

THE

Australian Christian

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

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

Vol. XIV. No 16.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1911.

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Omens and Tokens in Religious Europe.

By William Durban in "The Christian-Evangelist."

This is manifestly a critical juncture in the history of nations. Just now it cannot be affirmed that very great events are happening. But stupendous issues are preparing; the great communities are in a condition of wondering distraction and torturing suspense. I am one of those old and patient students who very profoundly believe in the department of truth styled dispensational doctrine, while I confess that I do not meet with much sympathy from the average man or woman even in the most devout circles, so far as this particular department of knowledge is concerned. On the contrary, the utmost indifference prevails. Of all the large numbers of ministers with whom I am acquainted I discover only one here and there occasionally who ever preached a set sermon of prophecy. Yet an enormous proportion of Holy Scripture belongs to what theologians call the prophetic section.

Study of prophecy.

Unfortunately, the study of prophecy has been distorted into a complete extravaganza which has exercised a most repelling effect. But this folly of a certain school of interpreters supplies no excuse for the deliberate ignoring of the predictions which are as certain of fulfilment as those which have already found fulfilment. My conviction is that this present age is vividly dispensational and is an era in which, if we could interrogate them, the angels are watching the progress of the world of humanity with unspeakable interest. Says Paul, "We are a theatre to the angels." (I am translating his expression literally.) Some unseen powers must have begun during our own generation to impel progress by a tremendous impact. Divine agencies are accelerating the velocity with which the world moves. We are on the eve of precipitous and climacteric happenings.

I was much impressed some years since by the study of that carefully written and temperately expressed and deeply erudite volume by the late Dr. Grattan Guinness, "The Approaching End of the Age." I wish every young minister would quietly study its chapters. He would gain a fair view of the actual and incontrovertible eschatology of the Bible. But ministers generally are, I am sorry to say, disinclined to

such studies. The Greek term for "dispensation" simply signifies "household management"—(*oikonomia*), and surely we ought to feel in our hearts a conviction that God is not leaving his household to drift without any plan on his own part, of supervision.

The Near East.

My eyes turn wistfully to the Near East. Strange things that are eventuating in the Bible lands will shortly lead on to stranger incidents yet. It is melancholy to note how the splendid reformers and marvellous revolutionaries known as the Young Turks, are to a great extent miserably marring the grand work they have done to the amazement of the civilised world. I know that statesmen and publicists universally expected a tremendous revolution to take place in Russia, while not one of them that I ever heard of imagined that such a change would happen in the Ottoman Empire. All their calculations are baffled. All the political wiseacres are mocked and the keen and clever bureaucrats of the European Chancelleries are set at naught. In Russia the Nihilists and the Anarchists have absolutely failed; in Turkey one thunderclap followed another and the whole of the fabric of despotism has been hurled over with a crash that has reverberated through the earth. But again the expectations of men have been falsified. The boasted and really excellent schemes of the Young Turks are proving to be largely futile, and the fault is their own. Let me dwell on this matter a moment, for it will shortly come to be seen as vital in interest for both England and America.

I have before to-day in these articles pointed out that America has been the saviour of Turkey, and that the magnificent American missions in that empire have furnished the secret impact that at last produced the cataclysm which ended in the expulsion of the cruel Sultan Abdul Hamid. And Britain was for two generations responsible for the sustaining of the corrupt Sultanate when Russia would have demolished the tyranny. Now, the mistake—a fatal one—which the new Turkish administration is perpetrating is this. That government is directing its policy towards the strengthening of Islam, in ignorance that Islam is a doomed system. This is the East-

ern Little Horn, which sprang forth in the very same age as the Western Little Horn. Both Popery and Islam were born at the beginning of the seventh century. They marched forward as rivals, developed in simultaneous advance, came to their majestic and terrible height at exactly the same juncture, and both apostacies, both Antichrists, began simultaneously to decline, and as one decayed so did the other. Mohammedanism and Romanism are both decrepit, but are both spasmodically from time to time reviving, only to display after each recrudescence their impotence. The Young Turks are arrogantly proclaiming that the Moslem element must maintain paramountcy. Now, that policy ensures the very event that eschatologists understand to be inevitable.

Decadent systems.

The curse of Providence is on Romanism. A like curse is on Islam. Both systems have been infernally cruel. Each has revelled in the blood of countless Christian martyrs. One sad delinquency of both Britain and America has been the icy indifference of the people at large and the governments to the tortures inflicted on the Armenians. Posterity will hardly believe that two Christian governments which boasted of their power could look on patiently while many thousands of Christian men, women and children went through a persecution fully as terrible as that under Nero. Was it not even more awful? Shall not God avenge his own elect?

Well, the preparations are almost complete for tremendous developments. By the time this article appears the British Parliament will be engaged in the most crucial struggle of modern times. The Lords of the Tory type are about to face a House of Commons of determined Liberal type. Ireland is promised the boon of Home Rule so long and so iniquitously withheld. The question of church disestablishment is simmering. We are about to commence a series of struggles which may occupy several years. And with Egypt, Arabia, Albania, Macedonia, India and China all seething in unrest, is it not evident that the world is to be the scene of momentous and fateful developments? "The wise shall understand."

Victorian Conference, 1911.

The Annual Conference of the Victorian Churches of Christ was held in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., Carlton. The sessions commenced on Friday, April 14, and were continued throughout the following Saturday.

The proceedings were inaugurated by a devotional meeting conducted by W. L. Jones.

Shortly after 10 o'clock the President, J. W. Baker, took the chair and after the singing of a hymn led the meeting in prayer.

NEW CHURCHES.

The churches at Swan Hill and Box Hill having made application for admission into the Conference, it was resolved that they be received.

ROLL CALL OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The roll of representatives having been called, the following brethren were found to be present:

Ascot Vale: W. Flood, Thos. Alves, J. Y. Potts. Brunswick: J. H. Barnden, C. Peters, W. Hardie, J. W. Thompson. Bordertown: E. W. Milne, E. Edwards. Bayswater: T. Clements, G. Beard. Brighton: F. Pittman, F. M. Ludbrook, G. F. Clarke, W. Brothie. Burnley: O. A. Carr Green, R. T. Argo. Bet Bet: H. Patterson. Ballarat West: C. Morris, J. Glendinning, W. H. Benson. Box Hill: W. H. Nightingale, F. A. Bignill. Berwick: E. P. Hillbrich, N. Meyer. Bendigo: Dr. Jas. Cook, Streader, Southwick. Brim: M. Hovey. Colac: A. W. Connor, H. Dunn. Cheltenham: T. B. Fischer, G. H. Bishop, W. Judd, R. W. Judd. Chinese Church, Carlton: D. Gow, S. Lum. Collingwood: L. Larsen, T. Towers. Carlton, Lygon-st.: H. Kingsbury, W. C. Craigie, W. C. Thurgood, F. Payne, J. McColl. Cosgrove: J. C. Skinner. Castlemaine: A. Andrews, W. Gale. Carlton North: W. R. Thompson, R. W. Jolly. Doncaster: W. G. Oram, F. Smedley, H. Zelius. Dandenong: J. Proctor, Hugh Gray. Emerald: J. W. Wright, W. Bolduan. Fitzroy North: J. Collings, Hagger, A. Millis, J. McMillan, W. Forbes. Fitzroy: Walker, J. McGregor, H. Swain. Footscray: J. E. Allan, J. Smith, E. Saunders. Geelong: G. Gordon, H. Christopher, J. T. Mulvogue. Gordon: A. B. Chappell. Hawthorn: Hunter, P. A. Dickson, McCoughtry. Harcourt: Burns, W. Symes. Horsham: Spicer. Kaniva: A. R. Benn, G. Clayton. Lancefield: R. Gerand, A. C. Friece. Lillimur: A. R. Lyall, B. J. Lawrance. Malvern: L. W. Holmes, P. H. Dawson. Middle Park: J. Jones, W. Mill, Wills. Meredith: J. Tully. Moreland: E. Paul, J. J. Anderson. Melbourne, Swanston-st.: F. G. Dunn, Wettenhall, C. M. Gordon, B. Huntsman. Melbourne South: W. Paterson, Bennett. Melbourne North: M. W. Green, M. Gale. J. W. Woodbridge. Mildura: M. McLellan. Maryborough: H. Leng, J. W. Baker. Montrose: Richards, Proctor. Northcote: J. Woodgate, Gracie. Newmarket: J. Hatty, J. W. Gillham, Stubbing. Prahran: J. W. Marrows, Ward. Preston: G. A. Dickens, O. A. Walker. Richmond South: W. L. Jones, Whitely, Nicholls. Richmond North: Salisbury, E. Davis, Harding, Collins. Stawell: T. Bagley. South Yarra: C. A. Quick, E. M. Hall, J. Gall. Swan Hill: T. Bagley, G. A. W. Mott. St. Kilda: J. W. Davies, J. Barnett. Surrey Hills: G. Clewett, G. Emmerson. St. Arnaud: F. Collins, Hall. Shepparton: D. McCance, H. M. Clipstone. Taradale: J. Jackel. Warragul: Drake, Goodwin. Williamstown: R. Ennis,

Macdonald, E. C. Kenney. Warrnambool: R. Lyall. Wampony: E. Edwards. Windsor: J. Pittman, Harding, W. Bidey. Warracknabeal: C. W. Mitchell.

GREETINGS.

Letters of greeting were received from the Conferences of New South Wales, Sth. Australia, West Australia, Queensland and Tasmania; also from T. J. Gore, H. G. Harward, D. A. Ewers, J. E. Thomas and A. G. Day on behalf of the Northern Conference of South Australia.

Resolved, "That the letters read be received and suitably acknowledged."

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

It is with pleasure we submit our annual report to Conference.

We believe from a perusal of the various reports it will be found, under God's blessing, that a very successful year's work has been accomplished.

We acknowledge God's goodness and guidance during the year, and hope that the result of the deliberations of this Conference may lead to still further progress in the Master's work.

I. WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

We have much pleasure in congratulating our sisters on having attained their silver anniversary. Many who were present at the inception of the Sisters' Conference are still members taking an active part in the work. The Home and Foreign Missionary Committees have always found valuable assistance from the sisters. This year has been a record one in raising money for Home Missions. A total of £293/15/- has been contributed through their agency. This includes £135/16/7 obtained by the Sisters' H.M. Rally, the most successful rally that has ever been held. It will be interesting to note that during the 25 years of their existence as a Conference they have been the means of obtaining for Home Mission work £4174, being an average of £167 per annum, the lowest year being the first, viz., £70, the highest being this year, £293/15/-.

We have already sent congratulations to the sisters, through a deputation consisting of the President, Vice-President, and Bro. Kingsbury, and we are sure that this Conference will heartily join in congratulating the sisters.

Resolved on the motion of F. G. Dunn, "That this Conference offers its congratulations to the Sisters' Conference on the occasion of their silver anniversary, and expresses its thanks for the splendid work done by the sisters during the last 25 years."

The clause relating to the Women's Conference was adopted.

II. FINANCES.

By a reference to the financial statement, it will be seen that we have a credit balance of £65/14/8, after meeting all expenses up to the 31st March. This is all the more satisfactory, as we had a debit balance of £112/18/4 at last Conference. This amount, with others advanced during the year, has been paid to the Treasurer. The satisfactory state of the funds is undoubtedly due to the splendid response made by the brotherhood to the various appeals made to them, and especially to the splendid collection made on the 5th February. This was a record annual collection—over £481. The next best was 1905, when it amounted to £364. We appealed this year for £500, and almost reached it. In fact we would

have done so, only the church at Geelong decided to defer their annual contribution, so as to make a £50 thankoffering later on. We have to thank Bren. Bagley and Kingsbury for the great work they did in preparing special appeals to the churches. No doubt they are amply repaid by seeing the success attending their efforts. The splendid Home Mission number of the *Australian Christian* also did much to make the effort successful. We have also to thank our esteemed Treasurer for the many advances made during the year. He has proved a great bulwark in our time of need, and although we are out of his debt now, at one time it was thought to be an impossible thing to expect.

Clause 2, dealing with finance, together with the balance sheet, was adopted.

III. STATISTICS.

It will be seen by a reference to the statistical schedule that there is an increase in the church membership of 198.

The membership now stands at 7836. The gains are:—By faith and baptism, 652; letter, 468; formerly immersed, 92; restoration, 64; total, 1276. Losses:—By letter, 377; death, 66; removal and revision of roll, 635; total, 1078. Increase, 198.

Scholars in Sunday Schools, 6831, being an increase of 426. Teachers, 686, an increase of 61.

Additions to the churches from the Sunday Schools, 293.

This clause was spoken to by Bren. C. W. Mitchell, Bishop, M. McLellan, T. Bagley, A. W. Connor, W. Thompson, J. Tully.

J. Tully in speaking to the report said that he thought more attention should be given to looking after isolated members.

The clause was then adopted.

IV. OFFICERS' QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

It was recommended at last Conference that quarterly or half-yearly meetings of officers and evangelists of churches in city and suburbs should be held. Acting on this recommendation we have held three meetings since last Conference. The first was held on July 18th; 60 present, 21 churches being represented. Bro. J. C. F. Pittman gave an address on "The Conduct of our Lord's Day Morning Meetings." The second was held on December 5th; 56 present, 17 churches being represented. Bro. F. G. Dunn spoke on "An Ideal Presiding Brother." The third meeting was held on the 6th March; 57 present; 18 churches represented. Bro. Joseph Pittman read a paper on "The Relation of Officers to the Church." This has since been inserted in the *Australian Christian*.

These meetings have been much appreciated, and at the last meeting a resolution was passed thanking the Executive for the arrangements made, and hoping for a continuance of the meetings, which have been held in the lecture hall of the Swanston-st. chapel.

Resolved on the motion of E. Hall, "That clause 4 be adopted."

On the motion of R. Lyall it was resolved to ask the Executive to continue these meetings.

V. SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION AFFILIATION.

A letter was received from the Sunday School Union suggesting a closer affiliation with the Conference. The consequence was that a committee representing the Home Mission Committee and the Sunday School Union was appointed to draft a proposal for submission to the Conference. This basis of affiliation has since been

TREASURER'S STATEMENT, VICTORIAN MISSION FUND.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Balance, Conference, 1910	£0 14 8	Refund to Treasurer, being amount owing to him at Conference, 1910	£112 18 4
Annual Collections	481 12 8	Salaries—T. Bagley	£260 0 0
Contributions from Churches	224 0 1	H. Leng	202 0 0
Individual Contributions	178 10 9	G. Gordon	184 13 4
Sisters' H.M. Rally	134 16 7	A. W. Connor	182 0 0
Collections at Conference	44 6 11	A. R. Benn	143 0 0
Conference Fees	36 10 6	E. Edwards	143 0 0
Refund Rent, Temperance Committee	4 4 0	H. Baker	117 0 0
From Churches for Evangelistic Services—		F. Collins	106 3 4
Kaniva District—		H. M. Clipstone	99 3 4
Kaniva	£140 0 0	J. R. Combridge	86 13 4
Bordertown	63 4 0	M. McLellan	52 0 0
Wamboony	48 0 0	W. Gale	46 0 0
Lillimur	38 0 0	H. Swain	45 10 0
	289 4 0	J. E. Shipway	24 9 2
Mallee District—		Geo. Black	20 10 0
Brim and Wilkur	121 0 0	A. B. Chappell	19 10 0
Shepparton District—		W. Mansill	13 10 0
Shepparton	37 10 0	F. Goodwin	11 13 4
Cosgrove	33 15 0	T. C. Harward	11 3 4
	71 5 0	C. H. Pratt	10 0 0
Geelong	115 10 0	H. W. Cust	5 5 10
Maryborough, Dunolly and Bet Bet	139 5 6	A. Wedd	4 0 0
Colac	78 0 0		1787 5 0
Castlemaine	115 0 0	Subsidy—Church, Montrose	26 0 0
Drummond	39 0 6	Removal Expenses—St. Arnaud	10 0 0
Taradale	15 10 6	Castlemaine	6 2 0
Kyneton	15 0 0	Geelong	4 17 3
	69 11 0		20 19 3
St. Arnaud	24 3 0	Railway Expenses—Shepparton	14 19 0
Warrnambool	15 0 0	Organising Secretary	9 5 7
Warragul	5 0 0	Ballarat	2 4 6
			26 9 1
		Tent Charges and Repairs	18 15 5
		Printing and Stationery	54 10 3
		Postage	9 8 6
		Federal Conference Fees	8 0 0
		Victorian Conference Expenses	4 1 0
		Rent, Wonthaggi Site	4 0 0
		Picnic Expenses	3 16 8
		Exchange	3 2 6
		Sundries	2 14 0
		Balance as per Bank Book	65 14 8
	£2147 14 8		£2147 14 8

Examined and found correct,

W. C. CRAIGIE, Treasurer.

March 24, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors.

approved by the Union, and also by the Committee for consideration, and if approved, for adoption.

