whom we go for help and fellowship. The person is always the same, and yet without sameness. New conditions evoke new responses; and so it is with the Bible. As a living book it adapts itself to the new phases of our experience, and the new conditions in which we find ourselves. From the most familiar passage there comes again and again a *new message*; just as our most familiar friend or companion will have something new to say as new situations require it.

This is true of no other book. What man's book has to say we can get the first time; and the exceptions arise merely from lack of clearness on the writer's part, or lack of apprehension on the part of the reader. Man can touch only the surface of things, and he cares only about surface appearances. So, in all his writings, whatever substance they contain lies on the surface, and can be gathered, by a capable reader, at once. If the Word of God may be compared in this particular to a living person, the books of men may be compared to pictures or statues of living persons. However beautifully or artistically executed, a single view may readily exhaust the latter, and a second and third look will be mere repetitions. The difference is that which distinguishes the living from the dead. The Word of God is *living*.

But while the Bible resembles, in this important respect, a living person, who is our familiar, sympathetic, and responsive companion, it differs from such a human companion in that the counsel, comfort, and support it furnishes are far above and beyond what any human being can supply; and the only explanation of this is that the source of its life and powers is not human, but divine.

This issue contains four extra pages.

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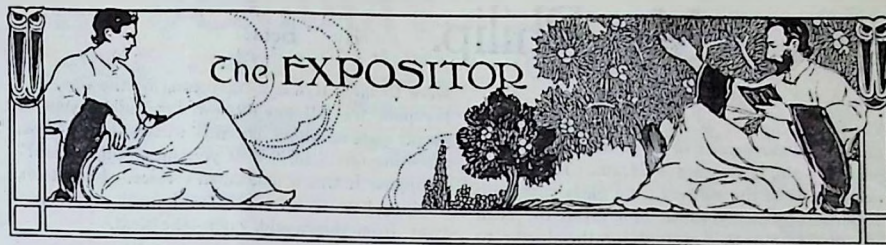
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DEATH.

EARLES.—Charlotte (Lottie), Beloved daughter of George and Harriet Redgood, on August 7, at Sebastopol; formerly of Berwick.



Miracle and Revelation.

By Alan Price.

The Christian who seeks to purge his faith of the miraculous will only succeed in destroying it. Our faith is based on facts necessarily miraculous and revelations necessarily supernatural. Remove the miraculous and the supernatural, and down falls the conviction based thereon. When men forget or doubt these fundamental facts, the religious fervor of youth evaporates in the toil and heat of life's midday.

"Why should it be thought a thing incredible that God should raise the dead?" The God that gave and took the life can give again. If God can do the greater, he can surely do the minor miracles recorded in the Bible. Yet as we pass along through this matter of fact world, where cause and effect seemingly operate in unerring rotation, doubts as to miracle and revelation are apt to permeate the mind. The book of revelation may become a book of suspicion. Miracles recorded there, once received in love and wonder, become the great object of criticism because of their wonder.

The cold reasoning of this century would measure spiritual truth with a two-foot rule, and religion in pounds avoirdupois. What cannot be measured or weighed or put under the microscope is considered unworthy of belief. Yet the so-called eternal laws of matter are tottering to their fall. Scientists feel they are on a precipice over which the long conceived ideas of solidity and gravity may in a moment be hurled. Matter considered dead is found to be very much alive, so far as motion is concerned. In fact, matter may not be matter at all as generally conceived but a group of electric forces. Things are not what they seem. Man has been trying to sound God and has found him unfathomable.

If man has failed to reason out the common things of life and finds himself confused in the contemplation of sticks and stones, how dare he raise his puny head to God and tell him the supernatural is false? All our boasted knowledge, all the advance of science, are only the finding out of what God knew when he created. All we can know or do or be, God has known and been before us. A fountain cannot rise above its source. God is the fountain-head of knowledge, power and virtue. In none of these can man approach him. Man has only scratched the surface of the earth—he can only trace the shadows on the meanest planet—he knows practically nothing of the myriads of suns and worlds beyond—he cannot tell whence they came and whither they go—and yet he asks God to expunge the miraculous from his creed, because it is beyond the comprehension of his little mind.

