

THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN

CIRCULATING AMONGST CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH AND NEW ZEALAND

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by post as a Newspaper.

Vol. XXVI., No. 17.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 1923.

Subscription, 9/- per annum; posted, 10/6.

Making Use of the Membership.

From the early days of the Restoration movement in Australasia, the need of utilising the forces of the church was strongly urged. The democracy of the New Testament church, the spiritual equality of believers, the total absence of any distinction comparable to the modern difference between clergy and laity, received due recognition. The apostolic ideal that we might "grow up into him, which is the Head, even Christ, from whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in due measure of each several part, maketh increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love," was one which was rightly and constantly held up before us. It was felt to be a thing both scriptural and in accordance with human reason and common-sense that the church should be a working church. A man who is used not only helps others, but is being helped himself. Growth comes by exercise as well as food. Service, interest and spirituality are closely related. In our school work, and young people's classes, the need of expression, of active participation rather than passive reception, is universally admitted. Men are but children of a larger growth, and the principle of mutual service and co-operation is one which must never be ignored or relegated to a subordinate position. In every way it is better for ten men to do ten men's work than it would be for one to attempt or accomplish the work of ten. Even where it seems easier to do than to get others to do, the better service may be rendered by seeking to set others to work. It has always seemed to us a pity that "mutual ministry" should be in thought limited to the exercise of speaking gifts, or further limited to speaking at certain services. For ourselves, we are as we have always been, fully persuaded that every brother able to speak to the edification of the church (and this implies both mental ability and character) should have the right to do so; it being un-

derstood that the church, and not the man, is the judge of what is to edification. More, we are fully in sympathy with classes in the local church which aim at the training of our young men, and with united classes as those now being conducted in different States for this desirable purpose. Men thus training may well be given the opportunity in other meetings of proving and developing their powers, and when they are able, be given the privilege of taking the platform in our Sunday services. In this way, we think, strong, self-reliant churches may be built up.

Apart from such services, however, there is an unlimited field for the exercise of the latent talent of the brotherhood. Nearly all our schools are in need of teachers, and particularly in need of male teachers. No more honorable or Christlike task than this

can be presented to any man. We lament, again, the lure of the world's amusements, and fear for our young people. That problem of the church can largely be settled whenever the men and women who should be used, and could be used, are so organised that proper arrangements can be made for the care of the young, for the provision of suitable meetings or clubs and service for their welfare. Develop sufficient interest in the things of the church, and interest in the world declines.

A striking American illustration.

A very striking article from the pen of Prof. Charles Foster Kent, of Yale University, U.S.A., in Scribner's Magazine for February, arrested our attention. Under the heading of "Recent Trends in Protestantism," the writer urged all Protestant churches to do such things as we have mentioned above. Coming from such a source, the following words are very significant:

"Another trend in Protestantism is not yet strongly marked, but there are indications that the tide is strongly setting in. A typical illustration—one of many—may be cited. In one of our American cities the gifted and devoted rector suddenly died. A young curate—modest, likable, and with excellent organising ability—was asked to take the helm until a successor could be secured. He did so on condition that all the members of the church share the responsibilities with him. From the first a new life and atmosphere pervaded the staid old church. Old and young found their special task and joy in doing it; and enlarged budgets to meet the needs of the rapidly growing membership and the extended community work were taken care of as by magic.

"Soon the people discovered that none of the candidates appealed to them. The leaders recognised that the real reason was that no one wished to restore the old type of church. The young curate (whom every one called by his first name) was asked to

An Evening Prayer.

*If I have wounded any soul to-day,
If I have caused one foot to go astray,
If I have walked in my own wilful way—
Good Lord forgive!*

*If I have uttered idle words or vain,
If I have turned aside from want or pain
Lest I myself should suffer through the
strain—
Good Lord forgive!*

*If I have craved for joys that are not mine,
If I have let my wayward heart repine,
Dwelling on things on earth, not things
divine—
Good Lord forgive!*

*If I have been perverse, or hard, or cold,
If I have longed for shelter in the fold
When Thou hast given me some part to
hold—
Good Lord forgive!*

*Forgive the sins I have confessed to Thee,
Forgive the secret sins I do not see;
That which I know not, Father, teach thou
me—
Help me to live.*

(C. Maude Battersby, in Indianapolis News.)

become their rector. To-day this church, made up of active, working Christians, is fast becoming the most potent religious force in one of the larger of our American cities.

"The explanation of this rebirth of a church is simple. Psychologists tell us that we are interested in that to which we are able personally to contribute and in nothing else. The Master Teacher knew well this simple but vastly important principle. He saved the men and women who pressed about him, first by believing in them and then by giving them a task which each could perform. The very essence of the Christianity of Jesus is individual loyalty to the fraternal community expressed in service. Protestantism is gradually grasping this ideal of universal enlistment, and as a result new life is coming back to many dying churches.

"The principle of distributed responsibility applies to the religious services as well. Men never lose their boyish love of 'doing something.' If the preacher and a highly paid chorus assume all responsibility for the service, the men, as a rule, seek more active co-operation elsewhere, and the country club becomes a strong rival of the church.

"It is a frequent subject of wonderment that when Quakers, with their complete absence of ritual, change their church affiliations, they usually join the Episcopalian Church. The same bond binds these two faiths very closely together: their democracy in worship, their stout insistence that the individual worshipper shall have a large part in the service."

We think there is in Prof. Foster's words something which is worthy of our attention. The church is, or should be, for all its members a place of co-operation—in worship and service. Officers and preachers cannot better fulfil their duty than by endeavoring to see that additions to the membership become additions to the working force. He who can devise improved means of accomplishing this will be a benefactor.

The True Picture.

Something was wrong. I saw a placid lake,
Tall trees reflected, and a curving shore.
A puzzling picture! For I could not make
It seem like *real*, and so I looked no more.
A friend came in and took it from my hand.
"Why do you hold the canvas upside down—
This lovely painting of a sunlit land
Where strife and sorrow seem to be unknown?"
Ah! now I saw the artist's meaning plain!
The hills and tree-tops sought to reach the sky.
The birds soared upward purer song to gain.
The water mirrored Heaven's blue loving eye.
So life, viewed rightly (joy illuming duty!),
Will be a picture full of wondrous beauty.

—Marion Buchanan.

Sow love, and taste its fruitage pure;
Sow peace, and reap its harvest bright;
Sow sunbeams on the rock and moor,
And find a harvest-home of light.

—H. Bonar.

An Apostolic Church.

A. W. Connor.

Acts 20: 7.—"And on the first day of the week (the Lord's day), when the disciples (the Lord's people) came together to break bread (the Lord's table), Paul preached (the Lord's word) unto them."

1. *The Lord's people.* "Disciples." They are disciples, learners, followers. They have been baptised (Matt. 28: 19, 20). They are to learn how he loved, lived, died, and are pledged to follow him and bring others into discipleship.

2. *The Lord's day.* The first day of the week. Rev. 1: 10. Not the Sabbath, but the resurrection day. The Lord's day, not our own. His, given to us to use for him. Rest, worship, service. Discipleship needs these.

3. *The Lord's table.* The breaking of bread. Cp. Acts 2: 42. In the church is a table. "Received of the Lord." "Do this," said Jesus. Central in the church's worship. A commemoration of a Lord who died. A

communion with a Lord who lives. A covenant renewed which was sealed with blood. Neglect not, but use reverently, lovingly, continuously.

4. *The Lord's word.* Paul preached. "All things I have commanded." The table has as its constant companion the desk, and on that desk is the Book of God. The person behind the desk must give out God's message. The desk without the table tends to glorying in a sermon or in a sermoniser. The table without the desk might tend to superstition and a false "sacramentarianism." The two together—the desk and the table—the book and the bread—each meet a need of the soul. By both are we nourished and built up. The *word* read and obeyed, the *table* faithfully attended, the *day* worshipfully observed, will mean a discipleship that is worth while. Neglect these things and we become unworthy of the name which is the most beautiful and suggestive—disciple of Christ.

How to Know the New Testament Church.

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.—Paul.

1. Compare creed with that received by first Christians. Then, simply, "I believe that Christ Jesus is the Son of God" (Matt. 16: 16; Acts 8: 37).

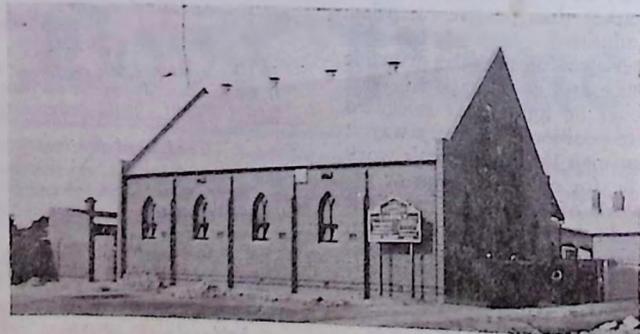
2. Compare name with name acknowledged by first Christians. Then disciples, saints, household of God (Acts 11: 26; 26: 28; 1 Peter 4: 16; Phil. 1: 1; Eph. 3: 19).

3. Compare church government with that of first Christians. Then elders, deacons, pastors and evangelists (Acts 14: 23; 1 Tim. 3: 8; Eph. 4: 11).

4. Compare ordinances with those practised by first Christians. Then two—baptism and Lord's Supper (Acts 2: 38; Rom. 6: 4, 5; Acts 2: 42; 1 Cor. 11: 23-27).

5. Compare method of receiving members and withdrawing with that of first Christians. Receiving members: (1) Confession of name of Jesus (Acts 8: 37; 2: 38); (2) baptism (Acts 2: 41; 10: 47, 48); withdrawing (2 Thess. 3: 6-15).

Wherever you find a body of people practising these things, there you find a church following the New Testament order.—"Christian Standard."



New Church Hall, Thornbury, Victoria.

Thornbury church was started 18 months ago. There are now over 100 members in the church. The school is growing rapidly, and has passed the century mark. H. Swain has rendered splendid service. In about three years' time the church hopes to erect a fine church building alongside the hall which was recently opened.

Walks With God.

No. II.—“The Christian’s Upward Look.”—Psalm 121: 1.

J. E. Shipway.

How beautiful are the hills! Jutland after jutland standing out in close juxtaposition, each vying with its mate for mastery.

The quietness of the murmuring streamlet in which the ear seems to catch the cadence of the mother’s lullaby, when at eventide she is hushing her restive child to sleep. Fernery after fernery, and bower after bower, in close contiguity with each other, touched only in their majestic culture by the Divine hand. Down in the valley the rolling of the thunder, the patter of the rain-drops, the electric flash of the lightning. Up on the hills above the storm; the exhilarating sunshine. And like a monastery of a secret forest, what are the high walls of this apparently palatial residence? Ah! within those walls are the sufferers of humanity, to whom medical science has said, “It is the medicine of the hills you need.” Ah! beautiful hills of God. How you stand up for mastery. How peaceful is the lullaby of your streams. How restful the greenery of your bowers. How exhilarating the congenial rays of your sun. How healing the medicine of your pure air. To the tired, the sorrowful, and the sick you call, “Lift up your eyes unto the hills from whence cometh your help.”

But, dear Christian, about the hills there is a deeper significance than this. There are the hills of God, to which our eyes must be turned, if the spiritual within us is to be kept strong in the fight of faith. Some of those necessary hills I will proceed to mention.

1. The Judean Hills.

On all the pages of literature there is not a more beautiful story than that of the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night, when, like a meteor’s flash,

“The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.”