94 The Parade, Ascot Vale,
March 28, 1911.

Dear Bro. McLellan,—

At last meeting of the general committee the resolutions passed at the meeting between representatives from the Home Mission Committee and sub-committee appointed by this Union were received and adopted, and are as follows:—

1. That Executive Committee of the Sunday School Union consist of 12 members, 6 to be appointed at Conference—President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 others—and 6 to be appointed at their annual business meeting, which is to be held on the 8th May.

2. That the Home Mission Committee be invited to propose a resolution to the effect that S.S. Union and Kindergarten Committees be exceptions to the rule relating to the appointment of committees which is at present in vogue.

Trusting that the above will be approved of by your Committee, and that Bible School work will receive a greater impetus by our united efforts—I remain, yours fraternally, J. Y. Potts, Hon. Sec., S.S. Union.

The Sunday School Union affiliation scheme was discussed at some length. The following brethren spoke to the question: C. W. Mitchell, J. Tully, T. B. Fischer, A.

Millis, W. C. Craigie, F. G. Dunn and R. Lyall, after which the entire clause was adopted.

VI. THE FEDERAL CONFERENCE.

We have to congratulate the Federal Executive on the success which attended the Federal Conference held in Adelaide last September. This Conference was rendered specially memorable by the visit of Bro. Rains from U.S.A., whose wonderful enthusiasm greatly helped the meetings. It was strongly recommended by that Conference that all the States should take up the annual offerings on the first Lord's day in February. We agreed to this, and the other States have also agreed, so that in future *Home Mission Sunday* will be on the same day all over the Commonwealth. We note that the next Federal Conference is to be held in Melbourne at Easter, 1912. It will therefore be our duty and privilege to do all we can to make the next Federal Conference a great success.

This clause was spoken to by Bro. Bagley, who advocated that steps should be taken to secure a large building, sufficient to accommodate the large audiences which come to Conference gatherings. This was supported by A. Millis.

VII. SITE AT WONTHAGGI.

In accordance with instructions received at last Conference, we made application for and secured

a building site at Wonthaggi. This we hold at a nominal rental of £4 per annum, and it is available for a building to be placed on it as soon as it may be required.

M. W. Green spoke to clause 7, and moved, "That it be a recommendation to the Home Mission Committee to take steps for the formation of a church of Christ at Wonthaggi." This was seconded by L. W. Holmes, and carried.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

The best thanks of the Conference are due to the churches at Lygon-st. and Swanston-st. for the gratuitous use of their buildings for meetings during the year, also for Conference meetings. We have also to thank Bren. Chas. Hardie and A. R. Lyall for valuable services as Auditors.

On behalf of the Executive Committee,

J. W. BAKER, President.
M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

The Executive Committee's report was adopted as a whole.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

After lunch a devotional meeting was held, conducted by Bro. Ennis, after which the President resumed the chair.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

J. W. Baker said that his text that afternoon was the year's work as shown in the reports. He would speak of it under three heads. First the strength, second the weakness, and third the resources that were revealed in the work of the year that was past and gone.

First, in regard to our strength. This had been manifested on the financial side. A record offering had been given to mission work. It had been further evidenced by the additions which had been made to our ranks. The year had been a hard one in making conversions, and there was reason therefore for gratitude for the success won. In other ways good work had been done. During the year six chapels had been erected or secured—at Swan Hill, Colac, Windsor, Red Hill, Box Hill and Preston. The last of these was a magnificent achievement. These were things not to boast about, but to recognise the hand of God in it all.

The year also has revealed our weakness. We had seen something of the cause of our weakness, and had learnt the lesson that organisation was necessary to greater success. Not only organisation, but individual effort was urgently needed. Each one should try and win one for Christ. Other causes of weakness were to be found in the lack of oversight and the failure of the mid-week meeting. It would make us infinitely stronger if we cultivated more earnestly the gift of prayer. Another source of strength would be the improved conduct of our Lord's day meetings. We ought to give of our best to the service of the Lord.

Our resources were very great, and this year presented splendid opportunities for utilising all that God had given us. People were asking now as they had never asked before what sort of people we were. It was for us to give an answer that would be the means of winning them to our side. We should not lose sight of the magnificent vision that Christ has given us in the words: "Lo, I am with you always." The past year was a prophecy of what could be done in the years to come. It had revealed the immense possibilities that were with us, and bid us go on in the name of Christ to still more glorious achievements.

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

A. R. Main, the Principal of the College of the Bible, said that he did not regard his talk on the College of the Bible an intrusion in Home Mission work. It was clear from the Home Mission report that the college was an integral part of mission work. This could be seen by the number of students engaged in the work of preaching. The college was in itself a sign of the stability of our work. The prospects of the cause throughout Australasia were all the brighter for the presence of the forty odd students at Glen Iris. He could testify that they had good material in the college, material that would stand the test of criticism in the future. The fear that some had that the students when through their studies would have

some difficulties in finding appointments was not warranted. He could assure them that the fear was groundless. The demand for preachers was far in excess of the supply, and this demand would not be met if all the students were now ready to take the field. He was glad to say that the college was growing in favor, and the response to C. M. Gordon's effort as Organising Secretary was very gratifying. Bro. Gordon had done a splendid work.

WELCOME TO VISITORS.

The President accorded a hearty welcome to all the visitors present.

The following responded to the welcome given: H. H. Strutton and G. B. Moysey, both of whom were enthusiastically received.

HOME MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

As outlined in last year's report, it was felt that a good step was taken when we secured the services of Bro. Thos. Bagley, as State Evangelist and Organising Secretary. He has accomplished a great work during the past year in establishing several self-supporting circuits, holding tent missions, visiting country churches, not sparing himself in the least, so that he might do all in his power to promote the cause of Christ in Victoria. His unbounded enthusiasm has finally and successfully carried to fruition, with the aid of scores of willing workers, the erection of a chapel building at Preston "one day." We most heartily congratulate him and all concerned in the accomplishment of what at first seemed an impossible task. This concentrated and consecrated enthusiasm is what we want in developing the work in Victoria, and we are confident that we have the right man as State Evangelist, and hope that our brother may be long spared to continue his labors with the Committee. We also express our thanks to Bro. Graham for the excellent services rendered.

Resolved on the motion of F. G. Dunn, "That the best thanks and hearty appreciation of this Conference be given to Bro. T. Bagley, Bro. Graham, and the great army of workers, including the lady helpers, and all who were concerned in the erection of the chapel built in a day." This resolution was seconded by J. Pittman, and carried with great enthusiasm.

T. Bagley in response thanked the brethren for their appreciation, and referred in high terms to the services rendered by Bro. Graham, and the great band of workers who assisted.

The following is an outline of the year's work in the mission fields of Victoria:—

I. KINDERGARTEN COMMITTEE.

Introductory.

Through the goodness of God, we are permitted to report on the work accomplished at the Kindergarten Centre at North Melbourne. The year proved to be one that required the constant supervision and attention of the Committee, and much time and thought was bestowed upon the work.

The Year's Work.

The attendance of kinders was well maintained during the year, 54 names being on the roll, with an average attendance of 39. Our Director, Miss Vial, and her assistant, Miss Holder, worked in harmony with the Committee, each other, and the kinders, resulting in a good work being accomplished. Once a month in addition to the

morning sessions, a mothers' meeting was held, and proved of benefit to the mothers of our kinders. The usual picnic was held at St. Kilda, and proved to be a bright spot in the children's lives. The annual distribution of gifts, combined with the Christmas tree, and visit of Father Christmas, also added to the pleasure of the little ones. The whole year's work was one of pleasure and profit.

The Closing of the Centre.

Towards the end of the year the Committee had to face the question of the future of the Centre. After much thought they decided to discontinue the work. Many considerations entered into the discussion of the Committee.

1st. The Centre was established to meet a distinct want. Only two other centres were in existence at the time, and it was felt that we as a people should do something to help in this work, and resolved to engage in it. We are glad to say that the day of small things has passed away, and there are now Free Kindergartens on every hand, about 13 being established, and great interest is manifested in them by men and women with both leisure and wealth. Hence there is not now the same need for our continuing the work.

2nd. The Committee felt that their desire to engage in direct spiritual work in the Kindergarten was limited, under existing circumstances, and this weighed heavily with the Committee, whose desire was for spiritual things, rather than simply moral.

3rd. The Committee had to face the resignation of the Director, who after a year's splendid service desired to be released. We have nought but praise for the Director and Assistant, who filled their positions with credit, but in discussing new appointments, the Committee were faced with the knowledge that nowhere in Australia could they find a member of the church so circumstanced as to be able to come to our assistance and act as Director of the work in North Melbourne.

4th. The Committee were also brought face to face with their position as associates of the Kindergarten Union, and whilst the good work that the Union is doing was heartily recognised, it was considered that your Committee could possibly do a better work in the future, by ceasing to be connected with the Union, and working independently and upon lines more suited to the special needs of the young coming under our influence.

5th. We also desire to intimate that the North Melbourne Creche hopes to take up the work we have laid down, and in their own building and under their own control, provide for the needs of the little ones of North Melbourne.

Future Work.

The Committee having very carefully considered the matter, desire to recommend for the consideration of Conference or the incoming Committee, that future work be along the following lines:—

1st. To train one or more of our own members in Kindergarten work, especially as applied to Sunday School work, and send them to establish Kindergarten departments in all of our Sunday Schools willing to adopt them.

Or, 2nd. To engage a qualified Kindergarten to give practical illustrations in some central building, and establish a Kindergarten class to which all our junior Sunday School teachers, Junior Christian Endeavor superintendents, and workers amongst the young will be invited. Such Kindergarten training class to be with the object of perfecting the work amongst the young in our Sunday Schools or junior meetings.

Or, 3rd. That the Committee choose some Sunday School where a large number of juniors are, and establish a Kindergarten department therein, and place a qualified teacher there to thoroughly establish the work, and then continue this work in other Sunday Schools, until all the schools who desire it have been assisted.

Thanks.

The Committee take pleasure in freely acknowledging their indebtedness to the officers of the church in North Melbourne for the use of their building, to the officers of the Swanston-st. church

for accommodation for committee and other meetings, to the Editors of the *Christian and Pure Words*, to the helpers who have rendered such valuable service, and to the many friends who have donated goods and money to carry on the work. Amongst our many kind friends, we have reason to be specially grateful to Mrs. E. Davies, Mrs. Tully and the Doncaster church, Miss Jerrems, and the Church of Christ Musical Society. To all who have assisted, we tender grateful thanks.

The Committee.

The Committee meetings have been held with regularity and perfect harmony. The Committee appointed by Conference last year were Sisters E. Davies, A. Millis, J. Tully, Jerrems and Haddow; Brethren W. C. Craigie, J. Sharp, H. Swain and R. C. Edwards. At their first meeting they appointed the following officers:—President, Mr. A. Millis; Vice-President, Mrs. E. Davies; Treasurer, Mr. W. C. Craigie; Secretary, T. B. Fischer.

In conclusion, we thank God for the privilege which has been ours of working on behalf of the children, and the children's Friend.

A. MILLIS, President.

T. B. FISCHER, Secretary.

FREE KINDERGARTEN, CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN VICTORIA.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for Year ending March, 1911.

Receipts.

To Cash on hand, March, 1910	£99	5	2½
Individual Contributions, including Amounts from Collectors and Mite Boxes	36	5	8½
Endeavor Societies	1	13	2
Sunday Schools	0	5	4½
Christmas Tree	0	14	10½
Sale of Garments	1	0	0
Proceeds of Concert by Church of Christ Musical Society	9	5	1
	£148	9	5

Expenditure.

By Salaries	£94	12	6
Milk	9	11	6
Petty Cash and Postage	5	11	6
Stationery and Utensils	3	7	10
Donation, Kindergarten Union of Victoria	5	0	0
Mr. Allamby, Hire of Vans for Picnic	2	10	0
Groceries	1	18	3
Gas	1	15	6
Boots	1	0	2
Clothing	1	4	0
Printing	1	16	0
Cash on hand	20	2	2
	£148	9	5

Examined and found correct,

CHAS. HARDIE

A. R. LYALL

Auditors.

24th March, 1911.

T. B. Fischer spoke of the work of the Kindergarten Committee during the last year, and advocated the affiliation of Kindergarten and Sunday School work.

The report was spoken to by C. L. Thurgood, C. W. Mitchell, and F. Collins, after which the report was adopted.

II. STATE EVANGELIST AND ORGANISING SECRETARY.

T. Bagley has held missions at Bordertown, Wampoony, Swan Hill, St. Arnaud, Colac, Wonga Park, and is now conducting one at Preston, 62 have been added by faith and baptism. The following circuits have been formed on a self-supporting basis:—Maryborough, Bet Bet and Dunolly, with Bro. Leng as evangelist; Kyne-ton, Drummond, Taradale, with Bro. Combridge as evangelist; Swan Hill, Ultima and Mystic Park, with Bro. Shipway as evangelist; Box Hill and Blackburn, with Bro.

Nightingale as evangelist. It has been the aim of Bro. Bagley, as State Evangelist and Organising Secretary, to visit as many of the churches as possible to advise in the work and to be of service in various ways. Up to the present he has visited 56 churches and conducted 250 meetings. His last special work was successfully organising the unique enterprise at Preston—the erection of a chapel in one day. Through his efforts also the chapel at Swan Hill was erected during the year at a cost of £450; of this amount he raised £300, leaving a debt only of £150.

III. COLAC.

Good solid progress has marked the year's work at Colac. Brief visits to Terang, Warrnambool, and Meredith were made. During the year they entered into the new chapel, and a good congregation is gathered together. The opening services were very successful, and a short mission with Bro. Bagley was equally so. Bro. Connor has addressed 172 meetings, exclusive of prayer meetings and Bible Classes. The number of additions have been in the various places—By faith and baptism, 17; previously immersed, 3; total, 20. Bro. Connor is now conducting a tent mission at North Richmond with Bro. Davis. Attendance good. At time of writing 8 have confessed Christ.

IV. MARYBOROUGH AND BET BET DISTRICT.

After last Conference, Bro. Leng continued his labors in the Castlemaine district until the 19th of June, when he removed to the Maryborough and Bet Bet district, and has been laboring there ever since. The work at Maryborough was in a very disorganised and weak state. But we are pleased to say that it is on the upgrade and the prospects for the future are very bright. Splendid attendance at the meetings; the Sunday School has nearly doubled in attendance, and there is a fine Endeavor Society. Bet Bet church is a solid church, and the work there is very hopeful; a fine Sunday School is held regularly and an Endeavor Society is doing good work. The additions to the churches have been by faith and baptism, 33; restoration, 3; total, 36.

V. GEELONG.

The work at Geelong has been steadily increasing since last Conference. From an attendance of 86 at gospel meetings, it has now increased to from 250 to 300. We are pleased to report that the church has now decided to be entirely self-supporting, and has engaged Bro. Gordon as evangelist to continue his labors at Geelong. They also come to Conference with a special thankoffering of £50 for the assistance rendered by the Home Mission Committee. This is very commendable and is much appreciated. Additions during the year:—16 by faith and baptism; baptised believers, 8. We very cordially congratulate the church at Geelong, and wish them every success in their co-operation with Bro. G. Gordon.

Resolved on the motion of A. R. Main, "That this Conference express its appreciation of the fine effort made by the Geelong church during the past year, as manifested in its growth in membership, its advance to a self-supporting condition, and its splendid thankoffering of £50 to Home Mission funds."

H. F. Christopher, on behalf of the church at Geelong, expressed the thanks of the church to the Conference for the splendid help given by it to the cause at Geelong.

VI. WEST WIMMERA CIRCUIT.

A.—KANIVA.

During the past year Bro. Benn has labored in this circuit, visiting and speaking at the following places:—Kaniva, Bunyip, Bill's Gully, Yanipy, Lillimur, South Lillimur, Leeor, Dinyarrak, Bordertown, Mundulla, and Wampoony. Has helped in three missions. Additions by faith and baptism, 12.

B.—BORDERTOWN.

Bro. E. Edwards is still engaged at this end of the circuit. The work is of a solid character. Meetings have been well attended during the past year. The brethren have recognised their duty in striving to become self-supporting. The local brethren have assisted well in the work of preaching the gospel. The additions are as follows:—By faith and baptism, 21; by restoration, 6. This includes the results of the Horsham mission, which were:—Faith and baptism, 9; restoration, 6. The past year has been a year of missions in this circuit, five having been held, and one at Horsham.