When science has solved the mysteries of radium, has analysed the ether of space and reduced the life germ to a chemical formula, it will be time enough to question the grand verities of the book that tells us God said Let there be light, let there be life, let there be land. The solution of such problems, if attainable, would only mean the creation of a greater problem behind them, for the infinity of God is not only one of time and knowledge and power, but also, apparently, of cause.

Under the reign of reason man seems to be losing his sixth sense—the spiritual one. That sense, deranged, is seen in witchcraft, sorcery and visions of ghosts; but, clothed in its right mind,

was the medium through which God spoke to man. How can we account for the marvellous fulfilment of dreams in our personal experience and that of reliable friends but through our having a mysterious and undefined spiritual sense? Mesmerism or hypnotism has placed beyond doubt the existence of external mental forces, and science has had to bow to these facts which are unmeasurable by the laws of science. She must also keep her measuring rod off divine things, for God's spiritual power cannot be confined by physical laws. If he is limited once, he must be limited always—admit unlimited power once, and that power must be unlimited always.

Question the miracles of creation, or of Canaan, and you must also question prophecy. Prophecy, however, is unquestionable; therefore all divine miracle is unquestionable. Admit prophecy, and you admit him of whom the prophets wrote. Admit Christ, and you must admit his life, miracles, teaching, death, resurrection, and apostolic commission.

Try to account for nature on any other hypothesis than that it is the work of an omniscient Being, and reason fails. Do your utmost to account for the power of divine religion other than as a revelation from the same omniscient One, and you will never find another cause of sufficient spiritual force to produce such far-reaching effects.

A child struts into the workshop of his father, who has just perfected some wonderful electrical contrivance, and overlooks his shoulder. The son struts out again and tells a friend there is nothing in it but a bit of charcoal and a few wires and screws. Man has often looked over his Father's shoulder. He can make out the superficialities, but cannot grasp the spiritual forces that lie beyond that petty intellect with which he thinks to measure God. Our Creator gave us reason to let us understand something of the mighty laws of nature, but he never planned to limit his own spiritual power by man's capacity to understand. God, however, must speak to his fallen creatures. The mouth of man must bear the message and the messenger have credentials. To attest authority above the physical, the physical laws must be interrupted. When man had spurned the lesser messengers and God saw fit to send his Son, it was necessary that the greatest revealer should have the greatest signs. By him the veil was lifted sufficiently for man to catch a glimpse of divine love. Some day that veil shall be further lifted, and the Christian shall know as he is known.

The Pharisee of Christ's day, as one has said, could not hold a candle to the Pharisee of to-day. The New Testament Pharisee said, "I thank God that I am not as other men are"; but the nineteenth century Pharisee knows that that is not orthodox; he plays the publican and says, "God, be merciful to me, a sinner," but remains as unhumiliated and unhealed as ever.—John McNeill.

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My Philip.

By "Beta."

CHAPTER I.

Was it a dream, or was I in a trance? I made an effort to wake myself or to come back to consciousness. No, it was not a dream. There were the four walls of the surgery, the glass case with its bright instruments which had given me such a sickening feeling as I waited for the doctor to complete his examination, and there the rows of great books which surely contained directions for curing all the diseases on earth, including my own, and there was the doctor himself, the great busy, skilful physician, and it seemed as though I had just dreamed that he had pronounced my case hopeless, and that within a few months at the longest I must die. I was fully awake and conscious now at any rate, and I said to him, "What did you say about my case, doctor—can't you do anything for me?"

"I am sorry to say," he gravely replied, "that your case is quite beyond my power, and I can do nothing for you. It is just a matter of time."

"How long, doctor?"

"Perhaps a week or two, or even two or three months."

Then it was no dream. I must bid farewell to the world, and to all my dear ones—my mother and sister away up the country on a Wimmera farm, waiting to hear the Melbourne doctor's opinion of the only son and brother. Good-bye to everyone and everything. How new, how awful the thought that I no longer belonged to this world! I went away in a maze. Others were waiting to whom this doctor might bring health and hope, and I went out into the busy street, not caring whither I went. I just wanted to think, to face the situation, and above all things I wanted to prepare. I seemed to have nothing in common with any whom I met. They belonged to this world, and I was a stranger and a pilgrim therein.