Who they were we do not know, what their

number we cannot tell. But this we do know, that these unknown shepherds, keeping sleepless vigil through the long hours of the night, were out on the Judean hills in the line of duty. That very night God drew aside the portieres of his silence and revealed the fulfilment of the age long awaited promise, “A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”—Who shall deliver us? From the Judean hills we get the angelic answer, “A Saviour, Christ the Lord.” From the Judean hills we look onward and our eyes rest on

2. Calvary.

What a contrast! Firstly, a living, beautiful child, worshipped and adored. Secondly, “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief,” crucified as a malefactor, ridiculed as a blasphemer. But wisdom is justified of her children! And even from under the cross there comes a song—

“Man of sorrows, what a name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim;
Hallelujah! what a Saviour.”

Does Satan tempt you and tell you you’ll never get to heaven? Lift your eyes to Calvary, and see his defeat written there.

Are you growing cold in service? Have you lost your first love? Lift your eyes to Calvary, and hear his agonising cry. Mark his wounds, and let your heart be filled with love. Have you lost your heart-song because of some great sorrow that has overwhelmed you? Listen!

“There is life for a look at the Crucified One,
There is life at this moment for thee.”
“Look, look, look, and live.”

Calvary, my dear Christian, is not so much a tragedy as it is a victory.

Still onward, with an upward look we gaze until our eyes rest on yet another of the hills of God. It is

3. Olivet.

How many precious hours did Jesus spend on Olivet with his disciples? Her slopes could almost whisper to us some of his nightly prayers. His Olivet discourses are among his best. But of Olivet I wish to speak in another connection. From this hill of Olivet came the grandest promise of hope ever given to the Christian. “This same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.” What a beautiful promise! Do we believe it? Shall he find us watching for him, working for him, “occupying till he come”? If so we shall hear him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

“O blessed Hope, with this elate,
Let not our souls be desolate,
But calm in faith, in patience wait,
Until He come.”

And so, dear Christian, we look upward and climb the hills of God. On the Judean hills we hear the great story of a Saviour’s birth. At Calvary we see ourselves dead in him to all past sins. From Olivet we are anticipating that glorious day when he shall come and “we shall see him as he is.” And then, most glorious thought of all, we shall dwell with him for ever. What blessings come to us from the upward look to the hills!

“I to the hills will lift mine eyes,
From whence doth come mine aid;
My safety cometh from the Lord,
Who heaven and earth hath made.”

If Not, Why Not?

DO estate agents in your town attract tenants or buyers by advertising the number of pubs in the neighborhood? If not, why not?

DO dwelling-houses in your town let most readily and command highest rents when next door to a pub? If not, why not?

DO your shopkeepers find their business helped by the proximity of pubs, and prefer shops next door to them on that account? If not, why not?

DO the butcher and grocer find that the more numerous the pubs the better their business and safer their debts? If not, why not?

DO you show the pubs to visitors with pride, and boast of the good they do to your town? If not, why not?

DO your friends tell you that the more pubs there are the more happy homes, and well-fed and well-clothed children? If not, why not?

DO wives whose husbands frequent pubs rejoice because this transforms their homes into places of light and happiness? If not, why not?

DO mothers joy in finding that spending their wages in pubs turns idle and careless lads into noble and dutiful sons? If not, why not?

Think it over.



New Building, Shepparton, Victoria.

A change of location and a fine new chapel make prospects of work at Shepparton exceedingly bright. D. Stewart will succeed C. L. Lang as preacher in this important centre.

South Australian Building Extension.

Church and Sunday School Building Extension Fund
Annual Offering, Lord's Day, May 6th, 1923.

The Need of a Proper Basis for New Buildings.

G. D. Wright.

The Church Extension Building Fund was established in South Australia in the year 1907. Loans of several thousands were advanced free of interest by a few brethren, and owing to their foresight and generosity, splendid work has been accomplished in the erection of church and Sunday School buildings, but the date for these loans has expired, and the necessity of meeting our obligations has to a large extent depleted the fund, and for some time the Church Extension Committee have been unable to respond to many of the appeals made for assistance to erect new church buildings.

The annual offering taken up throughout the State has generally met with a feeble response, probably because the average church member is not fully seized with the importance of the fund, but the time has arrived when the whole question must be put on a higher plane, and given more prominence in the activities of our church work.

Whilst loans are always acceptable, the secret of a successful and permanent fund is in the contribution of gifts in which the whole brotherhood participate and have an interest.

A loan has to be repaid some time, and to that extent depletes the fund, but a gift is continually growing, and its usefulness never ceases. The interest it earns from one church goes to assist another.

On every hand we notice the expansion and development of our State. The indications are that the future will show a rapid increase in population and consequently increased opportunities and growing responsibilities for establishing churches in new and flourishing districts.

The whole of our Home Mission work is bound up in the matter of providing accommodation for newly-formed churches.

Does not the question of the housing of our churches warrant the keenest interest of every church member? Are we content to allow some of our churches to suffer the inconvenience of meeting in lodge rooms and unsuitable buildings, because there is no fund available to help financially?

The Sunday School Union, realising the importance of the appeal, have given up their annual Sunday School day for this year, and have joined forces in seeking to make this first Sunday in May a memorable one in the history of the brotherhood.

Our Home Mission work cannot be aggressively carried on without making provision for the extension of new buildings. Surely the Lord's work demands the best we can give.

At the 1921 State Conference the motion to establish a capital fund of £5000 was unanimously carried, and since that time about £1000 has been privately contributed by generous donors.

On Sunday, May 6, an effort will be made to reach every church member in South Australia, and each church is urged to do its utmost in the attempt to raise the remaining £4000.

The Committee urge the pressing need of a big united effort, and confidently appeal to church members to give the matter their prayerful consideration, feeling that the claims of this fund will commend it as a thoroughly sound proposition.

The reply to this appeal will have a vital effect on the progress of our work in this State. You are asked to make a worthy contribution, and so enable the Committee to meet the many calls that are being made for assistance.

The Best Results from a Business Point of View.

T. H. Brooker.

At the recent Methodist Conference held in Adelaide, a speaker, on the position of the church to-day said, "We must evangelise or fossilise." This is a statement that all can agree to.

Members of the Church of Christ may feel a certain amount of satisfaction at the position—as stated in the recently published statistics—held by our people. There is some danger in being too satisfied; we may be content to hold on, rather than engage in a progressive evangelism. The past two decades have been prolific of much enterprise. Home and Foreign Missions have advanced with great strides. Bible School, Endeavor Societies, etc., have been of a progressive nature. Bible College, Girls' Collegiate School, church buildings erected in a day, Aged Ministers' Fund, Boys' Homes, benefactions many. Labor and material given for the causes pushing out into suburbs, country towns, and the back blocks with a message of Christ's gospel. Homes lent for church and Sunday School purposes. Christian hospitality everywhere—not neglecting the question of social problems fighting for the right.

If we are going for the best results in future

progress, and we are, it is well to look at the systems that are being tried how best to further the glad evangel. Our Home Mission enterprise is perhaps foremost in our effort to evangelise. All honor to the faithful ones who have taken a wider vision than their own, and have sent out the word into all parts of the State. Allied with this work in splendid co-operation is the activity of the Church and Sunday School Building Extension work. Practically started in 1907—from a suggestion made at Conference by Bro. R. S. Caldicott—it has grown in its operations until the present time. Something like seventeen church and school buildings have been helped by this fund. And whilst at the present progress is somewhat slow owing to the repayment of loans to those who loaned money free of interest—still, the good work goes on.

The recent inclusion of Sunday School buildings in the ambit of operations is working successfully. There are many of our brethren who, recognising the importance of our work among the young, contribute money, labor, and materials freely, so that the children may have a home.

Looking at it from the start until to-day, I have no hesitation that this fund has proved itself to be a line of the King's business that has shown some of the best results; and in the future of our evangel should play an important part. The efforts of the Committee to obtain a base of solid capital is worthy of our best support, and it is to be sincerely hoped that the appeal on Sunday, May 6, will result in a splendid response. It is interesting to follow the investment of a sovereign in 1907. It has not been wrapped up in a napkin buried deep, to be dulled, stagnant, and tarnished. In its activity it has travelled to Barmera, Berri, Winkie, Broken Hill, Railwaytown,



Meeting-place of Church at Gawler, S.A.

This building is the Foresters' Hall, Murray-st., Gawler. The church have met in this place for more than three years. It is about the best available building, but inadequate for church needs. The walls are adorned with many pictures of lodge dances. Every Sunday morning the room has to be swept out and thoroughly ventilated before service can be held. This is no easy task. No meetings are held during week-nights, as the building is usually engaged, thus the work of our brethren is hampered. A chapel is an urgent necessity. The Building Extension Committee have purchased for £250 a splendid block of land. We wish during this year to erect a church building on this site. Gawler is a good-sized country town, only twenty-five miles from Adelaide. Will you, dear reader, help make it possible—by your offering on May 6—to proceed with the erection of a building for church and Sunday School purposes at Gawler?

Croydon, Forestville, Mile End, Maylands, Semaphore, Moonta, Mt. Compass, Murray Bridge, Tumbly Bay, St. Morris, and is now getting ready for Gawler, Plympton South, and Cobdogla. It

is still as bright as ever and ready for the Master's business. Unlike the mark, it never depreciates, and is always and ever a mark of appreciation in the bank of best results.

worth, and Hibburt. The combined choir, under the leadership of Bro. H. Wright, rendered some fine anthems.

Election of Officers.

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Bro. S. H. Mudge; Vice-President, Bro. Thos. Hagger; Treasurer, Bro. Hy. Wright; Secretary, Bro. W. R. Hibburt; Assistant Secretary, Bro. R. W. Ewers.

Home Mission Committee.—Bren. Berry, Clay, Buckingham, Wilson, Rodier, Marsden, Bell.

Foreign Mission Committee.—Bren. Evan, Nelson, Verco, Leece, Stirling, Cameron, Quon, W. H. Clay, Secretary; Thos. Hagger, Treasurer.

Social Questions' Committee.—Bren. Clay, Whitford, Bell. President, Thos. Hagger; Secretary, T. Marsden; Treasurer, D. M. Wilson.

Literature Committee.—Bren. Marsden, Nelson; Secretary, D. M. Wilson.

Church Building Extension Committee.—Bren. Wright, Anderson, Hagger, Evan; Secretary, W. R. Hibburt.

Bible Schools and Young People's Committee.—Bren. Ewers, Kent, Wolfenden, Cameron, Hibburt, Stirling; Sisters Wilson, Robinson; President, F. E. Buckingham; Secretary, F. D. Pollard.

Church Council.—Bren. Hagger, R. W. Ewers, Wilson, Mudge, Hibburt.

Auditors.—Bren. Robbins, Walsh.

Isolated Correspondent.—Bro. W. R. Hibburt.

Compiler and Reader of Obituary.—Bro. A. Lucraft.

Nomination Committee.—Bren. Wilson, Hagger, Clay, Mudge, Stirling.

Resolution Committee.—Bren. Lucraft, Clay, Evan, Mudge.

Resolutions.

That this Conference expresses its pleasure at the suggestion of the last Federal Conference, that the Federal Conference of 1926 be held in Perth, and urges upon the brethren in the East the importance of this being done. Further, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Federal Executive in Sydney.