VII. ST. ARNAUD.

Bro. F. Collins began in this district on the 3rd of September, 1910, and immediately commenced preparations for a month's gospel mission under Bro. Bagley. The town was canvassed from door to door. Good audiences were obtained throughout, and nine decisions recorded as a visible result. These, with three previously baptised, make a total of twelve additions by faith and baptism for the year. The meetings have kept up well; a splendid average being present every Lord's day. The Bible School has revived considerably, and the Christian Endeavor Society is an organised band of willing workers. St. Arnaud is a growing and prosperous town, and the church should be carefully nurtured until it is strong enough to walk unaided. Bro. Collins has accepted an appointment in N.S.W., and will leave for that State at the end of April. We are sorry to lose his services, and wish him every success in his new field.

VIII. MALLEE DISTRICT.

During the past year Bro. H. Baker has been laboring in this circuit. The year just closed has been a very successful one in many ways. A new church has been organised at Warracknabeal, and has a bright future before it. The church at Dunmunkle is now in the circuit. This means four churches as against two at the beginning of the year. During the year a very successful gospel mission was held by J. E. Allan at Brim, resulting in five decisions. The following places have been visited:—Wilkur, Bangerang, Galaquil, Beulah, Warracknabeal, Sheep Hills, Dunmunkle, Minyip, Lawlor, Galaquil East, and Willenabrana. Distance travelled, 5745 miles in circuit work. At the local Conference recently held at Warracknabeal it was decided to increase the contribution by £63 per annum. Additions:—By faith and obedience, 5; by isolated members affiliated, 32.

IX. CASTLEMAINE.

Bro. Clipstone commenced preaching at this place in June, 1910, and continued there until the middle of December. During that time there were 16 additions by faith and baptism, and 1 formerly immersed. Bro. Wm. Gale succeeded him in this district, beginning his labors on the 18th of December last. Things are looking very satisfactory and meetings being well attended. It is expected that this district will soon be self-supporting.

X. SHEPPARTON DISTRICT.

Bro. Clipstone leaving Castlemaine, took up the work at Shepparton and Cosgrove on the 18th of December last. The meetings at Cosgrove are well attended, but not so well at Shepparton. They are planning for a mission about next September. Previous to Bro. Clipstone going to this district, it was supplied by Bren. F. Goodwin, A. B. Chappell and T. C. Harward. Additions by faith and baptism, 5.

XI. DRUMMOND, KYNETON AND TARADALE.

This circuit was organised by Bro. Bagley soon after last Conference, on a self-supporting basis. He secured Bro. J. R. Combridge to take up the work, who commenced on July 29, and has continued there with the exception of a few weeks, when Bro. Goodwin took his place. Meetings have been held at the three places, and the work is in a healthy condition. 13 additions by faith and baptism, and 4 restored.

XII. SWAN HILL, ULTIMA, AND MYSTIC PARK.

Bro. Bagley conducted a very successful tent mission at Swan Hill, with the result of 18 additions, which, with local members in the district at present number 34. Through his efforts a chapel building was erected, and the church placed on a very substantial footing. Bro. J. E. Shipway was engaged as evangelist at Swan Hill and district, but unfortunately he has had a long continued sickness, but we are glad to say that he is now recovering, and we hope that after a few months' rest and recuperation he will be thoroughly restored in health.

XIII. FAIRFIELD PARK.

For many years the church has been struggling at Fairfield Park. Bro. Bagley visited the church and the result is that an effort is now being made to revive the cause at that place. Bro. Geo. Black, one of the students, has been preaching there for the past month with improving audiences.

XIV. WONGA PARK.

Bro. Bagley conducted a short mission here. 5 additions. Bro. C. H. Pratt, one of the students, is conducting meetings on Lord's days.

XV. MONTROSE.

The Committee subsidises the church at Montrose to the extent of 10/- per week. Bren. Larsen, Goodwin and Rothery have been conducting services there, and Bro. Harward held a mission. Total additions for the year: 9 by faith and baptism.

A number of the evangelists employed by the Home Mission Committee gave interesting details in regard to their work. Among those who spoke were T. Bagley, A. W. Connor, H. Leng, G. Gordon, A. R. Benn, E. Edwards, B. J. Lawrence, H. Baker, W. Gale, H. M. Clipstone and J. R. Combridge.

XVI. SUMMARY.

The following is a summary of the foregoing reports:—By faith and baptism, 155; formerly immersed, 27; restoration, 10. Total, 192.

XVII. BIBLE SCHOOL ORGANISER.

At last Conference a resolution was adopted directing the Home Mission Committee to appoint an Organising Secretary and Bible School Evangelist for Bible School work.

H. Swain was offered the appointment and continued to act until constrained to place his resignation in the hands of the Committee. This was accepted with regret, though the members still feel that much remains to be done before our schools can be placed upon a proper basis.

During the time Bro. Swain filled the position he visited a number of schools, addressed numerous teachers' meetings upon the subject of school management, supplemental lessons, etc., conducted decision days, and in every possible way sought to create a deeper interest amongst the churches in regard to this important feature of our work.

Seeing that the Sunday School Union this year will become affiliated with the Conference we believe that an era of greater prosperity and more permanent success will characterise the work of the Bible School.

On the motion of H. Swain, the clause relating to Bible School organiser was adopted.

XVIII. ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS.

Number of meetings held, 15. J. W. Baker, 12; C. M. Gordon, 10; W. C. Craigie, 14; M. McLellan, 15; H. Swain, 15; B. J. Kemp, 14; F. G. Dunn, 15; A. Millis, 14; P. A. Dickson, 13; H. Kingsbury, 14; J. Pittman, 12; Jas. McGregor, 14.

On behalf of the H.M. Committee,

J. W. BAKER, President.

M. McLELLAN, Secretary.

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

CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

The Committee have pleasure in reporting, since last Conference, the erection of the first chapel at Colac from this fund. A very commodious and in every way suitable building, on a good front street, has been erected, and the church at Colac has been placed on a very good footing now and should make headway in the future under their new conditions. A reference to the financial statement of the fund will show the cost of the land to be £147, the building £463, and the seats and other sundries, £65/18/4, or a total of £675/18/4. In order to secure the land required for the chapel, the Committee were obliged to purchase an adjoining allotment, which they now intend to dispose of when opportunity offers and on account of which they have paid £57/17/6. Towards the fund, donations have been received from brethren, amounting to £185/10/6, and loans, £235. The church at Colac has paid £75, and will now continue making regular repayments to the Committee. The balance to debit of fund is £237/0/6, for which a bank overdraft has been arranged and the interest on same is to be provided by some brethren who could not conveniently lend sums of money. The Committee would be glad to receive further donations and loans from the brotherhood to cover this balance, so that the Church Extension Fund can be placed on a satisfactory basis. There is plenty of room for some liberal gifts to this fund, so that with enlarged amount of money at their disposal the Committee would be able to help other churches in the future. For the assistance thus far given the Committee are very grateful and the church in Colac particularly so.

W. C. CRAIGIE,
A. MILLIS,
C. HARDIE,
R. LYALL,

Church Extension Committee.

CONFERENCE CHURCH EXTENSION FUND.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

Receipts.	
To Donations	£185 10 6
Loans	235 0 0
Interest	420 10 6
Church Colac, on account of Land ..	65 0 0
Church Colac, on account of Building ..	10 0 0
Bank Overdraft	237 0 6
	£733 15 10
Expenditure.	
By Colac Church—	
Land	£147 0 0
Building	463 0 0
Seats	52 8 0
Sundries	5 15 6
Legal Expenses	2 5 0
Fire Insurance Premium ..	3 10 2
Exchange and Interest ..	1 19 8
	675 18 4
Payment on account of Land adjoining Chapel	57 17 6
	£733 15 10

Audited and found correct,

A. R. LYALL, Auditor.

W. C. CRAIGIE, R. LYALL, Treasurers.

R. Lyall advocated the more liberal support of the Church Extension Fund. Further loans without interest were required in order to carry on this important branch of work.

A. Millis also spoke in support of the work.

The report was then adopted.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

President: C. M. Gordon.

Vice-President: H. Kingsbury.

Treasurer: W. C. Craigie.

Secretary: M. McLellan.

Assistant-Secretary: H. Swain.

Home Mission Committee: J. W. Baker, A. Millis, F. G. Dunn, B. J. Kemp, P. A. Dickson, R. C. Edwards, J. Pittman.

Foreign Missionary Committee: Secretary, F. M. Ludbrook; Assistant-Secretary, T. B. Fischer; Treasurer, R. Lyall. H. Kingsbury, A. R. Main, W. A. Kemp, J. McColl, Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook, Mrs. R. Lyall, Mrs. Crouch, senr.

Temperance Committee: J. G. Barrett, W. J. Way, E. M. Hall, W. C. Thurgood, L. W. Holmes, W. Paterson, L. Larsen.

Sunday School Committee: President, T. B. Fischer; Vice-President, J. C. F. Pittman; Treasurer, C. W. Mitchell; Secretary, J. Y. Potts. P. Conning, C. Peters.

Kindergarten Committee: W. C. Craigie, R. C. Edwards, H. Swain, J. Sharp.

Conference Sermon: H. Kingsbury.

SATURDAY MORNING.

The sessions of the Conference were resumed on Saturday morning.

The devotional meeting was conducted by H. E. Hall.

The President took the chair shortly after 10 o'clock, and called upon M. W. Green to lead the meeting in prayer.

TEMPERANCE COMMITTEE.

It is with thankfulness that we submit the annual report of the Committee and desire to express our gratitude to our heavenly Father for his blessing in the work we have been enabled to do.

Speaking generally, we may say that the most noteworthy feature of the past year has been the wide-spread popular interest that has been displayed in the great drink question, and that is sufficient to make the outlook for this feature of social reform exceedingly promising.

We think that the time has now arrived when the hours for the sale of liquors should be curtailed, and the time of opening and closing hotels brought more into line with those of other places of business. We strongly recommend the Conference to pass a resolution that will express the deliberate opinion of the Churches of Christ in Victoria upon this question, with the added hope that Parliament will see its way clear to add this proviso to our Licensing Law.

At the preliminary meeting of our Committee held just after the last Conference, J. G. Barrett was unanimously re-elected President, a position which he has held consecutively for seven years. Vice-President, R. J. McSolvin. Press Correspondent, W. G. Oram. Secretary and Treasurer, E. Davis. Representative on the Victorian Alliance, R. J. McSolvin. Mr. R. J. McSolvin was compelled to resign his connection with the Committee early in the year in consequence of illness in his family.

Bro. W. Woodbridge was urged by the Committee to take a seat, and rejoined us in the work. Needless to say his connection with the Committee has been of great assistance to us.

Twenty-seven public meetings have been held under the auspices of the Committee, and on commencing the work for the year we forwarded letters to churches and evangelists, soliciting their co-operation. Members of the Committee also attended in person the officers' meetings of some of the churches, and placed before them the claims of the Committee and discussed Temperance work.

In other directions work has been carried out independently, notably at North Melbourne, and

under the auspices of the Eastern Suburbs Churches Co-operation and at Emerald and Cosgrove. We have supplied speakers from the Committee for some of these places. The Committee during the year also took one of the ordinary Temperance meetings at the Temperance Hall, supplying the whole of the programme. Doubtless other churches have also held meetings, but they have not reported to the Committee—otherwise their efforts would have found a place in this report.

In accordance with the world-wide custom, we requested all our churches by circular letter to observe the second Sunday in November (Temperance Sunday) by having at least one address on that day devoted to the subject of Temperance. We also carried out the system adopted in previous years, and requested that a collection be taken up to help the Victorian Alliance in its work, as it is the representative body of the Temperance organisations. The response, however, was poor, amounting to £6/6/1½.

We have again to thank the Editors of the *Christian* and *The Alliance Record*, Bren. Dunn and Barrett, for space in their pages, and sympathetic references to the work, and for assistance rendered by many at Temperance meetings, who by their music and elocutionary efforts have contributed to their success.

We heartily thank W. C. Thurgood for the use of his rooms, and for the pleasant meetings held during the year, which have been of a brotherly and harmonious character.

The Committee held 11 meetings, which were attended as follows:—J. G. Barrett, 10; R. McSolvin, 2; E. Davis, 7; W. Nightingale, 9; W. C. Thurgood, 10; H. G. Peacock, 7; W. G. Oram, 9; W. Woodbridge, 9.

As mentioned previously, Bro. McSolvin resigned, and Bro. Davis was away for a short period out of the State on holiday.

J. G. BARRETT, President.
R. MCSOLVIN, Vice-President.
E. DAVIS, Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Receipts.

Balance last year	£1	7	6½
Collection, Masonic Hall	4	18	2
Refund from Alliance	2	2	0
Collections from Meetings	5	1	2
Amounts Collected for Alliance, Temperance Sunday	6	6	1½

£19 15 0

Expenditure.

Rent, Masonic Hall	£4	4	0
Rent, Piano	0	10	0
Printing	2	19	6
Badges	0	3	3
Travelling Expenses	2	13	5½
Postage	0	15	3
Amount forwarded to Victorian Alliance	6	6	1½

£17 11 7

Balance	2	3	5
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£19 15 0

Audited and found correct,

E. DAVIS, Treas. THOS. SCHULT.
March 30, 1911.

J. G. Barrett moved the adoption of the report, and spoke at some length on various phases of the Temperance question. He specially urged that the Conference should give a clear expression of opinion in reference to the early closing of public houses. Motion carried.

J. G. Barrett moved, "That this Conference, representing the Churches of Christ throughout Victoria, is strongly of opinion that the time has arrived for a curtailment of the hours of trading for licensed houses, and urges the Premier that in the proposed amending Licensing Bill to be introduced in the next session of Parliament, a provision

be inserted compelling hotels to open one hour later than at present and close one hour earlier, making the hours of trading from 7 a.m. to 10.30 p.m., and that hotel premises be closed on Saturdays from 1 p.m. to 7 a.m. on Monday, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the President of the Conference to the Premier." Motion carried.

Resolved on the motion of C. L. Thurgood, "That it be a recommendation to the Temperance Committee to forward the foregoing resolution to the various churches, advising them to vote upon it and forward the result to the Premier."

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION.

In the good providence of God, we have accomplished another year's work for Christ and his church. We raise our voices in praise to God for all the great and numberless blessings we have been the recipients of.

Our membership this year numbers about 2350, being a slight decrease on the numbers of last year. Against this we are pleased to mention an increase of 5 societies—3 senior and 2 junior—and are also glad to record greater activity amongst most of the societies connected with the Union, especially by some of the country societies.

During the year the Union held a special rally in the Lygon-st. chapel, which was well attended, and proved to be a great blessing to all who attended. Bro. C. L. Thurgood gave a helpful address on that occasion.

The annual picnic took place on December 3rd, taking the form of a motor launch excursion to the Glen Tea Gardens, where a most enjoyable time was spent.

The Union has now three representatives on the Victorian C.E. Executive, one of whom being our President-elect, Bro. J. E. Allan.

As usual our monthly council meetings have been a source of strength. Apart from the business discussed, addresses on C.E. topics have been given, and the members have profited thereby. The average attendance of delegates at the council meetings has been 23.

The reports for the year from the individual societies are full of records of loving service accomplished for the Master, whom we strive to serve. Where all have done so well, it is impossible to specialise. The work of the committees: Sunshine, Prayer, Lookout, Missions, Tract, Flower, Music, and others has given scope for much work, and in the Master's book of remembrance the faithful work of the committees is written against the last great day.

The convener of the visitation work, Bro. E. Rowlands, reports that the metropolitan societies are in a healthy condition. Bro. Rowlands is to be commended for his constant visitation. He has faithfully carried out his duties, without fee or reward.

The F.M. Treasurer, Miss Maud Morris, has been successful in her efforts on behalf of missions, and has raised a goodly sum from the societies for F.M. work. The thanks of the Union are tendered to the Editor of the *Christian*, and to Bro. Main for the usual articles on the late C.E. page. Whilst expressing our thankfulness, we also desire to voice our regret that the page is being discontinued.

At the annual meeting of the Council, held on Feb. 6, the election of officers for 1911-1912 resulted as follows:—President, J. E. Allan; Vice-Presidents, T. B. Fischer, E. Davis, F. Prittie and T. J. Cook (country representative); Treasurer, Miss R. Lee; F.M. Treasurer, Miss Mil-dren; Org. Sec., C. W. Timmins; Gen. Sec., Arthur J. O'Neill; Junr. Supt. and Visitation Convener, E. Rowlands; F.M. Study Class Sec., Miss K. C. Feldman; Instructor, P. A. Dickson; Press Correspondent, R. Conning, junr.

With the above in office we feel confident of doing greater things for the Lord and Master of us all. The future is before us, with its joys and sorrows, its possibilities and opportunities for greater work for God. We step into the coming year, endeavoring to do whatsoever he would have us do, forgetting that which is behind and reaching forward to that which is before, we press toward the mark of the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

On behalf of the Union,

ARTHUR J. O'NEILL, Sec.