As I walked on I met a Salvationist. I would have called him a "Salvo" before. Now I was looking on things with different eyes. I thought I saw in his uniform and S. a reference to the things in which I was now so interested. Had he any message for me? Could he help me? He passed on, and then I saw a band of street musicians. What were they playing for—to prepare themselves for the next world, or to get other people saved, or was it only to make money—paltry money, which one must leave behind? Oh, how short and uncertain this earthly life, and how long and sure and important the life to come! As I strolled on, I wondered at the eagerness of men to make money, and the worldliness of everybody, and I was a pilgrim and a stranger on the earth, alone.

"I'm out of it all," I muttered to myself as I stopped in front of a stationer's window. I searched that window eagerly, greedily, for some crumb of comfort which might be mine without money and without price. "Remember all the way the Lord hath led you," faced me on a card. Yes, God had been good to me, and now it did seem strange if he were going to cast me away. Then there was another text hung up. It said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." To say that these words were as water to a famishing man would hardly express all they

were to me. It was a busy time of the day, and the path was all too narrow for the throngs of people passing along, but this was nothing to me, till some one said, "Will you move on, please?"

I suppose it was a policeman's voice. I went on, thinking how true it was that I must move on—away from this world, on to the next.

When I had got away from the busy part of the city, I stood once more. This time it was in front of a church, and I read on the notice board that the minister would speak the next Sunday evening on the subject of "How to be saved," and I walked on, making up my mind to be there. But was it safe to wait even for the next Sunday? I sauntered on once more into the busy street, till I came to Coles' Book Arcade. Surely in all those books dealing with every conceivable subject there was something for me. I took up volume after volume, but none of them seemed to offer that first and speedy aid which I so much needed. In desperation I took up a Bible. What a grand book the Bible is after all when one is really in dead earnest about the most important things! While you are inwardly expecting to live in this world for all time, world without end, then the Bible doesn't particularly appeal to the ordinary man; but when one of the leading doctors of the State tells you that the sand in the glass has almost run out, and that these things are to be dissolved, you take up Peter's words and ask his question, "What manner of person ought I to be?" with the day of judgment perhaps just an hour ahead of me! And if there is any book that answers that question, it is the old Bible; and so I read, read for life, endless life, chapter after chapter. Oh, how I read that day. I wanted to get through the New Testament if possible that day. As I was reading a shadow fell across the page, and I looked up and saw a gentleman standing in front of me. He was looking round as one does to take a general view of one's surroundings. He turned his glance on me as I looked up, and he said, "Good afternoon." I thought it was still morning, but responded according to his salutation.

"You've got a good book there," he remarked.

"Yes," I said. "Do you know anything about it?"

"Why, yes. I think most people know something about it. It's God's book, and tells us how to be saved."

"That's what I want," I said quickly. "I'd give anything to know how to be saved so that I'd be ready for the next world."

"Why, all you have got to do is to believe on Christ and be as good as you can," replied the gentleman.

"Believe in Christ. I would like to, if I could; and yet I'm not sure that I don't. Of course, I'm not an infidel. Does it say that's all we need to do?" I asked eagerly.

"Yes, the Bible says, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved,' and 'Strive to enter in at the strait gate.'"

"How do you 'strive,' and what is the 'strait gate'?" were my next questions.

"Well, try to be good, and keep on believing."

It was a little puzzling, in fact more than a

little, and perhaps my friend saw that it was not yet clear to me, and he gave me one parting piece of advice as he passed on: "Read the Bible and pray." Perhaps that was the best direction he could have given. These two things I could do, and I did.

CHAPTER II.