Conference expresses the great joy it has felt through the presence of Bro. and Sister Illingworth, whose former labors in Western Australia have bound them to us with cords of love; in the presence and help of the Federal Foreign Mission representative, G. T. Walden, and the presence and help of the interstate visitors, Bro. and Sister T. J. Gard, Bro. and Sister Train, Bro. and Sister Morrow, Sister Cottle, Bro. W. Manning.

The Conference is appreciative of the great service rendered the church by the "Australian Christian." It recommends the paper to all members, and suggests an effort be made in the churches of the association to increase the number of the subscribers.

That this Conference sends greetings to the Western Australian students at Glen Iris. 2 Tim. 2: 15.

That this Conference of Churches of Christ in Western Australia expresses disappointment at the outcome of the Royal Commission on the Drink Traffic, as expressed in the recent amendments to the Licensing Bill: it is particularly indignant because of the withdrawal of the local option provisions, and the institution of a State option, or, in our opinion, impossible terms. The Conference pledges itself to strive to secure at the next State elections the return of those who will stand for a democratic basis upon which this question may be submitted to the people.

This Conference of Churches expresses its deep satisfaction at the action which was taken by the ex-Colonial Secretary in regard to the suppression of certain gambling instruments which were in use at the time of holding the last Conference. It believes that there is a special need in the interests of the morals of the community for laws which would make illegal the solicitation of money for art unions, especially those that are for purely money-making purposes.

This Conference records its disapproval of the use of the Lord's day for the purpose of amusements. It expresses regret that the Fremantle Tramway Board employees' picnic was held; that

The Church and Sunday School Building Extension Fund is the key to the activities of the brotherhood at home and abroad. Expansion in Home Mission enterprise depends upon our ability to erect chapels and school halls in new fields. Foreign Mission work will be hampered unless we strengthen the home base. We are losing scores of children who could be gathered into the Sunday School in many places if we had schoolrooms in which young people could meet. Land should be procured in promising districts whilst at reasonable rates; many sites will be more than double the price in a few years. We need buildings now at Gawler, Plympton South, and Cobdogla. The River Murray districts and the rapidly growing and extending suburbs of Adelaide are a challenge to us. For this reason every disciple of Jesus should have some part in the offering of May 6. Let us do the utmost for a worthy response.—H. J. Horsell.

Western Australian Conference.

The 26th annual Conference of the churches in Western Australia has been celebrated as a semi-jubilee, and made special because of the completion of twenty-five years of organised work.

The first meeting was on Monday evening, and given over to prayer, song and fellowship. There was a fine spirit throughout which characterised the whole Conference gatherings. The preachers sang choruses of a devotional nature. Many brethren led in prayers on behalf of the officers of Conference, the Conference gatherings, the spiritual life of the churches, the plea we urge, Home and Foreign Missions, our young people, the aged and infirm, and the scattered and isolated brethren.

A fine devotional talk was given by Bro. Walden upon the words, "My all is on His Altar." The meeting closed with family worship, and the singing of "Abide with Me."

Two churches, the Chinese church and West Subiaco, were admitted into the Association.

Greetings were received from the Federal Executive, the Federal Foreign Mission Committee, New Zealand Committee, Queensland H.M. Committee, Victorian H.M. Committee, Tasmanian H.M. Committee, New South Wales H.M. Committee, South Australian H.M. Committee, and Foreign Mission Committee of Victoria, and from individual brethren.

The following interstate visitors were welcomed:—Bro. and Sister Illingworth, Vic.; Bro. and Sister Gard, S.A.; Bro. and Sister Morrow, S.A.; Bro. Manning, S.A.; Bro. and Sister Train, S.A.; Bro. Green, N.S.W.; Bro. Walden, S.A. Two new preachers to the State were also welcomed in the persons of Bren. Hagger and Wakefield.

Responses were made by Bren. Illingworth, Morrow, Gard, Green, Manning, Hagger, Train and Wakefield.

Executive and Home Missionary.

The membership stands at 1890. An increase of 38. Revision of rolls accounts for the small increase. The Sunday Schools show a total of 1927 scholars and 258 teachers. This is an increase of 218 scholars and 32 teachers.

The total receipts for the year have been £1221 3/4, the expenditure £1383/5/3. The year closed has been a record year both as to income and expenditure. The annual H.M. offering included in the above was £380/12/10. During Friday and Saturday offerings in cash and promises were made to the extent of £200, thus clearing the debt when the amount comes in.

A spiritual drive was held during the year through the country churches, and proved a great help to them. Bren. Cameron, Hagger, Leece, Mudge and Stirling rendered excellent service at Brookton, Collie, Harvey, Bunbury, and Northam. Over 30 were won for the Master.

The assisted churches during the year have been Kalgoorlie, Claremont, Cottesloe and Bun-

bury. Those subsidised were Maylands, North Perth, Northam and West Subiaco.

The "Christian Evangelist," our monthly paper, has been increased in size during the year. Expressions as to the help it gave were made in Conference. Bro. Hibburt is the editor, and is assisted by Bren. Hagger, Mudge and Pollard.



S. H. Mudge, Newly-elected W.A. Conference President.

The obituary notices were read by Bro. A. Lucraft.

During the Friday afternoon addresses were given by the Home Mission workers, Bren. Buckingham, Hughes, Leece, Stirling, Wakefield, Hibburt and Banks.

A deputation consisting of Mr. Thrum and Mr. Legge was received from the Council of Churches, expressing feelings of brotherliness. During the year our representatives have served again on the Council, of which Bro. Hagger has occupied the position of president.

A Distinctive Teaching Campaign has been prepared by the Home Mission Committee, to take place during April. Every church will take part, when five week-night studies will be given and four Sunday evening addresses on similar subjects be delivered.

At the Home Mission Demonstration on Friday evening the new President, Bro. Mudge, was introduced. Although only resident in Western Australia for a short time, the new president has won the affection of the brotherhood, and was unanimously elected to the presidential position. Addresses were given by Bren. Wilson, Illing-

Government permits the screening of pictures; and that the Railway authorities provide excursions upon that day.

Conference extends greetings to the brethren and sisters recently removed to Geraldton. It specially records its sense of loss of the services of Bro. Payne, and hopes next Conference will welcome delegates from the Church of Christ in Geraldton.

This 26th Conference of the Churches of Christ in Western Australia extends felicitations to Bro. D. M. Wilson, retiring President, upon the completion of 25 years' continuous service on the Executive Committee, and the completion of a third period as President of Conference.

Conference records its deep sense of gratefulness to the sisters for their self-sacrificing work in providing the sumptuous meals, and to all who have assisted in any of the many ways in which the members and delegates have been so well and faithfully served.

Conference is appreciative of the publicity given to its proceedings by the press.

That the Conference of Churches of Christ in Western Australia sends its greetings to the Foreign Missionaries, and assures them of our love, prayers, and practical sympathy, in their hard and often lonely experiences, and sends Conference reports.

That this Conference of the Churches of Christ in Western Australia requests the Federal Foreign Mission Committee to prepare a number of honor rolls of a durable and elaborate nature, which will bear the names of Church of Christ missionaries, and that each State shall be presented with one which shall be on view in a place that shall be decided upon by such State.

That Conference endorses the proposal of the Bible Schools Committee to purchase land at Inglewood, and wishes them every success.

That this Conference of Churches of Christ in Western Australia views with regret the divided state of the Prohibition forces in this State. Further, this Conference is of the opinion that until such time as the forces are united, effort in the direction of Prohibition is practically futile.

Further, believing that a basis acceptable to all exists, this Conference appoints three of its members to endeavor to effect an amalgamation. (Bren. Buckingham, Clay and Hagger were appointed.)

Foreign Missionary.

The report contained an account of our Australasian work towards which Western Australia is an enthusiastic contributor, and spoke also of the work amongst the Chinese in Perth. The mission in Perth has just organised itself into a church, and become associated with the others in Western Australia this year. Bren. Whitford and Wesley Alexander have rendered splendid service during the year.

The annual appeal constituted a record, £263 6/7 being raised. A "Foreign Mission Special" distributed freely during the month of June contributed largely to this success.

During the year incoming and outgoing missionaries have been met and feted from time to time, and the Federal Committee has thanked this Committee for its unique hospitality.

The Foreign Mission Demonstration held in the evening was a success. Mr. Evan, chairman of the Committee, led in prayer. The Scripture was read by a Chinese scholar, after which the Chinese Sunday School children rendered a chorus in their own language. Choir pieces were presented by the combined choir, and addresses by Bren. Morrow and Walden completed an enthusiastic programme.

Bible Schools.

This Committee has been active during the year. Its finances have been good in comparison with former years, rising from nothing in 1912, to a cost of about £15 per year at present.

An annual shilling fund has been instituted, and also a levy made on each school per week towards extension work—3d. on those under fifty scholars, and 6d. over that number.

An increase and attendance campaign brought a number of new scholars, Bunbury heading the list and gaining the shield.

It has been an active year in Christian Endeavor work, a much-needed revival commencing.

In the Bible Schools Demonstration items were presented by various Sunday Schools; the shield was presented to Bunbury, and an address by Bro. Illingworth completed the evening.

The Young People's Demonstration presented a splendid programme of items from the various churches. Prominent on the programme was a prepared speech competition, when seven young men and two young ladies gave six-minute talks on one of the following subjects:—"Ambition," "Faithfulness," "The Development of Western Australia." Bren. Walden and Morrow acted as judges and gave the prize to Miss Turvey, B.A., of Subiaco.

Church Building Extension.

Advances have been made during the year to two churches—Bassendean, £300; Claremont, £100. A total amount of £1336/9/9 has now been advanced by this fund to churches.

President's Reception.

By invitation, the Conference President, Bro. D. M. Wilson, met many of the prominent workers of the State, and interstate visitors, at a sumptuous banquet on the Thursday evening of Conference. In his remarks he mentioned the facts that this Conference was special because it was our semi-jubilee, because Bro. A. E. Illingworth was present, and also many other interstate visitors. He was supported in his remarks by Bren. Albany Bell and A. Lucraft.

Bro. Hibbert in speaking said he wished to interpret the efforts of the past for the benefit of the present generation.

Bro. Illingworth, speaking in reply to his welcome, recalled many things of the past when the churches first began. He remembered Lake-st. with only 11 members; there are now 242. Bro. Illingworth was the first Secretary of the Western Australian Conference.

Bren. Morrow, Walden, Manning and Gard also spoke.

Solos were contributed by Bren. Wright and Berry, and Sister Cosh.

Reminiscences.

The following facts were recalled to mind during the Conference picnic at an hour's old-time gathering.

Births of Some Churches:—1891, Lake-st.; 1893, Fremantle; 1895, Coolgardie; 1898, Harvey, Kalgoorlie, Subiaco, Boulder, Kanowna, Southern Cross, Chinese Mission.

There have been 291 Home Mission Committee meetings in this State. Bro. Wilson has attended 278, Bro. Wright 230, Bro. R. W. Ewers 183, Bro. A. Bell 165, Bro. Banks 149, Bro. Payne 144, Bro. Berry 127.

There have been on the Committee altogether 64 members, 50 of whom are still living, 26 of which were present at Conference.

Members of the first Home Mission Committee who were present at this Conference were Bren. A. Bell, Illingworth, Lucraft, Wilson.

The following contrasts are interesting:—1898-9, The Home Mission offering for the year was £211/17/3; the Foreign Mission offering, nil; the membership, 336.

1922-3, the Home Mission offering for the year, £1221/3/4; the Foreign Mission offering, £719 11/1; the membership, 1890.