T. B. Fischer moved the adoption of this report; A. J. O'Neill seconded it. The motion was carried.

After lunch T. B. Fischer, President of the S.S. Union, took the chair.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

It is with very great pleasure that we submit to Conference a brief report of our work for the past twelve months. During that time indications have not been wanting to show that a greater activity and deeper interest have been displayed in connection with the Bible Schools throughout the State.

Our last report stated that 39 schools were connected with the Union; this year we are able to report 43, an increase of 4, being the highest number reached in our history.

Monthly meetings have been held during the year, which were well attended by the delegates, and business of an important character discussed and dealt with. The average attendance has been 35. Perhaps the most important matter that has been decided upon is affiliation with the Conference, and the conditions upon which this step was taken appear with the Home Missionary Committee's report. We feel sure that the results will prove the wisdom of this move.

The annual examination was held this year on the 15th of August, and was an unprecedented success. The number of entries was 782, out of which 510 competed, and 352 succeeded in securing awards. The awards were made up as follows:—29 prizes, 161 certificates of merit, and 162 certificates. This was a most satisfactory result, and not only proves the popularity of the examination, but also the splendid knowledge the competitors had of the lessons. We hope that the numbers during the coming year will be even larger than on this occasion.

The annual demonstration and distribution of prizes was held in the chapel, Lygon-st., on Nov. 28th, when there was a large and enthusiastic audience. T. B. Fischer presided, and C. M. Gordon distributed the prizes. An excellent and varied programme was rendered by representatives of the schools in the Union, and the meeting was one of the best for many years.

Bible Sunday was observed in many of the schools on the afternoon of April 17, when collections were taken up in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Children's Day was also observed on Nov. 6th amongst the schools of the Union, and special offerings, amounting to £39/14/-, were taken for the Foreign Mission Committee.

On Jan. 30th we held our first Teachers' Conference at Cheltenham, and this unique gathering was an unqualified success. The attendances were both large and enthusiastic, and some excellent addresses on various phases of Bible School work were delivered by W. L. Jones, H. G. Harward, B. J. Kemp, A. R. Main, J. C. F. Pittman and T. R. Morris, followed by general discussions. During the meeting solos were rendered by Sisters Thompson and Chapman. The Conference was ably presided over by our President.

During the year the schools in the Union have been visited as frequently as possible. For some time H. Swain acted as visitor, and on his resignation J. H. Drummond was appointed to carry on the work. Bro. Drummond has been most assiduous and faithful in the discharge of his

duties, and has rendered good service to the Committee, and also to the schools.

The financial position of the Union, though showing a credit balance, is not quite so strong as we would like to see it, and we take this opportunity of reminding the members of the Conference that they can assist in this matter by becoming life honorary members for the small amount of 21/-.

In conclusion, we desire to place on record our best thanks to those who have contributed to the funds of the Union, the N.S.W. board of examiners, the officers of the churches meeting at Swanston-st., Lygon-st., and Cheltenham, for the use of the chapels, and the Editor of the *Australian Christian* for the space he has given in that popular and widely-read paper. Above all, we most reverently and sincerely thank him, who has made it possible for us to be co-workers together in the great undertaking of teaching his will to those attending our schools, and the earnest prayer of the Committee is that the coming year may be one of much greater usefulness in his service.

On behalf of the Committee,

THEO. B. FISCHER, President.
JOS. COLLINGS, Vice-President.
F. W. MARTIN, Treasurer.
J. Y. POTTS, Secretary.

The Secretary of the Union read the report, and moved its adoption.

The following brethren spoke to the report: C. W. Mitchell, C. L. Thurgood and T. B. Fischer.

Address, "The Church and the Sunday School," by A. R. Main.

He said that our chief need was not new methods, but a realisation of the importance of Sunday School work, combined with a desire to engage whole-heartedly in it. We have knowledge enough already to make a splendid success of the Bible School. The Sunday School is, or should be, the church at work (a) for the evangelisation of the young, (b) for the education of its members. This should be the serious business of the church as a church, not of a small section of it. This general principle was applied to various particulars. It would condemn the idea that church and school were separate organisations. There was even yet a feeling of aloofness in some quarters. Again, it was held that the direction of the school lay with the church, through its responsible officers. The speaker had heard in a teachers' meeting this retort made to church officers: "Let them mind their own business." The implication of this right of direction was noted. It would even be regarded as an interference if anyone who did not share in the work of the school should dare either to criticise or seek to claim part of the honor. In the third place, if Sunday School work is the business of the church, the church should liberally provide funds. We spend a ridiculously small amount on the work which yet we say is most important. If the church as a church took on the work of the school, it would surely provide better buildings. Every church about to erect a chapel was urged to give careful preliminary consideration to school requirements, and build accordingly. School attendance would be increased. It was no sin for a church officer or a member to be ab-

sent from the Lord's day School; but we simply cannot hope to hold growing lads and young men if the older members absent themselves. The bearing of the foregoing on church membership was referred to. Our Victorian figures show for this year a gain of about 6½ per cent. of scholars, and also show that 293 scholars were added to the church. It has been said that to stop leakage between school and church one-fifteenth of the school should come into the church annually. The speaker was inclined to insist on a higher proportion; but still, on the lower figures, 455 should have come into the church this year instead of 293. We have in this year's returns cause of thankfulness, but none for self-congratulation or complacency.

A number of brethren expressed their appreciation of Bro. Main's address, among whom were the following: J. Tully, L. Larsen, J. Pittman, H. Swain.

J. Tully, in supporting what Bro. Main had said, moved that a vote of thanks be given to him for his fine address. This was seconded by J. R. Combridge, and carried with enthusiasm.

TABLE 1.

Tabular Statement of the Federal Foreign Missionary Committee of Australia.

	FIELDS										TOTALS
	SHANGHAI, CHINA	INDIA		TOKYO, JAPAN	NEW HEBRIDES		CHINESE MISSIONS				
		BARAMATI AND DIKSAL	HARDA		AOBA	PENTECOST	ADELAIDE	MELBOURNE	PERTH	SYDNEY	
ESTABLISHED	1890	1905 1909	1882	1904	1907	1904	1900	1893	1905	1899	
Members Last Report ...	173	25	101	401	450	310	7	46	10	41	1564
Gain—By Baptism ...	16	2	19	29	166	49	4	6	1	3	294
By Statement ...								1		2	3
Loss—By Death ...					10	52				1	63
Other Cause ...	59		1		10	46	1	15	2	12	146
Present Membership ...	130	27	119	430	596	261	10	38	9	33	1653
MISSIONARIES AND HELPERS											
Male	2	1	2	2	1	1					9
Married Ladies ...	2	1	2	2	1	1					9
Single Women ...	1	2	1	3							7
Native Evangelists ...	4	4	5	11						1	25
Native Teachers... ..	6	1	36	5	50	21					119
Bible Women and Other Helpers	3	2	3	3		4					15
Total Workers	18	11	49	26	52	27				1	184
MEETINGS—											
No. of Locations	5		2		50	17	1	1	1	1	78
No. each Sunday	9	4	3		100	51	2	3	2	2	176
No. on Week Days	9	18	2		350	204	2	5	1	2	593
SCHOOLS &c.—											
Sunday Schools	3	*	10	15	1		1	1	1		32
Scholars	220	*	600	910	25		10	20	12		1797
Educational Schools ...	4	*	10	*	350	204	1	1		1	571
Scholars	167	*	600	330	*	*	18	80		26	1221
C.E. Societies	1		1								2
Members	40		62								102
MEDICAL—											
No. of Treatments		2,244	32 353		400	*					35,997
* Work engaged in, but no count available.											

* Work engaged in, but no count available.

TRAINING FOR SERVICE.

In connection with the Training for Service Class conducted last year by C. M. Gordon, certificates were given to a number of the members of the class who had gained the required number of marks.

Bro. Butler, on behalf of the Training for Service Class, expressed the thanks of its members for the work done in connection with it by Bren. C. M. Gordon and H. Swain.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

PREAMBLE.

With the pleasure that comes as a result of mighty things achieved for God, and great blessings received from God, this report is submitted to Conference. The missionary spirit was never stronger than at the present time, when the furthest sin-cursed race is at the very finger tips of the church.

I.—INDIA.

India, the land of 300,000,000 people, makes strong demands upon us. We have some of our choicest workers there.

A.—HARDA.

MISS MARY THOMPSON, our first representative from Australia, still labors at HARDA.

She works amongst the women and children. They love her, and are beginning to love her Saviour. Her constant going from door to door, closed to every other white face, and her weekly meeting with the Christian women, have meant much for the work. - SARUBAI, our Bible woman, and BRO. M. J. SHAH, our native evangelist, are doing an ever-increasing work. The plague has again been severe, but through it all these heroes for God toil, till the harvest home. God will have great rewards in heaven for them, but especially for our first missionary of the cross.

B.—OUR AUSTRALIAN STATION.

We rejoice to have at our Conference our BRO. AND SISTER H. H. STRUTTON, from BARAMATI. They are well beloved by the Committee, and by the district in which they labor. The Committee have the utmost confidence in them and their work. From their lips we will hear of the work at BARAMATI, DIKSAL and TANDALWADI.

Associated with them in their work is NURSE EDITH TERRELL. Her letters glow with the enthusiasm she shows in her work. She took 1293 cases last year, and gave 2244 treatments. She not alone attends the dispensary, but is called out to visit the villages around. Many a door has been opened to her, and with her medical skill on one hand, and the Bible in the other, she carries her message to the hearts of a sin-cursed race. Language study also engages her attention, and good progress is being made.

SISTER ROSA F. TILLEY has only lately been added to our staff, and being one of our Sunday School scholars in Victoria, a few years ago, we are glad that she is now a representative of ours in India. She has spent some years in India, and is a children's specialist. She teaches classes amongst Brahmins and low castes separately, but gradually these same children will unite

on a common basis, and will sit together around the one table to worship the one God. Miss Tilley's work is slow but sure, for she is writing Christianity upon the hearts of little children, until Christ be formed in their souls.

Seven native workers also labor diligently for God at our Australian Station. We have also accepted BRO. AND SISTER H. WATSON to labor at Baramati. They will proceed to India in September.

Under the clause relating to India, H. H. Strutton gave some interesting details in regard to the work at Baramati. Mrs. Strutton also briefly addressed the Conference.

H. Watson, missionary-elect for Baramati, was introduced to the Conference and gave a very happy little speech on his future work.

T. B. Fischer and R. Lyall spoke on the work in India, the latter paying a high tribute to Bro. and Sister Strutton, and also to H. Watson, who at the cost of personal sacrifice wishes to return to India to engage in missionary work.

C.—DALTONGANJ.

We are linked to DALTONGANJ by the fact of assisting to support some of the workers. BENJAMIN SAHAY, a native evangelist, is supported by the Glenelg, S.A., young people. He is a young man of excellent promise. BRO. AND SISTER G. P. PITTMAN, working under the British Committee, are being greatly blessed in health and strength and language study. Their labors are also bearing fruit, and the Pearl of the East is the richer for their presence. SISTER A. D. ALLAN arrived in Daltonganj in October, and is working at her own charges and

is a great comfort to our brother and sister. Various brethren and churches send contributions from time to time, and the Committee desire to be informed of contributions, so as to be able to credit the respective States, and allow money to go through the official channels. May the Lord bless Daltonganj.

J. Pittman supplemented the report relating to Daltonganj, and F. M. Ludbrook read an interesting letter from G. P. Pittman.

2—CHINA.

China, with its vast population, vast territory, yet vaster possibilities, is challenging our attention.

In SHANGHAI we have MISS ROSA L. TONKIN, whose work is highly appreciated by the F.C.M.S., under whom she labors. She conducts three weekly women's meetings at Yangtse-poo, the Institute, and Loongking chapels, besides the Sunday services. Her Bible woman is assisting nobly in the work. She has adopted several young Chinese girls, and these are being trained to become Bible women in the years to be. One very interesting case might be mentioned. Lai Poo, a bright young girl, was cast out by her parents when she was four years of age on account of her feet dropping off, as the result of foot binding. She is now 18 years of age, and this year our Committee supplied the money to enable artificial feet to be purchased for her. She is now using them, and the world seems a new world to her, in her brighter life. She is but one of the many who are in daily touch with our faithful missionary.

On clause 2, relating to India, T. B. Fischer paid a tribute to the good work done by Miss Tonkin.

3.—JAPAN.

Japan has a population of 52,000,000, of whom only 100,000 are Christians, and a large per cent. of these have no church home. About 45,000,000 are yet untouched in the Land of the Rising Sun. We are trying to touch some of them through BRO. AND SISTER P. A. DAVEY, who labor in TOKYO. BRO. DAVEY is considered by authorities to be one of the most useful missionaries in the whole of Japan. He preaches, teaches, evangelises and finds time to do other work. He is treasurer of the Standing Committee of Co-operative Missions, which organisation includes 19 missions, and is on the executive of the National S.S. Association. In it all, he first and foremost labors for the souls of the Japanese, and is doing his share so that, to use his own words, "the evangelistic spirit shall be fanned into flame, that the gospel may spread like wild-fire." MRS. DAVEY labors among the women most earnestly. Her musical talents are often availed of. She trained the Koishikawa children for their first C.D. Exercises. A monthly meeting for the mothers is also held. She writes: "Our work is bright with promise; may we pursue it prepared for glad service."

The Organising Secretary eulogised the work of P. A. Davey in Japan, and the faithful efforts of our South Sea missionaries.

H. Swain, A. Millis, and C. L. Thurgood added personal testimonies.

F. G. Dunn moved a recommendation that a letter of greeting and sympathy be sent to all our Foreign Missionaries, assuring them of our continued goodwill and support.

4—NEW HEBRIDES.

The fair isles of the sea, like gems in the Pacific, shine with tropical splendor, but our work there shines brighter far, and in the world to come many a dusky South Sea islander will be

TABLE 2.

Tabular Statement of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society, U.S.A.

	MISSIONS									TOTALS
	AFRICA	CHINA	CUBA	ENGLAND	INDIA	JAPAN	PHILIPPINE ISLANDS	SCANDINAVIA	TIBET	
WHEN ESTABLISHED ...	1899	1886	1899	1876	1882	1883	1901	1876	1903	
Members last year ...	567	788	152	2,082	953	1,237	3,773	123		9,675
Added since ...	314	142	7	241	95	126	1,010	3		1,938
Present membership ...	995	851	159	2,323	951	1,354	4,783	118	9	11,541
MISSIONARIES AND HELPERS -										
Male ...	9	20	1	13	19	10	9	6	3	84
Wives ...	7	17	1		12	10	6	1	2	56
Single Women ...	2	9			7	10	2			30
Native Evangelists ...	78	28	2		19	20	33			178
Native Teachers ...	77	47			91	39	13		3	270
Bible Women and Other Helpers ...	151	60			37	10	52		1	311
Places of regular meeting ...	57	37	3	20	12	29	86	3	1	248
Sunday Schools ...	57	23	3		41	47	30	3	1	205
Sunday School membership ...	5,000	1,285	202		2,300	2,816	993	235	100	12,931
C.E. Societies ...	10	7	2		7	2	2		1	31
C.E. Membership ...	1,321	214	76		339	40	40		15	2,045
EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS—										
Boarding Schools ...	1	3			1		2			7
Pupils ...	32	577			200		24			833
Students for the ministry ...		48			28	24	48			148
Day Schools ...	11	24			20				1	56
Pupils ...	1,029	826			1,642	588			10	4,095
Total number under instruction	1,061	1,376			1,645	671	131			4,884
MEDICAL WORK—										
Hospitals and dispensaries ...	5	4			10		1		1	21
In-patients ...	166	2,122			709		25		12	4,034
Out-patients ...										
Treatments ...	26,900	51,862			84,446		12,560		7,000	182,768

a gem in the crown of missionaries Purdy and Filmer.

A.—AOBA.

At last Conference negotiations were in progress re this important work. We rejoice to say that the Committee have great pleasure in the work at AOBA, and not a single regret that the work has been taken over by us. BRO. and SISTER F. J. PURDY are doing a great work. They hold the record of 166 Kanakas baptised during the year. The island has running through it a chain of meeting houses in which 100 meetings

are held every Lord's day. Bro. Purdy has been ill and was compelled to spend a month on Norfolk Island, but is now enjoying better health. Of Bro. Purdy it can be said, as also of Bro. Filmer, on Pentecost, "In perils often. In perils by sea, in perils by land. In perils by earthquake, in perils by hurricane. In perils by savages, in perils by evil traders. Perils from within and perils from without." Yet none of these things move them, if but souls be saved, and God be glorified. The call has come for an additional worker to work the north-east of Aoba, and to also cross

to the island of Maewo and establish a station there. This is now having the earnest consideration of the Committees.

B.—PENTECOST.

