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The Value of the Individual.

G. Verco.

"What man of you having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness and go after that which is lost until he find it" (Luke 15: 4).

There is much latent pathos in the short parable which it is desirable we should make an effort to perceive, that we may be prepared to understand the shepherd's desire for sympathy, which on a superficial reading of the story, before we have penetrated to its heart, may seem to be exaggerated. The chief interest, of course, centres in the shepherd and his behaviour on one of his sheep being found missing. The Master takes it for granted that one, to whom that happens, will immediately set off in quest of the lost sheep. "What man of you having an hundred sheep, and losing one, will not go after it?" asks Jesus, confident that here at least he will meet with no contradiction, virtually asserting that it is a universal instinct to go after lost property. This implied assertion is in fact his apology for his own conduct. As in the earliest instance when he was put on his defence, he vindicated himself by the claim, "I am a shepherd," and as in the former case, so in the latter, the claim being once accepted all the rest follows, of course. No one wonders that a shepherd goes after a wandering sheep, any more than that the physician visits the sick rather than the whole, and that he visits the seriously ill more than he does those who are not in such a bad case. Neither is anyone surprised at the joy of the shepherd on finding his sheep, which is the special feature insisted on in this parable. The most cynical would admit that the finding of a lost sheep is a legitimate cause of satisfaction to the finder at least. And yet is not the thought in the mind of most men and women, "I thought perhaps he would not have troubled about one." If he had had only two sheep and

had lost one, I could understand his concern, but to lose one out of a hundred would seem to be an almost insignificant loss. Is not that the line of reasoning which we sometimes take in our affairs? We reason as if the loss of one is lessened in its painfulness by the many that remain.

We hear that parents have lost a loved child, the light and joy of the home, and we ask sympathetically, Have they any left? and are told, Yes, there are four. Ah, then, we say, it isn't so great a loss as if they had only one. That indicates a common principle of reasoning. The greater the family the less the value of the individual soul. We carry that thought forward into our thought of God, and it becomes the parent of depression and doubt. It creates the most terrible kind of orphanhood, the fear that there are so many of us that the individual does not count, that God overlooks us, and we cry, "My way is hid from the Lord."

Now this parable is intended to dispel all such doubts and fears. The Master would say, "The size of God's family does not affect the preciousness of the individual.

God loved the world of sinners lost, but he loves the individual, too. The one sheep is not lost in the flock. He calleth his sheep by name." "He loved me, and gave himself for me." I think it was very tender and beautiful that the Master compares his family to a flock, and lost children under the figure of the lost sheep. A sheep does not intentionally go astray. A sheep nibbles itself astray. It puts its head down to the grass and begins to eat, and eat, and eat, going from one sweet tuft of grass to another until it lifts its head and finds that the flock is nowhere in sight. And so it is with men. I do not think that men go off into ruin by premeditation or by intention. A man gets his head down to business, and allows himself to become so absorbed in making money that he does not see which way his feet are tending. He is thinking so much of the preciousness of gold that he loses sight of the preciousness of God. Or a man gives himself to seeking after pleasure, and is lured on and on in its pursuit, and the things of God seem tame, and spiritual things seem tasteless. He is lost in a whirl of pleasures.

"He goeth after that which is lost." We are not left to our own deserts. The sheep may be unmindful of the flock and the shepherd, but the shepherd is mindful of the sheep. "The Lord is mindful of his own." "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost." Somewhere, far away from the fold, the sheep is lying bruised and bleeding, or is wandering on and on in its lost condition, but it need not despair; the Shepherd seeks his own.

How does he seek us? He makes us disquieted within us. He makes us restless or depressed. He makes the grass of the distant pasturage dissatisfying. Have you not heard men say of their sinful enjoyments, "I am sick of it all." They used to like it. There was a time when business or

The Best Will Come Back to You.

There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave.

*There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.*

*Give love, and love to your heart will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed.*

*For life is the mirror of king and slave,
'Tis just what you are and do,
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come back to you.*

—Madeline Bridges.

pleasure seemed the only things worth while, but now they have lost their taste, they cease to satisfy. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" That is a blessed depression, if it leads us to seek after God.

"When he hath found it he layeth it on his shoulders." In what condition does he find his sheep? Shepherds of those Eastern lands tell us that they find them exhausted, weary, bruised and bleeding. Is not that the way the Good Shepherd finds his wandering sheep? The devil has undermined their life, and sapped away their strength.

Their power of resistance is gone. Sin is an awful exhauster. "My strength fails because of my iniquity." Hear now the sweet gospel. "When he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders." No word of rebuke or reproach. "He takes us in our moral impotence, and carries us." Men who have no powers of resistance or persistence, are made "more than conquerors" in Christ. O that he may find you to-night. "There is more joy over one sinner that repenteth than over ninety and nine just persons who need no repentance."

Emphasising the Old Truths.

P. R. Baker.

The responsibility resting upon the preacher and teacher to-day is tremendous. The lines of demarcation are not so clearly defined to-day as they were nearly a century ago, and there is an extreme danger that our young people may drift from the old paths. According to the chapter read in our hearing, 2 Tim. 3, grave dangers were to beset the Church of Christ. When the apostolic church was completed by the inspired apostles, the lines of demarcation were clearly defined, but scarce a century had passed before a gradual drift had made its presence felt. Of this the church had been warned, but gradually allowing the lines to become obliterated through false teachers, we find the Church of Christ overwhelmed in the great apostasy.

After centuries of horrors, God raised up men for the special work he had for them to do, the outcome of those labors giving birth to the Reformation. Out of the work commenced by those great reformers came into being the Restoration Movement, of which we form a part to-day. Over a century has passed since the lines of the Restoration Movement were clearly drawn, and like the church of the first century, there is a subtle danger that the lines are not as clearly defined to-day as of old. And there is a growing need to-day to restate the old fundamental truths of the Word of God. We as a people have contributed a great deal to the religious world, chief among them being "a clear and intelligent understanding of the Word of God." It is here, my brethren, that the real dangers lie and begin; it is here that the great responsibility of the preacher and teacher begins. "Spiritually minded, but scripturally ignorant," might be written up beside many of the failures in individual and church life to-day. How many of you people intelligently study the Bible for yourselves? I fear many of our preachers and teachers feel that guidance in these matters is left largely to them, and the weight of this responsibility well-nigh bears one down. Oh, how careful the preacher needs to be to-day, to keep the lines clearly defined, to lead gently and lovingly the people of God into the right paths, nourish them with the word of life, and keep them at the feet of the Master.

Christ all in all.

There is also an ever-growing need to make Christ all in all. He must be the centre and circumference, from him we may progress as far as he radiates his light and reveals himself in his Word; beyond him lie the shadows of mysticism, doubt and danger. He must be Prophet, Priest and King. Yes, and in the truest sense of the word.

History has proved that man cannot govern himself; both history and experience have proven that man as man will not be governed by God. "We have no king but Caesar." "We will not have this man to reign over us," is still the world's attitude toward the Christ. To meet this need we have God in Christ, Immanuel, God with us, a Mediator, meeting man on the human plane, the friend of both parties, taking man's hand and placing it in the hand of God. Oh, blessed! oh, wonderful Saviour! Hence he becomes our Prophet, Priest and King. As our Prophet, we must hear his voice; hence the "New Testament" is our authoritative guide. All authority is his, greater than Moses or Elijah. Our Priest, hence we trust absolutely in his finished work, in his sacrifice, in his intercession. His is an unchangeable priesthood. We do not theorise about it, nor do we speculate. He is our Priest, and his offering is worthy. Thank God for our great High Priest, our King, as such he rightly demands our loyalty and obedience. Brethren, *he must be King*. When he speaks, we obey without question. Where we cannot see, we walk by faith. Make him King, and the Christian church would be revolutionised. This King of ours has revealed his blessed "will" to his subjects, hence the all-sufficiency of the "New Will," or Testament. He is also *Head of his church*, and a wonderful church it is. We add not to, nor take therefrom. His church was complete when it left the hands of inspired men, and as such we seek to restore it.

The religion of a life.

The church is only valuable as it fitly and fully represents the religion of its founder. To do this, He must be Head. All the mummery, drapery, painting, carving, and outward beauty of the church so-called only

serves to obscure the beauty and glory of the Christ. A beautiful ecclesiasticism, studied form and ceremony, are not the things which truly reveal the religion of Christ. Christianity is essentially a heart religion, not a religion of doctrine, but the religion of a life, of a life within a life. Hence he must ever be our common centre, and find all our beauty and glory in him. We are complete in him, and to seek to adorn the church and the religion of Christ with human drapery is to insult the glory and beauty of our glorious Head. Much is said to-day of Christian union. Church union will be the inevitable outcome of "Christian unity." Christian unity will result from making Christ King, obeying his laws. So again we come back to the Kingship of Christ, and meet the world, Christian and non-Christian, with, "It is written." So let us continue to plead for Christian unity upon the Divine basis: no compromise, no sacrificing of fundamentals for the sake of church union at the expense of Christian unity.

These things for which we stand are to us so simple, and yet so wonderful, that there is a tendency to let them go. Their very simplicity puzzles the theologian; puzzles him who has been used to roaming over the fields of philosophy and speculation, seeking for doctrine and adornment instead of life. Hence our plea lifts religion right out of the speculative, out of the mystical, out of theological entanglement, and makes loyalty to him the heart of the whole thing. This necessitates a positive note in our preaching. Ours is a positive message, because it is a scriptural message. And, brethren, when we find no need for the positive note, we shall not justify our separate existence. We build upon faith, not upon speculation and theory. We build upon a life. This makes our message absolutely unsectarian. We are the most unsectarian people in the world. We have no party ends to serve. We simply do the bidding of our King. We give utterance to his revealed "will."

The mountain and the plain.

We thank God that we have such an exalted station in the world; in the world, but not of it. We do not linger or wander aimlessly 'neath the trees and ferns of the valley, amid the lights and shadows of the plains. Down there 'tis both cool and refreshing, and a goodly company of people are to be found on the plain and in the valley. Nor do we linger on the grassy slopes of the mountain side. Right there the outlook is good, the flowers are blooming, and of a rare variety, too. Many have stopped short right there in the upward march, charmed by the outlook and the company. Nay, our place is still higher up; nor yet upon yonder shelf, nor bold jutting crag. Some are there, too, and a goodly company they seem. Friends, loved ones. Yes, we find them at all these places in the ascent. But, brethren, we have reached the pinnacle, we have been lured on and on by the blood drops, the footprints, till, leaving all,

we have reached the exalted heights, never to descend again. Below are the crowds, the clamour, cries, appeals, entreaties; but dare we descend? Our lot might well be envied by angels themselves. And just as soon would I expect to see the sun fall from the heavens, as to see one of you, who have made Christ Prophet, Priest, and King, retrace your steps to the slopes below. You cannot do it and be true to him. You can not do it and be true to yourselves. When I reached that pinnacle, brethren, my heart was aflame, enraptured in wonder, love and praise, and I am consumed with a burning passion to call to those below, to reach down a helping hand, to tell out the raptures of my joyous heart to those who have never had the pinnacle view.

This increased height means increased light, and increased responsibility. Of course we shall be misunderstood. But in

spite of all the pleas, entreaties, sneers, and misunderstandings, let us not surrender our position. There is room for all at the top, and when we are there at His feet, we are together. No, not a myriad worlds, with all their glory and finery, can lure me from the pinnacle, where I have found my Prophet, Priest and King.

My beloved brethren, let us be loyal to him; let the lines be clearly and sharply defined, for we should be animated by no other desire but to serve him, to build up his church, and show our fidelity to our King. Our very pinnacle position makes us conspicuous and liable to attack; makes our responsibility the greater. But surrender! never, never till the weapons of men have been thrown aside, and the whole religious world stands on the pinnacle with our Prophet, Priest and King.

The Man and The Job.

Ira A. Paternoster.

I was on the street car the other day when a ticket inspector presented himself, and all tickets were shown. It was an early morning car, conveying the toilers to their various tasks. A man sitting opposite me appeared to be one who toiled hard at what would by many seem uncongential work. He was in soiled garments, and his hands were rough. His lunch bag, which he carried, was not the latest design of leather hand bag; it had seen better days, and was showing the marks of rough usage. In bold contrast with this man was the ticket inspector, dressed as he was in the neat, well-fitting uniform of the Tramways Trust. He was clean shaven, and his whole appearance suggested the usually refined officialdom of such an office. Having satisfied himself that all was right, the officer returned to the centre of the car to make his entry and sign the form provided, evidently for the purpose of check on his own movements, and for reference. Immediately he had gone, my companion of the lunch bag observed upon the "soft snap" of the inspector. "Another bloke on a soft job. Never seen him get no sweat up, eh?" A smile passed over the faces of his companions, and we wondered.