Conference picnic was held on the Monday, when about 1000 people were present. Of this number about 600 were young people. Games and competitions were indulged in.

Prominent amongst those assisting with Conference music was Mrs. D. M. Wilson, who was continually at the piano, assisting greatly the Conference singing; others contributing by song were Bren. Wright, Berry, Clay, Gard, and Sisters Cosh and Pollard.

C. P. Hughes.

An Appreciation.

It has been a joy which cannot be expressed in words for me to revisit W.A. after my absence of twenty years. The fellowship once more with brethren and sisters whom I have known and loved in other days has been very delightful. The "Trans" train is worthy of all praise. The trip overland is interesting. Our party included Bro. and Sister W. Morrow, Bro. and Sister A. Gard and my wife. We were treated most kindly by the friends at Kalgoorlie *en route*. Their hospitality was a sweet foretaste of the joys to come. Our arrival at the Perth station on the Sunday morning was a thrilling and happy moment. A large number of brethren, including Bro. G. T. Walden, greeted us.

Perth has made remarkable progress. Marked improvement is noticeable on every hand. Flourishing suburbs, well supplied with up-to-date electric trams, light, and other conveniences, have sprung up all around the old city, where formerly I remembered only the bush. The natural beauty of Perth and its surroundings has been made more apparent by roads and boulevards along the river and seashore. Fremantle has thus become a charming gateway by which to enter the great Commonwealth of Australia. Oversea passengers from Great Britain, Europe and the East must be impressed with the beauty of the district around the Swan River. The hills in the immediate background are studded with splendid vineyards, apple orchards, poultry farms, and country residences. If normal times continue, and the peace of the world is maintained, there is a great future for this State.

The churches, too, have made considerable progress. They are led by a young, virile, enthusiastic and consecrated band of preachers and speaking brethren, and capable business men. The problems are difficult, as this is a State of vast dimensions. The churches are facing the question of Home Mission evangelism in a courageous and manly fashion.

It is hard work to reach the settlers in the scattered country districts. They are pursuing a determined policy, however, and will succeed.

The Conference was a good one. A fine series of meetings with excellent programmes was arranged by Bro. W. R. Hibbert, the efficient, whole-souled Organising Secretary, and the wise oversight of the President, Bro. D. M. Wilson, was in evidence throughout.

The brethren entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the occasion. The result was, I think, a great blessing to one and all. The kindness and hospitality of the brethren have been lavish in the extreme, and the president's reception of over 100 representative brethren and sisters from city, country, and interstate districts, was a grand climax to the whole social round of festive gatherings.

A resolution was carried at Conference, expressive of an eager desire for a Federal Conference to be held in Perth. If this can be arranged it will give a still greater uplift to our cause. The papers give splendid reports of the proceedings. A great treat, too, is in store for the Eastern delegation when they come to the "Golden West." The hearts of these good brethren are full of love for the restoration of New Testament Christianity. They are conducting now a special teaching campaign, which is worthy of imitation.

Visitors have always received a warm Christian welcome from these good friends. We return to our labors in the East greatly refreshed. This fellowship with faithful disciples of Jesus Christ has proved once again the reality of the sacred tie that binds the hearts of true Christians to one another and to God.

A sacred task is committed to the Churches of Christ in Australia. We have a message for our times; let us faithfully preach and teach it in all sincerity and earnestness. There never were so many opportunities as there are to-day. Now, as always, the world belongs to those who have the courage, and the sense, and the moral strength, to assume the responsibilities of leadership.

A. E. Illingworth.

The Realm of the Bible School.

Conducted by W. B. Blakemore, B.A.

On Choosing a Superintendent.

(Marion Lawrence Answers.)

Idaho.—We are soon to lose our good superintendent of the Sunday School, a fine, earnest Christian young man who is the principal of the public schools. There is no one at all equal to him to take his place. I wonder what Marion Lawrence would do in a case like this? How would he go about to develop a superintendent, as the bees develop a queen out of the ordinary workers?—I.B.S.

While the circumstances mentioned in the above question give occasion for considerable anxiety and concern, nevertheless they may be the opening gateway for the development of a new superintendent who will surpass the former one. If not, the opportunity will be afforded certainly to develop new leadership, and this is always desirable.

It is evident that the new superintendent should come from among the adult workers or older young people of the school. It would seem to me wise that the pastor and teachers of the school should call together the members of those classes which apparently have available material in them for leadership. The first thing would be to have a season of earnest prayer for God's guidance in the matter. It would not be wise, in my judgment, to select any particular person permanently without a trial.

Suppose for a few Sundays a young men's class, composed of members from twenty-one to thirty-five, should be given the responsibility of superintending the Sunday School for one Sunday, or possibly for the Sundays of a month, this class, in conference with the pastor and perhaps a committee chosen from the teachers, to select one of their own number to be the superintendent on a given Sunday. The prayer that precedes and the good judgment that will follow will no doubt lead to the best available person for this place. If that person is not secured the first time, he may be later.

In introducing a new person to this position, several things should be taken into account. First, is he likely to remain in the neighborhood, so that he can enter upon a continued service if he proves available? Has he the proper character behind him, and this, indeed, is the first question. Has he developed anything that looks like leadership in his business or everyday affairs? It is better to take time than to make a mistake, but there is no doubt in my mind that in a school of this kind there is a leader that will develop into a good superintendent.

It should be borne in mind that the best superintendent can be ruined by fault-finding and lack of co-operation. Do not expect the new superintendent to do things just as the former one did. Remember he is new, and that he realises he is under keen and critical observation, and consequently will be somewhat embarrassed. Stand by him, and help him in every way.

It may be that a number of different persons can be tried in the same manner, all of them taking the place with the understanding that they are temporarily appointed, and that the final choice will come six months or a year later. However, if you can find the one upon whom all can agree, the sooner the permanent choice is made, the better. Above all things, do not allow yourselves to believe that there is no leader among you. Wherever God has a task to perform, he has a leader somewhere near by, perhaps in ambush, who will fill the place so that the work will not suffer. I am sure that is true in this instance.—"Sunday School Times."

A Progressive Programme.

The Queensland Bible School Union Committee is planning a Progressive Campaign for the year. Our aim is to raise £100 for Bible School work.

We are going to work very hard with this object in view, and feel sure that our faith and works will accomplish much.

We intend holding an Increase and Attendance Competition among our schools for a period of three months—June, July and August.

We are also forming plans to raise sufficient money to secure a block of land in a suitable suburb of Brisbane, for the purpose of establishing a new school. It is our intention to take part in the Federal Examination in July.

We pray that God will go with us in our forward move, and bless our efforts to extend the work among our young people.

Ruby Wendorf, Secretary Q.B.S.U.

Victoria's Aim.

1000 Nett Increase in Scholars.
750 Decisions for Christ.
£350 Annual Offering on May 6.

The Increase Campaign.

Last year the schools in Victoria enjoyed a nett increase of 438 scholars. The Bible School Department is suggesting that "1000 nett increase" be the aim for the present Conference year. The aim is not too high. It can be realised if every school in the State will work heartily for its accomplishment, and will adopt the motto, "Get and Hold."

A number of schools conducted successful increase campaigns during last year. If every school would plan and carry out such a campaign during this year, the aim could be easily attained. The Organiser of the B.S. and Y.P. Department will be glad to supply information and offer suggestions about conducting an increase campaign. The department is desirous of assisting schools in this matter, and is contemplating placing an order for a quantity of buttons for use in "aeroplane campaigns" with a view to furnishing these to schools at a minimum cost. Schools contemplating an increase campaign are advised to communicate with W. B. Blakemore, Organiser, 70 Power-st., Hawthorn.

J.C.E. Premiers.

For the second year in succession the Coburg Junior Christian Endeavor Society has carried off the competition which is being conducted by our C.E. Council in Victoria. The competition was very keen. South Yarra and Bendigo tied for second place. Marks are given for new members, average attendance, and work done. All three societies mentioned received the maximum number of marks for work done, but Coburg forged ahead on average attendance. We congratulate the premiers, also South Yarra and Bendigo, for their splendid work.

Stopping the Leak.

One thousand nett increase in our schools this year! It can be done. But we shall have to give attention to holding as well as to getting. Last year there was a loss in the schools which represented 54 per cent. of the total (956) number of new scholars gained. If we lose this year at the same rate, we shall have to gain 2000 new scholars to get the 1000 nett increase.

The big loss is in the middle teen age. *We must work to reduce that percentage loss.* One of the most effective means of stopping that leakage will be to have live and vigorous young men's and young women's classes in every school. If the adolescent boy and girl see ahead of them fine

groups of young men and young women they will not be so ready to break away from Bible School when they turn fourteen. Already there are several Victorian schools that have splendid young people's Bible Classes. Let others fall into line until every school in the State will have a Bible Class closing up the breach through which so many teen-age boys and girls have been leaving the school.

A Rich Investment.

The Victorian Bible School and Young People's Department is asking the 100 churches and schools of the State to invest £350 in the great work among the young people. Surely our 10,000 members will not find this amount a burden. Only £350 on May 6 for so worthy a cause!

West Moreton

Sisters' Annual Conference, Queensland.

The annual Sisters' Conference of the West Moreton Churches of Christ was held at Rosewood chapel on March 16. The devotional service was led by Mrs. Wendorf. Roll-call was responded to by the various churches. The President, Mrs. Primus, welcomed delegates and friends, also giving her address from 1 Cor. 3: 9, "We are laborers with God." Minutes, correspondence, and reports were read. The sisters' penny-a-week from the four churches, Marburg, Rosewood, Mt. Walker and Rosevale, amounted to £15/1/-.

Officers elected: President, Mrs. F. Primus; Vice-President, Mrs. W. Domrow; Secretary, Miss A. Zahl; Treasurer, Mrs. H. Berlin.

The representative for Foreign Missions, Mrs. Bade, is to send on the £6 collected for the keep of an orphan. The penny-a-week collectors appointed for the year were Mrs. J. Boettcher, Mrs. W. Mundt, Mrs. A. Hinrichsen, Miss A. Hinrichsen.

A splendid essay was read by Miss A. Hinrichsen on "The Way of the Lord." The President of the Brisbane Executive, Mrs. Wendorf, gave a splendid address on "The Seed Sown in Stony Ground."—A. Zahl, Secretary.

Victorian Women's Executive.

The usual monthly meeting was held on Friday, April 6, President, Mrs. Gill, presiding and leading devotional exercises. Thoughts were taken from Ephesians 4, "That ye walk worthy." Soloist, Mrs. Reg. Clark. We were pleased to welcome several sisters from the States. Mrs. Springer, of India, gave a very interesting missionary talk, and Mrs. B. J. Kemp brought echoes from Conference. Additions from Bible Schools: Surrey Hills, 2; North Fitzroy, 1; South Melbourne, 1; Lygon-st., 2; Coburg, 1; South Yarra, 2. Afternoon tea was served.

The syllabus for 1923-24 reads thus:—
May, Mrs. P. D. McCallum, devotions; Mrs. Kefford, a paper, "Work Amongst the Girls."
June, Mrs. Reg. Clark, devotions; address, Mr. Les. McCallum.
July, Mrs. B. J. Kemp, devotions; address, Miss Blake.
August, Mrs. Abercrombie, devotions; paper by Mrs. Leitch.
September, Mrs. H. Robbins, devotions; address, Mrs. Scambler.
October, College Girls, address by a Student.
November, Mrs. Flood, devotions; social afternoon.
December, Mrs. S. Wilson, devotions; hospital experiences.
February, Mrs. F. Lee, devotions; address, Mr. A. Eaton.
March 7, Conference Business.
Next Executive meeting will be held in the hall, Swanston-st., on Friday, May 4, at 2.30 p.m. All sisters most cordially invited.—Miss Rometch, Secretary, 240 Graham-st., Port Melbourne.

Foreign Missions.

Conducted by G. T. Walden, M.A.

Rosa Filmer.

The following letter will tell its own sad story:

Ambrim, New Hebrides,
March 12, 1923.

Dear Bro. Walden,—

Yesterday, at 4 p.m. our dear Rosa went home. She had not been well lately, and we decided that she should take the children up for a year's holiday. She was to have left by the boat due here this week. This was not to be. Last week she got a worse attack of fever than usual, and it developed into the remittent type. She could not perspire, and even when we compelled sweat with wet blankets, etc., it seemed to give no relief. On Saturday she seemed a little better, and was laughing at the silly things she had said in her delirium on Friday night. Saturday night her temperature rose again, and she was delirious until about noon yesterday, when she fell into a coma. I tried all in my power to induce perspiration, and at last I put her into the cold pack and brought her temperature down to 106 deg., but she soon ran up to 109.6 deg., when she gave a few gasps and passed away. We made a coffin and buried her under the mango trees. She was a good wife, and one of the best mothers that ever lived. With Christian love to all.

F. G. Filmer.

Rosa Filmer was our first woman missionary to the New Hebrides. She was little in stature, but she had a big heart and a deep spirituality. She could say truthfully, "My all is on His altar." "For her to live was Christ, and to die was gain." She loved her husband, her children, the Australian brotherhood, and the Kanakas, but she loved her Lord supremely.

She and Frank Filmer were educated at Hope Lodge in South Australia, and she had taken a nursing course in addition. They were married at Grosset, church, and the South Australian brotherhood presented the young couple as a bridal gift with the furniture for their new home. They came to Sydney and stayed at our house, and I helped Rosa to purchase the things for the home. I remember when we were buying the things that the money did not allow any margin for extras, and she asked me if I thought the money would be sufficient to buy a strip of carpet for the bedroom. I remember how this affected me. It seemed wonderfully pathetic that a young bride should be going to her home, and so careful in the spending of the brotherhood's money that she even hesitated at buying one strip of carpet. I wonder if there are many brides in Australia who, when buying the furnishings of their first home, wonder if it would be possible to have one strip of carpet for their best bedroom. Of course I assured her that the brotherhood would gladly pay for anything that she desired for her home, and the strip of carpet was bought. That little action was characteristic of Rosa Filmer. She carried self-denial to this extreme limit. On another occasion, when she came up on furlough with her two children, she was greatly broken in health, and looked very ill. Somebody carelessly remarked that it did not seem long since she had been up before, and she asked me if I thought she had done wrong to come up for her second furlough. She was very sensitive in anything that involved the spending of the brotherhood's money on herself.

What her husband said of her as a wife and mother will be endorsed by everyone who knew her. She was one who sat at her Saviour's feet like Mary of old, and chose the better part that it should not be taken from her. When it was found necessary for her to remove with Bro. Filmer to Ambrim, where he managed a plantation, she would gather the natives on the Sunday, and a little service would be held. She also had a Sunday School, and her little daughter Phyllis, the

eldest child, was one of the teachers, and it was a great joy to her that her daughter, though so young in years, knew so much of the Scriptures that she was able to teach the native children.

And now the tired body rests under the shade of the mango trees, and her grave will be a precious piece of ground to all who knew her. Perhaps no marble column will be her monument, but in the hearts of the Australian brotherhood, her own loved ones, and the Pentecost Christians—and heathen too—she has left a monument more abiding than marble. The hearts of our Australian brotherhood will turn in loving sympathy with Bro. Filmer, and earnest prayers will be offered for him and his five little motherless children.

Answers to Prayer.

"He shall call upon me, and I will answer him." But I have called, says one, and he has not answered. I called upon him when my little child was sick unto death, and spite my calling, the little white soul fluttered noiselessly into the great beyond. My friend, you call that tiny green mound in the churchyard God's silence. Some day you will call it God's answer. Our prayers are sometimes torn out of our hearts by the pain of the moment. God's answers come forth from the unerring quiet of eternity. "He shall call upon me." "He shall ask me to help him. but he does not know how he can be helped. He is hedged about by a thousand limitations of thought. His life is full of distortions. He cannot distinguish between a blessing and a curse. I cannot heed the dictations of his prayers, but I will answer him." This is the voice of him to whom the ravelled complexities of man's minds are simplicity itself; who dwells beyond the brief bewilderments and mistaken desirings and false ideals of men's hearts.

Oh, these divine answers! How they confuse us! It is their perfection that bewilders us; it is their completeness that carries them beyond our comprehension.—Percy Ainsworth.

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Here and There.

The church at Cessnock, N.S.W., will celebrate its first birthday on Sunday, April 29. Special services will be conducted by the Conference President, Bro. J. Whelan.

In the comment of R. K. Whately, B.A., on the New South Wales Conference which appeared in last issue an obvious error crept in. They were pertinent and not impertinent questions which delegates asked "in a polite way."

The Tasmanian Home Mission Committee congratulates the church at Geeveston upon the honor of being the first country church in the State to become self-supporting. Bro. J. Warren, the preacher, is happy in the attainment of this goal.

Bro. W. C. Morrow, M.L.C., has been serving the churches in Western Australia during his visit. He has visited not only several of the city churches, but also many of the inland centres, speaking at Harvey, Northam, and Kalgoorlie churches.

The Victorian Women's Conference Executive will hold their usual monthly meeting, in the hall, Swanston-st., Friday, May 4, at 2.30 prompt. Mrs. P. D. McCallum leads devotions, Mrs. Kefford will give a paper, "Work Amongst the Girls," which will be open for discussion. All sisters most cordially invited.

Bro. A. E. Illingworth has been visiting a number of the metropolitan churches in Western Australia since the Conference. His presence and messages have been a great uplift to the brethren. The brethren of the West feel that they belong to them because of past and present associations, and reluctantly let them return to the East.

Bro. T. Clements, whose golden wedding is announced in this issue, is one of the pioneers of the cause in Australia. He was baptised at 14 years of age by C. H. Spurgeon, in the Metropolitan Tabernacle, London, but at an early age came to Australia. He organised the church at Bayswater, Vic., and the building of the chapel. For six years he served as a councillor of the Fern Tree Gully Shire.

Amongst names of candidates upon whom degrees were conferred at Melbourne University Commencement on Saturday last, we note with pleasure the following:—Doctor of Medicine: Dr. J. H. Kelly; Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery: Mr. E. R. Killmer (in absentia); Master of Arts: Mr. H. J. Patterson; Bachelor of Arts—degree with Honors: Mr. A. L. Haddon (in absentia) and Mr. R. K. Whately.

The new church building at Chatswood, N.S.W., will be opened (D.V.) on May 6, at 11.5 a.m., by Sister Whelan. Dedication and communion service to follow. Special services will be held during the day. Bro. Thos. Bagley, of Victoria, will speak morning and evening, also Bro. A. L. Haddon, B.A., in the afternoon. On Monday, May 7, there will be a public meeting at 8 p.m. Bro. H. G. Harward, Federal President; Thos. Bagley, Victoria; and J. Whelan, Conference President, will be the speakers.

Complaints of late delivery of the "Christian" continue to reach us. All copies are lodged at the G.P.O., Melbourne, before noon each Thursday, and prestamped wrappers are used. As Eight Hours' Day in Victoria falls on Monday, and Anzac Day on Wednesday, a delay this week will be understood, but ordinarily the papers should leave Melbourne by the Thursday afternoon trains. The eagerness to receive the paper promptly is a sign of interest which is appreciated, and no effort is spared at the Austral to ensure prompt despatch.

Miss Ruby Wendorf, secretary of our Queensland Bible School Committee, writes as follows:—"The Queensland Bible School Union Committee regrets very much that Queensland will be unable to fall in line with the other States in taking up the annual offering for Bible School work on May 6. We received the intimation regarding Bible School Day too late to make the necessary arrangements, and wish to notify the Queensland churches that the annual offering will be taken up in August as hitherto."

The combined April Teaching and Preaching Campaign in Western Australia has been productive of much good. The large newspaper advertisements making known the Sunday evening topics in all the churches have created much worthy comment, and attracted attention to the question of the union of Christians and the basis of that unity. The "dailies" have contained reports of addresses by Bren. Clay, Hagger and Mudge.

Urgent appeals for help are being received by the Acting Federal Executive from Western Australia, Tasmania and Queensland. Splendid opportunities are presented for a forward movement in each of these States, which it is quite beyond the power of the State Committees to meet. The Executive, therefore, strongly appeals to Ropeholders to do their very best for the cause of Federal Evangelism, and urges churches and individuals throughout the Commonwealth to become immediately associated in membership with this organisation. For particulars concerning enrolment see standing advertisement in "Australian Christian."

The prize essay written by Oswald J. Goulter, and dealing with Prohibition in America, has been reprinted by the N.S.W. Temperance Committee. It will be remembered that Bro. Goulter was a member of the Colac church, and is now in China as a missionary. This essay was the successful one in the Dow essay contest for foreign students in American colleges recently conducted by the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, and in a very interesting and readable pamphlet conveys information concerning the truth about Prohibition. It can be obtained from the Committee at a cost of 3d. post free, with reductions for quantities. Write to A. J. Fisher, 321 Pitt-st., Sydney, for a copy. Only a limited number have been printed.

A very happy gathering was held in the Dawson-st., Ballarat, Vic., school hall on Saturday evening, April 21, when the church entertained Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Connor on the occasion of their silver wedding celebration. Friends and relatives were present from a distance, but the notable figure of those visiting was our honored veteran, Bro. G. B. Moysie, who had officiated at the marriage 25 years ago. He presided, and also greatly delighted us by a beautiful solo. Vocal and instrumental items, with short speeches, passed a pleasant hour. Bro. A. E. Bailey speaking for the church. After supper, Bro. Moysie proposed the sentiment, "The Happy Couple," and Miss Morris then presented them with a silver tea service. Both Bro. and Sister Connor replied in appreciation of the love and confidence so manifested by this large and unexpected gathering.

Through the generosity of Dr. E. Bardsley, the preachers, members of the Home Mission Committee, and interstate visitors to Conference, enjoyed an outing on Sydney Harbor on April 3. During the course of the day Bro. R. K. Whately gave a very interesting and helpful address. Opportunity was taken to extend a welcome to visitors. Bro. Whelan extended a welcome as President of Conference, Bro. Harward on behalf of the Federal Executive; Bro. Crawford, Home Mission Committee; Bro. Payne, Bible School Committee; and Bro. Davis on behalf of the preachers. Kindly acknowledgment of the words of welcome were made by Bren. Coventry, India; Whately, Surrey-Hills, Vic.; Scambler, Hawthorn, Vic.; and Haddon, Bible School Organiser. Bro. Campbell Edwards, who was also present, expressed pleasure at the happy fellowship enjoyed. The outing was a fine ending to a splendid Conference.

A. E. Illingworth, who was very closely connected with the work in Western Australia in its early days, and who was a special guest of the brethren at the recent Conference, gives in this issue his impressions of the Conference and of the work generally. W. J. Manning, one of the visitors from South Australia, whose presence helped to make the Conference a great success, also writes most appreciatively. He acknowledges the kind hospitality of the brethren generally, and his

special indebtedness to Bro. and Sister Hagger. The Conference meetings, he says, reached high-water mark. The unflinching kindness and excellent management of the President, Bro. D. M. Wilson, was greatly appreciated. The reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Wilson was a splendid success. "The sponsors of the cause here, Bro. Manning writes, 'deserve the greatest praise for their great sacrifice in the early days in establishing the cause and piloting it along through 25 years, and I feel sure that the next 25 years will reveal a great growth. May I say in closing that the Federal Executive will err very much in their judgment if they fail to make the meeting of the next Federal Conference in any other place but Perth. They are entitled to have that honor. I trust it will happen.'"

The Western Australian brethren assembled to give their usual enthusiastic missionary homecoming welcome to Sister Vera Blake on Thursday, April 19. Over 20 brethren were on the wharf in the early morning to greet her. It was more than a State welcome, for there were in the company Bren. W. C. Morrow, Vice-President of the Federal Foreign Mission Committee; A. E. Illingworth, Vice-President of the Victorian Conference; A. J. Gard, of South Australia, and Sisters Illingworth, Gard and Morrow. The party motored to the Lake-st. chapel, Perth, where morning tea was served, and a large company of brethren assembled to welcome our sister. The State Committee arranged for the Fremantle sisters to tender a luncheon, and again a large company assembled to honor the missionary. A large number attended the boat-side to say goodbye as the "Naldera" left in the evening. Bro. D. M. Wilson, E. R. Berry, and Albany Bell placed their cars at the disposal of the Committee. The spirit that prompted patriotic service in the days of the war is not lacking by Western brethren when opportunity comes to honor those who have served in the mission field.

Gilbert E. Chandler, in a private letter, writes in an interesting manner of his work at London, Ky., U.S.A. Australian friends will be glad to know of Bro. Chandler's good health. "We are comfortably settled," he says, "in a snug little parsonage among the best people that ever lived. They furnished my home, they filled the cupboards, they educate my children, they pay the doctor's and nurse's bills, and then say Isn't there something else? They are just great. They do love their preacher, and I tell you the preacher reciprocates. Just closed a meeting in the home church with 68 decisions in three weeks. Crowded out every night. This is only a small town, but there is a big work to be done in the county when once it is organised. This town is the county seat, and we hope to form a big circuit with London as the centre. Am glad to note good progress in the homeland. It pleased me greatly to see Balwyn Bible School had passed the 100 mark. I sincerely trust the churches will have a good year. A strange thing over here is that the people turn out so well in the morning. The Bible School is at 9.45 a.m. or 9.30 a.m. for the most part, but that doesn't deter. Children go to the graded school on week days at 8 a.m., so it is no hardship to go to Bible School at 9.30. Then the adults turn out as well as the children. The Bible School is looked on as of as much importance as the morning service, and the one meeting just runs into the other. Just recently we had 42 married women in one class, and 33 married men in another, while a young ladies' class had 35, our kindergarten 25, and our primary 30. So you see the Bible School holds them right to the end. The morning meeting is always well attended, but the evening service is neglected. They simply won't come. Automobile riding, I guess, in the afternoon is the trouble. An Australian would say that's a weakness, but perhaps it's not so bad as it at first appears. An Australian takes week-ends, the American Sunday afternoon. That wonderful concentration on the Bible School and morning meeting helps a lot, and a mission every year yields the converts that would come in the evening services. They have just a different viewpoint, and do their church-going all at once from 9.45 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Remember me kindly to Australian friends."

The Family Altar.

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"NO MAN CAN TAME THE TONGUE."

Such is the appalling declaration of James—a climax of a long catalogue of offences charged against this unruly member. It almost makes one shudder to be reminded of the tongue's stupendous power. A bridle in the mouth of a horse turns its body into the desired direction; an ocean liner is steered by a small rudder; a bush fire may be started by the flame of a match. So, we are told, the tongue is a "fire," a "world of iniquity," which "defleth the whole body, and setteth on fire the wheel of nature, and is set on fire by hell," and though all kinds of beasts of the field, birds of the air, and denizens of the ocean, can be tamed by man, the tongue, "a restless evil, full of deadly poison," no man can tame.

We must all frankly admit that experience has verified the truth of these charges. Perhaps it can be safely said that more mischief is wrought by the unbridled use of the tongue than in any other way. Untold misery is caused by the thoughtless or unkind word. Many a church is in ruins on account of conflagration caused by this little flame. And "the tongue can no man tame." Human nature is the same always and everywhere; our only hope is the grace of God. May the Psalmist's prayer be ours—"Set a watch, O Jehovah, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

MONDAY, MAY 14.

For in many things we all stumble. If any stumbleth not in word, the same is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also.—James 3: 2.

"The first virtue is to restrain the tongue; he approaches nearest the gods who knows how to be silent, even though he is in the right."—Cato.

Bible Reading.—James 3: 1-12.

TUESDAY, MAY 15.

So the tongue also is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how much wood is kindled by how small a fire?—James 3: 5.

Dr. Moffat translated the latter part of this verse—"What a forest is set ablaze by a little spark of fire!"

In "Julius Cæsar" Cassius is represented as saying—

"Those that with haste will make a mighty fire begin it with weak straws."

Bible Reading.—James 3: 3-5.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16.

For the tongue can no man tame; it is a restless evil, it is full of deadly poison.—James 3: 8.

"Dr. Lawson, of Selkirk, a famous Scottish wit, as a wise and godly minister, was once approached by a busybody who wanted, with an air of great solemnity, to tell him of the wrong-doing of a brother in the church. The good minister turned to him and asked, 'Does anybody else know this but you?' 'No, sir,' was the answer. 'Have you told it to anybody else?' Again the answer was 'No.' 'Then,' said the good man, 'go home and hide it away at the feet of Jesus, and never speak of it again unless God leads you to speak to the man himself. If the Lord wants you to bring a scandal upon his church, let him do it, but don't you be the instrument to cause it.'"

Bible Reading.—James 3: 6-8.

THURSDAY, MAY 17.

Out of the same mouth cometh forth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.—James 3: 10.

There is a persecution sharper than that of the axe. There is an iron that goes into the heart deeper than the knife. Cruel sneers, and sarcasms, and pitiless judgments, and cold-hearted calumnies, these are persecution. Did you ever pour bitterness into a heart that God was bruising,

by a cold laugh, or a sneer, or a galling suspicion—into a sister's heart, or a friend's, or even a stranger's? Remember when you sent them, as Job's friends sent him, to pour out their griefs alone before their Father, your name went up to the avenger's ears mingled with the cries of His own elect.—F. W. Robertson.

Bible Reading.—James 3: 9-12.

FRIDAY, MAY 18.

Who is wise and understanding among you? let him show by his good life his works in meekness of wisdom.—James 3: 13.

"A Christian woman had befriended an outcast girl who was stricken with disease, and had brought her to a place where she could have nourishment, and rest and comfort, and love. Knowing that she had not long to live, the friend asked her whether she ever thought of God. 'It has not been hard to think of God,' was the reply, 'since I met you.' Do we make it hard, or easy, for those who are close to us to think often of God?"

Bible Reading.—James 3: 13-16.

SATURDAY, MAY 19.

But if ye have bitter jealousy and faction in your heart, glory not and lie not against the truth.—James 3: 14.

"Jesus, with thy church abide;
Be her Saviour, Lord, and Guide,
While on earth her faith is tried;
We beseech thee, hear us.

All her fettered powers release;
Bid all strife and envy cease;
Grant the heavenly gift of peace.
We beseech thee, hear us."

Bible Reading.—James 3: 17, 18.

SUNDAY, MAY 20.

This wisdom is not a wisdom that cometh from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.—James 3: 15.

Happy the man that finds the grace,
The blessing of God's chosen race,
The wisdom coming from above,
The faith that sweetly works by love.

Bible Reading.—Colossians 4: 1-6.

PRAYER.

Merciful God, preserve me from sinning with my lips. Take away the poison from my words, and give me grace to speak kindly and courteously. Help me to realise the wonderful power of words for good or evil. May I be kept from cursing men whilst I praise thee. Help me to put away all wickedness, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings; may my mouth show forth thy praise continually, and declare the unsearchable riches of Christ to those who know him not. For his name's sake. Amen.

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Women's Annual Conference, W.A.

The Annual Conference of the Sisters' Executive was held in Lake-st. chapel. Mrs. J. Robinson, President, occupied the chair. Each session was commenced with devotional exercises led by Sisters Hughes, Lece and Illingworth.

Greetings were received from Sisters' Conferences in Tasmania, Victoria, Queensland, N.S.W., Sisters of Hobart church, and isolated sisters.

A welcome was extended to all visitors by Mrs. Stirling, special mention being made to the presence of interstate sisters. Sisters Illingworth, Morrow and Gard responded, as did others of the delegates from the country churches.

The various auxiliaries of the Executive showed an active work being done.

The Secretary's report gave a total of 67 names on the roll, with an average monthly attendance of 27.

During the year Sisters Hagger and Lece have been added to the number of active workers. Two leading workers have departed—Sister Marsden, who sleeps in the Lord, and Sister Payne, removed to Geraldton.

The Executive has assisted in welcomes extended to our missionaries—Bro. and Sister Coventry, Sister Thompson, and Sister Caldicott.

A monthly visitation was carried on to the Wooroloo Sanitarium, when many comforts were taken by the three sisters travelling each month. The Perth hospitals are visited weekly. Christmas greetings were sent to all our missionaries.

Isolated members have been written to, and kept in touch with the work; 158 letters were written during the year by the sisters on this committee.

In working for Home Missions the aim was to support a preacher themselves. This was not quite reached.

Foreign Mission work has been carried on actively. Sewing rallies were held, and many garments and other useful articles sent to the fields.

The finances have been good. The following large amounts have been raised, and passed on, for the year:—Home Missions, £218/18/4; Foreign Missions, £125/15/8; Ladies' Hostel, £50/6/-. The total amount received for the year was £495 14/10. Balance on hand, £15/2/-.

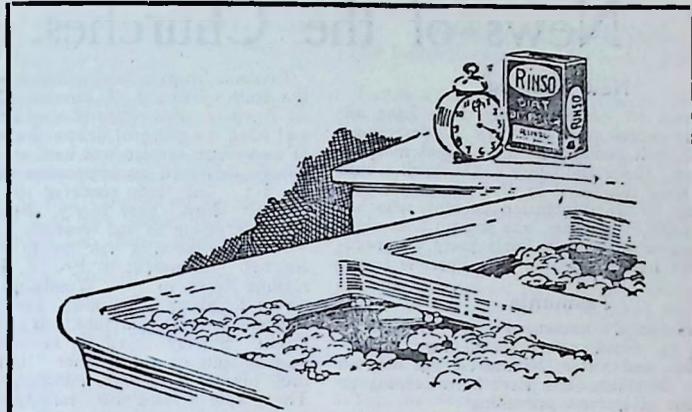
Officers were elected as follows:—President, Mrs. Stirling; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Hagger, Mrs. Elliott, and Mrs. Robinson; Treasurer, Mrs. Hagger; Secretary, Miss Wilson; Assistant Secretary, Miss A. McGregor; H.M. Superintendent, Mrs. Hibbert; F.M. Superintendent, Mrs. Lece; Dorcas Superintendent, Mrs. Preston; Prayer Meeting Superintendent, Mrs. Robinson, senr.; Hospital Superintendent, Mrs. Oates; Isolated Superintendent, Mrs. Seaby; Mission Band Superintendent, Mrs. Robinson; Wooroloo Superintendent, Mrs. Berry; Obituary Superintendent, Mrs. Elliott; Organist, Mrs. Wilson.

The following resolutions were carried:—

1. That this Conference deplores the increasing tendencies of organised pleasure and attractions on the Lord's day, thereby corrupting the Divine purpose of the day, and the best interests of civil and family life, besides seriously handicapping the regular school and character-making work of the Sunday Schools.

2. That this Conference places on record its appreciation of the Government's action in enforcing more rigidly the anti-gambling laws, but regrets that there are still occasions at public appeals when gambling methods and devices are used, and urges a still stricter enforcement of the law, in view of the harmful effects that the gambling spirit has upon the young people of the community.

3. That this Conference, recognising with sincere appreciation the fact that one charitable organisation (the Silver Chain) has desisted in using gambling methods and devices in acquiring funds, urges upon its members to do their utmost in assisting such institutions in maintaining their funds, and rendering relief to the community.



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4. That this Conference resolves, whenever possible, and as a matter of principle, we refuse to deal with grocers who hold licences for the sale of intoxicating drink, and that we work for the abolition of the same. Also wine licenses, realising that they are a menace to the young people of the community.

5. That we as a Conference will do our utmost in each church to welcome any new arrivals from overseas, and induce them to attend our meetings.

6. That this Conference views with alarm the appalling influence for evil the moving picture of to-day has on the young life, believing that it is lowering the standard of morality, chastity and honor. That Christian people should be willing to sacrifice for the sake of the young people of the community.

During the day addresses were delivered by the President, Sister Robinson; also by Brun. Walden and Illingworth.

An essay competition between the young ladies of the various clubs in the churches, was won by Miss Enid McKenzie, from Northam, with Miss Fanny Forsyth, of Bassendean, second. The subject of the essay was "Christian Personality." These essays were read at the evening meeting of the Conference.

The introduction of the incoming officers was carried out in a happy manner by Mrs. Jeffery.

Those who helped to make the day enjoyable with messages of song were Sisters Hibbert, Wright, Cosh, Butcher, Wolfenden, Horne, and Bro. and Sister Richards.

A profitable and happy day was closed with a vote of thanks to all who had helped to make it such, by Mrs. Hagger. God richly blessed the day. —C. P. Hughes.

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News of the Churches.

New Zealand.

At Nelson, on Easter Sunday, Bro. King addressed the church on "The First Resurrection." Bro. T. J. Bull conducted the gospel meeting, speaking on "Grace and Glory." On April 8, both meetings were conducted by Bro. Carpenter. In the meeting for worship Sister Torrens, who has been laid aside by sickness, was present. At night Bro. Carpenter spoke to a fairly large congregation on "An Impossible Gain or a Possible Loss."

Tasmania.

Bro. Drummond commenced work at Kelleve on March 25. Good gatherings all day. A welcome to Bro. and Sister Drummond was held on March 27. Meetings since have been keeping up well. Spirit of interest prevailing.

At Hobart Bro. Hurburgh exhorted helpfully. Three were welcomed by letter, one by baptism, and one more confessed Christ at night. Miss E. Bradley, who sang a nice gospel solo at the meeting, leaves per the "Merlie" for a trip to South Africa.

Good meetings at Geeveston. In the absence of Bro. Warren at Conference on April 1, local brethren conducted the services. On April 8 Bro. Hurburgh (Hobart) exhorted, and Bro. Warren conducted the gospel service. On April 9 an enthusiastic business meeting of the church was held, when it was unanimously decided that the church become self-supporting from April 1. This is the first country church in Tasmania to take this step. All the children who entered for the Bible School examination received certificates, and two received gold medals.

Western Australia.

Bassendean on Sunday, April 8, had a visit from Bro. A. E. Illingworth. Every available seat was occupied. Splendid address and good singing led by Bro. Gard, of S.A.; soloist, Mrs. Cosh. April 11, church annual business meeting. Deacons elected for ensuing year, Bren. Berry, Grafham, Groom, Smythe, Lethbridge, Klem, and Forsyth. Good meetings April 15. Bro. Cameron spoke morning and evening. "Should Creeds be Mended or Ended?" was the theme of an able discourse. Bro. Cameron is getting a good grip in the district, and doing a fine work.

Splendid meetings were held at Lake-st., Perth, during Conference; members enjoyed the fellowship with interstate and also country visitors. Many talks and addresses from the Eastern visitors were greatly appreciated. Since then meetings have kept up very well, three being baptised into the Master's service. Bro. Hagger is giving a series of special addresses during the month of April. The church has just entered upon a five nights' study circle, which should be an inspiration for work in the future. Keen interest is shown in all young people's departments. The Tennis Club have arranged for a combined churches tennis tournament, to be held on May 7.

Queensland.

Gympie brethren have just enjoyed a series of five special meetings; preacher, Bro. C. Pratt. On Lord's day, April 8, one sister was baptised. Adult Bible Class commenced; interest keen. Young People's Improvement Class now in full swing; much good being done. Work generally healthy.

At South End, Toowoomba, on April 8, A. Coleman spoke helpfully. V. R. Adcock was in charge of the gospel meeting. On the 15th A. Coleman delivered a splendid historical address entitled "Nothing but Leaves." The open air mission was successfully launched. V. Adcock's subject was "Why Doubt the Bible?" and H. C. Stitt spoke on "The Way that Seemeth Right, and Another." Owing to the illness of Bro. Jas. Larsen Bro. Stitt took the gospel meeting, and spoke on "Mephibosheth." All meetings are well attended, and members generally are showing a keen interest.

Brisbane church has suffered a severe loss in the death of Bro. J. S. Banner, who passed away on April 9. Bro. Banner was greatly esteemed, and filled the office of deacon for many years. An in memoriam service was held on April 15. Bro. Alcorn delivered an impressive address on John 14: 1-3. The choir rendered the anthem, "The Radiant Morn," very nicely. Small morning attendance owing to bad weather.

Ipswich church is indebted to Sister J. Martin for two jardinières; to Bro. F. Boettcher for a reading desk; to Bro. Woodward for toilet fixtures; to Sister Cumming for loan of organ. Splendid interest continues, and prospects are very bright. Sunday, April 15, morning meeting was good in spite of wet weather. Bible School a record; four new scholars enrolled, more promised. The gospel service was largely attended, and a keen interest manifested in the messages given concerning baptism.

South Australia.

The Wampony S.S. picnic was held on Good Friday, and anniversary services on April 8, that being the first Sunday to have the new preacher, Bro. Eagle, present. All gatherings were good, and interest also. Work is well in hand.

Bro. A. B. Chappell addressed the church at Unley on April 22. Donald Craddock was received into fellowship. At the conclusion of the Sunday School four scholars were immersed, and at the gospel service four confessed Christ. An increased interest is manifest in the preaching of the gospel by Bro. Webb. The Football Club has been reorganised, and will join the United Church Association.

At Gawler one has been received into fellowship by letter since last report. The work generally is most promising, the attendance is fairly consistent, and there is a good interest. At a combined open-air meeting on last Sunday evening Bro. Raymond gave the address. A competition has been started in the Bible School with the object of gaining new scholars and creating a greater interest in the school.

Interest and attendance are well maintained at Ungarra. Sunday School anniversary held on April 1 was a great success. Much credit is due to Sisters Jean and Ruby Lawrie, for training the children, also to Bro. Telfer for conducting the singing. Bro. Russell delivered two fine addresses, which were appreciated by large congregations. With great sorrow the death of our young Sister Irene Pedler, only daughter of Bro. and Sister Pedler, is reported.

Meetings continue fair at York. On April 15 the morning meeting was well attended, when Dr. Killmier gave the address, which was much appreciated. All were pleased to see Bro. Brooker back again after his illness. Bro. Brooker's son thanked the members for their acts of kindness to his father during his illness. The Y.P.S.C.E. has decided to alter its meeting somewhat. Instead of this meeting being Young People's Endeavor Society meeting only, it has been decided to alter it to Christian Endeavor and Church Prayer Meeting.

The Bible School at Moonta had a most successful and helpful anniversary on April 15. Bro. and Sister Ross Graham came from Adelaide to assist, the former to preach, and Sister Graham to sing. Their efforts were highly appreciated. Bro. Graham spoke at all services, and Sister Graham sang sweet solos. The children, trained by the church organist, Sister Teague, assisted by Sister Lang at the piano, did splendidly, good crowds attending at all meetings. Many people expressed themselves highly pleased. The school as a result takes on new life.

At Glenelg on Sunday, April 8, in the absence of Bro. Taylor, who was conducting anniversary services at Mavlands, Bro. Collins was the speaker, his messages being much enjoyed, particularly in the evening, when he took as his subject, "God's Love." On April 15, Bro. Taylor spoke both

morning and evening, giving in the morning a very fine exposition on "The Upper Room." In the evening Miss Holmes sang "Nearer, my God, to Thee," very feelingly. Home Mission offering amounted to £35/15/-, being over the apportionment, and is the largest Home Mission offering Glenelg church has ever made.

The work at Hindmarsh is being blessed. Good meetings. Several confessions since last report. Owing to ill-health Bro. Hindley resigned as choir conductor. Bro. Hall has been elected to the position, and the choir is doing good service. The school is doing good work; men's class a great feature. The School Executive entertained teachers and officers at afternoon tea, at Botanic Gardens. Girls' Club (with Bro. Vaughten as instructor) opened the season with enthusiasm; the committee entertained the girls at a social evening. The Young Men's Institute is doing excellent work under Bro. Vaughten. A Y.M.I. concert was given in the Town Hall in aid of Town Mission. £10 was received. New wooden floor has been put in gymnasium hall, costing £50; money raised among gymnasium members and supporters; labor by members also. A new football dressing shed with showers is being erected on Park lands by the club and friends. Bro. Paternoster has completed his first year's ministry with the church—a time of much blessing for both church and preacher. C.E. Societies have done excellent work. Baptismal service on April 8. Good meeting on 15th. One by faith and baptism; two by letter.

New South Wales.

On Lord's day morning, April 22, Bro. A. C. Crisp gave a helpful address to Chatswood church from Matt. 21: 42. Several visiting brethren were present. At night Bro. J. Whelan gave a splendid address, after which one married woman made the noble confession.

Hornsby church was shadowed by sorrow on April 22, Bro. Pickrell having died unexpectedly, after a brief illness. Bro. Harbutt's message at the morning service on "The Resurrection" was very appropriate and helpful. There were good meetings. The three young men mentioned in last report were baptised at the gospel service.

Hurstville reports continued good meetings. The following have been elected as church officers:—Bren. Armstrong, Corbitt, Harris, Hedger, Lack, Lay, Winks. Bro. Morris, from City Temple, exhorted last Lord's day, and in the evening Bro. Crossman conducted an Anzac Memorial Service. Bro. and Sister Biden have removed to Melbourne.

Among visitors at Lismore, Lord's day, April 15, were Mrs. Meredith, of Burwood church, Sydney, and Bro. T. and Mrs. Morton, of Coogee. Bro. P. J. Pond took part in a united Protestant service in the afternoon, and at night preached on "Lessons from the Recent Religious Census." Bro. J. Greenhalgh was taken seriously ill last week, but is now recovering. Bro. A. Taber was also laid aside by sickness.

Enmore reports fine meetings all day on Sunday, April 22. Bible School anniversary services were held. 180 broke bread. At the afternoon service Mr. Coventry and Mrs. Springer, both from India, spoke to the children. At 7 o'clock the building was filled to listen to the fine singing of the children under the leadership of Mr. E. Chapple. Bro. Sivyver gave a fine message, and one of the boys from the school made the good confession.

On April 15 and 16 the church at Dumbleton celebrated its third anniversary. Bro. McKenzie took both services, his topic at night being "The Pearl of Greatest Price." Bro. Stow gave a very able address on the Monday night on "The work that lies before us." Numerous musical items were rendered by the choir at both services. Bro. Ackenson, lately arrived from England, presided at the organ, and his beautiful playing was highly appreciated. The C.E. Society, with the Sisters' Aid, intend holding a sale of work shortly, with the object of reducing the debt on building.

Meetings are keeping up well at Paddington. At the inception services on 15th inst., to mark the commencement of Bro. J. Chapple's ministry, 75 broke bread, and a big crowd attended the gospel

service. The church is now self-supporting. The fellowship of Bro. A. Billing, from Taree; Bro. Ferguson, Essendon; Bro. Kent, North Fitzroy; and Sister Mrs. Fancoart, Mulgoa, was enjoyed during the Easter vacation. The services of Bren. A. Carter (two confessions), Crawford, Casper-son, Flood, Chapple, and Eldridge are much appreciated. The church extends deepest sympathy to Bro. and Sister Carter and family (late of Sub-iac) in the loss of their eldest son Jack, through injuries received from a motor-cycle accident at Ashfield, on Thursday, 29th ult. Mr. J. Carter was laid to rest on Thursday, 12th inst., at Rand-wick Cemetery. Bro. Sivyer (Enmore) officiated.

At Taree, since last report, there has been one decision. Fair attendances on April 8, when Bro. E. J. Saxby spoke in the morning, and Bro. Edwards in the evening. Fellowship with Sister M. Harris, from Paddington, was enjoyed. Splendid meetings last Lord's day, April 15, when Bro. H. R. Coventry spoke morning and evening, his earnest messages being appreciated. On Monday, April 16, Bro. Coventry spoke upon the work amongst the Criminal Tribes of India. This address was most interesting and instructive.

Victoria.

Windsor church is glad to have the services of Bren. Tebay and Peacock, and is hoping for great things.

All meetings good at Cheltenham on Sunday. P. R. Baker spoke in the afternoon at the Anzac gathering held at the Soldiers' Hall, and after the service at night conducted a baptismal service at Parkdale. Bro. W. J. Smith is laid aside with sickness.

Interest at North Melbourne is being well maintained. One sister received into fellowship last Lord's day. The cricket club had a Queen carnival to augment their funds. At a social gathering held in the chapel on April 10, a very enjoyable evening was spent.

Good meetings at Ararat on 2nd. Bro. Payne exhorted. Bro. Combridge preached at night on "Jesus on Trial." One confession at close. The annual business meeting of the church was held on 18th. Splendid spirit of unity prevailed. Nine deacons elected; seven of last year's board. All hopeful of future work.

Woorinen harvest thanksgiving day was held on March 25. Fine display of fruit and produce. Bro. Searle gave three fine addresses to good audiences. Social on the evening of 20th. Crowded building. Sale of gifts held. Proceeds given to the Swan Hill Hospital. Bible School and church picnic at North Woorinen; an enjoyable time was spent by the children and parents.

At Swanston-st. last Lord's day the meetings were fairly attended, the week-end holiday somewhat interfering. Very good addresses from Bro. A. L. Gibson. Sympathy was expressed to relatives of the late Sister Illingworth, whose calling home breaks another link with the McGregor family, who were mostly foundation members. One brother received into membership who was baptised the previous week.

Work continues favorably at Geelong. Under Bro. Putland's direction the Sunday School and Bible Class are progressing favorably; last Sunday the total for the school was 120, including 37 from the Bible Class. On Sunday about 120 broke bread. Bro. Stevens announced the death of Bro. Hands, who was with us on Sunday week, but passed suddenly and peacefully away last Sunday morning, owing to heart failure. On Sunday evening after a very fine address, one young lady made the good confession.

Very encouraging meetings are greeting Bro. Blakemore during his short ministry at Malvern-Caulfield. One young lady has been baptised and welcomed to fellowship, and Bro. Blakemore's messages are being greatly appreciated. Both the church and the Women's Mission Band had inspiring words from Mrs. Springer, of India. One of the K.S.P. and church members, Bro. Arthur Barker, was called home last week. To his family the church sends loving sympathy, as also to the evangelist and Bro. Jas. McGregor, in the passing of Mrs. Illingworth, senior.

Meetings at East Kew are splendid, and the work is progressing favorably under the leadership of Bro. Robbins. Since he has taken up the work two have taken their stand for Christ. Bro. A. Hinrichsen (assistant preacher) is also doing splendid work. Mid-week prayer meetings are inspiring, with attendances not less than 40. The Sunday School is increasing every week. Over 70 on the rolls, and nearly all present each Sunday.

Good meetings at Warrnambool on the 22nd. At the gospel service Ruth and Naomi Edwards rendered a vocal duet. The united prayer meeting was held in the chapel on the 18th. Bro. Edwards was in charge, and an address was given by Mr. King (Congregational minister). Sister Oakley has been bereaved of her husband, and the deepest sympathy of the church is extended to the widow and family.

At Ballarat on Sunday morning Bro. Connor presided over a large attendance at communion, and Bro. Moyses gave a very able and instructive exposition. The Bible Class had an attendance of over 50 to hear Bro. J. A. Wilkie's address on "The Dangers of Spiritualism." The evening meeting was largely attended, Bro. Connor speaking on "Sound Sense from an Unpopular Preacher," and obtained close attention to his earnest message.

At Lygon-st. on Sunday A. T. Eaton spoke both morning and evening, his subject at night being "A Life Lovely but Lacking." The choir, by request, sang "Consider and Hear Me." The sympathy of the church was expressed by the presiding brother to Mr. and Mrs. Alamy and family, who have been called upon to part with another son who has been an invalid for many years. It was a pathetic sight to see him brought to the service in his invalid chair. He was delighted to be in the Lord's house.

At Footscray last Lord's day morning Bro. Enniss spoke concerning the work of the College of the Bible. Fair attendance. Good gospel service at evening. Bro. Hurren's subject being "Straying Sheep." The Bible School is practising for the forthcoming anniversary services. The J.C.E. held a social on Saturday afternoon, and spent a happy time. The Girls' Guild have recommenced their physical culture class. The Senior C.E. reports good meetings. At the recent sale of gifts the tennis club raised £30 towards the purchase of a court.

A special meeting of members was held at Essendon to consider a proposition of the officers to purchase a property in Fletcher-st., as a manse, which would increase the present land by 174 feet, making a total of 660 feet from Buckley-st. to Fletcher-st. It was unanimously carried to endorse their action. The attendance at all services are good. Bro. Clark is doing excellent work. The church has nearly reached our aim. Two confessions since last report. Both were immersed and received into membership. All auxiliaries of church show an improvement.

At Ballarat East the meetings are growing. For the last few meetings on week-nights there has been about 50 present. The morning meetings are consistently good, and the night meetings are packed. One confession since last report. The number breaking bread, which had not previously been over the hundred, was April 15 just the century, and April 22 was 105. Finance is most encouraging. The brethren are planning for the Kellem-Richards mission with earnest enthusiasm. The family spirit is increasingly in evidence and perfect harmony prevails.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor is not responsible for the views of his correspondents.]

To the Editor of "The Australian Christian."

Dear Bro.—

One is loathe to believe that Bro. Swain's protest published in last week's "Christian" is aimed directly at the work which our Victorian churches have committed to the Bible School and Young People's Department, yet the fact that his letter appears simultaneously with the appeal for the annual Bible School offering might lead some to think so. Surely Bro. Swain, nor any other preacher among us, can begrudge the small amount (£350) which the one hundred churches and schools of our Victorian brotherhood are asked to contribute annually for the purpose of encouraging and developing the work which brings such returns in the teaching and training of young life. When the State Conference, some eight or ten years ago, decided to constitute a Bible School Department, it was understood, and so authorised, by the representatives of the churches, that the brotherhood would be asked to give financial support to this work. Each succeeding Conference has viewed with favor and has endorsed the action of that previous Conference. The work of the Department has grown, its ministry to the schools and other young people's organisations has widened, the results of which, we believe, have contributed in no small way to the general prosperity and progress of the churches in this State. Surely this cannot be the work for which Bro. Swain "has no heart."

The May offering for the work of the Bible School and Young People's Department is one of the four annual appeals which have been authorised by the State Conference, and which are essential to the continuance of our organised work. There are many "outside appeals," a fact to which all of us can testify, but these four are inside the brotherhood, and are worthy of the support of every member of the church. There has been no brotherhood appeal before the churches since the Home Mission offering, the first of December—five months ago—and now an appeal is made for an offering of £350 from a church membership of ten thousand. This appeal for the work among the young people should have right of way on May 6. If any preacher or church secretary can not muster enthusiasm for this cause, we ask him to please not stand in the way of others who might count it a privilege to have a share in this good work. Yours truly,

W. B. Blakemore.

MARRIAGE.

CLEMENTS—HALES (Golden Wedding).—On May 3, 1873, at Richmond, Tasmania, Thomas Steven John Clements, of Bermondsey, London, to Helen Hales, of Stamford Hill, London. Present address, 18 Bellett-st., Camberwell, Vic.

COMING EVENTS.

APRIL 29, 7 p.m.—Carnegie Sunshine Club. Special service for young women. May 6, Bible Schools' Day. The church in the Bible School. Special Children's items at 3 p.m. 13th, Mother's Day Services, 11 and 7. 20th, Church anniversary. Preacher at 11, W. B. Blakemore, B.A. Church social, 24th. Former members welcomed at reunion.

APRIL 29 & 30.—Anniversary Services of the North Carlton Bible School. Afternoon at 3 p.m.; evening, 7 p.m. Speaker, Mr. R. W. Thompson. Scholars' Demonstration, Monday, April 30, 8 p.m. Special singing and items by scholars. Come. All welcome. Come.

MAY 6 & 7.—Church of Christ, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood, N.S.W. New Church Building. Opening services, Sunday, May 6, 11 a.m., 2.45, and 7.30 p.m. Special speaker, Thomas Bagley, Victorian Home Mission Secretary. Public meeting, Monday, May 7; speakers, H. G. Harward, Thomas Bagley, and J. Whelan.

MAY 20.—The Church at Ipswich, Queensland, most earnestly asks for your prayers in connection with the Hinrichsen-Brooker Mission, commencing May 20. Pray, pray, pray.

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OBITUARY.

PETTY.—The church at Doncaster, Vic., has suffered a great loss through the death of Sister Mrs. John Petty, after a short, severe illness. Sister Petty was suffering from a bad cold, when pleurisy set in, later followed by pneumonia, which finally caused her death. She was called home on Tuesday, April 10, and was buried in the Kew Cemetery. A large number of friends gathered around her last resting-place. Our sister was a very regular attendant at both morning and evening services, and was noted for many kindly and benevolent acts performed in a quiet and unostentatious manner. The sympathy of the church goes out to Bro. Petty and family in the great loss they have sustained, and our prayer is that our loving Father in heaven will comfort and sustain them.

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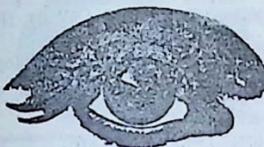
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