Our workers, BRO. AND SISTER F. G. FILMER, are working in the spirit and power of the Pentecostal gospel, and the Lord is adding to the church almost daily those who are being saved. The letters of our brother show him to be a self-sacrificing, consecrated hero, who places Christ and his work first, and personal consideration

FOREIGN MISSION FUND—VICTORIAN STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
Contributions Received to March, 1911—		Amounts Expended to March, 1911—	
From Churches and Members	£745 11 0	Chinese Mission, Melbourne—	
From Sunday Schools	39 14 0	W. Jame—Allowance (part year) ..	£63 0 0
From Endeavor Societies	16 19 9	Travelling Expenses	11 12 0
From Chinese Brethren	66 11 6	Expenses of Mission	21 13 11
From Sisters (collected by Mrs. Zelius)—		Interest on Money owing Mission Building	41 0 0
For Miss Thompson's Bible Woman ..	£8 0 0		137 5 11
For Miss Tonkin's Bible Woman ..	15 0 0		
For Mrs. Strutton's Bible Woman ..	8 0 0	India—	
For Miss Thompson, to support orphan	6 0 0	Miss Thompson, for Bible Woman ..	8 0 0
	37 0 0	For support of Orphan	6 0 0
		Mrs. Strutton, for Bible Woman ..	8 0 0
			22 0 0
		China—	
		Miss Tonkin, for Bible Woman ..	15 0 0
			174 5 11
		Amount included in Federal Expenditure ..	731 10 4
	£905 16 3		£905 16 3

R. LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

Melbourne, March 31, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors.

CHINESE MISSION BUILDING FUND, MELBOURNE.

Balance amount owing on Building	£700 0 0	Balance, March, 1911	£700 0 0
	£700 0 0		£700 0 0

R. LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

Melbourne, March 31, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors.

BEQUEST AND ANNUITY FUND.

Amounts received to March, 1911	£700 0 0	Balance, March, 1911	£700 0 0
	£700 0 0		£700 0 0

R. LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

Melbourne, March 31, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors.

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT.

Amount of Loan at Interest	£600 0 0	Balance, March, 1911	£600 0 0
	£600 0 0		£600 0 0

R. LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

Melbourne, March 31, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors.

MISSION PROPERTY ACCOUNT.

Amount owing on Chinese Mission Building, Melb. £700 0 0	Chinese Mission, Land and Building at Cost ..	£1301 17 6
Balance, being total amount Expended on Mission	Land and Buildings at Baramati at Cost ..	455 10 6
Property (including Oba Property, value £200, handed over) ..	Land and School at Tandalwadi at Cost ..	20 0 0
	Land and Buildings at Diksal at Cost ..	100 0 0
	Land and Buildings at Pentecost Island at Cost ..	221 18 11
	Land and Buildings at Oba Island (handed over) ..	200 0 0
	Motor Boat, Pentecost Island, at Cost ..	161 0 0
	Motor Boat, Oba Island, at Cost ..	141 10 0
		£2601 16 5

R. LYALL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,

Melbourne, March 31, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE }
A. R. LYALL } Auditors

last. At times fever still has its effect on both Mr. and Mrs. Filmer, but gradually that is being overcome. A number of the natives have been set to work clearing the ground surrounding the house, and the place is now almost fever-proof. A little industrial work is also being undertaken in the planting of the cocoanut palm. They write letters of appreciation for the old clothes and books, etc., that have been sent down from time to time for distribution amongst the natives. The motor boat, the "Endeavor," is in constant use, and is of great assistance. By reference to the statistics some idea of the great work that is being done can be gathered. We are proud of our workers on Pentecost, and pray God to bless them more and more.

5.—CHINESE MISSION.

The labors of Bro. Jame, our Chinese evangel-

ist, are being spent in N.S.W. this year, and the meetings in Sydney have increased considerably. In Bro. Jame we have a convert from our own mission, and one in whom the Committee place great confidence. He shows great suitability for the work, and has the ordination of the pierced hands. In each centre where work is conducted—Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney—a large staff of honorary teachers and workers continue their good work. This department of our work pays. One has but to view the fine converts who are made, to appreciate the mission. A visit to the Chinese church in Melbourne on a Lord's day morning would open the eyes of the sceptical. Bro. Jos. Pittman continues as the beloved superintendent of the work in Melbourne. Apart from the usual classes a meeting for Bible study is held every Saturday night. Miss A. Baker, as secretary of the Melbourne Mission, writes:—"We are

delighted to report splendid meetings. During the month (March) we had an average attendance of 28 teachers and 32 scholars. The members are increasing, and much interest is taken."

Re Chinese Mission: J. Pittman, superintendent, gave a verbal report, in which he highly praised the workers, including the Chinese brethren. H. Pang followed, testifying to the esteem in which Bro. Pittman was held by the whole mission, and pleading for more teachers.

6.—STATISTICAL.

We publish for the first time statistics of our work and of the F.C.M.S. of U.S.A. We regret not being able to publish British and N.Z. statistics,

FOREIGN MISSION FUND—FEDERAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.	EXPENDITURE.
Balance, March, 1910 £112 2 11	Amounts Expended to March, 1911—
Contributions received to March, 1910—	India—
New South Wales—	Australian Station, Baramati, India—
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies, and Schools (including £42/12/1 balance on hand, March, 1910) . . . £723 6 9	H. H. Strutton and Mrs. Strutton . . £127 1 6
Special Contributions towards Expenses of visit of F. M. Rains 29 2 0	Travelling Expenses, India to Australia To Tasmania and New Zealand and return 29 0 0
Amount Owing to N.S.W. Treasurer . . . 7 2 3	For Native Workers 45 0 0
	For Benevolent Work 25 0 0
	For Building Improvements and Repairs . . 40 0 0
	Mrs. Strutton's Bible Woman 8 0 0
	Allowances, Other Workers 60 0 0
	Miss Terrell—Allowance 80 0 0
	Miss Tilley—Allowance 40 0 0
	494 1 6
Queensland—	India—
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools 202 2 9	Miss Mary Thompson—Allowance . . 104 0 0
	For Bible Woman 8 0 0
South Australia—	For Benevolent Work 11 0 0
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies, Mission Bands and Schools (including £87/7/- balance on hand, March, 1910) 1064 6 2	For Support of Orphan, sent by New South Wales, direct 15 7 6
	M. J. Shah, Native Helper—Allowance . . 44 0 0
Tasmania—	Allowance to June 30 11 0 0
From Churches, Members and Schools 36 14 4	For Native Helpers and Students 20 0 0
	213 7 6
Western Australia—	India—Daltonganj—
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies and Schools (including £25/14/9 balance on hand, March, 1910) 207 9 0	Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Pittman, sent by Church, Glenelg through S.A. Committee . . 12 0 0
Victoria—	China—
From Churches, Members, Endeavor Societies, Mission Bands, Schools and Sisters' Special Contributions 905 16 3	Miss R. L. Tonkin—Allowance to June, 1910 120 0 0
Sundry Contributions 16 13 0	For Bible Woman 15 0 0
	For Benevolent Work 20 0 0
	155 0 0
	Japan—
	P. A. Davey and Mrs. Davey 120 0 0
	For Benevolent Work 5 0 0
	For Support of Student, sent by N.S.W. Committee 12 4 7
	137 4 7
	South Sea Islands—
	Pentecost, New Hebrides—
	F. G. Filmer and Mrs. Filmer and Native Teachers, and Sundry Expenses 382 6 7
	Oba, New Hebrides—
	Mr. F. J. Purdy and Mrs. Purdy, Cost of Motor Launch, Allowance for Native Helpers and Sundry Expenses 434 8 2
	816 14 9
	Chinese Mission, Melbourne—
	W. Jame—Allowance (part year) . . 63 0 0
	Travelling Expenses 11 12 0
	Expenses of Mission 21 13 11
	Interest on Money owing on Mission Building, Melbourne 41 0 0
	137 5 11
	£1065 14 3
£3304 15 5	

FEDERAL STATEMENT—continued.

Forward	£3304 15 5	Forward	£1965 14 3
		Charges—Federal Committee, Melbourne—	
		Allowance, Organising Secretary	78 0 0
		Printing, including Books and Periodicals for Missionaries	100 15 7
		Sundry Expenses, Exchange, Postage, etc. ..	43 11 7
		Expenses, F. M. Rains' visit, including Travelling Expenses, Victoria to Western Australia	31 18 10
		Donation to H. P. Jensen, Denmark	5 0 0
			259 6 0
		Investment Account—	
		Amount on Call at Interest	600 0 0
		New South Wales F.M. Committee—	
		Expenses, Chinese Mission, Sydney	78 2 0
		Printing, Postages, F.M. Literature, etc. ..	19 7 7
		Expenses, Children's Day Exercises	11 2 9
		Expenses, Visit, F. M. Rains, and Travelling Expenses	26 19 9
		Expenses, Mr. and Mrs. Strutton's Visit to Churches, N.S.W.	14 0 3
		Sundry Charges, Allowance to Assistant Secretary, etc.	54 11 11
			204 4 3
		South Australian F.M. Committee—	
		Expenditure, including Expenses, Chinese Mission, etc.	42 9 0
		Donation to H. P. Jensen, Denmark	4 5 0
		Cash in Treasurer's hands	77 8 6
			124 2 6
		Western Australian F.M. Committee—	
		Expended by W.A. Committee	40 9 9
		Cash in Treasurer's hands	36 19 3
			77 9 0
			3230 16 0
		Balance in Federal Treasurer's hands	73 19 5
			£3304 15 5
		£3304 15 5	

Audited and found correct,

R. LYALL, Treasurer.

Melbourne, March 31, 1911.

CHAS. HARDIE } Auditors.
A. R. LYALL }

which have not been procurable to date. Statistics are always difficult to procure, and when available do not always give a correct view of the situation. The schedules submitted are compiled after much careful correspondence, and we believe our work to be even better than the figures can give an idea of. The returns from Pentecost, of members at last report, losses by death, and other causes, really cover the full time Bro. Filmer has labored in the island. The additions mentioned are for this year only. It brings Pentecost right up to date for future statistics. Our own figures are up to December 31, 1910. The F.C.M.S. figures are up to October 1, 1910.

On account of Bro. and Sister Davey and Sisters Thompson and Tonkin and several Bible women and native workers being our workers, but laboring under the F.C.M.S., it has been found impossible to divide the figures, hence the whole of the figures for those fields show. This must be taken into consideration. A careful survey of the statistics shows what a vast amount of work is being done.

Table No. 1 shows that 294 have been added by faith and obedience, being literally carved out of the rock of heathenism. To God be the glory.

7.—FINANCIAL.

Once again the Committee are under great obligations to the brotherhood for continued liberality. This year we record the largest income ever received. For the State of Victoria, the receipts amounted to £905/16/3, of which £137/5/11 was expended for support of Chinese Mission in Victoria, and £37 for special contributions by the sisters of Victoria, for Bible women under direction of Miss Thompson and Mrs. Strutton in India, and Miss Tonkin in China. The balance (£731/10/4) formed part of the general expenditure by Federal Committee.

The income from all the States for F.M. work amounts to £3185/10/3, which, added to balance on hand last March, makes a total of £3297/13/2. A small amount of £7/2/3 owing to N.S.W. Treasurer, makes the total on receipts side £3304 15/5.

The expenditure amounts to £2516/8/3, while £600 has been invested at call, which will provide for new outlay in connection with the Australian Station at Baramati, India, when we commence the work amongst the Bampton Thieves Colony, and also the projected extension of work at Maewo, the adjacent island to Aoba and Pentecost, where we hope to send a missionary later on.

A balance remains in the hands of the Federal Treasurer of £73/19/5, which, added to balance in hand of South Australian Treasurer of £77 8/6, and Western Australia of £36/19/3, amounts to total of £187/17/2, from which must be deducted £7/2/3 owing to New South Wales Treasurer, leaving a nett total balance on hand of £180 14/11. A reference to Mission Property Account shows the value to be £2601/16/5, which is all paid for except the amount due on Chinese Mission Building, Melbourne, as shown in statement.

The F.M. Committee are looking forward to another year of progressive work.

T. B. Fischer spoke on the statistical section, and R. Lyall on the financial.

8.—EDITORIAL.

Probably no single cause has contributed to the success of the year so much as the *Australian Christian* and *Pure Words*. In each issue of these papers, the Editor grants the Committee one full page for Foreign Missionary matter. Many have been good enough to pronounce those pages the best of good things. Many other missionary

articles appear from time to time. We also thank Bro. Main for his telling F.M. matter in the late C.E. page, and Bro. H. Gray for the missionary leaflets in the treatment of the S.S. lessons. The Children's Day Exercises this year were placed in the hands of Bro. Jas. E. Thomas, of Adelaide, S.A., and proved of great interest and profit to the schools. The F.M. numbers of the *Christian* and *Pure Words* were worthy of the great cause of missions, and we believe did much good. To all literary contributors, and to Bro. F. G. Dunn, Editor of the *Australian Christian*, we express our gratitude. A number of 4-page F.M. tracts have also been prepared and are doing good service. They can be had from the Organising Secretary for the asking.

9.—SECRETARIAL.

The Victorian State Committee acted as Federal Executive until a Federal Executive Committee was appointed at the Federal Conference. The States have all been kept in touch with the Executive, and no matter of importance is decided until the States have all had the opportunity of discussing the matter. The whole work is being systematised. A constitution is being drawn up. A manual is being prepared. Monthly reports on printed forms are in future to be sent by the missionaries. Printed schedules are being used for candidates, and every department of the work is being moulded on a business system. The States Secretaries, G. T. Walden, N.S.W.; I. A. Paternoster, S.A.; H. J. Yelland, W.A.; N. J. Warnbrun, Tasmania; and L. Gole, Queensland, have been of great service in correspondence. Bro. Lyall as usual corresponds with the missionaries and sends cheques and cheer. The Committee members also correspond with missionaries to their joy and profit.

10.—FRATERNAL.

The spirit of brotherhood was never stronger than in the year past and gone. In our heart we know of but one meaning of the word missions, and can rejoice in all missionary enterprises. The fraternal spirit has been strengthened through the visit of that great man of God, F. M. Rains, who, with Mrs. Rains, made the missionary pulse beat stronger. We thank God for his coming to our land and his month's tour, and express our gratitude to the F.C.M. Society of U.S.A. for the visit and visitor. We also bear record to the joy we have in Sister Annie D. Allan's going to assist Bro. and Sister Pittman at Daltonganj, and Bro. and Sister D. C. McCallum's going forth to labor in the Philippine Islands, and Bro. W. Mansill's proceeding to South Africa.

11.—CANDIDATURE.

In all the history of the Committee, never have there been so many candidates for service as during the past year. Much time and thought was spent in considering the claims of each candidate. The Committee accepted Sister Rosa F. Tilley, and Bro. and Sister H. Watson, for India. Miss Tilley is now at Baramati, and Mr. and Mrs. Watson proceed to India in September. Several others have also been encouraged, and are taking special studies and will be sent out, if the Committee are able to send them, when their equipment is complete. In all candidates for the future a high standard will be required, as the Foreign Field demands our best. Several of the young men students of the College of the Bible are turning their eyes towards the regions beyond, in addition to which the Faculty have consented, if necessary, to prepare lady candidates for the Foreign Mission field.

12.—MEMORABILIA.

As usual, many churches, societies, the Bible College, and a few individuals have supported native teachers and orphans. Mrs. Zelius continues her great work in collecting for the support of Bible women for our missionaries. The Victorian C.E. Union, per Miss Maud Morris, has contributed liberally to the funds. To all who have given or helped in this way, the Committee desire to give thanks.

The Federal F.M. Executive Committee officials are President, F. M. Ludbrook, Treasurer, R. Lyall, Secretary, T. B. Fischer. For the sake of convenience, the Victorian State and the Federal Executive Committee usually meet together.

Next Conference (D.V.) will be a Federal gathering. In view of this it is hoped to have another F.M. visitor from U.S.A., to bind our two continents closer together, as well as a visit from one of our own missionaries, to fan the flame of missionary fire.

13.—COMMITTEE.

The Committee have held 12 meetings, and have spent 38 hours in committee deliberations. They have worked heartily, harmoniously and happily together. The following is the record of attendances: Appointed by Conference, F. M. Ludbrook, 10; R. Lyall, 11; W. A. Kemp, 11; J. McColl, 11; J. C. F. Pittman, 11; C. A. Quick, 10; T. B. Fischer, 12. Sisters' Representatives, Mrs. R. Lyall, 9; Mrs. J. C. F. Pittman, 6; Mrs. B. Huntsman, 6; Honorary member, Mrs. F. M. Ludbrook (part year only), 4. Federal members, F. M. Ludbrook, R. Lyall, H. Kingsbury, P. A. Dickson, W. A. Kemp, A. R. Main, T. B. Fischer. The Committee meet in the Swanston-st. chapel, and hereby desire to thank the officers for the use of the building, and Bro. Dow for his courtesy in his arrangements for the Committee's comfort.