"Oh, God, help me to be saved! Show me the way; tell me how; send someone to show me. Let me see how, in thy Word. Oh, God; God of my mother; God who made me, and gave Jesus to die for me; do teach me." This was how I prayed, and I was in earnest, but I was tormented with the thought that my prayer was not offered up in faith, and that I was only praying because I was frightened, and I remembered there was a verse which said, "Let him ask in faith, nothing doubting," and I had not faith, not much, at any rate, and I did doubt; and then I fell to reading again, reading as fast as I could, in the hope of reaching some life-giving verse before it was for ever too late. I would read the Bible through, at any rate, if given time. And when bedtime came, and the others retired, I read on. Only another chapter, I kept thinking to myself, for what a terrible thing if I should never wake in the morning and had just missed salvation by one chapter; till at last the thought came to me, but if I am shortening my life by neglecting my needful sleep, where is the advantage? And so with a prayer that God would give me another day of life, I lay down.

When I awoke in the morning these words came to me: "Understandest thou what thou readeest?" I knew those words were in the Bible, for I had a recollection of having read them since I had started my feverish perusal of God's Word; but in what part of the Bible it was I did not remember, and I did not want to spend time re-reading what I had already gone through, as I wanted to complete the New Testament that day. I asked my landlady if she knew where the verse was, but she did not, and referred me to one of the boarders, a Mr. Lee by name, who was a Sunday School teacher, and might be able to tell me.

But Mr. Lee did not know where the words were to be found, and so I was under the necessity of going back, commencing again at Matthew, and reading more carefully this time in order to find the wanted passage. When Mr. Lee came home to dinner, however, he told me that it had occurred to him that I would find the missing verse in a concordance. I had heard of such a thing, but had never taken enough interest to come to know what it was. Mr. Lee thought I might get hold of one in the library, or at Coles', and as soon as dinner was over I repaired to the latter place and bought the highest priced one I could find, and hurried home. I was not long in finding out how to use this useful book, and then I found my text, Acts 8: 30, and I read the account of the eunuch's conversion; and when I remembered that this Ethiopian was dead, as I expected soon to be, a longing too intense for words took possession of me. Oh, that I had lived when he did, and had shared with him in the guidance of this man Philip. Oh, that some man would guide me.

To be continued.

Obituary.

NORRIS.—The church here has been called upon to bear another loss in the passing over of Sister Norris. She was a very old colonist, having arrived in Adelaide in the "Buffalo" in 1836. A member of the church here for 14 years, she will be greatly missed. She died on Feb. 18, aged 77, and was laid to rest in the Woodville Cemetery. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the children and grandchildren.

Glenelg, S.A.

E. W. PITTMAN.

ORGAN.—On March 6 we parted with our beloved and faithful Sister D. Organ, after a short illness of ten days. The call was sudden, but she passed away in the assurance of Christ and the hope of immortality. Our sister took membership with us six years ago from the church at Cheltenham, where she had been in membership many years. She was a faithful visiting sister, good to the poor, and kind to the sick. She has gone, but her work and life's influence remain. She leaves a husband, two sons, and three daughters, who look forward to the reunion above.

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Melbourne, 5/11/09.
To Schreck, Sons and Co. Dear Sirs,—I feel it my duty as well as a great joy to tell you what "Schreck's Poultice" has done for me. My knee was injured with an axe some years ago, and it became stiff and swollen. I had the best medical advice, and an operation was performed, but it only made it worse. I quite lost the use of it, and had to go on crutches. On the 21st Dec., 1906, I went under another operation at the Melbourne Hospital, and had 2½ inches of the knee-joint taken away. I was attending the Hospital until the June following, when I noticed on your shop "Schreck's Poultice" cured tuberculosis. I went in and saw Miss Schreck. She assured me "Schreck's Poultice" would cure me in 12 months. I then had three running wounds on my knee, three months after I had five; in 14 months I had none, nor have I had any since. I may say the majority of medical men said it was tuberculosis, and what gave me such great faith in "Schreck's Poultice" was the Doctors' opinion of the great improvement they saw after nine days' treatment of "Schreck's Poultice." I then returned to Watcham, and continued the treatment. When I began with "Schreck's Poultice" I was very low indeed, and had no hope of ever being well and strong again, as I felt the disease was all through my system. I only wish I could tell everyone the wonderful value of "Schreck's Poultice." I shall do all in my power to make it known.—Wishing you every success, yours gratefully, JOHN H. RANKIN, Watcham.

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