Some men are cut out for the so-called "soft jobs," and some are not, but—

It matters not so much what work I do as

That I bring to something all my best.

Those who may choose their task are few, so

Few there needs must be some answer to the rest.

There were so many lives with broken wings,

So many eager souls aflame with hope,

Ground dustward 'neath the heel of little things,

Or set through blinded alleyways to grope.

For one must sit and tend the glowing peat,

And shat his heart to spring winds calling wide,

And one must walk the world on wistful feet,

Who longs for home and flame-sweet chimney-side.

And one must lead who rather would be led,
And one must follow who might master be,
And one plods down a furrow who instead
Might thrill a world with new-born artistry.

And so I think it cannot matter much just
What it is my hands are called to do,
If broom or palette proffers to my touch, or
Drear or drab the highway lies to view.

For I believe that He who wove for each
Upon His loom, one silver thread agleam,
Shall read his heart beyond the need of speech,
And set his feet at last on paths of dream.

Tragedy of a missed calling.

It does not seem possible for every boy to enter upon the work he most desires to do, and not infrequently a young man finds he has "missed his calling." Many a good blacksmith, carpenter, stone mason, or perhaps engineer, doctor, or artist, has been lost in a poor preacher. Every theological institution has its share of such men. On the other hand, many a noble preacher and intrepid missionary has been lost to Christ and the church by the more insistent call of other professions. It is a tragedy to see in the ranks of the ministry a man who should have been an entertainer on the comic opera platform, or who should have been a poultry expert, or a land and estate agent, or managing a motor car exchange. It is an equally tragic thing to find a man with all the splendid gifts for making known the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, but preferring to use those gifts in the interests of the world and worldly institutions.

I have often told the story of the man selling jumping mice, and now give it wider range. Walking along George-st., Sydney, one day I saw a great big, healthy-looking fellow with all his wits about him, standing against one of the huge buildings. As I drew near, I noticed a group gather round him, and so paused to see what was the attraction. To my disgust I found this big

able-bodied fellow was selling *jumping mice!* Think of it! Here was a man capable of a nobler task. Instead of doing the work of a strong, robust citizen, he was doing the work of a weakling, and again I say, I was disgusted.

What a lot some people will have to answer for some day! The idle rich and the idle poor are both a menace to society. The man who shirks his job or steals his master's time will some day have to face the great Master, and we shall each have to give an account of the life we have lived. Are you bringing your best to your job?

The man counts.

Every great piece of machinery depends upon the man behind it for its successful working. Years ago I stood and watched a machine for proving the steel rolls used for grinding wheat into flour. It was an interesting machine *when working*. But without the intellect of the mechanic, or in the hands of a neophyte, how dangerous it might become. Yesterday we were shocked to see two fine engines, the one over ninety tons, and the other over seventy tons, lying a mass of debris. They had come together almost head on in collision, and lives were lost, and bodies injured. Something somewhere had gone wrong with the man-power, and the suggestion just now is that some one has blundered.

A few years ago the world was plunged into the sorrow of a great war. Men were killing their fellow men, against whom they had no quarrel. No injury had they suffered, yet plans were made and carried out whereby thousands, nay, millions of men, women and children were caused to sorrow. Hearts were broken, lives ruined, property wrecked, because the great big machinery of governments had failed. Why this failure? Some one had blundered! Man-power had failed at the critical moment, and a wrecked and ruined world met our gaze. The success or failure of the nation depends upon the man-power of the nation.

What sad reading the police court records are! Sorrow upon sorrow, grief upon grief! The most pitiful of all is the tragedy of the broken home. The greatest of gifts from God to man, next to the Lord Jesus Christ, is the gift of *home*. Yet the divorce courts are becoming more popular than the marriage altar! The story of failure is too frequent, but behind it all is the failure of the human element. Sometimes the man-power, sometimes the woman-power. It is a fact too often overlooked that the sorrow caused by the failure of one individual does not end in the life of that individual alone, but always others suffer also. The world is full of vicarious suffering. We are constantly suffering for another's fault, or causing others to suffer for us. The only sorrow of a misspent life is not that of the one who sins. No man liveth unto himself. A tiny match may ignite a furnace of fire. A small act may result in a life-time of remorse.

Faithful preparation must be made by

any man who would successfully fill his job. The "soft snaps" rarely come but as a reward for faithful toil. No man has a right to expect to be appreciated who does not pay the price of preparation. Would I be something more than a hod-carrier? Then I must learn to mix mortar. Would I be something more than a mixer of mortar? Then I must learn to lay bricks. Would I be something more than a bricklayer? Then I must learn to draw the plans! Step by step, upward climbing, willing to climb one step at a time, but always determined to climb. Too many are willing to "earn a living," and they seek the "job" with the best pay. But this lessens our opinion of the laborer. "The Raven" is the work of a poetic genius, but much of its beauty fades when we know it was written simply for money! Is it only the wages at the end of the week—your soul inspiration for work? Then I will tell you the class of work you will produce, and the spirit in which you will produce it. Certainly "the laborer is worthy of his hire," and many who labor in holy things are worthy of more "hire." But when the call of God is determined by the size of the salary, the work will cease to inspire.

Value of comradeship.

Have you thought of the value of comradeship in service? It is a bad thing to be always changing "hands." It is bad on the master and equally bad on the men. It is bad on the good name of the business. When a lad I left home for a while to work at a little country shop. I was to sleep in an iron shed, an addition to the shop. Conditions were decidedly not "home-like," and I retired to bed early. Ere I had sunk completely into the kindly arms of Morpheus the door of my room opened, and out of the darkness came a strange voice with "Given a week's notice yet, friend?" I was guarded in my reply, but soon learned the situation. My visitor was working on the farm just down the road. He had been there several years, and during the past year had seen no less than fourteen others occupying the room I was now in. Within twenty-four hours I, too, had decided to leave! There is an inspiration to be drawn from companionship. That is why the real home is the nearest approach to heaven. That, too, is why the life in touch with the Divine is never an empty life. In the real home no third person is needed to make it complete, and this too, in spite of all the doctrines of Mormonism! We may have our friends in abundance, but only one can make home for us. In the deeper sense we may be rich in friends, but the companionship of One is vital above all. This is just what Mr. Morgan Blake, sporting editor of the "Atlanta Journal" found. On recently becoming a Christian, he wrote of his Christian experience as follows: "I had reached the end, I say, of my own resources and strength, and although I was blessed with the most loyal and devoted friends in the world, who were pulling for me with all their hearts,

they could not pull me back. And then when the bitter blackness of the night was on me a Hand was held out to me—the same Hand that through all the ages has been held out to the sons of men. It was held out to me, a little atom on the face of the earth. I took that Hand, and it thrilled me as nothing has ever thrilled me before; it strengthened me as nothing else had ever strengthened me before, for the faith that makes men strong has come to me. I believe in God, I believe in Christ, his Son, who died to save the souls of men, and on this rock I stand." It is just this faith in the Divine Person that changes the drudgery of labor into a service for God. Such faith insures fidelity. The little things as well as the big; the hidden things as well as those for the public gaze will be well done. For again we remind ourselves that the test will be applied. When the cataclysmic disturbance overtook San Francisco, a few years ago, structures supposed to be proof even against such shocks fell, and revealed the faithlessness of the builders. Walls supposed to be strong were but a shell. Doubtless the motto of that builder had been "What the eye cannot see, the heart does not grieve." But the Eye does see. The old legend of the ancient sculptor working away in the roof of the temple, minutely careful of even the hairs of the head upon which he worked, "because the gods can see," should inspire us with the desire to be more faithful in our task. The lives of not a few have been marred by selecting the line of least resistance. Not "what is best," but "what is easy." The truly great one has plodded on, choosing the path of duty before the path of ease. To-day the pleasures of life attract. People do not like pioneering. There is joy in doing the impossible! Only faith makes the impossible possible. "Where duty calls or danger." Young friend, your "job" may be hard and unattractive. It may take you from home and loved ones, but if you, go with the Lord Jesus Christ you win the victory.

"I said, 'Let me walk in the fields,'

He said, 'Nay, walk in the town';

I said, 'There are no flowers there';

He said, 'No flowers, but a crown.'

"I said, 'But the sky is dark;

There is nothing but noise and din';

But he wept as he sent me back—

'There is more,' he said, 'There is sin.'

"I said, 'But the air is thick,

And the fogs are veiling the sun';

He answered, 'Yet souls are sick,

And souls in the dark undone.'

"I said, 'I shall miss the light,

And friends will miss me, they say';

He answered, 'Choose to-night,

If I am to miss you, or they.'

"I pleaded for time to be given;

He said, 'Is it hard to decide?

It will not seem hard in heaven

To have followed the steps of your guide.'

"I cast one look at the fields,

Then set my face to the town;

He said, 'My child, do you yield?

Will you leave the flowers for the crown?'

"Then into His hand went mine,

And into my heart came He,

And I walked in a light divine,

The path I feared to see."

£5000 for Research.

The Sydney "Daily Telegraph" of March 23 contained the following report of a liberal gift by Mr. T. E. Rofe, our Federal Treasurer:—

Recently a gift of £12,000 was distributed by Mr. Thomas E. Rofe amongst the leading charities of Sydney, and the Government, through the Minister for Health of the day, expressed its gratitude to the benefactor.

Mr. Rofe has been particularly interested in a scheme which was brought into being by the authorities of the Royal North Shore Hospital, where an institute solely devoted to research into the common diseases met with in public hospitals has been established under the provisions of the Hospital Act, so that the material found in the hospital would be the basis of scientific investigation, which would ultimately benefit the State as a whole and the world in general.

Mr. Rofe has now handed to the secretary of the hospital a cheque for £5000 to establish a special fund for research, and his particular wishes are indicated in his covering letter, in which he wrote:—

"Some few years ago it was the misfortune of my wife and self to lose our only son from an attack of diabetes, which had long threatened his life. I felt then, and I have felt since, that if it had been the special business of some qualified scientist to study that particular disease, and to learn all that could be known in connection with it, possibly some means might have been found to check diabetes, as effective as those which exist for the cure of diphtheria. I should like to see associated with all our large public hospitals a fund sufficient to enable the management to retain the services of at least one scientist, who should devote the whole of his time to an effort to discover the cause and cure of particular maladies. I am aware, of course, that generous men have given large sums to the University for endowments there, no doubt with great benefit to the public; but these are expended largely on students who will be better medical practitioners later. I know, also, that many medical men are sacrificing their time and money in an effort to do research work on special diseases. One man of my acquaintance is engaged on one complaint so continuously that he has to depend on his relatives to provide for him the means of livelihood. This ought not to be. The authorities of the public hospitals should have sufficient money at their disposal to offer to a man of studious disposition and scientific attainments, a chance to devote as much time as is necessary to his particular interest without having to worry about the means of livelihood. The average medical practitioner is too busy with his general practice to devote the time necessary for research into any particular complaint. I am hopeful that in the next few years, backed by Government assistance if necessary, we shall see a body of scientists associated with each hospital, devoting their lives to original study of diseases. Thus Australia will take her share in the good work which is being done in America and Europe, and valuable contributions made to the advance of medical science throughout the world. Every step taken in this direction will be calculated to lessen, as the years go on, the sum total of human suffering."

As this amount will be subsidised by the State Government, a sum of £10,000 will, therefore, be available for research.

The secretary of the hospital, Mr. A. C. Russell, states that the board of directors will at once outline a scheme for the pursuit of research, in which will be embodied Mr. Rofe's special wishes that diabetes will be one of the first problems attacked.

As this institute has a scientific advisory council, composed of four of the leading scientists of the State, no time will be lost in framing a comprehensive policy to enable work to be commenced right away.

Victorian Conference, 1923.

Successful Conference sessions were held from Thursday, March 29, to Tuesday, April 3. A fine spirit was manifested. Excellent reports were received, it being felt that the year's work was one of the best in our history.

Attendances were good, with the exception of the Anti-Liquor and Social Questions' Demonstration in Collins-st. Baptist Church. The Home Missionary and Foreign Missionary Demonstrations have never been surpassed for quality and enthusiasm. Business sessions were, on the whole, not so good as in recent years. Friday afternoon's meeting being somewhat spoiled.