14.—FINIS.

Much has been done, but God is calling us to do and dare even more. Shall we not this year do it? We can do greater things if we will. We will do greater things, for we can. We can and will do greater things, for our God wills it.

T. B. FISCHER,
Organising Secretary.

F. M. Ludbrook spoke to the closing paragraphs.

On the motion of T. B. Fischer the report was adopted.

Resolved on the motion of H. Swain, "That this Conference express its appreciation of the splendid work done by T. B. Fischer as Organising Secretary of Foreign Missions."

THE EVENING HERALD—AN APPRECIATION.

It was resolved on the motion of H. Kingsbury, seconded by F. G. Dunn, "That this Conference of Churches of Christ in Victoria place on record its appreciation of the enterprise of the *Herald*, in devoting space in its columns to news of the churches, and expresses the hope that the Press of Melbourne will in the future give more space to matters of religious interest."

DISTRIBUTION OF DISTINCTIVE LITERATURE.

Moved by C. M. Gordon, and seconded by C. L. Thurgood, "That it be a recommendation to the Executive and Home Mission Committees to take steps to secure the wider distribution of our distinctive literature."

This was spoken to by F. Collins, P. A. Dickson, and F. G. Dunn, and carried.

Resolved on the motion of W. C. Craigie, "That the Conference appoint a committee whose special business will be to report the proceedings of the Conference to the various daily papers."

The following brethren were appointed to act as this committee: W. C. Craigie, T. Bagley, H. Kingsbury, C. M. Gordon, and F. G. Dunn.

DEVOTIONAL MEETING.

Short addresses were delivered on the development of the spiritual life. Suitable addresses were given by Bren. J. Pittman, Drake and Irvine.

At this point the President said that he would allow half an hour to country representatives to say a few words in regard to the work in their districts. The following took part: Bren. B. J. Lawrence, G. Dickens, Jackel, Drake and Mott.

VOTES OF THANKS.

At the conclusion of the Conference, C. M. Gordon moved a most comprehensive vote of thanks. All who had in any way contributed to the success of the Conference were included.

HOME MISSION NIGHT.

Shortly after 7 o'clock the building was crowded to excess and a large number could not get admittance. It is estimated that about 850 persons were present.

Prior to the advertised meeting, a song service was conducted by Nat Haddow.

At about 7.30 the President took the chair, and after the singing of a hymn, called upon P. A. Dickson to engage in prayer.

At this stage Bro. Baker introduced the newly-elected President to the Conference.

Bro. Gordon thanked the brotherhood for the honor they had done him, and assured the brethren that he would do his best to deserve it. He was confident that a year of great progress was before them.

Address, "A Home Mission Vision," by C. M. Gordon.

C. M. Gordon said that he was not there to indulge in wild speculations, but to deal with solid realities. In the first place, he would speak of our present standing as a people in Australia. The membership of the churches in Australia was something like 25,000. We had 125 preachers and 222 Sunday Schools with about 18,000 scholars. We had a Federal Conference which represented all the States of the Commonwealth; a Foreign Missionary Committee which expended something like £3000 a year. We had a college that we had reason to be proud of; and a publishing house and a representative paper, both of which were worthy of the brotherhood. These were not matters to boast about, but to be thankful for. But notwithstanding all these things, we had only touched the fringe of our work. This year he thought should witness the birth of a new evangelism. We had truths to present to the world that the world needed. What we had to do was to present to the people the unadulterated truth. His vision was the winning of Australia to New Testament truth. The question was, How shall this vision be realised? In the first place we required to present to the world a more complete idea of what Christian unity really was. In many respects we have failed in this. Our internal organisation did not always present anything like an ideal unity. The reason of this was an ultra-democratic spirit which sometimes obtained. It was useless for us to plead for union unless we ourselves were united. In the second place, it was necessary that we should exhibit a higher type of spirituality. If we had the truth we should prove it by the spirituality of our lives. In the third place, we needed to consecrate more of our means to the service of Christ. Again, if we are to take our place in the religious world, we must distribute more widely our distinctive literature. The AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN should be in the hands of every one. Finally, we wanted more preachers—men of spiritual power.

Address, "Home Mission Conquests," by T. Bagley.

T. Bagley said that it fell to his lot to speak about the work they had been permitted to do for God in the State of Victoria. They had a good number of workers in the field, and it had been his privilege to visit the churches under the auspices of the Home Mission Committee. He could assure the Conference that they had every reason to be proud of these churches. Here Bro. Bagley entered into details in regard to his work, which taken altogether made the past year an eventful one. He referred to the great success which had attended the work at Geelong, the building of a fine

chapel at Colac, the formation of the Maryborough district, and the revival of the cause in that important centre. The West Wimmera and the Mallee districts were given a word of praise, and a good future was predicted for Castlemaine and the Kyneton district. The brethren in the Swan Hill circuit were eulogised for their enterprise in building a chapel and for the progressive spirit they manifested. In referring to the chapel built in a day at Preston, he gave high praise to Bro. Graham and to the great army of workers who had done such splendid work. The sisters also received a tribute of praise for what they had done in helping to establish a financial record. In looking into the future, he expected great things, and concluded by saying with emphasis that there was no institution in the world like the church.

At the conclusion of Bro. Bagley's address a collection was taken up, which amounted in cash and promises to £155.

Address, "A Home Mission Conscience," by A. W. Connor.

A. W. Connor said that their Conference had been the mountain top of vision, and we should carry away from it a great inspiration. We could almost hear the voice of the Master as he said, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." In surveying the work that had been done there was no thought of self-glory. There had been two great words placed before us—Expansion and Extension—and it remained for him to add the thought of personal responsibility. This was what was meant by a Home Mission conscience. It was not for us simply to feel that we had seen a great vision and felt happy and contented in success achieved. There was a danger in feeling too contented and satisfied. He would bring to them the word of the Master, "I must work the work of him that sent me, for the night cometh when no man can work." How compelling are these words. They seemed to hold—to grip Jesus, impelling him to carry on his work of saving the lost. These words, too, should take hold of us, and be a compelling force for us to follow his great example. We want to create a conscience in this matter. As we recognise our responsibility in material things, we should also in spiritual things. A great number in our midst did not have this conscience. It was essential to give attention to this matter, so that the Home Mission conscience might be awakened. The supreme need of the day was the evangelisation of the world. Home Missions were an important step in this direction. Just as we kept company with Jesus, just to that extent would the mission conscience be created. This conscience was needed by our students, by our preachers, and by our churches.

FOREIGN MISSION NIGHT.

Notwithstanding the unfavorable state of the weather, the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., was crowded to overflowing.

At 7.30, F. M. Ludbrook, President of the F.M. Federal Executive, took the chair.

After the singing of a hymn, the President called upon G. B. Moysey to lead in prayer.

T. B. Fischer read greetings from New South Wales, South Australia, Great Britain, F.M. Committees, also from Tabymancun, of Pentecost.

R. Lyall said that at a business session of the Conference a resolution was passed to send greetings to all the workers in Foreign Mission fields. He desired to move a similar resolution at this larger meeting, which was held in the interests of Foreign Missions. The motion was carried with great enthusiasm.

F. M. Ludbrook said that he was pleased to see so magnificent a meeting. He was sorry to say that they had not been able to keep ahead of the brotherhood, as they had not been able to spend all the money that had been given them. Bro. R. Lyall would have to report a credit balance. Next year, however, he hoped to meet the Conference with a debit balance.

Mrs. Strutton said that to-night she was a representative of India, with its three hundred millions of inhabitants. She was there to ask them, "How should they hear without a preacher?" As a woman she could not speak to crowds in India, mostly she had to visit the homes of the women and speak to them. The lot of women in India was very sad. For the most part they were kept in great privacy. The condition of widows especially was deplorable. The use of opium in the case of children seemed to be growing. Mothers gave it to them to keep them quiet. In the case of those women who had embraced Christianity, the matter was different. They were more enlightened, and had a higher sense of parental duty. She would ask them again, "How shall they hear without a preacher?"

Mr. and Mrs. Strutton and Mr. Watson sang a verse of "How sweet the name of Jesus" in Marathi.

H. Watson, the new missionary to Baranmati, addressed the meeting. He said that as he sat on the platform he thought of the subject of giving. He thought of the New Testament story of the woman with the alabaster box of ointment. Judas of old when he saw what was being done, exclaimed, "Why this waste?" And so many people, when speaking of Foreign Mission work, thought the money spent was largely wasted. Christ did not think so. In his life and teaching, and above all by his death, he taught us that nothing was wasted, no matter how costly it might be, if it were used to save the perishing. Those who were indifferent to the claims of the people in darkness were themselves the heathen. In his experience he had found that being able to heal the body often opened the way for saving the soul.

Address, "Not disobedient to the heavenly vision," by H. Kingsbury.

H. Kingsbury said in the limits of this short sentence they had in brief the autobiography of the Apostle Paul. Arrested on his persecuting journey to Damascus, he saw the heavenly vision and heard the voice of Jesus. This vision wrought in Saul of Tarsus that wonderful change that we have seen in Paul the Apostle. There was first the vision, then the voice, and afterwards the vocation. Christ wanted him to be a missionary. The religion of Jesus is not for passive reception, but for active ministry. This great truth was realised by Paul. He was soon found doing the great work of the Master, and proclaiming the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to all with whom he came in contact. He wondered if all present had seen the great vision—the vision of the ascended and glorious Christ—a vision which would cause us to consecrate ourselves to his service. The field was the world, said Jesus. This was the larger vision we required to have. Our eyes would grow dim if fixed upon a single point, but no eye will grow dim if it is gazing at the world. The vision grew larger the more we looked at it. First, we see New Guinea, in the nearer view, and then the islands of the sea. And further, of darkest Africa, and dearer to us the great land of India. Dearest to us because of the presence of the three devoted missionaries who were present on the platform to-night. There was one of whom he should speak who had helped to give us the larger vision. He referred to G. L. Wharton, who once visited our shores and had spoken to us of world-wide evangelisation. The vocation of every Christian was the preaching of the gospel. It would be so if all had caught a view of the heavenly vision and were obedient to it.

H. H. Strutton here delivered his lantern lecture. The views were descriptive of the work being done at Baranmati, and were of a most interesting character. Prior to giving his lecture, Bro. Strutton, on behalf of Sister Strutton and himself, thanked the brethren for their great kindness to them.

At the conclusion of the lecture the chairman stated that the time had now come to say farewell to our missionaries, who in a few days would leave these shores to return to their work in India. In well chosen words Bro. Ludbrook said farewell to Bro. and Sister Strutton.

C. A. Quick and C. M. Gordon engaged in prayer, and the Benediction brought the meeting to a close.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

The Conference Sermon was given by J. C. F. Pittman, in the Christian chapel, Lygon-st., on Sunday afternoon. The subject dealt with was "Faith in the Promises." It was a fine effort and much appreciated. The chapel was crowded to overflowing.

CONFERENCE PICNIC.

The Conference picnic was a great success. A beautiful day, fine surroundings, and a great concourse of happy people all helped to make it the best yet held. It was held in the grounds adjoining the College of the Bible at Glen Iris. During the afternoon a great number inspected the college and all were highly pleased with what they saw.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR RALLY.

The closing public meeting of the Conference was held on Monday night, when the Lygon-st. chapel was again filled to overflowing, the occasion being the annual rally of the C.E. Union. A spirited song service was led by Bro. Nat Haddow, with Sister J. Dickens and Bro. S. Pittman at the instruments. The meeting was presided over by the retiring President, T. B. Fischer, who introduced the topic for the evening, "The Pledge," emphasising the thought of daily Bible reading. The in-

coming President, Bro. J. E. Allan, was installed into office, and in a beautiful manner dealt with the clause of the pledge which Endeavorers took to make it the rule of their life to pray. The incoming President received a fitting reception. Bro. E. Davis, the speaker for the evening, gave a rousing address, urging the societies to support the church in every way. A feature of the evening was the beautiful solos by Mrs. Roy Thompson, which charmed and edified all present. The Secretary, Bro. A. O'Neill, attended to the roll call of metropolitan and country societies, who responded with "Blest be the tie that binds." The Juniors were also represented, and as their response sang "I am so glad." Visitors were also present from West Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales, and most of the country churches. Bro. W. Gale, representing the country churches, led in prayer, and Bro. C. Timmons, the Organising Secretary of the Union, read the Scripture lesson.

will be greatly missed, and a motion to that effect was carried and placed on the minute book. At the same meeting J. L. Campbell, 235 Hensman-rd., Subiaco, was elected secretary.—J.L.C., April 10.

Queensland.

TOOWOOMBA.—We have been having a ten days' gospel mission in Newtown, one of our promising suburbs. Attendance and interest very fair. Our branch schools are growing rapidly. Our chapel is nicely filled of a Sunday night now, and the townspeople are becoming more favorably inclined to our plea. One confession, a married lady, since last report. Last Sunday week 77 members broke bread, including a number of visitors, amongst whom were Mrs. Savage and Mrs. Hoskins, from Sydney; Miss and Mr. Miller, from Brisbane; Mrs. Geraghty and Mr. Butner, Tannymorel; and Miss Anderson, Oakley. Mr. H. E. Quire, of Mount Tyson, has disposed of his farm, and is removing in here in about a month. His help will be very acceptable. Bro. Millar is visiting out West, Chinchilla, Brigalow and Warra, and is having a good time. Splendid meetings yesterday, and one confession at night.—John W. Parslow, April 10.

South Australia.

MAYLANDS.—Splendid attendances to-day. 72 broke bread in the morning, when one was received by obedience. 130 present at the gospel service, Mr. Taylor's subject being "The Question of the Ages." The members' roll has now reached the first century, and future prospects are glowing. Sisters Whitfield and Hawkes and Bro. Taylor are coaching scholars for the Scripture examination.—R.L.A., April 16.

UNLEY.—We had the pleasure of receiving into our membership this morning Bro. and Sister Fred. Jones, and Miss Manuel, from Brim, Victoria; also Mrs. Meek, from Broken Hill. Mr. R. Burns gave a splendid paper on "Church Membership," before the Men's Class this afternoon. Mr. Gore spoke strongly in favor of peace among the nations at the evening service. The Tennis Club had a very enjoyable picnic at the National Park yesterday.—P.S.M., April 16.

KADINA.—To-day we held our Bible School anniversary. This morning we had a good meeting around the Lord's table. Among the visitors were Bro. Sid. Barr, from Bews; Sister E. Aird, from Blyth; Sisters L. and M. McDonald, from Norwood; Sister Ward, from Unley. This afternoon we held our anniversary meeting, which was well attended, and to-night the church building was packed. We had for our preacher to-day Bro. A. G. Day, from Balaklava. To-morrow we purpose holding our picnic at Picnic Gully. Our school seems to be in a healthy condition.—S. Wilton, April 16.



New Zealand.

PALMERSTON NORTH.—Since the arrival of Bro. Lionel Johnston the attendances at the meetings have been increasing. The open-air meeting in the square each Saturday evening has drawn many interested listeners. The Amethyst Band (Band of Hope) held each Friday evening is well attended by the children, the roll showing a total of over 60 names. A Bible Class has also been commenced in connection with the Sunday School, led by Bro. Johnston. We are very much handicapped through the want of a building, but are in hopes that before long something will be done in this connection.—E.C.

Tasmania.

LAUNCESTON.—On April 5 a social was held to bid farewell to Sister Pratt, who is leaving us for a short visit to her home at Wedderburn, and thence to Christchurch, N.Z., there to meet her intended partner in life. A goodly number assembled to bid her good-bye, and she was the recipient of numerous presents. Advantage was also taken of the occasion by the sisters to present Sister Cummings (nee Sister H. Nicholls) with a handsome tea-set. Bro. Holland is with us at present, and is helping us in the meetings.—Peter Orr.

HOBART.—We are glad to report one addition. Mr. and Mrs. Ewers, of Sydney, were present with us on the 2nd inst., and are on a short stay. Miss Edie Speckman is leaving this week for New Zealand for a holiday, and it is hoped that the well-earned change will do her good, as she has always been an ardent worker in the church. An old brother in the person of Mr. Chandler, aged 91 years, through the kindness of Mr. J. Paterson, was able to attend the breaking of bread on the 9th. It was his great

desire to have the privilege of attending once more before crossing to the borderland; this has been fulfilled, and we trust that he may be spared to fellowship with his brethren many times more. A little time ago a tent in N.Z. suitable for accommodating 1000 people was advertised in the CHRISTIAN. One of our brethren whose name has not been made known has purchased the same for mission work in Tasmania. This has come as a great surprise to the brotherhood, as we are not in any way a wealthy people. Possibly this act of liberality will stir us to greater enthusiasm, and thus be a starting point for better things in this State. We are sad to have to chronicle the death of Sister Mrs. G. O. Smith (Bertha, sister of the writer). She contracted pleurisy, and in the early stages it was not thought to be of a serious character, but as time went on other complications arose, and in the short period of five weeks she was called away to her heavenly home. Much sympathy has been expressed with the family and relatives, who have been called upon to suffer the loss of two sisters (May and Bertha) within six months.—W. R. C. Jarvis.

West Australia.

SUBIACO.—Half-yearly business meeting held March 29. Attendance of members good; discussion of business interesting; financial position satisfactory, although even greater individual effort in giving is needed. H. J. Banks is giving very fine discourses, being greatly helped by his personal visit to the Holy Land. It was with deep regret that at the same meeting the church was called upon to consider the resignation of its secretary, A. W. Manning, owing to continued trouble with his eyes. The church was reluctantly compelled to accept it, and her prayers are that our brother's trouble may not be lasting, as his very capable and valued services



YORK.—A social was tendered by the members of the church on April 11 to Bro. A. G. Jarvis and son George, who (with Bro. Reeves, who left one week ago) are about to leave the district for Berri, a new settlement on the river Murray. Bro. and Sister Edwards, of the Mile End church, who are also going to the same locality, were present by invitation. Bro. Horsell, who presided, spoke of the good qualities of the departing brethren, and mentioned that altogether nine members of the Churches of Christ were proceeding to Berri—three from York, three from Mile End, and three from Kadina. A Church of Christ would be formed on the first Lord's day of arrival. Bro. Tatam had made and presented a nicely polished tray for the communion glasses. W. Brooker, A. Fischer, S. Lunn, H. Bennett, A. Forrest, C. Fiedler, F. B. Kentish, J. Swain and A. Aird all testified to the faithfulness of the departing brethren. Bro. Jarvis, senr., has been a member at York for 12 years, and has held the position of deacon and church treasurer. Suitable replies were made by Bro. Edwards and Bro. Jarvis.—H.J.H., April 12.

QUEENSTOWN.—Easter day we had a number of visitors from sister churches; 119 broke bread. One was received into fellowship. H. J. Horsell exhorted. In the evening the building was crowded. W. C. Brooker delivered a fine address, his subject being "On the Cross," at the close of which three made the good confession. The quarterly business meeting was held on Wednesday evening. W. C. Brooker presided. The financial statement by secretary Harris showed a large increase in receipts. Reports of building fund and Bible School by Bro. Lawton. Sister Wilson's deaconesses' statement showed that upwards of £20 had been raised for Home Missions. An adjournment was made, when a pleasant half hour was spent over a cup of coffee provided by the sisters.—A.P.B.

SEMAPHORE.—Tuesday, April 11, quarterly business meeting; W. J. Taylor in the chair; good attendance of members. The financial statement, with report, was read, showing receipts, £27/19/-; expenditure, £22/6/-. From the nature of the discussion on the various items, the members realise their responsibilities, and it augurs well for the future. Easter day was in all respects perfect; beautiful weather. Bro. Bradley presided. 72 broke bread, including Sisters Bradley, Towsley (2), Bro. Touchwell, from Norwood; Bro. Wauchope, Port Pirie; Bro. and Sister Read, Maylands; Bro. and Sister Hill, Williamstown, Victoria; Sisters Weeks (2), and Wilson, Robert-st.; Sisters South and Loveridge. W. J. Taylor exhorted. Splendid attendance at Bible School. At the gospel service the hall was well filled. Sister Weeks sang a solo. W. J. Taylor spoke on Romans 6: 4. Our mid-week meetings are well attended.—A.P.B.

OWEN.—Our second week's mission closed last Friday evening with two more additions to the church. Yesterday we entered upon the third week with record attendances. About 70 broke bread in the morning. In the evening the tent was crowded. Bro. Griffith gave a splendid address on "Christian Baptism."—W.J.M., April 17.

New South Wales.

MEREWETHER.—Our ten days' mission closed with two decisions and one restoration. At this morning's meeting another came forward who had formerly met with the church, and was received into fellowship with the one restored last Sunday evening. Bro. Wardrop, from Scotland, met with us. Nine of our members were away at Conference. Bro. Strongman gave his farewell address.

HAMILTON.—W. A. Strongman, our evangelist, was tendered a farewell social last Saturday afternoon at the Mechanics' Institute, about 65 present. Several speeches were given referring to his splendid Christian character, and the untiring efforts put forth in proclaiming the gospel. During the evening A. Fraser and S. G.

Goddard made a presentation, on behalf of the members and friends, to him of a purse of sovereigns. Sisters Gladys and Mrs. Steele, also Miss Esther Lasbury and others, rendered the musical items. Our brother leaves after Conference to take up the work at Richmond River district. We wish him God speed. Land fund—Sister Miss Brace, 2/-; Bro. Ralph Johnson, America, 2/6; Sister Long, 1/-; proceeds, sale of cakes, 1/9. Thanks.—S. G. Goddard.

WAGGA.—Splendid meetings all day. We had very great pleasure in receiving into fellowship Sister Cochrane, late of Cosgrove, Victoria. Gospel meeting shows a great deal of interest, and we trust that there will soon be some decisions.—L.R., April 16.

LISMORE.—An excellent evening's entertainment was given on Friday, the 7th, by the choir, under the able leadership of E. C. Savill, the proceeds of which went towards paying for the new organ which they have purchased for the church. Too much praise cannot be given for the soloists, Sisters K. Furlonger, Mrs. H. E. Hollingworth, N. Stratford, and Bros. E. C. and C. L. Savill, the gem of the evening being a male quartette, "Seek ye the Lord," by Bren. Stratford, Moss and Savill (2). The cantata, "The Rolling Seasons," was splendidly rendered as the second part, and appreciated by a good audience, who will look forward with pleasure to other gatherings of a like nature. The church is under a debt of gratitude to Bren. Furlonger, Walker and E. C. Savill, who have taken the gospel services since the departure of F. T. Saunders. We are looking forward hopefully to the advent of Bro. Hagger, who hopes to be with us the second Lord's day in June.—E.A.P.

Victoria.

EMERALD.—Crowded house last night.—W. Bolduan, April 17.

DUNOLLY.—One confession here on April 9, who was baptised on Good Friday afternoon.—John E. Beasy.

WILLIAMSTOWN.—We were pleased this morning to have several visitors. A. Irvine addressed the church. This evening Bro. Enniss gave a splendid address on "Meeting with Jesus." At the close a man and his wife confessed Jesus. The work is in a prosperous condition.—S.R.F., April 16.

RED HILL.—Bro. Dickson came back to us for three nights' services. The meetings were not large, owing to the weather, but we had the joy of seeing two decide for Christ. One of these was the contractor for the chapel, and the other his daughter, a young married woman. These two were baptised during the week. Good meetings to-day, many visitors being present. About 70 at gospel service.—J. Sheehan, April 16.

GEELONG.—There were a lot of visitors on Sunday morning. Sister McCrae was received into membership from Brim. Gifford Gordon gave a short account of the Conference, and also gave a glimpse of his ideal, which is "Geelong as the foremost church in Victoria." The evening service was well attended, in spite of the holidays and anniversary attractions, and G. Gordon gave a beautiful address on "Gethsemane."

ASCOT VALE.—Good meetings last Lord's day. W. Rothery delivered an excellent address at our morning service. C. A. Batt conducted the gospel service, and preached a splendid discourse, which was most impressive. A large audience assembled to hear his final address prior to his departure for the Dominion of New Zealand. We wish him God-speed. Next Lord's day W. Rothery will commence his labors in this district.—J.Y.P., April 11.

CARLTON (Lygon-st.).—Conference Sunday was a great day. Large gathering of members and visitors were present at the breaking of bread. Three received into fellowship—two by letter, also Sister Irvine (wife of J. A. Irvine, formerly a preacher in the Presbyterian Church), who was baptised during the week. Both hus-

band and wife are now in membership with us. Bro. Kingsbury presided. F. Collins, from St. Arnaud, did us all good by his devotional address, which had for its centre Christ. There was a vast congregation at night to hear the "Hymn Service." Bro. Kingsbury received undivided attention during his address. There were three confessions at the close, and another young man made the decision after the meeting. We had the assistance of Sister Roy Thompson and Sister Morley, who sang the solos, with Bro. Sidney Pittman at the organ and Sister Jeannie Dickens at the piano. Bro. Nat Haddow as leader, and the large choir, all entered into the spirit of the great meeting. It has been our custom for years past to entertain the visitors at Conference, and the sisters were happy in inviting all who were present to stay to dinner and tea. About 200 members and friends sat down to dinner and 320 to tea.—J.McC.

The Society of Christian Endeavor.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: IV.

Topic for May 8.

Daily Readings.

God's rule. Matt. 6: 30-34.

The Kingdom within. Rom. 14: 17-23.

Established now. Heb. 12: 22-29.

Doing the will of God. Eph. 6: 5-9.

"None of self." 2 Cor. 4: 7-15.

"All of Thee." 2 Cor. 10: 12-18.

Topic—The Lord's Prayer: The Coming of God's Kingdom. Matt. 6: 10; 13: 31-33, 44-47; Rev. 11: 15.

What signs of "the kingdom of his Christ" are in the world to-day?

How far has the kingdom claimed your life?

What can you do to help bring it in?

Here & There.

This issue of the CHRISTIAN has four additional pages.

C. T. G. Rose spoke at Belmore, N.S.W., last Lord's day morning, and at Marrickville in the evening, when there was one confession—a young man.

There were 22 decisions at the Preston mission, which closed on Sunday. H. Baker will begin his work with the church next Lord's day. The cause will be self-supporting.

D. M. McCrackett has accepted an engagement for some months in connection with the church at Christchurch, N.Z. This alters his intention of immediately returning to Melbourne.

We had the pleasure of listening to our old friend, G. B. Moysey, last Sunday morning. He gave a very fine exposition of Hebrews 12: 1, which was much appreciated by all who heard him.

The Geelong press is a great help to the cause there, for they give good reports of the services. Last Monday there appeared a lengthy report of G. Gordon's address, and nearly a column report of the Conference in Melbourne.

Bro. and Sister H. H. Strutton have left Melbourne for India. *En route* they will make a short stay in West Australia. We wish them God speed in their journeyings, and a prosperous and happy time in their work in far-off India.

Judging by the tastefully gotten-up Conference programme which has just come to hand, our Tasmanian brethren intend making a forward movement in the work of evangelisation. We would be delighted to hear of their success in this direction.

H.B.G. writes:—"As the Jews held the pass-over on Wednesday, how can we reconcile that with a Friday crucifixion of Christ?" The answer to the foregoing seems to be that we don't attempt to reconcile it, because we do not believe that the passover was held on Wednesday.—En.

On Tuesday evening, April 18, the Church of Christ Musical Society rendered the sacred cantata "David the Shepherd Boy." The conductor was Nat Haddow; pianiste, Miss Jeannie Dickens; organist, Mr. Sidney Pittman. The chapel was crowded, and those present enjoyed a great treat.

F. W. Greenwood writes from Ashburton, New Zealand:—"The CHRISTIANS are coming to hand all right. A cablegram was published last week about the church being built at Preston in one day. It was a bit mixed, but will do us good. I have received the *Age* account, and hope to get it inserted in our local paper next week."

The Home Missionary rally at the N.S.W. Conference was, in many respects, the best ever held in that State. About £400 was raised in cash and promises for the work of Home evangelisation. Many brethren who were not at that gathering doubtless desire to contribute. Will such please send donations or promises, at once, to Thos. Hagger, Francis-st., Marrickville?

H. G. Harward writes:—"Thanks for the pictures of the Preston building. I had previously seen some in the *Leader*. The news was flashed all over the place on the Monday following. I sent the write up from the *Age* to the local paper, and over a half column was in last night's issue. We are proud of all of you, and know it will help the cause generally. I hope the plan is repeated at Northcote. I join with you in thanksgiving over the victory. Word has just reached me of Bro. Main's success in the examination. Please telephone out my hearty congratulations. Mrs. Harward, J. Binney and I have just been applauding. Glad of the splendid prosperity attending the college."

The names of the new officers and committees for the Victorian Sisters' Conference are as follows:—President, Mrs. J. Pittman. Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Chown, Mrs. W. Forbes. Secretaries, Misses Hill and Rometsch. Treasurer, Miss Jerrems. Home Missions: Supt., Mrs. E. Davies, "Sheerith," Simpson-st., E. Melbourne; Sisters Bagley, Craigie, Millis, Forbes, Chown, Huntsman, J. Haddow, McLellan, A. Lyall. Dorcas: Supt., Mrs. Downes, 20 Carlton-st., Carlton; Sisters Chipperfield, Connor, Zelius, F. A. Kemp, Craigie, Haddow, Martin, Kettle, Cousins. Foreign Missions: Supt., Mrs. Ludbrook; Sisters R. Lyall, Crouch, senr. Hospital Visitation: Supt., Mrs. W. C. Thurgood, Swanston-st., City; Visitors, Sisters Morris, Petchey, Jerrems, Cameron, Tully, Way. Temperance: Supt., Mrs. Lindsay, Dandenong-rd., Windsor; Sisters Hagger, Ray, Darnley, Martin, Cameron. Prayer Meeting: Supt., Mrs. Trinnick, Barkly-st., N. Fitzroy; Sisters Kelson, Potts, Baker, Wilson, Sharp. Kindergarten: Sisters Davies, Haddow, Millis, Jerrems, Thompson.

VICTORIAN CONFERENCE NOTES.

Many signs of progress were enumerated by the President in his rousing address.

Seven new substantial chapels were erected during the year.

"Truth is only of value as it is translated into the terms of life."

"The religion of Jesus Christ is not for passive enjoyment, but for active engagement."

"Jesus Christ gives visions, not that men shall be visionaries, but that they should be missionaries."

"Too proud to beg; too honest to steal"—except a sheep occasionally.—A. R. Benn's description of the attitude of a self-supporting circuit.

"Your school is either graded or degraded." So said C. L. Thurgood. We degrade the school when we do not attend, also when we do not use up-to-date methods.

"It's a bad thing to bump into an old, miserable reputation."

There is no other place, this side of heaven, in which there are so many large hearted brethren whom I love and admire, as in this great State of Victoria.—G. B. Moysey.

"People have occasionally refused me a pound for the college when I have asked for it. I'm not sure that they'll get to heaven. We all need to re-baptise our purses."—C. M. Gordon.

"Each one bring one; each one bring another." This was the President's apt amendment of a familiar watchword. The addition contains as important a truth as the original motto.

Home and Foreign Missionary Committees reported a magnificent response by the brethren to the Committees' appeals. Again—wonderful to relate—each Committee showed a credit balance.

Each year emphasises more the need of a larger building. Early on Friday Lygon-st. chapel was crowded to discomfort. It is estimated that a thousand people came to the Home Missionary meeting.

J. W. Baker made a stirring appeal for more Bible study and more prayer. We do not know the Bible as we ought, though we know a good deal about the Bible. We have largely lost the power of prayer.

There were but few visitors from other States at the Conference. Doubtless the brethren are, as the President suggested, saving up their money so that they may be able to come to the Federal Conference next year.

The Sunday School increase of 426 scholars and 61 teachers is most gratifying. Many religious bodies are losing here. We are thankful for our progress, but must not be content with a six and a half per cent. gain.

Our missionaries on furlough, Mr. and Mrs. Strutton, and our missionary-elect, H. Watson, were enthusiastically received. These all delivered admirable addresses, and contributed largely to the enjoyment of the Conference.

The sea of faces at the great missionary gatherings was a wonderful sight. No better inspiration could be provided for a speaker. It gives the highest praise to the addresses to say that they were worthy of the great audiences.

"Some of our congregations have come near to making history of the old legend of the Killenny cats." So said C. M. Gordon in deprecating the "internal sectarianism" which has at times hindered our plea for Christian union.

A cure for headache.—Some of our Australian folk may get a useful hint from the Indian remedy told us by H. Watson. When the headache begins, apply a red-hot skewer to the spinal cord. The most obstinate ache is unlikely to be remembered.

A. R. Benn found comfort in reporting that his circuit had become self-supporting. He said it really was found to be easier to be self-supporting than to come short of it. It was harder to decide to become self-supporting than to raise the money after the decision.

Mrs. Strutton said that in India they did not concern themselves with up-to-date methods in Sunday School work. The missionary teacher needed gumption rather than methods—the ability to know the right thing to do at the right time. A good qualification that, even for Australia!

T. Bagley told of some splendid instances of whole-hearted and sacrificing giving. In one of our churches, he knew, some sisters earning six or seven shillings per week contributed one shilling weekly to church funds. Gifford Gordon added his personal testimony; Geelong thankoffering of £50 to Home Mission funds was made possible by heroic self-sacrifice. What a magnificent advance would be possible if all had a sense of stewardship!