The Conference was favored with two fine presidential addresses—one by the retiring President, J. E. Thomas, on Friday morning, and one by the incoming President, J. McGregor Abercrombie, at the great Home Mission meeting in the Masonic Hall on Friday night. Each address was of a very high order of merit. It is intended that henceforth the incoming President will deliver the presidential address and so strike a keynote and set an aim for the year of his office. This change in procedure promises to be a successful and profitable one.

"We have come to Conference," said Bro. Thomas, "to gather round the cross of Jesus." Basing his message upon Gal. 2: 20, the speaker showed the relationship of the cross of Christ to the individual Christian. There were various attitudes adopted towards the cross. Some viewed it merely as a doctrine; some regarded it in a mechanical manner, as though it had no relation to life. To Paul, the cross was not simply a fact of history, but a challenge to do as Christ did. Paul was "crucified with Christ." Yet this crucifixion of self discovered the principle of life—"I live, yet not I; Christ liveth in me." The apostle's conception of the cross should be ours. There would then be complete consecration of the life to Christ—a life lived in the sacrificial spirit which found its inspiration in the cross.

Three new churches were admitted to the Conference, viz.: Ballarat East, Balwyn and East Kew. Bro. J. R. Combridge, J. Combridge and J. T. Mahony gave brief messages from these churches.

Greetings were read from the Executive of the Dominion of New Zealand, the Federal Conference Acting Executive, and from Queensland, Western Australian, New South Wales and South Australian Home Missionary Committees. Messages were also received from individual brethren, including Bro. W. A. Kemp, from Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Vice-President, Bro. J. McGregor Abercrombie, gave a hearty welcome to visitors, including Mrs. Springer, one of our Indian missionaries laboring under the auspices of an American Society, Gifford Gordon (recently returned from U.S.A.), J. E. Shipway, S.A., Bro. and Sister J. Ewers, W.A., and to the preachers who during the year had come to Victoria to work for the Master. Mrs. Springer brought a much appreciated greeting from the missionaries and native Christians on the Indian field. J. E. Shipway, J. Ewers, S. Stevens and G. Gordon were warmly received as they also responded to the welcome.

Devotional services were conducted by Bro. B. W. Huntsman, Schwab and Gale. These brethren, with the song leaders and special singers, contributed to the enjoyment and profit of the Conference. Special mention should be made of the continued faithful service given by Miss Pittman as organist.

As hitherto, the sisters provided excellent meals at a nominal rate. A great company of sisters work in a most self-denying way to help make the Conference a success. They received a well merited vote of thanks. The great rush on Friday made the sisters' task a difficult one. There is need of greater accommodation.

In a happy speech at the close of the business sessions, Bro. J. A. Wilkie moved a vote of thanks

to all who had rendered special service and ensured the success of the Conference.

By courtesy, the yearly financial statement of the College of the Bible was presented with Conference reports. A. R. Main and R. Lyall had the privilege of speaking of the work being done.

In perfect weather the picnic was held at Albert Park on Monday. The attendance was very large. The programme arranged by the picnic committee (Bren. L. Brooker, H. A. G. Clark and A. E. Hurren) helped to make the picnic one of the most successful ever held.

Preachers' Session.

On Thursday afternoon a good gathering of preachers and other brethren, together with a few sisters, assembled in Lygon-st. chapel at the Preachers' Session. Bro. B. W. Huntsman conducted a helpful devotional service. Later, Bro. L. C. McCallum, M.A., took the chair, and extended a hearty welcome to country visitors; and also to preachers from other States who within the Conference year had come to Victoria, viz.: A. T. Eaton, F. T. Saunders, D. Stewart, J. Mortimer, T. Edwards, P. R. Baker, A. J. Ingham and W. B. Robbins. Bro. J. Ewers, W.A., and J. E. Shipway, S.A., received a special welcome, and each gave an appropriate response, the latter conveying greetings from our South Australian preachers. The illness of Bro. W. L. Jones was referred to, and it was resolved to send a letter of sympathy. Greetings were also conveyed to Bro. H. Clipstone, of Castlemaine, who was prevented by a slight accident from being present and conducting the devotional service.

Bro. J. E. Shipway delivered an impassioned address on "The Restoration of the Book." The speaker's own faith was revealed to be a robust one, and he had the sympathy of all the brethren when he made an eloquent appeal for the acceptance of the Bible as containing the inspired and infallible Word of God, as opposed to modernism and destructive criticism.

A period of discussion followed, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Bro. Shipway.

Afterwards in the lecture hall a large number partook of tea, and enjoyed social intercourse before adjourning to the Anti-Liquor and Social Questions' Demonstration. The Lygon-st. sisters were cordially thanked for their bountiful provision.

Officers and Committees, 1923-1924.

President.—J. McG. Abercrombie.

Vice-President.—A. E. Illingworth.

Secretary.—T. Bagley.

Asst. Secretary.—L. C. McCallum.

Treasurer.—W. C. Craigie.

Executive and Home Missionary Committee.—

R. P. Clark, A. T. Eaton, W. Gale, B. J. Kemp, A. R. Lyall, J. T. Mahony, A. R. Main, T. R. Morris, T. H. Scambler.

Council of Churches.—J. McG. Abercrombie, J. E. Allan, A. T. Eaton, W. Gale, B. W. Huntsman, A. E. Illingworth, J. C. F. Pittman, J. E. Thomas.

Advisory Board.—J. McG. Abercrombie, T. Bagley, W. C. Craigie, B. J. Kemp, T. R. Morris, T. H. Scambler, C. Schwab, J. E. Thomas.

Bible School and Young People's Department.—R. Enniss, W. Gale, B. J. Kemp, G. Mitchell, R. T. Pittman, J. Sharp.

Foreign Missionary Committee.—J. E. Allan, H. A. G. Clark, L. Gole, B. W. Huntsman, R. Lyall, J. I. Mudford, H. L. Pang, D. E. Pittman, C. Schwab, J. E. Thomas.

Christian Endeavour Committee.—A. G. Brown, Miss V. Brooker, Miss Davies, A. E. Hurren, L. Johnson, J. H. McKean, W. F. Nankivell, F. Prittie, Miss O. Sear, Miss E. Woodgate.

Social Service Committee.—J. E. Austin, R. H. Bardwell, J. G. Barrett, C. R. Burden, R. P. Clark, C. M. Gordon, J. G. Hare, J. T. Mahony, J. W. Nicholls, H. J. Patterson.

Nominating Committee.—W. B. Blakemore, A.

E. Illingworth, L. C. McCallum, J. McGregor, J. E. Thomas.

Preacher of Conference Sermon.—H. A. G. Clark.

Conference Resolutions.

That the churches at Ballarat East, East Kew and Balwyn be admitted to Conference.

That it be a recommendation to the Home Missionary Committee that suitable equipment be provided for the office.

Department of Social Service.—That section Eleven and sub-section (f) of the Constitution be altered to read as follows:—"This department shall be controlled by a Committee to consist of fourteen members, ten of whom shall be appointed by Conference, and four by the Women's Auxiliary Conference, and shall be entrusted with the work of promoting the cause of Prohibition, furthering the philanthropic activities of the brotherhood, and of bringing the spirit and teaching of Christ to bear upon all public questions in order to eliminate social evils, advance civic righteousness, and extend the Kingdom of God."

That the matter referred to in the Notice of Motion by J. A. Wilkie, "That the words 'Except the Home Missionary' in sub-section (h) of Section Eleven of the Constitution and Bye-Laws, be deleted," be considered by the Executive and Home Missionary Committee in consultation with Bro. Wilkie.

That the Nominating Committee be asked to invite the churches to send nominations for Conference Officers and Committees.

That thanks of Conference be expressed to retiring members of the Home Missionary Committee.

That greetings and hearty good wishes of Conference, together with assurance of prayers and support of the brotherhood, be sent to Bren. Kellens and Richards.

That it be a recommendation to the Social Service Department to exert its influence to effect the elimination from the picture theatre of objectionable films, and to secure the exhibition of films of a clean, educational and morally wholesome character, and that a report on the matter be presented to next Conference.

That this Conference request the Department of Social Service to inquire into the question of providing homes for the needy associated with our churches, and to report to next Conference.

That the Conference approve the services rendered by the Benevolent Committee, and especially appreciate the work of the Secretary, J. W. Nicholls.

That the brethren in Conference assembled request the Executive Committee to consider the appointment of a Publicity Committee for the furtherance of brotherhood interests.

That the brethren in Conference assembled request the Executive Committee to consider the opening of a central book depot in the city.

That the Home Missionary Committee be requested to take up the matter of suitably advertising our church services in newspapers, and if possible make arrangements for churches in metropolitan, suburban and other districts to advertise their services regularly, and also arrange for suitable notices of church activities to be reported in the daily press.

That this Conference requests the Home Missionary and Executive Committee to consult with the Church Extension Committee with a view to securing church sites for prospective work.

That it be a recommendation to the Christian Endeavor Committee to urge the formation of Endeavor Societies in churches where the movement is not represented.

That hearty greetings be sent from this Conference to our missionary workers in India, China, and the New Hebrides, and also to those who work amongst the Chinese resident in Australia.

Executive and Home Missionary.

Appreciation was expressed of the generous assistance of the Women's Mission Bands, which have contributed £48/0/0, and for the splendid

help of the Christian Endeavor Department, in contributing £46/12/10 in response to the "New Tent Appeal."

Acknowledgment was made of the willing and capable service of many speaking brethren, of the excellent work of the Church Extension Committee, and of Bro. H. L. Lyall for providing storage space, etc., for our tents and equipments when not in use.

During the year the Committee found it necessary to secure a central office in order to more effectively carry out its work.

The churches have added 1030 by faith and baptism, 571 by letter, 124 formerly immersed, and 70 by restoration; total, 1795. The losses recorded are:—593 by letter, 77 by death, and 737 by discipline and revision of roll; total, 1407. Net increase for the year, 388. The church membership now stands at 10,973. The Bible Schools have 9875 scholars, and 1301 teachers, an increase of 438 scholars and 51 teachers.

In the Home Mission churches there have been 408 additions by faith and baptism, 34 formerly immersed, and 25 restorations. In the tent missions, which include Home Mission and self-supporting churches, 400 were added.

The year started with a debit balance of £321 0/2. Our receipts for the year were £4488/0/3, and our expenditure was £4608/7/0, which leaves a debit balance for the year's work of £120/7/0, which, together with the £321/0/2 debit balance carried over from the previous year, shows a present deficit of £441/7/8.

The reported success of tent missions aroused enthusiasm.

During the year, E. C. Hinrichsen and Les. E. Brooker have been engaged in conducting tent missions. Their work has been wonderfully blessed by God. The churches visited speak in the highest praise of their faithful service. Missions have been held at Maryborough, Hampton, East Ballarat, Ascot Vale, Colac, and East Kew. As a result of these efforts about 400 souls have been added to the churches. Maryborough became self-supporting, which relieved the Committee of an obligation of about £80 a year. The church at Hampton was enabled to engage a full-time preacher, and to proceed with the erection of a fine church building at a cost of about £2400. Colac increased its contributions to the Committee by 35/- per week, and is now only 10/- per week short of being self-supporting. East Ballarat was raised from a small mission to a strong self-supporting church, with a full-time preacher. Its contributions increased £5 per week. The Ascot Vale church received a great uplift as a result of the mission. East Kew was a new field, and no organisation existed there. The tent was pitched at the end of January, and we may have a self-supporting church, with a membership of 102, and a Bible School of 50. A fine church building has been erected, under the supervision of Les. Brooker. Bro. Hinrichsen and Brooker have asked to be released for nine months to conduct missions in Queensland and Tasmania. This request has been granted. We wish them abundant success in their work. East Kew will be entirely self-supporting. H. B. Robbins and A. Hinrichsen will help the church for a time.

Assisted churches resorted the accomplishment of good work.

Boort membership stands at 62. New work has been commenced at Minnindi, six miles distant. Additions for the year:—Faith and obedience, 6; by letter, 6; by restoration, 1.

Thornbury has had a wonderful time of progress. The work was started about 18 months ago, with about 25 members, and with H. Swain as preacher. The church has been meeting in a hall which has long since proved too small for the growing needs of the congregation. A church site was purchased for about £300, and now a fine brick school hall is completed, the cost of which is about £1600. A great work has been accomplished at no cost to the Committee. The membership has reached 106; and the Bible School, 110. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 2; by letter, 22; by restoration, 1.

In March, 1922, J. R. Combridge was invited to

take up the work at Ballarat East. The Dawson-st. church and the Home Missionary Committee contributed 27/- each week towards the East. Bro. Combridge soon induced the members to prepare for a Hinrichsen-Brooker Mission, which was held in August and September, and resulted in 130 additions. At the close of the mission, the church at Ballarat East was formed, with 46 members from Dawson-st. and 75 mission converts, making a total of 121. The balance of the mission converts were received into the church at Dawson-st. A fine, strong, self-supporting church now exists, with J. R. Combridge as full-time preacher. The meetings are most encouraging, over 90 breaking the memorial loaf every Lord's day. Additions since the mission, 18.

During the year a fine substantial brick building has been erected at Shepparton, at a cost of over £2000, including land. A tent mission will be held shortly, when it is hoped that the work will be placed upon a self-supporting basis. C. L. Lang terminates his engagement at the end of April, and D. Stewart has been appointed to take up the work. Additions:—By letter, 1.

Steady progress has been made during the year at Colac, where F. Cornelius is the preacher. A tent mission conducted by E. C. Hinrichsen and J. E. Brooker resulted in 17 being added to the church. The church has been able to increase its contributions to the Committee by 35/- per week. Additions for the year:—By faith and baptism, 15; by letter, 2; by restoration, 6.

Maryborough work has been greatly blessed. In the early part of the Conference year a tent mission was conducted by E. C. Hinrichsen and L. E. Brooker, as a result of which 50 were added, and the church became self-supporting. During Bro. Young's period of service a manse was purchased, at a cost of about £600, of which about £250 has been paid off. He recently resigned to take up the work in Queensland. Additions:—By faith and obedience, 55; by letter, 7; baptised believers, 3; by restoration, 1.

Bambra Road.—Chas. Schwab has succeeded A. L. Haddon as preacher. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 21; by letter, 11; baptised believer, 1.

Warraambool.—Theo. Edwards will commence work in this field shortly. The membership is now 23. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 6; by letter, 4; by restoration, 1.

North Williamstown.—L. Johnston is the preacher, and the church is now again self-supporting. A mission was conducted during the year, with 12 additions. Additions during the year:—By faith and baptism, 32; by letter, 2; and baptised believers, 2.

Stawell.—W. Wakefield, after three years of good work, left for Western Australia. He was succeeded by S. R. Baker.

Echuca.—S. R. Baker, J. Turner, and G. Hughes have rendered good service. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 8; baptised believer, 1.

Rochester.—Good work has been done during the year with the help of F. Youens, G. Andrews, and H. Gray, of the College. The church property was improved substantially. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 10; by letter, 8.

Ringwood.—G. H. Oldfield has labored with this church, and a good deal of consolidating work has been done. £50 had been raised for the building fund. Additions:—By letter, 4.

Kyneton Circuit.—Churches at Kyneton, Drummond, and Taradale have been served by A. Baker and A. Hinrichsen. During May vacation a mission was held. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 9; by restoration, 2.

Bet Bet.—This strong cause has been assisted by the efforts of H. Gray and H. Cave, of the College. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 2; by letter, 2.

St. Arnaud.—J. E. Searle and G. Hughes have given assistance to the work here. Additions:—By faith and baptism, 5; by letter, 1; by restoration, 2.

Mercedith.—J. Turner rendered week-end service for a time, and the Ballarat brethren have given help.

Balwyn.—The cause here was organised after a tent mission by G. E. Chandler. A beautiful

church home, costing about £3000, has been erected. The Committee helped the work by providing the tent and equipment. Theo. Edwards accepted a temporary engagement, and J. E. Thomas will take up the work in April. A splendid church and school have been established.

Kellems-Richards Mission.—This was reported on in the following terms:—"For some years past the hope has been entertained of conducting a great evangelistic campaign in Melbourne. Jesse R. Kellems and party, from America, will arrive in Melbourne in July. Wirth's Olympia has been engaged, and the mission will be held in July, for about four weeks. The building will accommodate 5000 people. It is hoped that all the metropolitan churches will combine in this effort to bring the plea before the public. Bro. Kellems is a great preacher, and his visit is calculated to accomplish much good. The churches will receive all information later from the Committee appointed."

Bren. Abercrombie and McCallum spoke of the proposed campaign, and the clause was adopted. It was resolved to send a message of greeting and goodwill to the missionaries, and to assure them of the interest and support of the brethren.

Jos. Pittman has continued his ministrations among the sick in our hospitals, and his visits have been much appreciated. Bro. Pittman reported:—"With few interruptions, I have visited the various hospitals in Melbourne and suburbs (public and private) during the year. Without exception my visits have been received with expressions of gratitude. The Word of Divine Truth, of cheer and hope, of prayer and supplication, is specially welcome to the sufferers, and a joy to him who ministers. A surprising proportion of those who are classed as members of the Church of Christ are found, on enquiry, to be either not members actually, but related to members, or those who were once members but have drifted away from various causes, from church fellowship. It is easy to see that in such cases the visits may be of great value in reviving and strengthening spiritual desires."

Council of Churches.—Many important matters of interest to all the churches have been considered, and a determined attempt was made to stop the proposal to permit sport in parks on Sundays.

The report expressed the thanks of the Committee to the Editor of "The Christian" for assistance given to the cause of Home Missions.

Regarding the work for the incoming year, the report stated that it was the Committee's intention to continue as far as possible tent missions, and missions in church buildings. It is hoped to open up several new fields during the year. In the discussion on future work, many speakers referred to the need of continuing special missions while Bro. Hinrichsen is absent in Queensland and Tasmania. Important resolutions were carried relating to publicity and the securing by the Extension Committee of suitable sites for new buildings. These are printed under the heading of "Resolutions."

HOME MISSION DEMONSTRATION.

The Masonic Hall was filled on Friday evening by an audience whose numbers and enthusiasm were a great tribute to the interest taken by the brotherhood in our Home Missionary work. J. E. Shipway, of South Australia, led in the opening prayer, while S. Stevens read the Scripture lesson. The Conference Choir, under the leadership of Bro. E. Tippett, greatly added to the pleasure of the evening by rendering some beautiful selections.

The chairman, Bro. J. E. Thomas, in a brief speech, referred to the prevailing spirit of optimism in the Conference, and our joy and gratitude for rich blessings given. He referred in eulogistic terms to Jesse R. Kellems, who will shortly come to Australia to conduct missions for a period of about six months. He pleaded for preparation on our part, and active co-operation on the part of all brethren. For the future, he urged that all remain true to the trust committed to us by our God.

The Secretary, Bro. Thos. Bagley, cordially thanked preachers, church secretaries and officers, and Home Mission collectors for cordial support given to the Home Missionary Committee. This, he said, was one of the best years in our history, as was evidenced by the number of conversions, the unprecedented number of new church buildings being erected, and the number of churches which had become self-supporting.

The subject of E. C. Hinrichsen's address was "The Gospel at Work." He had been asked specially to deal with the results of our tent mission work, and did so in a most effective manner, though he recognised the equal importance of other kinds of work. It was as great a task to hold a hundred converts as to win them to initial obedience to the gospel. The great audience paid rapt attention to the speaker's graphic description of mission experiences. The striking success following the special efforts was forcibly narrated, and made a great impression. Bro. Hinrichsen made a fervent appeal for liberal gifts for the work—to reduce the existing Home Missionary debt, and to further the cause in the new year. The result was an offering amounting to £103 11/11 in cash and £208/4/- in promises; total, £401/15/11.

The incoming President, J. McGregor Abercrombie, delivered an able address on "The Different Viewpoints of Religion." Amongst religious people are two chief views of the church. Some look upon the church as an institution which brings benefit to them. They regard it as a place of safety, as a place of worship and communion, and the development of Christian character. The idea of personal security and comfort is cultivated. The temptation which assails such is to sit at ease in Zion and neglect the service which is our due. To regard the church only as an ark of safety induces a parochial spirit. It is opposed to the thought of the church as a missionary force. The true conception of the church is not of an ark for personal safety, but rather of a relief ship laden with goods intended for the benefit of humanity. The church exists for the good of the world. Our devotion must express itself in acts of kindness, and our worship in deeds of service. The church was made for man, not man for the church. We should have a passion for the souls of men. We are saved to serve, and the man that serves is most like the great Master. Bro. Abercrombie urged that we get a new vision of the importance of the boys and girls around us. We must engage in social service, and show an interest in the bodies as well as the souls of men, in their temporal as well as their eternal destiny. It was felt that in his eloquent and earnest address the President-elect had set a high standard of service for the term of his office.

In every way the Home Missionary demonstration, it was felt, reached high-water mark.

Foreign Missionary Department.

The report presented included details of our Federal work in India, China, and the New Hebrides, and of that amongst the Chinese in Australia. The outgoing of new missionaries—Miss G. Metzenthin, who is on her way to China, and Bro. E. R. Killmier, who has just completed his medical studies, and will probably go to China this year—received special notice. Attention was drawn to missionary candidates in the following terms:—

"Our Foreign Missionary students at the College of the Bible have done excellent work during the year. At present we have 25 candidates at Glen Iris; 5 young men doing medical work at the Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide; two young women in training as nurses. At the close of the College year the Foreign Missionary candidates were entertained at dinner by the members of the Foreign Missionary Committee."

Amongst items of special Victorian interest, the following were reported:—

The church at Queensberry-st., Carlton, has continued in the good work. Owing to the resignation of Bro. Shee Ping, the church has been without the services of an evangelist. The Fed-

eral Committee has arranged for Bro. Au Kwong Hon, of Canton, to come to Australia, and serve as evangelist; afterwards he may return to China to commence a mission in Canton under the direction of the Australian Churches of Christ. The Mission School work is most faithfully conducted by the beloved Superintendent, Bro. J. Pittman. He is ably assisted by the consecrated service of the secretary, Sister A. Baker, and a loyal staff of earnest teachers.

Miss Mary Thompson has settled down to work in India after her furlough. She was reported to be in good health. Victoria's share in the love gift presented to Miss Thompson at the Federal Conference was £100. Shrigonda Orphanage is now known as "Lyall Memorial Orphanage," in memory of the late Bro. and Sister Henry Lyall, foundation members of the Church of Christ, Swanston-st., Melbourne. At Diksal the McClean Memorial Chapel Dispensary has been recently built by Bro. F. McClean, of Lygon-st. church. The building is a great boon to Bro. Escott in his medical work; over 4000 treatments and re-treatments were handled during the year.

F.M. FUND.—VICTORIAN STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

Amounts Received to March, 1923.						
From Churches—	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Annual Offering	1541	4	1			
Weekly Offerings, etc., . . .	169	6	4			
	<hr/>			1710	10	5
From Members—						
Annual Offering	66	18	6			
Weekly Offerings, etc., and						
General Contributions	329	3	11			
	<hr/>			396	2	5
From Bible Schools and Bible Classes—						
General Contributions	81	0	4			
Children's Day Offering	98	7	8			
	<hr/>			179	8	0
From Endeavor Societies				35	13	11
From Mission Bands				99	0	0
From Victorian Sisters—						
Collected by Mrs. Zelius for						
Bible Women in India						
and China	61	10	0			
Women's Mission Band	38	8	0			
	<hr/>			99	18	8
Other Amounts—						
Contributions, Testimonial Miss Mary						
Thompson	100	0	0			
Legacy from Estate late Mrs. Kelly						
(Church, North Fitzroy), for Hos-						
pital, Dhond, India	100	0	0			
Subscriptions, Periodicals	2	8	6			
Sundry Items	1	7	6			
	<hr/>			£2724	9	5

EXPENDITURE.

Amounts Expended to March, 1923.						
	£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Chinese Mission, Melbourne—						
Expenses of Mission	16	0	0			
Charges—						
Conference Expenses—						
Proportion Rent of Halls,						
Printing, etc.	23	19	0			
Allowance, Secretary	52	0	0			
Postage, Exchange, Print-						
ing, Expenses Annual Of-						
fering, also Children's Day						
Offering, Travelling Ex-						
penses Missionaries on						
furlough in Victoria and						
Other Expenses	109	18	0			
	<hr/>			185	17	5
Special Contributions Expended—						
Testimonial, Miss Mary						
Thompson	100	0	0			
Teluga Mission, India	24	0	0			
Lepur Mission, India	9	0	0			
China Inland Mission	10	0	0			
Educational Work	55	0	0			
	<hr/>			198	0	0
	<hr/>			£390	17	5

Federal F.M. Committee—
Balance of Income Expended for Mis-
sion Work in India, China, and New
Hebrides £224 12 0

£2724 9 5

ROBERT LYALL, Treasurer.

Mr. H. A. C. and Mrs. Allan, who have labored in China for thirty years, under the China Inland Mission, were welcomed, and thanks was expressed to them for much helpful advice given. An address was given by Mr. Allan, who spoke of the work in China and its prospects. He showed that there was a great opportunity in the district about to be occupied by our missionaries.

Mrs. Springer, one of our American missionaries working with Miss Thompson, was welcomed, and responded with an interesting account of her work.

A quartet by students of the College, Bren. H. Cave, N.Z.; A. Hughes, Vic.; I. Peacock, W.A., and S. E. Riehes, S.A. (with Miss King, of N.Z., as accompanist) was much enjoyed.

E. R. Killmier, who has recently qualified for his medical degrees, gave an address on "Medical Missions." Matt. 11: 5, 6 gave the clue, said Bro. Killmier, to the origin of medical missions. Christ was the first and ideal medical missionary. The speaker urged that medical missions must have an evangelistic purpose. Jesus always left those whom he healed with a sense of further need—the healing of the soul. Medical work proved a very easy means of securing a hearing for the gospel. It is a universal language which speaks to the hearts of men.

**FOREIGN MISSIONARY
DEMONSTRATION.**

There was a good attendance in the Masonic Hall on Saturday evening. H. A. G. Clark, B.A., conducted a brief song service. B. W. Huntsman led in prayer, and D. C. Gow (secretary of the Chinese Church) read the Scripture. Mrs. Springer, from India, gave a brief and much appreciated greeting.

Foreign Missionary students of the College of the Bible contributed musical items—a chorus and a quartet—and were cordially received.

Bro. Horace Kingsbury delivered an interesting, historical and informative address entitled "Are We To-day Doing Our Part?" He dealt with India and its needs. Referring to this most heterogeneous country in the world, containing one-fifth of the population of the earth, the speaker strikingly illustrated the greatness of our task. Had the Lord Jesus on the day of his baptism begun to visit the villages of India, and every day from that time to this date visited one village, there would still be 30,000 villages unvisited. The heroic work of great missionaries was graphically described, and tributes paid to the memory of some of our own workers. Bro. Kingsbury's address was a heart-searching one, and made a powerful impression. It was immediately followed by the offering, which amounted to £136 in cash and promises.

Mr. J. W. Burton, M.A., secretary of the United Missionary Council and the Methodist F.M. Society, and formerly a missionary in Fiji, spoke on "The Challenge of the Present Missionary Situation." He stirred the audience with his eloquent address. That two out of every three people in the world should not have had the gospel adequately presented to them—that two out of every three children born into the world should be born into superstition and blind ignorance—that is a challenge to us. Yet the average Christian—in churches which rejoice in magnificent contributions to Foreign Missions—gives only 1/6d. per week to Foreign Missionary work, the price of a newspaper once a week, the price of the cheapest tram ticket once a week! The challenge of physical need, the challenge of spiritual destitution, above all the challenge of the Cross of Christ and the expressed will of the Master comes to us.

Church Extension Committee's Report.

During the past year there has been marked activity in regard to church building enterprise. At Balwyn, Croydon, Thornbury, Parkdale, Garden Vale and Uffing, the churches have erected commodious buildings. St. Kilda has made extensive additions. All these churches have made their own arrangements as to finance, while at Hampton and Gardiner very fine structures have been erected which will, in addition to the others mentioned, make great contributions to our church architecture in the metropolitan area. Coburg and Dunolly are ready to build. Some of the churches were assisted by the Committee in making their financial arrangements.

The building at Ararat was completed, and now the church at Shepparton has erected a fine structure. At East Kew land was secured last year, and a comfortable building is nearing completion. The last three mentioned were all assisted by the Committee at the instance of the Home Missionary Department.

Members of churches have been generous in making loans to the Committee. The Committee appeals further to all churches and members to continue their practical interest in the excellent work of helping churches to provide themselves with suitable buildings.

Churches which have been assisted in the past are urged to repay their loans as soon as possible, so that other needy churches may receive help from the Committee in the future.

Advisory Board.

The following brief report was adopted:—

"We have pleasure in submitting for the information of Conference that eleven meetings of this Board have been held during this year, at which applications from both preachers and churches have been considered, and recommendations, having in view the best interests of the work, made. The members of this Board desire to remind churches of the necessity of great care being exercised in the selection of preachers, and of the need to be sure of qualifications and credentials before entering into any engagements. As the work of this Board is of a confidential nature, no detailed report is possible, but advice has been given from time to time as the need arose, and a number of churches and preachers helped. The question of the granting of marriage licences is also referred to the Board for recommendation, and many applications have been dealt with during the year.

Anti-Liquor and Social Questions' Department.

The demonstration was held in the Collins-st. Baptist Church on Thursday evening, March 29 under the presidency of J. E. Thomas. Bro. Gifford Gordon, who recently returned from a tour in the United States and Canada, gave a telling speech, reviewing facts collated during his trip concerning the effects of prohibition. The facts spoke for themselves, and proved conclusively that prohibition is of the utmost benefit to the community.

Lantern slides were shown by C. M. Gordon, who in this way illustrated the effects of prohibition.

The report adopted contained the following information:—

As in recent years, the work of this Committee on the Prohibition side has been carried out in conjunction with the Victorian Anti-Liquor League. The League has again covered a very wide field of activities during the year, as will be seen by the following figures:—

2131 meetings held (41 per week).

2757 inches of publicity in Religious Press, which is equal to 115 columns in the "Age" and the "Argus."

Receipts, £13,185/3/7. Expenditure, £11,302/12/9.

Of this large amount received, although "Field Day" services were conducted in but 30 of our churches, the sum of £93,7/6 toward the support of the League was promised, and of this amount £559/16/9 has been realised in cash.

It is a matter for congratulation that the chief officers of this great organisation are members of the Church of Christ, i.e., C. M. Gordon, M.A., B.D., State Director; Gifford Gordon, Financial Director; Hon. J. G. Barrett, Superintendent of the Department of Vigilance; William Wilson, Fetes Director.

Our special representative on the League, Bro. Gifford Gordon, has spent the whole of the year in the United States, continuing his investigation into the working of Prohibition there, and has just returned with a tremendous fund of information that will be of great value to pushing forward the Prohibition movement in Australia. While in America he secured a magnificent series of photographs, illustrating Prohibition at work. These photographs have been made into lantern slides, and the lantern lecture has been found probably the most effective means of impressing the public with the value of Prohibition.

The retrograde move on the part of the State Government in abolishing Local Option, and the postponement of the Poll till 1930, caused something like consternation in the ranks of the Prohibition workers. Although the shock was severely felt at the time, the ultimate effect has been to stiffen the backs of the workers for the overthrow of "King Alcohol," and we verily believe that with the Lord of Hosts on our side there can be no other result than "Victory for Righteousness."

When the Bill to Legalise the Totalisator in Victoria was introduced into the Legislative Assembly, the Committee, on behalf of the brotherhood, passed a resolution of protest, which was forwarded to the Hon. the Premier, and we feel sure that the combined efforts of the Social Questions Committees of the various churches were largely responsible for the defeat of the Bill.

An emphatic protest was lodged against the decision of the Melbourne City Council to promote games in public parks on Sundays, and a copy of a strongly worded resolution, embodying the views of the brotherhood on this important matter, was forwarded to the Minister of Lands, requesting that he refuse his endorsement of the action of the Council. Members of your Committee attended meetings of the Council of Churches held to arrange for a monster deputation to the Minister, and were well represented at that deputation, which was largely responsible for the nullifying of this unasked-for and dangerous alteration to the existing law.

Whilst regretting that none of the great dailies have yet decided themselves on the side of No-License, it is gratifying to find that the Religious Press is practically unanimous in the advocacy of Prohibition, and your Committee particularly desires to express its thanks to the Editor of "The Australian Christian" for the Special Prohibition Number, which was exceptionally fine this year, and for space in other issues. Out of seven religious journals, this paper stands second on the list as to the amount of space devoted to Prohibition.

As is reported elsewhere, Conference decided to enlarge the scope and increase the personnel of the Committee, having appointed a Committee to control a Department of Social Service which would seek to advance the cause of Prohibition further on philanthropic activities, and endeavor to promote civic righteousness.

An animated discussion took place regarding the importance of the work of the Department. The Gordon brothers received a particularly cordial reception.

Benevolent Department.

The report stated that each year the work has grown larger. The first year £54 was contributed, this year over £300 has been raised. Committees have been at work at Collingwood, North Richmond, South Richmond, and Burnley, and a great amount of good has been done. At the beginning of the year an appeal was made for blankets, the response being £15/5/-. A recent appeal to purchase a house for use of a bereaved sister and her family of eight children resulted in £150 being received through the appeal by the North Richmond

church, and £76 through the joint appeal by North Richmond church and the Benevolent Committee, making a total of £232. By the generosity of a few brethren, this sum has been increased £1 for £1, and a live-roomed house has been secured to the brotherhood. In addition to this, £124 has been received for Benevolent work. The Burnley Sub-Committee during the year distributed 474 parcels, and paid 574 visits.

The Committee deeply appreciates the brotherhood support.

Christian Endeavor Department.

In the absence of the President of the Committee, A. E. Hurren, the secretary, Jas. H. McKean, presented the report.

By affiliation with the Victorian C.E. Council, our Committee had opportunities of taking a part in the larger and wider service. During October a tea for a thousand poor folk of the Collingwood district was organised, also visits to other public institutions.

The burden of the heavy debt that hindered the progress of the movement in Victoria has been removed, the whole of the £1000 has been paid, and the Victorian C.E. Council once more is free of debt.

Fifty seniors and one hundred and six juniors have made their decision for Christ during the past year; these figures are from reports to hand.

We have at present in Victoria 21 Y.P., 2 Intermediate, and 39 Junior Societies.

The Junior Department, under the direction of Bro. Blakemore, has had a year of splendid service; the individual reports of Societies tell of active work in all avenues of usefulness. Over 1000 gifts have been given to the various inmates of the Ragged Boys' Home, Nurse Sutherland's Home, Children and Austin Hospitals, Convalescent Home, Clayton, etc., etc. Visits have been made to the hospitals by individual Societies, besides the usual annual visit to the Children's Hospital, at which all Societies were represented.

Two Junior Workers' Conferences were held, both well attended. A Junior picnic was held in December. Under the direction of the Junior Superintendent, a system of visitation has been carried out by the young men of the Carnegie Society, whereby all the South Suburban Societies have been visited.

With regret the death of Miss F. Johnson, assistant secretary, was reported. The Committee placed on record its appreciation of her service for God.

Societies have received letters from and kept in touch with the Foreign Missionaries, and the sum of £35/13/11 has been contributed by the Societies during the past year.

Upon the request of the Home Mission Committee, an appeal was made to the Societies for help towards a new tent cover for use in the mission fields. As a result the Committee was able to hand to Bro. Bagley the sum of £46/12/10.

A number of speakers spoke in eulogistic terms of the excellent service rendered by some societies. The Junior Christian Endeavor Movement and the Young Worshippers' League received special notice and praise.

At the Masonic Hall on Monday night the annual Christian Endeavor Rally was held. Mr. J. E. Thomas was chairman to the largest rally audience to date. Greetings from many sources, including the South Australian C.E. Union and the Victorian C.E. Council (per Mr. G. F. Dyson, President) were received. In the programme a series of scenes of Endeavor activities formed the main feature. To Coburg Junior C.E. Society the Junior Endeavor Competition Shield was presented for the second successive year. Bendigo and South Yarra, the chairman stated, tied for second place, being defeated by only a few points. Mr. Horace Kingsbury delivered an address on the value of Endeavor work to the church, and urged that all, whether members of C.E. Societies or not, should practice the principles of the organisation and aim at the motto, "For Christ and the Church."

Here and There.

The address of Bro. W. A. Eagle now is Bordertown, S.A.

May 6 will be observed as Bible School Day in several States of the Commonwealth.

Annual offering for Victorian Bible School and Yeung People's Department, May 6.

The secretary of the Preston church, Vic., now is F. Quaife, Cramer-st., S. Preston.

Sir Joseph and Lady Verco left Adelaide on March 21, per s.s. "Nestor," for England, via South African ports.

The Victorian Women's Conference held on Wednesday, March 28, was most successful. Attendances were unusually large. We hope to publish soon an extended report of this, and of Conferences held in other States.

Our report of the Victorian Conference is of composite authorship. We gratefully acknowledge the valuable assistance of Bro. R. T. Pittman, B.A. Friends who have faith in the ability of textual critics of the Bible to allot different chapters, verses and clauses to varying authors may try to discover how far we are indebted to our brother.

Bro. J. E. Allan will be absent from Melbourne until April 30. He requests that all correspondence in connection with the Kellems-Richards mission be addressed to the Assistant Secretary, Bro. J. C. F. Pittman, "Clyde House," Clyde-st., St. Kilda, and that all Foreign Mission moneys be sent direct to the Treasurer, Bro. R. Lyall, the Avenue, Royal Park.

Bro. A. G. Saunders is being transferred from Vigan to the town at which he worked on his previous term in the Philippines, Laoag (pronounced "Lo-wog"). Mail for him should be addressed to "Laoag, Hocos Norte, Philippine Islands." With Bro. F. H. Swanson, he has just concluded an itinerating trip through the Tinguian and Kalinga districts, over heavy mountainous country. Among other rich experiences were the baptism of 57 people at Balbalasang, 37 at Talalang, 25 at Inalangan, 120 for the trip. These baptisms are largely the fruit of the labors of a native "capitan" named Puyao.

In connection with the Kellems-Richards mission in Wirth's Olympia, commencing on Lord's day, July 8, J. C. F. Pittman has been appointed assistant secretary, and T. R. Morris treasurer and chairman of finance committee. The following brethren will serve as chairmen of other committees:—Devotional, J. E. Thomas; Personal Workers, L. C. McCallum, M.A.; Literature, T. H. Scambler, B.A.; Publicity, F. T. Saunders; Young People, W. B. Blakemore, B.A. These brethren will gladly supply information concerning their departments of work. All churches are urged to commence a great prayer campaign in preparation for the season of revival. July 8 must be preceded by three months of earnest prayer and personal work.

The Auditorium, Collins-st., Melbourne, was filled last Sunday afternoon. J. E. Thomas presided, and A. W. Connor preached the Conference Sermon, his subject being "The Changeless Christ." Beautiful singing by the Swanston-st. choir, under the leadership of E. Tippett, and a solo by Miss Bessie Martin, together with splendid congregational singing, made a fine setting. The Scripture passage, Heb. 1, read by H. Swain, bore directly on the subject of discourse. Bro. Connor's text was Heb. 13: 8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day, yea, and for ever." Christ in a marvellous way, he said, formed all the centuries. In him the local and temporary were lost in the universal and eternal. His words were not only original, but were such as would never pass away. The preacher claimed that the Deity of Christ was the basic truth, and that neither "modernism" nor Unitarianism, despite their claims to be the hope of religion, had message of power. The moral primacy of Christ was the perpetual miracle. Christ was not a mere historic personage, but a living Lord. We lay no flower this Easter Day on a grave of a dead

teacher, but present a living Master. It was fidelity to these truths that had given their church its splendid progress. No theory of development that neutralised New Testament teaching could be accepted. Such development led away from Christ. Christ must be the inspiration of our personal service. A new and intensified faith in him was required. Not by "repeating the name" but by "doing the deed" would the world come to faith in him, who was its only hope. We hope shortly to print the address in full.

Pray for the success of the Kellems' mission. This is the timely advice of Bro. Lionel Johnston, who makes his plea in the following words:—The announcement of the coming of Bro. Jesse R. Kellems gladdens the hearts of all disciples who wish to see the plea we advocate receive the publicity worthy of it. But to what are we looking for a successful campaign of evangelism? Is it to the superiority of our plea, our evangelistic fervor, the ability of the evangelists, or to careful planning and organisation? If to these alone, the results will be unsatisfactory. Unless the effort stands in the power of God, it will lack permanence. As a preacher of the churches of Christ for the past 17 years, I have come to the conclusion that there is no respect in which we come short of the New Testament ideal more than in regard to our prayer life. It has yet to be proved what can be accomplished in these lands by a concentrated effort of New Testament evangelism, preceded by sustained and fervent prayer such as preceded the first religious awakening in the church's history, viz., that of the day of Pentecost. With only three months to go, prayer bands should be organised in all the churches, without delay. Combined prayer meetings also should be arranged at suitable centres. Special preachers' and workers' prayer gatherings would also assist. Last, but not least, bed-ridden saints, whose prayers in past revivals have played no small part, could be organised into a league of intercessors. I doubt not that the special committee has given prayer a place in its plans; but unless there is a general response throughout the brotherhood, one of the most important factors of success and securing God's blessing on the effort will be lacking.

On Monday, March 19, Bro. A. L. Haddon was welcomed to New South Wales as Bible Schools' Organiser by the members of the Bible Schools' and Home Mission Committees, and the suburban preachers, at a dinner generously donated by a member of the former committee. Bro. C. R. Rush, who formerly combined the offices of Bible Schools' and Home Missions' Organiser, presided, and in his welcome speech suggested that the two committees meet together on occasions, and co-operate in specialising on work amongst the children during the coming Conference year. Bro. A. Fisher, in welcoming Bro. Haddon on behalf of the Bible Schools' Committee, stated that in New South Wales there are 700,000 children under 18 years of age, of which only 140,000 attend Sunday Schools. Bro. H. G. Harward, Home Missions Organiser, expressed a cordial welcome. Bro. Dr. Bardsley, of the Home Mission Committee, said he trusted the new Bible Schools Committee would be able to educate the brotherhood as a whole, or organise some scheme by which the giving to Home Mission and Bible School work would be spread over a greater number, so that it would not be so dependent upon the larger amounts given by a few individuals, as it had been in the past. Bro. Haddon gave a helpful and appropriate address in reply. Every one present was impressed with Bro. Haddon's earnestness and suitability for the great work to which he has been called. It is hoped that the churches in New South Wales will give liberally to the annual offering on May 6, so that the Committee may be enabled to meet its increased financial responsibilities. Bro. J. Whelan, F. Horsey, and N. Fell contributed to the musical side of the welcome, with much appreciated solos.

Three New Buildings Opened.

Thornbury had a great day on March 25, the occasion being the opening of the new church home at the corner of Smith-st. and St. George's-road. At 7.45 a.m., 47 met for a prayer service. At 11 a.m. Bro. Hagger presided, and every officer took part in the service. About 120 broke bread. A large gathering of about 270 people met in the evening. The service was a bright and helpful one. A married man made a public confession of Christ. This brother, with a young man who made the confession some weeks ago, was baptised by Bro. Swain on Monday night. Tuesday, 27th, a goodly number partook of a sumptuous tea at 6 o'clock. At the public meeting the building again held an enthusiastic gathering. A. J. Hagger presided, and the secretary gave a brief report of the work from its inception. Bro. Gale, Pittman, Hinrichsen, Bagley, R. Lyall and H. Swain gave addresses. Bro. Swain presented from the church a watch and albert to Bro. Jas. Bell for valuable services. Bro. Hollingworth (builder) and Bro. Smith (secretary) were presented with fountain pens. Bro. Swain was the recipient of a Scofield Bible, suitably inscribed, which was presented to him by Bro. F. E. Smith. Mrs. Hagger presented Mrs. Swain with a morocco cover Sankey hymn-book.

Shepparton church began its labors in its new church home on Sunday, March 25. Bro. Thos. Bagley performed the opening ceremony in the presence of a large congregation. A great service followed. Bro. Lang presided, and thanked the many donors of useful furnishings in various parts of the building. Bro. Bagley's address was full of cheer and inspiration. A thankoffering was taken, and the amount contributed to date exceeds £40. For the evening service the chapel was again filled. Bro. Lang delivered the gospel message, and at the close one young man confessed Christ. On Monday, friends from various churches in the district helped by their presence. The church welcomed the new preacher, Bro. Dan. Stewart, who takes up the work after Bro. Lang's departure at the end of April. The evening was pleasantly spent. Appreciation of the work of our Bro. and Sister Dunn, who are departing for Geelong, was expressed.

East Kew church is making rapid progress, mid-week and Sunday services being wonderfully well attended. Last Sunday morning, April 1, the first service in the new building was held, and 90 people partook of the Lord's Supper, at which Bro. Payne, of Ararat, presided. Bro. Hinrichsen gave a very powerful talk to the members. At the conclusion of the service two young men took their stand for Christ, and at the evening service three more made the good confession, making a total to date of 107 converts. On Sunday night there was an overflowing congregation, there being from 250 to 300 people present. The school is progressing most favorably. Several new scholars were introduced.

WANTED.

Evangelist, to labor with the church at Mildura, to commence about end of June. Apply, stating salary required, and for further information, to A. E. Cameron, Gingham Avenue, Irymple, Vic.

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PLEADING FOR A RUNAWAY SLAVE.

Paul's epistle to Philemon consists mainly of a strong plea for Onesimus, who had left the home of Philemon, his old master, wandered to Rome, accepted the gospel as preached by Paul, and now, following the advice of the apostle, returned to his old home and master, "no longer a servant, but more than a servant, a brother beloved."

This short epistle is full of pathos. It has been asserted that "as a mere human composition, it must be allowed to be a masterpiece in its kind." It reveals the faithfulness, love and tenderness of the apostle. "Though I have all boldness in Christ to enjoin thee that which is befitting," wrote Paul, "yet for love's sake I rather beseech, being such a one as Paul the aged, and now a prisoner also of Christ Jesus; I beseech thee for my child, whom I have begotten in my bonds, Onesimus." Paul would have gladly retained him that he might be ministered unto in the bonds of the gospel, yet he sends him back to his old master with a strong plea for forgiveness for an unprofitable past, together with the hope of as hearty a welcome for the returned slave as would have been given had the apostle himself paid the visit to his old friend. There is appended an I.O.U., for Paul says, "If he hath wronged thee at all, or oweeth thee ought, put that to mine account; I, Paul, write it with mine own hand: I will repay it." It would surely be well if all Christians were endued with a similar spirit, and manifested similar practical interest and warmth of love towards new converts, tenderly leading them into the paths of faithful service for God and man.

MONDAY, APRIL 23.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.—Philemon 3.

Thomas Spurgeon wrote: "Penances, and pieties, and performances are less than vanity in view of the 'unknown sufferings' of the spotless Lamb of God. It is impossible for self-righteousness to thrive on the slopes of the hill of Calvary."

"Oh, bring me peace; God's grace is free.
To Paul, to Magdalene, to me."

Bible Reading.—Philemon 1-7.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24.

I thank my God always, making mention of thee in my prayers.—Philemon 4.

"Stonewall Jackson, having once used the expression 'instant in prayer,' was asked what was his idea of its meaning. 'I will give you,' he said, 'my idea of it by illustration, if you will allow it, and will not think that I am setting myself up as a model for others.' On being assured that there would be no misjudgment, he went on to say, 'I have so fixed the habit in my own mind, that I never raise a glass of water to my lips without a moment's asking of God's blessing. I never seal a letter without putting a word of prayer under the seal. I never take a letter from the post without a brief sending of my thoughts heavenward. I never change my classes in the section-room without a minute's petition on the cadets who go out and those who come in.' And don't you sometimes forget this? 'I think I can say that I scarcely do; the habit has become almost as fixed as breathing.'"

Bible Reading.—Philemon 8-13.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25.

Hearing of thy love, and of the faith which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all the saints.—Philemon 5.

"Let us be silent to each other's weakness, helpful tolerant, nay, tender towards each other! Or, if we cannot feel tenderness, may we at least feel pity! May we put away from us the satire

which scourges and the anger which brands; the oil and wine of the Good Samaritan are of more avail. We may make the ideal a reason for contempt; but it is more beautiful to make it a reason for tenderness."

Bible Reading.—Philemon 14-19.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26.

For I had much joy and comfort in thy love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through thee, brother.—Philemon 7.

"Hearts about us are hungering for brotherly kindness more than any mere gift we can bestow upon them—and none is so poor that he cannot speak a word of kindness to the suffering. During the famine that brought great suffering to the poor of Russia, thousands of whom were reduced to the verge of starvation, Count Tolstoi made every effort in his power to better the condition of these unfortunates. One day the good poet passed a beggar on the street corner. Stretching out gaunt hands, the miserable beggar asked for alms. Tolstoi felt in his pockets for a coin to bestow upon him. He turned the pockets inside out, but to no purpose. Taking the beggar's hand in both of his, he said kindly, 'Do not be angry with me, brother: I have nothing with me.' The gaunt face lighted up; the man lifted his bloodshot eyes; his blue lips parted in a smile: 'But you called me brother—that was a great gift.'"

Bible Reading.—Philemon 20-25.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27.

I beseech thee for my child, whom I have begotten in my bonds, Onesimus.—Philemon 10.

"Love alone is might,
Makes the heavy burden light,
Smooths rough ways to weary feet,
Makes the bitter morsel sweet,
Love alone is strength."

Bible Reading.—1 Cor. 13: 1-7.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28.

No longer as a servant, but more than a servant, a brother beloved.—Philemon 16.

"One place there is—beneath the burial sod,
Where all mankind are equalised by death;
Another place there is—the fane of God,
Where all are equal who draw living breath."
—T. Hood.

Bible Reading.—James 2: 1-9.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29.

Yea, brother, let me have joy of thee in the Lord.—Philemon 20.

"Our souls by love together knit,
Cemented, joined in one—
One hope, one heart, one mind, one voice—
'Tis heaven on earth begun.

"And walking in the light of God,
Communing with our Lord,
Conversing oft on pardoning love,
'Tis heaven in thought and word."

Bible Reading.—Psalm 133.

PRAYER.

Merciful God, I pray that thou wilt give me the spirit of Christ. May I be kind, courteous, patient, faithful to thee and my fellow-men. Use me

in leading many wanderers to return to thee for life, peace and joy, that they may serve thee all their days. Cleanse me from all unselfishness, that I may think especially of the needs of others. May I interest myself in those who are slaves to sin, that they may in thy strength snap their fetters and be free to be thy bondservants for evermore. In the Saviour's name. Amen.

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Federal Evangelism.

League of Rope-holders.

The Acting Federal Executive thankfully acknowledges receipt of Birthday Gifts from the following members of the League:—

Western Australia.—E. Charman, W. Hicks, F. Garner, Anon. (Harvey).

South Australia.—Rita Watson.

Victoria.—H. H. Davies, A. W. Yewdall, J. A. Wilkie.

New South Wales.—Mr. and Mrs. A. Morris, Mrs. F. Newby, Miss R. Mudford, Mrs. Butler, D. J. Butler, Mrs. H. G. Harward, Stella Holder-ness.

Churches.—East Emerald (Vic.) and Boonah (Qld.) churches have enrolled. The church at Emerald promises to give the offering at the morning service on its "birthday" for Federal Evangelism, and thereby sets a fine example.

Send all gifts to C. R. Hall, Napier-st., Lindfield, N.S.W.

Northern District Conference, S.A.

The 31st annual Conference was held at Balaklava on March 19, 20, and 21.

The opening gathering on Monday night was an inspiring one. The three choruses by the Junior Choir were well received, and the addresses by Bro. G. D. Wright (Bible School Committee) and B. W. Manning (C.E. Union) were much appreciated.

A series of devotional addresses by J. E. Shipway, of Port Pirie, proved to be one of the most helpful features of Conference. His subjects were, "Restoring the New Testament Doctrine," "Building the New Testament Church," and "Living the New Testament Life."

There were helpful discussions at the workers' session on Tuesday morning, when addresses were given by W. J. Taylor, "The Church at Worship," and W. L. Ewers, "Developing and Using our Speaking Talent." Out of a suggestion made by the speaker on training for leadership, the following motion was carried: "That it be a recommendation to the Executive Committee, and also to the State Conference, that a Bible Institute of at least one week's duration be arranged during the next Conference year, for the purpose of training our workers for more efficient service."

On Tuesday evening another large audience assembled to hear the Conference Sermon preached by Bro. A. C. Rankine, who took for his theme, "The Church and Her Mission," which was dealt with in a most masterly fashion.

The chairman of the Balaklava District Council extended a welcome to the delegates and visitors to the Conference, and remained throughout the sessions. Among the visitors to Conference were Bro. Wright, Manning, Rankine, Southgate, and Collins, and Sisters Cherry, Ewers, E. J. Mowsar and House.

The Obituary report, read by Bro. E. T. Ball, contained the names of twelve members called to higher service.

The Executive Committee reported the continuance of the work at Avon, with the erection of a new hall, and splendid prospects for a successful work.

The church membership stands at 1138 (a decrease of 44 for the year), and the scholars at 860, and Endeavourers, 295.

£55/10/- was contributed during the year for Conference work, and the credit balance stands at £107/8.

Including subsidies, £665/17/11 was forwarded to the Home Mission Committee, and a total of £507/11/7 was given for Foreign Missions.

The Scholarship Fund Committee reported good progress, one student having been assisted at the College of the Bible last year, and the sum of £16 set aside for a scholarship to a student for this year.

Mr. P. H. Roediger delivered his president's address on the subject, "The Joy of Service."

The following were elected to office:—President, Bro. R. O. Bottrall (Pt. Pirie); vice-president, Bro. G. Rootes (Kadina); Secretary and Treasurer, W. L. Ewers (Balaklava); auditor, S. C. Curtis, and one representative from each of

the churches to form the Executive Committee.

In the discussion on Future Work the following notice of motion was carried:—"The Executive Committee strongly recommends that at least one new Sunday School be organised, and one new preaching place be opened in the Northern District this year."

The claims of our Foreign Mission work were presented by the State Foreign Missionary Secretary (S. J. Southgate).

The closing meeting on Wednesday night made a fitting climax to a most successful Conference. In the absence through illness of the newly-elected President, Bro. R. O. Bottrall, Bro. G. Rootes took charge of the meeting, and presented the retiring president with a copy of the Word of God.

Addresses of a high order were given by Bro. S. J. Southgate, "Christ's Objective," and F. Col-

lins, "The Lord's Return, the Hope of the Church."

The singing of a number of anthems by the Balaklava choir on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and of several items by the Male Quartette (Messrs. W. Long, A. Deley, O. H. and R. J. Finlayson) was appreciated to the full.

The Balaklava sisters had charge of all the Conference meals, and carried out their work in a most efficient manner.

The next Conference is to be held at Port Pirie.

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News of the Churches.

New Zealand.

At Nelson meeting for worship on March 18 two who recently confessed Christ were received. Bro. Knapp gave an address suitable to those who have recently come into the church. Bro. Carpenter's subject at night was "The Four Men." The church on March 25 celebrated its annual rally day. One young man was received into fellowship. A special offering was taken to help wipe off debt (£40) on church property. The sum realised was £26/4/0 in cash and promises. Bro. Carpenter at the meeting for worship and at the gospel meeting delivered suitable addresses. The meeting at night had one of the best attendances on record. Much interest is shown in the training class.

Within twelve months the meeting of Bro. and Sister D. R. Munro around the Lord's table in their home at Hawera has grown to the present church membership of over fifty. The members lately moved from the local Oddfellows' Hall into their new 24 x 40 chapel, built in a week, on a quarter-acre section, with a small cottage, in the centre of residential area. During the last six months this people have sustained the full-time fruitful ministry of Bro. Will Page. A very successful sale of work preceded the urgent erection of the chapel, which was followed by another successful mission by Bren. Noble and Page. 15 were added, and the school was much increased. On March 11 Bro. J. Griffith, of Nelson, delivered a fine message. Five members "remember Jesus" in the home of Bro. and Sister F. Palmer, at Kapenga, 20 miles distant. At the request of some members in New Plymouth five brethren journeyed from Hawera, and established a church in the social room of the Workers' Hall, Carrington-rd., on Feb. 17. Bren. Noble and Page consented to hold a fortnight's mission in New Plymouth, commencing March 12.

Queensland.

Toowoomba church had good attendances both morning and evening on March 25. Bro. Burns preached a powerful gospel message, and one man confessed Christ. On Lord's day morning Bro. Burns visited the brethren at Meringandan: a full meeting is reported. Wednesday evening prayer meeting was conducted by Bro. W. Sharp, Tara.

On March 18, at South End, Toowoomba, A. Coleman's address on "Leprous Stones" was much appreciated. The gospel meeting was conducted by Jas. Larsen, who spoke on "The Prodigal Son." On 25th, V. Adecock delivered an inspiring address on Christian duty and sacrifice. Bro. H. C. Stitt's evening subject was "Choosing affliction and reproach with the people of God"; a believer baptised decided to associate with the church. The speaking brethren are being urged to conduct open-air meetings during church hours.

Sunday, March 25, was a great day for East Ipswich church. The morning service was well attended; four welcomed into fellowship, and at the close of Bro. Young's address a young sister confessed Christ. The Bible School was well attended: 18 in the Bible Class. The evening service was the largest on record, over 90 present. Bro. Young took as his subject, "Why be baptised?" using the blackboard. Four more (two men and two women) made the good confession. On Wednesday, March 28, three men confessed Christ. Over 40 present. Prospects are bright.

Brisbane Sunday School anniversary entertainment on March 23 was a great success. The building was comfortably filled. A cantata entitled "The Coming of the Flowers" was given by the scholars, trained by Sisters Eva Waterfield, A. McCosh, and D. Clapham. Mrs. Home was the recipient of a nice presentation as a mark of appreciation of her services in making costumes. A record has been established by Jean Home, who has attended the school without a break for nine years. On March 25 Bro. S. Trudgian exhorted the church on "Training the Children." At night

Bro. Meorn addressed a good audience on "The New Birth."

Western Australia.

At Maylands gospel service on March 25, about 90 being present, Bro. Stirling delivered a splendid address. One young man made the good confession. All meetings are fairly well attended. On March 25, all were interested in a beautiful address by Bro. G. T. Walden.

At Subiaco on March 14 the Federal F.M. Secretary, Bro. G. T. Walden, delivered an instructive lecture, illustrated by lantern slides, on Foreign Missionary topics. The Bible School also had the privilege of listening to him on March 18. Subiaco school is supporting nine orphans in India. The young men of the church recently formed an evangelistic band with Mr. Rattray as president, and Mr. C. Olds as secretary. Their first meeting was held at the corner of Bagot and Rokeby-rds., on Sunday, March 18. At the annual church meeting on March 21, reports were very encouraging. Bro. A. E. Bllingworth, of Melbourne, was the speaker on Sunday evening, March 25. Old friends were glad to meet one of the pioneers of the church.

Meetings at Bassendean continue good. Attendance at recent harvest thanksgiving services totalled 97 in the morning, and 140 in the evening. The services, which were a great success, terminated in a happy social on Monday night. The school work is doing well, attendance about 140. A new Bible School at Beechboro, about 2½ miles away from Bassendean, was opened on March 18. The school opened with a promised attendance of 20 scholars, the teaching staff going out from Bassendean. The school intends to hold a quarterly conference on school work. The Girls' Mission Band is in full swing. Each month two girls are chosen to write to the foreign missionaries. On March 21 the girls had charge of the mid-week prayer meeting, which was well attended.

South Australia.

At Dulwich on March 28 the half-yearly social of the church and Sunday School took place. The chapel was tastefully decorated, and there was a good attendance. Bro. Pittman presided, and a programme of songs and recitations was well rendered by the scholars. This was followed by refreshments and social intercourse.

A young lady confessed Christ at Cottonville on April 1. "Good News," the church paper, published by the newly-formed "Brotherhood," distributed first issue 500. "Brotherhood" meeting on March 28 decided next issue to be increased to 1000. Paper will be placed in every home in district. Arrangements made for cottage meetings at Lower Mitcham, Edwardstown East, and Cabra. Quarterly Scripture exam. in Bible School on 1st: result very satisfactory. Newly-formed Junior C.E. Society making splendid progress. Bible School attendance increasing. Result from first quarter's use of duplex envelopes satisfactory.

The work at Grote-st. is going on steadily. It is hoped that the new church house will help to achieve great things. All are grateful to Bren. C. Stevens and J. Maddern, who are assisting at the organ while Bro. A. J. Gard is visiting the Western State. The church regret the resignation of Sister Miss Minnie Leedham, who is going into the country to live. Her place in Sunday School and choir and other church work will be hard to fill. March 25, Bren. Ludbrook and Horsell occupied the pulpit, while Bro. Garnett was in the country. April 1, meetings were fair. Bro. A. C. Garnett, M.A., preached morning and evening. Home Mission offering has reached £89.

Kadina Bible School anniversary services were held on March 25 and 26. Bro. A. C. Garnett, M.A., of Grote-st., was the special preacher at all services on the Lord's day, and delivered three splendid addresses. All attendances were good. At night upwards of 500 people were present. The

public meeting on the 26th was also a great success, the attendance being equal to that of the Sunday night. Mr. T. P. Willason, of Wallaroo Methodist church, delivered a fine address. There was a splendid programme of action songs, dialogues, etc., for which the scholars had been well trained by Sisters Mrs. Rootes and Paterson. The singing by the school, accompanied by a good orchestra, reflected great credit upon the conductor, Bro. Chas. Larcombe.

New South Wales.

Meetings at Merewether are being well attended. On evening of March 18 one sister made the good confession. On March 21, a grand social gathering, which was well attended, was held to commemorate the fourth anniversary of Evangelist and Sister A. G. Martin in the ministry at Merewether. On March 25 four sisters and two brothers confessed Christ.

Bro. W. Atkin was presiding elder at Lismore on Lord's day, March 25. There were new scholars at both North and Central Bible Schools. At night Bro. P. J. Pond preached on "The Tragedy of Calvary." A special effort to raise £50 in connection with the purchase of the Temperance Hall, North Lismore, met with success. The walls of the new City Temple in course of erection for the church here are mounting up. The contractors now expect to complete some time in May.

At City Temple, Sydney, on Easter Sunday, there were splendid meetings. In the morning Bro. E. Davis, from Mosman, gave a fine address from Rom. 8: 38, 39, there being numerous visitors present. During the afternoon Bro. R. K. Whately junr. gave splendid conference sermon on "This Liberty" before a crowded audience. At night, Bro. Coventry, missionary from India, gave an interesting address. Last Lord's day Bro. A. L. Haddon was present all day. His efforts were forceful and convincing, and greatly appreciated.

On March 18 the church at St. Peters had the pleasure of an address from the Conference President, Bro. Crawford. At night Bro. Cyril Flood continued his series of addresses taken from the Epistle of John. On March 25, Bro. Norman Morris spoke acceptably at morning service. Bro. Cyril Flood gave a splendid address on "Seven Things About Ourselves." The young men from the training class have been helping for six months. Attendances at both services continue to be very good. The church is planning to add extensions to the building.

Victoria.

On April 1 one young man, who was baptised the previous week, was received into fellowship at Middle Park. In the evening two more young men from the Bible Class confessed Christ.

Preston church had two inspiring addresses by Bro. Clay in keeping with the spirit of Easter. Bro. Clay also effectively sang the gospel message. The prayer service following the gospel meeting, under the leadership of Bro. J. D. Lang, continues to be a source of blessing.

On April 1 at Cheltenham much pleasure was felt at all meetings at the presence of some members of the Foreman family. Sister Mrs. W. J. Anderson, nee Follett, is returning to Pyramid Hill, after a happy visit. The evening meeting was a large one to hear P. R. Baker on "Christian Baptism."

In connection with Hampton chapel opening a young people's demonstration on March 27 was a great success. Bro. W. B. Blakemore gave an address. South Yarra C.E. provided three appreciated items, and the whole programme was of an enjoyable nature. Sunday meetings on March 25 and April 1 were good: Bro. Wakeley was the speaker.

Since last report all departments of work in connection with the Chinese church keep on steadily. On April 1, Bro. Wilson, of Swan Hill, exhorted on interesting topic. While the Lord's Supper was proceeding, the new evangelist, Bro. Au Kwong Hon, arrived from China. He preached on "The Resurrection of Christ" to a fair audience at night.

Sunday, April 1, was a great day with the church at Gardiner. Bro. Ennis, president, in well chosen words welcomed Bro. and Sister Kingsbury, who have come to labor in the district. Bro. Kingsbury afterwards gave a beautiful message. Owing to the difficulty in securing workmen, the building will not be finished for a few weeks, but in the meantime Bro. Kingsbury will conduct meetings each Sunday evening for Bible study at the College of the Bible.

Merbein church building is almost completed. One addition lately: Miss McKenzie came forward on the last night Bro. E. H. Randall preached at Merbein, and on the following Tuesday was baptised in the new building. No seating available, but good meetings held in new building. The church building will be officially opened by Bro. Hugh Gray on April 29, and on the Wednesday following, May 2, the district annual conference of the Churches of Christ will hold their meetings at Merbein.

South Yarra is moving along nicely. The Hinrichsen-Brooker mission will commence on April 8. Four confessions on March 25, and two on April 1, chiefly Sunday School scholars. The Junior Cricket Eleven held a social; trophies were presented to Wm. Rasmussen, bowling average; and Wm. Muir, batting average. A football team has been formed, which intends entering the Churches of Christ Football Association. The local Phi Beta Pi Club invited the office-bearers and their friends to an installation service, which was enjoyed by all. Bro. Tease is picking up the work very nicely. His thoughtful and eloquent addresses are appreciated by all. Bro. Griffin is an able assistant.

A happy farewell social was tendered to Bro. and Sister Theo. Edwards and family at Balwyn on March 27. Appreciative speeches of the sterling work rendered by these brethren were made by officers of the various departments of the church. Presentations were given from the church, the Bible School, and the Ladies' Aid. Bro. Thomas, Mudford, and Perry also participated in the best wishes for future success. Last Lord's day morning Bro. and Sister J. E. Thomas and family were received into fellowship, having come to labor with the church. Bro. Thomas preached morning and evening to large attendances, which included many visitors and strangers.

Bro. Payne commenced his ministry with North Richmond on March 25, with fairly attended meetings. On March 27 a farewell social was tendered to Bro. J. E. Allan. Gifts of appreciation were presented from different departments of the church, which took the form of a handsomely-framed photograph of the Young Men's Club; a wallet from the C.E., and an envelope containing money with which to buy books suitable to Bro. Allan himself, while to Mrs. Allan was given a beautiful hair brush, comb, and mirror, from the Ladies' Aid. On April 1 Bro. Searle, of Woorinen, Swan Hill, addressed the church. Bro. Payne at night delivered the gospel message.

On March 18 and 20, Boronia Sunday School held a successful anniversary. On the Sunday afternoon Bro. T. R. Morris interested scholars and parents with "Scraps from a Wheelwright's Shop," and in the evening his subject was "God's Washing Day." On March 20, at the public meeting and distribution of prizes, Bro. J. Holloway and a number of friends from the College of the Bible, with the singing of the scholars, helped to make the meeting pleasant. March 25, good meetings. In the evening service at the first baptismal service in the chapel, three young people were baptised. April 1, splendid meetings. The three who had been baptised were welcomed into fellowship.

Last Lord's day Swanston-st. had good meetings and a number of Conference visitors. Bro. Wilkie, of Ballarat; Eagle, of Brim, and Hargreaves, of Boort, took part in the morning service, and Bro. Shipway, of Port Pirie, was the speaker. Sister Mrs. Springer, missionary from India, was amongst the honored visitors. One young lady was received into membership. In the evening the building was overcrowded, and Bro. Shipway delivered a short sermon, after which

the choir rendered the sacred cantata, "The Darkest Hour," chiefly composed of Scripture references to the crucifixion of Christ, interspersed with hymns sung by the congregation. Bro. Tippet ably conducted. Bro. C. H. Mitchell and H. Barrett officiated at organ and piano respectively, while Mrs. Bessie Martin Richards, C. Moysey, J. Cameron, and F. Blundell took the solo parts with great credit. The ladies of the congregation entertained visitors and members to lunch and tea. A most interesting and enjoyable day was experienced.

"Lord, Speak to Me, that I May Hear."

In a quiet garden, early in the morn,
Came a group of women, hearts with sorrow torn;
For their loving Lord had suffered cruel pain,
Handed up to justice for the love of gain.

"Justice" did I call it? No more cruel wrong
Mortal ever suffered through the ages long.
Christ—the well beloved—only Son of God,
To die upon a cross! He, whom all heaven adored.

So came those gentle women, love making not afraid,
To bring their costly tribute to where His body laid.

Did they find their Jesus in the silent tomb?
No! For He had risen; no need for sweet perfume.

Mary, weeping, broken-hearted, for the One she loved was gone,
Turning, saw a man approaching, kindly asking what was wrong;
She supposed he was the gardener, then she sobbed her woe,
But in accents sweet and tender, "Mary!" breathed He clear and low.

Oh! what overwhelming joy is pictured on her face,
To hear His loving voice and on His features gaze;
What a change from bitter grief to exceeding joy.
No need now to weep, all was bliss without alloy.
Just so He speaks to us to make His will our choice,

Do we recognise the Lord by His tender voice?
Do we cast ourselves before Him in adoration sweet,
And like Mary in the garden fall humbly at His feet?
—Mrs. S. Herbert.

The Lord's day services are well attended at North Melbourne. Bro. McKean, from Ivanhoe, spoke on Sunday morning, March 25. Bro. Dawson's evening address last Sunday on "The Seven Words of the Cross" interspersed with a solo, quartette and hymns, was of great interest. On March 22 the K.S.P. held a social to celebrate its

third year. Kindred societies were invited. Bro. Hurren, from Footscray, spoke, and an enjoyable time was spent. C.E. had a visit from Newport Baptist C.E. During Conference visitors included Sister Dewar, Adelaide; Bro. Govan, Norwood; Bro. White, Brim.

Meetings at Brim were well attended on March 25. At both services Bro. Eagle gave a fine message, these being his final addresses to this church. The Methodist church was well represented at the gospel meeting, and appreciated our brother's splendid effort. On Monday evening a farewell tea was held to bid good-bye to Bro. and Sister Eagle. Bro. D. A. Marshman was chairman. Speeches were made by several members of the Methodist church, as well as by our own brethren; all speaking in brotherly feeling and recognition. A presentation of a roll of notes was made. Bro. Eagle made a suitable reply.

IN MEMORIAM.

PATTERSON.—In sweet and sacred memory of our beloved wife and mother, who departed this life at Wasleys, late of Williamstown, S.A., on April 7, 1919.

Jesus looked down from his heavenly home,
Gazed on the mother we loved;
Saw she was weary and longing for rest,
So called her to his home above.
"Being dead, yet speaketh."

—Inserted by her loving husband and daughter and son-in-law. Gertrude and Walter, and little Clarry.

COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 8.—Hinrichsen-Brooker Mission commences at South Yarra on Lord's day, April 8, at 7 p.m. We extend a hearty invitation to sister churches, and we invite old friends and welcome new ones, particularly during first week.

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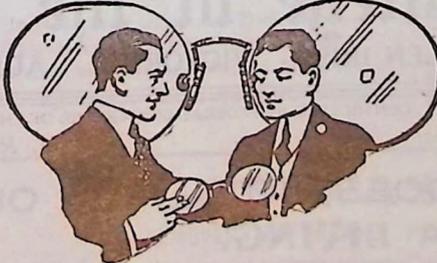
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Per Collectors and Duplex Envelopes.—Churches: 21 Burwood, £1 1/11; Gulgandra, £1/10/-; Mosman, 12/7; Sydney, £19/6/5; Rockdale, £2 12/2; Barwood, £1/7/3; Hornsby, £3/8/6; Bankstown, 18/0; Enmore, £13/10/10; Belmore, £1/9/10.
Individual Brethren.—Bro. J. Stimson, £37/10/-.
Bro. T. E. Reife Settlement.—Interest, £30; also on behalf of the Bible Schools Committee, £30; Preachers' Provident Fund, £30; Chapel Extension Fund, £15; Temperance Committee, £15.

Conference Promises.—Bro. J. Rodger, £2/10/-; Bro. W. Phillips, £4.

On account Preacher's Salary, Rockdale, £1.
Conference Fees.—Sydney, £1; North Sydney, 10/-; Bankstown, 5/-; Wingham, 5/-; Erskineville, 10/-.

Duplex Envelopes (Proportion of Cost).—Mosman, 2/6; Burwood, £1/15/-; Blackheath, 7/-; Errol, £1/7/0; Rockdale, £2/18/4; Hornsby, £1 8/-; Bankstown, 17/6; North Auburn, 14/-.
Publicity.—Per Bro. J. W. Healan, £6/10/3, £4/5/9; per Bro. Harward, £1/1/-.

Miscellaneous.—Sisters' Conference Committee, 40; Women's Missionary Societies, £3; Marrickville, balance annual offering, 2/-.

Total receipts for Home Missions for the period, £170/11/-; payments, £124/5/5; deficiency as at March 10, 1923, £341/19/2.

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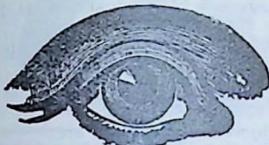
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