H. Watson, in speaking of his prospective work amongst the thieves of India, said that there were castes amongst even thieves. There were some respectable and some low-down ones.

A new application of the "Watch and pray" text was given by Bro. Watson. One man asked one of the profession to pray with him. He prayed, but watched not, and lost his watch! "The thieves are very tricky, but they are really very good-hearted."

At the Sunday School session certificates from the College of the Bible were awarded to the following brethren and sisters who, after a course at the Central Teachers' Training Class, conducted by C. M. Gordon and H. Swain, passed creditably in two examinations set on the textbook, Moninger's "Training for Service":—Miss Ivy Brindley, 100; Frank Butler, 99½; Miss Elsie Brindley, 99; Miss Gladys Herbert, 98; Mrs. M. Smith, 93; Miss Alice Fraser, 92½; Miss Louisa M. Shirt, 92; C. A. Sampson, 91½; Miss V. Ward, 89; L. H. Shirt, 87. 70 per cent. was needed for a pass, so all the above did really good work.

The Australian Christian.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY AT

528-530 Elizabeth St., Melbourne.

Editor & Manager, F. G. DUNN.

All communications should be addressed to the AUSTRAL PUBLISHING CO., 528, 530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne.

All Cheques, Money Orders, etc., should be made payable to F. G. DUNN.

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

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WANTED.

The Church of Christ, Invercargill, desire to communicate with an evangelist. Full particulars may be had from the secretary, John Watt, Belgravia, Waikiki, Invercargill, N.Z.

DEATH.

BEARD.—On April 15, at Bright, Victoria, the dearly loved daughter of Richard and Beatrice Beard, aged 12 months.

MARRIAGE.

WOODGATE—WOODBRIDGE (Silver Wedding).—On April 22, 1886, at the residence of the bride's mother, Curzon-st., North Melbourne, by Mr. J. Strang, John, youngest son of the late George Woodgate, to Anna, fifth daughter of the late Bartlett Woodbridge, of North Melbourne. Present address, 152 Charles-st., Northcote.

COMING EVENT.

APRIL 30.—Hawthorn Bible School Anniversary. T. B. Fischer speaks morning and afternoon. Come thou with us and we will do thee good, but come early—3 p.m.

Aunt Crete's Emancipation.

By Grace Livingstone Hill-Lutz

Continued.

Aunt Carrie was tall and thin, with a discontented droop to her lips, and premature wrinkles. She wore an affected air of abnormal politeness and disapproval of everything. She was studying the silver-grey silk back in front of her and wondering what there was about that elegant-looking woman with the lovely white waved pompadour and puffs, and that exquisite real lace collar, to remind her of poor sister Lucretia. She always coupled the adjective "poor" with her sister's name when she thought of all her shortcomings.

Luella's discontent was somewhat enlivened by the sight of the young man that had not gone on the drive to Pleasure Bay. He stood in the doorway, searching the room with keen, interested eyes. Could it be that he was looking for her? Luella's heart leaped in a moment's triumph. Yes, he seemed to be looking that way as if he had found the object of his search, and he was surely coming down toward them with a real smile on his face. Luella's face broke into preparatory smiles. She would be very coy, and pretend not to see him; so she began a voluble and animated conversation with her mother about the charming time they had had that day, which might have surprised the worthy woman if she had not been accustomed to her daughter's wiles. She knew it to be a warning of the proximity of some one that Luella wished to charm.

The young man came on straight by the solicitous waiters, who waved him frantically to various tables. Luella cast a rapid side glance, and talked on gaily with drooping head and averted gaze. Her mother looked up, wondering, to see what was the cause of Luella's animation. He was quite near now, and in a moment more he would speak. The girl felt excited thrills creeping up her back, and the color rushed into her cheeks, which were already red enough from the wind and sun of the day.

"Well, well," said the young man's voice in a hearty eagerness Luella had never hoped to hear addressed to herself, "this is too good to be true. Don, old man, where did you drop from? I saw your name in the register, and rushed right into the dining-room—"

"Clarence Grandon, as true as I live!" said a pleasant voice behind Luella. "I thought you were in Europe, bless your heart. This is the best thing that could have happened. Let me introduce my aunt—"

Luella had the presence of mind to smile on to her mother in mild pretence that she had but just noticed the advent of the young man behind. An obsequious waiter was bringing an extra chair for Mr. Grandon, and he was to be seated so that he could look toward their table. Perhaps he would recognise her yet, and there might be a chance of introduction to the handsome stranger. Luella dallied with her dinner in fond hope, and her mother aided and abetted her.

The lovely old lady with the silver-grey silk and the real lace collar and beautiful hair had her back squarely toward the table where Luella and her mother sat. They could not see her face. They could only notice how interested both the young men were in her, and how courteous they were to her; and they decided she must be some very great personage indeed. They watched her half enviously, and began to plan some way to scrape an acquaintance with her. One glimpse they had of her face as the head waiter rushed to draw back her chair when she had finished her dinner. It was a fine, handsome face, younger than they had expected to see, with beautiful sparkling eyes full of mirth and contentment. What was there in the face that reminded them of something? Had they ever met that old lady before?

Luella and her mother brought their dallied dessert to a sudden ending, and followed hard upon the footsteps of the three down the length of the dining-hall; but the lady in grey and her two attendants had disappeared already, and disconsolately they lingered about, looking up and down the length of piazzas in vain hope to see them sitting in one of the great rows of rockers, watching the many-tinted waves in the dying evening light; but there was no sign of them anywhere.

As they stood thus leaning over the balcony, a large automobile, grey, with white cushions, like a great gliding dove, slipped silently up to the entrance below them in the well-bred silence that an expensive machine knows how to assume under dignified owners.

Luella twitched her mother's sleeve. "That's Grandon's car," she whispered. "P'raps I'll get asked to go. Let's sit down here and wait."

The mother obediently sat down.

CHAPTER V.

LUELLA AND HER MOTHER ARE MYSTIFIED.

They had not long to wait. They heard the elevator door slide softly open, and then the gentle swish of silken skirts. Luella looked around just in time to be recognised by young Mr. Grandon if he had not at that moment been placing a long white broadcloth coat about his mother's shoulders. There were four in the party, and Luella's heart sank. He would not be likely to ask another one. The young man and the grey-silk, thread-lace woman from the other dining table were going with them, it appeared. Young Mr. Grandon helped the grey-silk lady down the steps while the handsome stranger walked by Mrs. Grandon. They did not look around at the people on the piazza at all. Luella bit her lips in vexation.

"For pity's sake, Luella, don't scowl so," whispered her mother; "they might look up yet and see you."

This warning came just in time; for young Mr. Grandon just as he was about to start the car glanced up, and, catching Luella's fixed gaze, gave her a distant bow, which was followed by a courteous lifting of the stranger's hat.

Aunt Crete was seated beside Mrs. Grandon in the back seat and beaming her joy quietly. She was secretly exulting that Luella and Carrie had not been in evidence yet. She felt that her joy was being lengthened by a few minutes more, for she could not get away from the fear that her sister and niece would spoil it all as soon as they appeared upon the scene.

"I thought Aunt Carrie and Luella would be tired after their all-day trip, and we wouldn't disturb them to-night," said Donald, in a low tone, looking back to Aunt Crete as the car glided smoothly out from the shelter of the wide piazza.

Aunt Crete smiled happily back to Donald, and raised her eyes with a relieved glance toward the rows of people on the piazza. She had been afraid to look her fill before lest she should see Luella frowning at her somewhere; but evidently they had not got back yet, or perhaps had not finished their dinner.

As Aunt Crete raised her eyes, Luella and her mother looked down into her upturned face enviously, but Aunt Crete's gaze had just grazed them and fallen upon an old lady of stately mien with white, fluffy hair like her own, and a white crepe de chine gown trimmed with much white lace. In deep satisfaction Aunt Crete reflected that, if Luella had aught to say against her aunt's wearing white morning gowns, she would cite this model, who was evidently an old aristocrat if one might judge by her jewels and her general make-up.

"Somewhere I've seen that woman with the grey silk!" exclaimed Luella's mother suddenly as Aunt Crete swept by. "There's something real familiar about the set of her shoulders. Look at the way she raises her hand to her face. My land! I believe she reminds me of your Aunt Crete!"

"Now, mother!" scorned Luella. "As if Aunt Crete could ever look like that! You must be crazy to see anything in such an elegant lady to remind you of poor old Aunt Crete. Why, ma, this woman is the real thing! Just see how her hair's put up. Nobody but a French maid could get it like that. Imagine Aunt Crete with a French maid. O, I'd die laughing. She's probably washing our country cousin's supper dishes at this very minute. I wonder if her conscience doesn't hurt her about my lavender organdie. Say, ma, did you notice how graceful that handsome stranger was when he handed the ladies into the car? My, but I'd like to know him. I think Clarence Grandon is just a stuck-up prig."

Her mother looked at her sharply.

"Luella, seems to me you change your mind a good deal. If I don't make any mistake, you came down here so's to be near him. What's made you change your mind? He doesn't seem to go with any other girls."

"No, he just sticks by his mother every living minute," sighed Luella unhappily. "I do wish I had that lavender organdie. I look better in that than anything else I've got. I declare I think Aunt Crete is real mean and selfish not to send it. I'm going in to see if the mail has come; and, if the organdie isn't here, nor any word from

Aunt Crete, I'm going to call her up on the telephone again."

Luella vanished into the hotel office, and her mother sat and rocked with puckered brows. She very much desired a place in high society for Luella, but how to attain it was the problem. She had not been born for social climbing, and took hardly to it.

Meantime the motor-car rolled smoothly over the perfect roads, keeping always that wonderful gleaming sea in sight; and Aunt Crete, serenely happy, beamed and nodded to the pleasant chat of Mrs. Grandon, and was so overpowered by her surroundings that she forgot to be overpowered by the grand Mrs. Grandon. As in a dream she heard the kindly tone, and responded mechanically to the questions about her journey and the weather in the city, and how lovely the sea was to-night; but, as she spoke the few words with her lips, her soul was singing, and the words of its song were these:

"Must I be carried to the skies
On flowery beds of ease,
While others fought to win the prize
And sailed through bloody seas?"

And it seemed to her as they glided along the palace-lined shore, with the rolling sea on one hand, and the beautiful people in their beautiful raiment at ease and happy on the other hand, that she was picked right up out of the hot little brick house in the narrow street, and put on a wonderfully flowery bed of ease, and was floating right into a heaven of which her precious Donald was a bright, particular angel. She forgot all about Luella and what she might say, and just enjoyed herself.—C.E. World.

To be continued.

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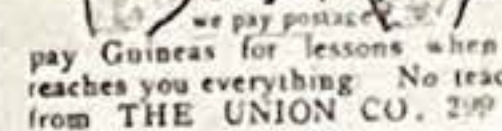
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Obituary.

ZILLER.—The church at Port Germein has suffered a severe loss in the death of A. Ziller. Bro. Ziller, one of the foundation members of the cause here, though prevented from taking an active part in the work through ill-health, yet was a source of strength to his brethren, because of his unfailing trust and confidence in his Lord and Master. He fell asleep at noon on March 30, in his 26th year, and was interred at the local cemetery on Friday, March 31, Bro. Wilson, of Port Pirie, officiating at the graveside. A large number of friends followed the cortege in expression of their sympathy with the bereaved in their sad affliction.

Port Germein, S.A.

J. H. HALL.

DOWNES.—Sister Mrs. A. Downes fell asleep in Jesus on March 21. She was born at Edinburgh, Scotland, July 14, 1826. Her husband predeceased her only seven weeks earlier. They lived very happily together for nearly 60 years, and were thinking of celebrating their diamond wedding. Our sister was baptised at the Norwood Baptist Tabernacle many years ago. Removing to Henley Beach some 20 years ago, she came in contact with some of our brethren and sisters who met to "break bread"—in the house of the late Bro. A. Lawrie—and decided to become a member of a Church of Christ. She was enthusiastic in the Lord's business, and rejoiced when a chapel was built. She was a very prominent worker, ever ready to do all she could, and most regular in her attendance at the Lord's house. Sister Downes was a fine type of a Christian, consistent, liberal, and faithful to the end. For some time past she had indifferent health, and endured much pain. She bore all this with Christian fortitude. Her life has been an influence to many. Several prominent business men, whom she instructed in her Bible Class as lads, testify that the ideals she placed before them were largely responsible in assisting them to occupy their positions to-day. Her life was a benediction, and the writer will ever have the sweetest recollections of the hours he spent in her home in times of visitation. She leaves two daughters and several grandchildren. We commend them to Jesus, "the Resurrection and the Life." Her body was laid to rest in the Woodville Cemetery on March 22, in the presence of a goodly number

who assembled around the grave. "To be absent from the body is to be at home with the Lord."

Henley Beach, S.A.

H. J. HORSELL.

STREET.—We have lost by death one of our most promising young men, Bro. Fred. Street, who, although he has been with us only two months, endeared himself to us all in a special manner. He was an active worker in the church, and proved himself especially useful in our Young People's Mission Class, when he always had an encouraging, helpful word. He died of a severe attack of dengue fever, after a brief illness, on April 6. A memorial service was held on Sunday, April 9. The chapel was packed to the door. The service was impressive throughout. Much sympathy is expressed for the sorrowing relatives, who are commended to the God of all comfort and consolation.

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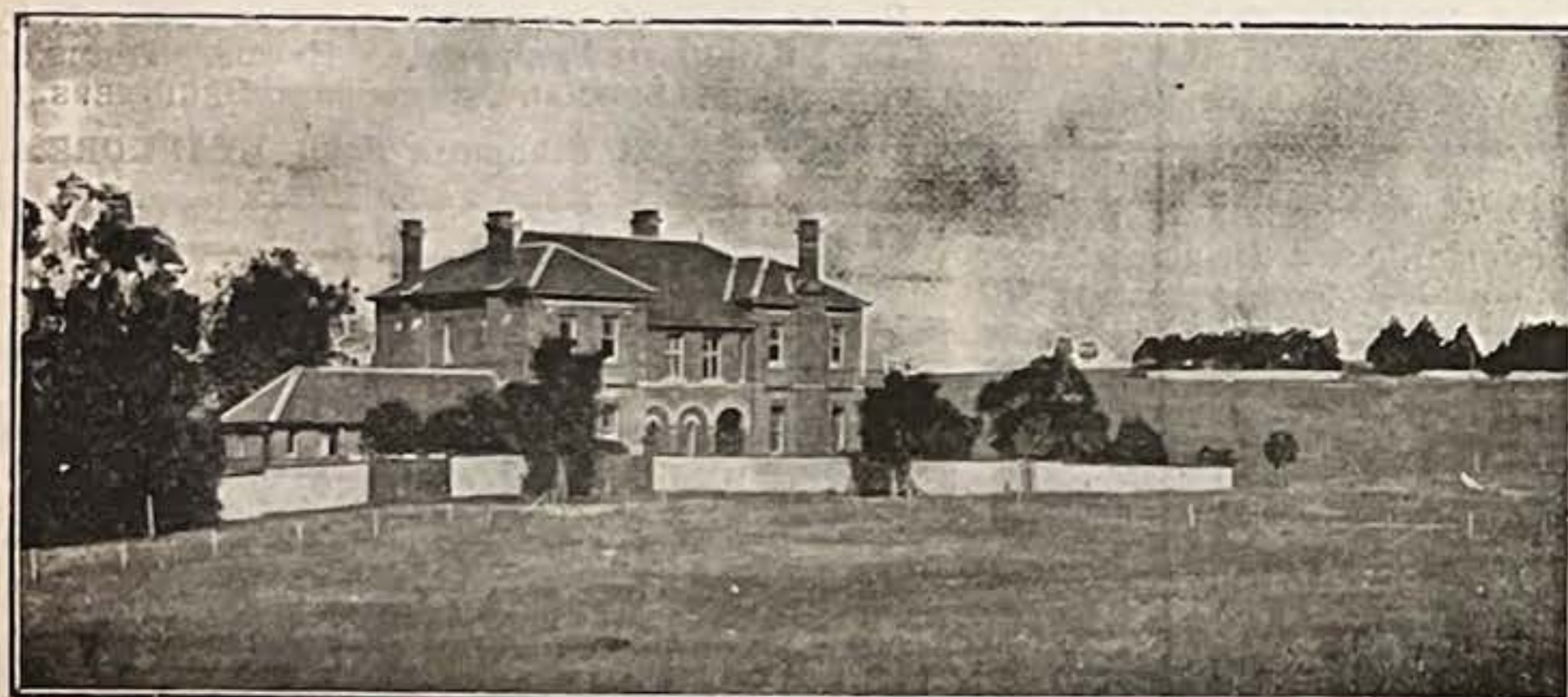
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Printed and published by the Austral Publishing Co., 528, 530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne.