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Worship—A Spirit of Christmas.

J. Ernest Allan.

CHRISTMAS with all its simplicity and charm is upon us once again. We are about to re-live the joy and inspiration of past years and see afresh the wondrous vision of the Christ-Child in the manger of Bethlehem. After hearing the incessant din and turmoil of the world during the year, we are eager to "listen in" to the never-dying anthem of heaven, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth." We shall visualise the angelic choir as it sweeps through the gates of heaven and hovers o'er the moonlit fields of Judea. Our eyes, in spirit, shall again search the heavens for the guiding star of eternal hope, and, like the Magi of old, travel afar in mind and soul to worship at the cradle of the Christ-Child, and say with them, "We have come to worship him."

"There's a story old and sweet
Which the sons of men repeat.
While the hurrying years go by,
Of a strange, illumined sky;
Of a host who sang 'Good-will'
O'er the flock on Bethlehem hill,
Of a manger, and a star,
And the travellers from afar;
This the story old and sweet,
Which the sons of men repeat."

The object of worship.

The first Christmas season brought to the cradle of Jesus humble shepherds and wise men, who in the beautiful spirit of reverential worship bowed in the presence of God. The deep-seated expectancy of the world, the universal heart hunger for a divine object of worship, and the yearning quest for "a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel," combined to draw Jew and Gentile to the one throne of grace and worship. As they looked into the beautiful face of Mary's Son, they saw the fulfilment of the long line of prophecy, and the promised Messiah of Jehovah. "When the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law." No won-

der the shepherds and Magi were filled with the spirit of adoration as they beheld the child who was called "A Saviour, Christ the Lord," "Jesus," "The King of the Jews," "The Son of the Highest," "Son of God," "Immanuel," "Shepherd of my people Israel," "Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." This divine object of worship has been the joy and inspiration of the world, and the coming Christmas is another testimony of the Christ-Child's grip on the heart-strings of humanity. Once again the children of God are challenged to worship him in the beauty of holiness.

THE PERFECT GIFT.

"What can I give him,
Poor as I am—
If I were a shepherd
I would give him a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part;
What can I give him?
Give him my heart."

—Christina Rossetti.

Dr. J. H. Jowett says, "O God, mercifully lead me into the holy secret of Christmas-tide, and take me into the innermost room of its holy joy. Forbid that I should remain in the outer courts, dwelling amid its mere carnal pleasures, satisfied with the merriment that dies with the day. Bring me into the eternal things of this blessed season, the things that abide, the love that manifests itself in unailing good-will, and the joy that rings Christmas bells all the year round. Kindle thou the Christmas fire of holy love. Hallow and glorify my Lord's birthday with thy presence, and crown it with unsullied joy and peace."

The manner of worship.

When angels sang their heavenly song and the star shone with celestial glory, the

hearts of men were invited to lay aside worldly interests and to focus their minds upon the divine. The angelic chorus lured the shepherds from the fields, and the guiding star drew the Magi from distant lands; thus men from near and far accepted God's invitation to worship his Son. In the spirit of willing obedience they counted time or distance as nothing in their quest for the Babe of Bethlehem. The shepherds said, "Let us now go, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us." The Wise Men asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews, for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." With an earnest desire to obey the call of God, they approached the throne of grace in the spirit of inexpressible joy. Heaven's carol was one of joyful tidings to men, and that first Christmas worship of the Babe of heaven was of a most joyous character. When the Magi saw the star over the manger, their experience expresses the manner in which the Christ-Child was worshipped: "When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." To-day the King of kings expects his worshippers to come into his presence in the spirit of obedience, earnestness and joyfulness.

"Hasten, mortals, to adore him,
Learn his name and taste his joy,
Till in heaven ye sing before him—
Glory be to God most high!"

Results of worship.

Christmas-tide very forcefully reminds us of the blessings of obeying the call of God. Had the shepherds refused to listen to the message of the angels, "I bring you good tidings of great joy," and the Wise Men declined the leading of the star, their lives would have been spiritually impoverished. True worship always brings permanent blessings, and the first worshippers of the Christ-Child went away with hearts satisfied. They could say in the words of

My Favorite Christmas Carol.

Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." They departed from the presence of the Most High "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them." Then again, the worship of Jesus resulted in the giving to him of gifts worthy of acceptance. Love always sacrifices for the object of adoration, and at the feet of the divine Babe gifts of life and service have been poured in abundance. It was a moment of supreme joy when the Magi "saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him; and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh." Another blessing of the worship of Jesus was the planting of hope and cheer in the hearts of the people. The long night of darkness was dispelled by the "Light of the World." "The Sun of Righteousness hath risen with healing in his wings." The glad message and carol of the angels had put a new song in the mouth, and with a new hope and cheer, the shepherds returned to the fields to take up the common round of daily tasks; the Magi turned their faces to the East to carry home the glad tidings of great joy, "Peace on earth, good-will to men." As the children of God worship anew the Christ of Bethlehem and of Calvary may their hearts be satisfied and cheered, that they may return to the duties of the work-a-day world filled with the gifts of Christmas-tide, love, joy, benevolence, sympathy, goodwill, peace and service.

"So we come each Christmastide
To the manger low and wide,
While the Star with shining ray
Lighteth up the Bethlehem way,
And the Christ-child blesseth still
Those who climb the Bethlehem hill,
Bidding all, who fain would stay,
By the cradle kneel and pray;
This the story old and sweet,
Which the sons of men repeat."

"O thou who guidest the feet of men, turn our eyes toward the star and open our hearts to the blessed angels' song. We would be led of thee to the holy place where all our hopes and dreams come true. Send heavenly tokens, we beseech thee, to draw us unto Bethlehem. Give us expectant hearts. Prepare our minds, O Lord, for the discovery of great events among the simplicities of Bethlehem. Bring us truly to understand how thy glory dwells amid the commonplaces of life. At our daily tasks may we hear angels singing, even as the faithful shepherds watching their flocks by night heard celestial voices welcoming the King. Take away the illusions of grandeur and pomp, and invest with the glory of thy presence the loves and duties and hopes and rewards of our common life. Amen."

Lord, let thy star on wise men burn so bright
That it will lead their steps into that place
Where children toil, each thinking on this night,
With bitter tears upon a small white face.

—Garnet Noel Whiting.

In writing to a few well-known people asking them to express any preference they may have for one carol over another, we have purposely given them a wide range, and their replies have fortunately covered a wide field which includes many favorite Christmas hymns. This circumstance, it will be admitted, adds to the interest of such an inquiry, and all who cherish the sweet old customs and traditions of our Motherland will read the replies with pleasure and profit.

The Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair says: "Lord Aberdeen and I would certainly give our vote for the old favorite, 'Hark, the herald angels sing' as being the most popular Christmas carol."

Dr. E. W. Barnes, D.D., Bishop of Birmingham, says: "Of all the Christmas carols which I know, I think that I prefer Bishop Phillips Brooks' 'O little town of Bethlehem.'" He says further, that "to hear the Temple Choir Boys sing it to Sir Walford Davies' setting is to receive a fuller understanding of the spirit of Christmas."

Bishop Welldon's choice would be: 1. "O little town of Bethlehem"; 2. "Sweeter than Songs of Summer"; 3. "In sorrow and in want"; 4. "When the crimson sun had set"; 5. "The First Nowell the angel did say"; and 6. "It came upon the midnight clear."

The great Christmas hymn, Canon Oakley's translation from the Latin of Bonaventura, which we know as "Adeste fideles," and as "O come all ye faithful," is deservedly admired.

Sir Herbert Maxwell says: "No verses occur to my mind more fully expressing the purely Christian spirit of the festival than the carol beginning:

"Adeste fideles
Late triumphant," etc.

And Oakley's translation:

"O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,
Come and behold him
Born the King of Angels;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord."

Mr. John Oxenham says: "I still prefer the old Christmas hymns, 'Christians awake,' 'Hark, the herald angels sing,' and 'Adeste fideles,' probably from old association's sake."

Professor W. L. Courtney, M.A., LL.D., says: "The best hymn I know is 'O God our help in ages past,' and of carols I would choose 'Adeste fideles,' or 'While shepherds watched their flocks by night.'"

Dr. Kelman says: "Of all the Christmas poems and carols that I have ever come across, those which appeal most to me are 'Silent Night,' Milton's 'Hymn on the

Nativity,' Tabb's 'Out of Bounds,' Francis Thompson's 'Ex Ore Infantium,' and 'The Carol of the Flowers.'"

Mr. Charles Marriott, novelist, writes: "I can think of nothing in literature associated with Christmas which makes such a powerful impression on me as Milton's hymn 'On the Morning of Christ's Nativity.' I go back to the humbler, earlier carols, with their clean, sharp flavor—like that of miniatures in an illuminated manuscript. In carols, of course, it is difficult to distinguish the effect of words from that of the traditional music; but among my favorites are 'On yesternight I saw a sight,' 'Like silver lamps in a distant shrine,' 'When I view the mother holding,' 'The holly and the ivy,' 'Sleep, Holy Babe,' and 'From far away we come to you.'"

We quote two stanzas of "The holly and the ivy:

"The holly and the ivy
Now are both well grown:
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.
"The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good."

Mrs. Patrick MacGill says: "There are many stories about Christmas that I like, but the exquisite simplicity and noble grandeur of the Bible account of the Birth of Christ touches the well-spring of emotion every time it is read. There is a charming carol which I am going to teach my little one-year-old twin girls to sing when they are old enough. The first verse goes:

"Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky
Look'd down where he lay,
On little Lord Jesus
Asleep in the hay."

Mr. Coulson Kernahan, the well-known litterateur, writes: "Of Christmas poems, other than such great hymns as appear in the Hymn Books, I like none better than George MacDonald's beautiful lines, beginning:

"They all were looking for a King
To slay their foes and lift them high:
'Thou cam'st, a little baby thing,
That made a woman cry.'"

Mr. A. B. Cooper writes: "I know no more beautiful sacred lyric than Bishop Heber's 'Brightest and best of the sons of the morning.' It has the unity of all great lyrics, and seems to sing itself. What a lovely stanza is this:

"Cold on his cradle the dewdrops are
shining,
Low lies his head with the beasts of the
stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch and Saviour of all."
—"Great Thoughts."

Studies in Ambiguous Texts.

THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE PEACE OF MAN. (Luke 2: 14.)

Alone by humble shepherds at Bethlehem was heard the song of the angelic host. Just as the circumstances of the birth of Christ were lowly in the extreme, so the announcement of that birth was made "privately, at midnight, and without anything of worldly pomp and ostentation."

We might have expected that the highest in the land, the secular rulers or the ecclesiastical leaders, would have been honored by first hearers watching their flocks by night were the privileged ones. Bishop Ryle well remarks: "The saying of James should come into our mind, as we read these words: 'Hath not God chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he hath promised to them that love him?' (Jas. 2: 5). The want of money debars no one from spiritual privileges. The things of God's kingdom are often hid from the great and noble, and revealed to the poor. The busy labor of the hands need not prevent a man being favored with special communion with God. Moses was keeping sheep,—Gideon was threshing wheat,—Elisha was ploughing, when they were severally honored by direct calls and revelations from God. Let us resist the suggestion of Satan, that religion is not for the working man. The weak of the world are often called before the mighty. The last are often first, and the first last."

The angel, and the angels,

Luke records two angelic utterances. One was the announcement of "an angel of the Lord." The other was the song of "the heavenly host." Each referred to the incarnation of the Son of God—the former "proclaims the transcendent fact," and the latter "hymns its blessed results."

"The angel" said, "I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people; for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The closing words of this quotation might with equal accuracy be otherwise translated, though nothing better than the familiar rendering can be given. It is interesting to note that the precise combination does not appear elsewhere in the New Testament; and the translation could be either "Messiah, Lord," or "Anointed Lord" (R.V. margin), or "the Messiah, the Lord," or "an anointed one, a Lord." We shall do well, however, to retain the text of our Common and Revised Versions.

It is the song of the angels which now engages our attention, and which has a more especial right to inclusion in our series of studies. It is preserved alone by Luke, who loves to record angelic ministrations and who is "the first Christian hymnologist":

"Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God, and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased" (Luke 2: 13, 14, R.V.).

In passing, it may be noted that the word "praising" is in grammatical agreement with "host" and not "multitude." The suggestion is that "the whole host of heaven was praising that God, not merely that portion of it which was visible to the shepherds." This word for praising is a favorite one with Luke, and is not used by any other Gospel writer.

"Good will to men"—or "men of good will."

Regarding the substance of the angels' song, it will be noted that the Revised Version, quoted above, differs from the more familiar translation of the Common Version, which reads: "Glory

to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will towards men."

The difference between the two versions is primarily due to the fact that the translators were following differing Greek texts. The Common Version has the word "eudokia" ("good will"), nominative; while the text followed by the Revisers has a genitive "eudokias" ("of good will" or "of good pleasure"). The weight of manuscript authority is in favor of the revised text, though the marginal note should be regarded, that "many ancient authorities read 'peace, good pleasure among men.'" Even accepting the Greek text followed by King James's version, its rendering must be challenged in one particular. The preposition "en" cannot be translated "towards"; the meaning would have to be "good will among men."

Apart from the weighing of manuscript authority, of which the ordinary reader may know nothing, the internal evidence seems to favor the reading of the Revised Version. "The hymn consists of two members connected by a conjunction; and the three parts of the one member exactly correspond with the three parts of the other member." "Glory" balances "peace," "in the highest" balances "on earth," and "to God" balances "among men of good pleasure." Dr. Plummer remarks that "this exact correlation between the parts is lost in the common triple arrangement; which has the further awkwardness of having the second member introduced by a conjunction, while the third is not, and of making the second and third members tautological. 'On earth peace' is very much the same as 'good will amongst men.'" To the last objection of Plummer it could be answered that the peace on earth is between man and man, while the third part relates to "goodwill (of God) among men." But, judged by every standard, the Revision is superior to the Common Version; and here is a case where, despite familiarity and hallowed associations, we should be willing to exchange phrases dear to us from childhood for words which convey more clearly the heavenly announcement of the results of the incarnation of the Son of God.

Dr. F. J. A. Hort, a great scholar and one of the most influential members of the Committee of Revisers, preferred another translation of the passage. He followed the revisers' Greek text; but held that the first of the two clauses should end with "earth" and not with "God," thus: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth: the Peace among men of his good pleasure." The meaning, then, would be: "Glory to God not only in heaven, but now also on earth." It is evidence of the right of our text to be classed as "ambiguous" that this translation can be given. While it is a possible one, however, it is not probable, and it has found but few supporters. Plummer notes that "it destroys the exact correspondence between the parts of the exact correspondence between the parts of the two clauses, the first clause having three or four two parts, and the second only two." Not only is the symmetry destroyed, but the first part is overweighted, and the second is too meagre in proportion.

The lessons of the readings.

Excellent sense is found in either Common or Revised Version, and though we prefer the revision, it will be well to consider the general lessons of the two renderings.

In one of his letters, Darwin observes, "I always think the most perfect description of happiness that words can give is 'Peace on earth, goodwill to men.'" "Glory to God in the highest." The angels put first things first. "Creation glorified God, but not so much as redemption." "The highest" but not so much as "the highest places" or "heavens." Mac-

laren has an excellent comment: "The incarnation will bring 'glory to God' there; for by it new aspects of his nature are revealed to those clear-eyed and immortal spirits who for unnumbered ages have known his power, his holiness, his benignity to unfallen creatures, but now experience the wonder which more properly belongs to more limited intelligences, when they behold that depth of condescending Love stooping to be born. Even they think more loftily of God, and more of man's possibilities and worth, when they cluster round the manger, and see who lies there."

McLeod Campbell wrote: "Surely 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men' are words which as yet belong more to prophecy than to history."

"On earth peace." In his "Ode on the Nativity" John Milton treated the peaceful condition of the world at the time of Christ's birth as significant or symbolical:

"No war or battle's sound
Was heard the world around;
The idle spear and shield were high uphung;
The hooked chariot stood
Unstained with hostile blood,
The trumpet spake not to the armed throng;
And kings sat still with awful eye
As if they surely knew their sovran Lord was by."

This is a doubtful treatment of the situation. Farrar, dismissing it, says that "it was not in this sense that the birth of Christ brought peace." Primarily, we think of the peace of God which comes to the heart of man, of perfect peace between God and man, but also we think of "the peace which, once admitted into the heart, makes men live at peace one with another."

"Christ's work," writes Alexander Maclaren, "is to bring peace into all human relations, those with God, with men, with circumstances, and to calm the discords of souls at war with themselves. Every one of these relations is marred by sin, and nothing less thorough than a power which removes it can rectify them. That birth was the coming into humanity of him who brings peace with God, with ourselves, with one another. Shame on Christendom that nineteen centuries have passed, and men yet think the cessation of war is only a 'pious imagination'! The ringing music of that angel chant has died away, but its promise abides."

Who have the peace?

Not all men have the peace of God dwelling in them. Until men turn to him who was the Prince of Peace and inhale his spirit and do his will they cannot have his peace. It comes to "men of good pleasure" or "men of good will," to "men in whom he is well pleased," or even (as Weymouth puts it) to "men who please him." It matters little which of these phrases we employ; the underlying meaning is the same.

God's promises are often misappropriated. The most gracious and precious promises are never unconditional. We must do more than admire them; we must seek to fulfil the conditions of enjoying them. Dante declares, "In his will is our peace." In doing that will we become pleasing to him and so receive into our hearts the promised peace, which can only come to those in whom God is well pleased.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you" (John 14: 27).

"Peace be unto you all that are in Christ" (1 Peter 5: 14).

"Live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you" (2 Corinthians 13: 11).

O that the Babe of Bethlehem
Might now be born anew,
Not in a manger-cradle laid,
Known only to the few,
But, by the power of saving grace,
Burn in the hearts of all our race.

—A. B. Cooper.

Making Room for Jesus.

Jas. E. Thomas.

Whatever of ancient tradition and superstition has come in to mark both the time and the manner of the celebration of Christmas, it should always have a very deep spiritual significance to all who really believe that God sent Jesus into the world as his supreme gift of love to man. There are many who miss the real meaning in the materialistic and selfish celebration of Christmas. It is a time when we remember that Christ came as the expression of God's love for men. When Jesus came men were so unprepared to receive him that there was not even room in the inn for the long promised Saviour of the world. This is the great marvel of God's love: that Jesus was sent as a Gift of the Father to a world that was absolutely corrupted by sin. God's time is not our time. He sent his Son not when the world was asking for him, but when it so sorely needed him. When the world was without hope and in sin, God sent his son, made in the likeness of men, to redeem men. Let us offer our grateful thanks to our unfailing God whose love we remember on the birthday of his Son.

Gifts of Love.

One great memory of Christmas is the gladness with which some received the God-given Babe. Wise Men from the East, when they found the Child, opened their precious stores and gave of their best to Jesus. This is the real spirit of joy. No Christmas is really happy unless our service is prompted by love, and our gifts are made as a memorial to him who freely gave us his all. How shallow Christmas becomes when it consists of looking for gifts from others and of satisfying our desire for material feasting and selfish enjoyment! It is a significant thing that church offerings are often depleted at the time when the Lord should receive the most and the best, and almost invariably the amount we keep back from God at Christmas is not made up during the year. What a wonderful example those dark-skinned Christians in the Bolenge mission station have given to us! They come at the Christmas time and lay their offerings at the feet of Jesus; and in that way every nine men combine to help the tenth one go out and tell of Christ to those who sit still in the darkness, and who have not even heard that Jesus has come. Many Christians hold back their gifts and save up for holidays. God has given us a beautiful world to enjoy, but we must never forget that his greatest gift is Jesus, and he wants us to tell the world of his love in Christ our Lord. If we would but come and pour out our best gifts in gratitude to God, there would be no shortage of funds, and our joy, like that of the Wise Men, would increase.

The Unrecognised Christ.

Jesus is still waiting an entrance into human hearts. There was no room for him in the inn. If they had really known who this mother was, and of the coming of this wondrous baby, surely the whole of the people in that inn would have gladly moved out, to make a place for the Son of God. But men did not know. They were careless of what was happening, or else utterly unconcerned. All were busy about their own tasks, or engaged in their own pleasures, and there was no room in their midst for Jesus. Is this not so often the case to-day? Those who profess to love him have little place for him in their lives. They do not want to have Jesus with their business, so he is left outside. They do not want him to mur or limit their pleasure, so he is waiting still at the door. How much it must grieve him to think that so often he has no place even in the festivities that are supposed to commemorate his birthday! Men still need to learn, as poor old wealthy, miser-

able, selfish Scrooge did, that there can be no really happy Christmas without the Spirit of Christ in our hearts. What a difference it would make to the church and the world if more room was made for Jesus.

The Difference Jesus Makes.

What a transformation it would make if Jesus were taken into partnership in every business transaction, invited to every pleasure, consulted about every problem, made the confidential friend in every anxious care, and invited to take the key of our home and be Lord and Master there. If every shepherd or son of toil could only gather around his cradle, his cross, and his throne, and if every wealthy man from the East or from every city and clime would only bring afresh of their earthly stores to the Christ of God, and bow at his feet again, what a great time Christmas would really be! It would go beyond the superficial and even sentimental greeting, however sincere that might be, and it would say, "May you know more of Christ and his real presence and joy at this Christmas time." It would wish for all our friends and for ourselves that he should have a greater place in our lives than ever before, and that by his coming into his rightful place, and into close relationship with men, the true and holy joy of Christmas would become lasting and abiding, and that every day, all the way in the glad new year Christ himself would be there.

Let Christ Come In.

What a calamity it is that Christ has come and the world does not recognise him! He is the unwanted Visitor, the unwelcomed Guest, who stands and still says, "If any man open the door, I will come in." We need to find room for him in the politics and government of this old world. The solution of every problem is found in the application of the principles of Jesus to our every-day life, but there is no room for Jesus in politics.

There is room for party, class distinction and hatred, selfish seeking of office, the intrigue of personal gain and ambition, but no room for Jesus who could lead us, if we would let him, to what the whole world needs. There is room for much else in business, in pleasure, in our homes, but what we really need is to have a greater place for Jesus. Jesus came once in the end of the age to a world that was not ready to receive him. Men did not know how much they needed him, and so did not want him. They said, "Away with him," and they made room for Barabbas. Is Jesus outside still, or are we letting him have his rightful place in our lives?

The King will Come Again.

Let us not be discouraged because the world still leaves Jesus outside. It did that when he first came, and will keep on doing it till he comes again. God knows that the only way to bring true joy into our lives is to send his Son into our hearts. He is still waiting at the door. Some day he will come again, and the world will still be unprepared. There will be the foolish virgins that will not be ready to welcome him. Many are keeping their eyes toward the sunrise, looking for his glorious appearing. All the traditions and speculations of man do not matter. The one great fact is that to them that look for him he will appear a second time apart from sin unto salvation. Do not let material things crowd out this glorious expectancy. Look for him as the Wise Men of the East looked for his star, and come again to his cradle and cross each day to worship him. Look for him, and give him the place of honor and control in every day of this glad coming year. Every day look up, for the day of our redemption draweth

nigh. Christmas is the season in which we are reminded that our God keeps his promises. His time may not always be our time, but in his time he will do all he has promised. He will make his presence real to us every day if we but look up to him and hid him welcome, and at last there will be the song of all songs, when we shall see him and lay our trophies at his feet. Do not let one thing of earth crowd out Jesus. Fill life with the joy of his presence, and live in the constant joy of his promise, so that when he comes to us, or we go to him, we shall be glad at his appearing. Open your hearts, and put him upon the throne who was born to be the King Eternal and Saviour of the world.

Around the Cradle.

A VISIT TO BETHLEHEM.

John L. Brandt.

If we could look down the ages,
Back to the first Christmas Day,
We'd see coming the poor and the sages
To the cradle in which the babe lay.
There're the types of those who come now—
The disciple, worshipper, friend;—
They come in holy reverence to bow,
And their praises to heaven ascend.

The angels came from on high,
To announce his holy birth,
Beneath the solemn Christmas sky,
And proclaim him Prince of earth;
Then listen to the angels' song,
The chosen ones in God's plan,
As singing loud their notes prolong,
"Peace on earth and good will to man."

There's Mary—the mother, so gentle and blest,—
Her pure and her innocent hands
Shall care for the new-born guest,
And break off the cruel bands
That have bound her sisters for ages,
And now evermore it shall be
Recorded on history's pages,
They shall be gentle, loving and free.

The shepherds wakening from their fright,
When they heard the herald angels sing,
Came from their pastures that holy night
To Bethlehem to see the new born King,
To worship this child of lowly birth;
For the poorest of all was he then,
But whose glory was to cover the earth
As Redeemer and Saviour of men.

Then came the Wise Men from afar,
With frankincense, myrrh and gold,
Following a strange and beautiful star,
To the child, and worshipping, we're told,
That light that brought salvation;
That infantile light, through the days,
Has grown till it has reached every nation,
And now lights the world with its rays.

Then came King Herod, with envy wild,
A jealous and murderous man,
Who sought to slay the little child,
But failed in his base, selfish plan;
Oh, Herod, in thy mean and foolish guise,
To think the knowledge to you given,
Could escape God's watchful eyes,
Over his beloved Son, the Christ of heaven.

Come with us, both friend and stranger,
Come, let us go in faith and love,
Journey with us to the lowly manger,
And see God's precious gift from above;
Come rich and poor, come young and old,
Come join the happy throng, and then,
Hearing the sweetest story ever told,
Sing peace on earth and good will to men.

"For all poor souls we'll strew the feast
With kindly heart and free;
Our Father owns us, and at least
To-day we'll brothers be."

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. PITTMAN

A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

"Oh, to have dwelt in Bethlehem
When the star of the Lord shone bright,
To have sheltered the Holy Wanderer,
On that blessed Christmas night,
To have kissed the way-worn tender feet
Of the mother undefiled,
And with reverent wonder and deep delight
To have tended the Holy Child.

"Hush! such a glory was not for thee;
But that care may still be thine,
For are there not little ones still to aid
For the sake of the Child divine?
Are there no wandering pilgrims now
To thy heart and thy home to take?
And are there no mothers whose weary hearts
You can comfort for Jesus' sake?"

—Selected.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

Christmas brings a feeling of kindness and goodwill among men. For a time hard thoughts are laid aside and old and young give themselves up to joy and gladness. This spirit awakens generous thoughts, and men look round to see who they may serve by bringing happiness into the Christmas season. More particularly is it a children's festival, and where a child is for any reason deprived of Christmas joy there is a feeling of wrong. The various funds raised to help poor children illustrate this fact. Orphanages and other child institutions are catered for particularly, and in Sunday Schools and kindergartens Father Christmas is brought to the little ones. The magic that transforms the heart comes from the Bethlehem inn where Jesus was born; the Christ Child grips the heartstrings of humanity and draws forth the melody that inspires tender service.

The pity is that men yield to Christ a temporary allegiance and the Christmas spirit is not carried through the year. The world would be much happier if goodwill were a fixed instead of a passing emotion. Jesus wants to make it permanent. The heart of man recognises the fitness and beauty of goodwill as a factor in happiness. Yet distrust, greed, bitterness and strife slay the Christ Child in the hearts of men until the advent season again calls them from strife to love. There is no room for him in the lives of men. Until he comes to reign the wrongs that disgrace our civilisation must endure. Class war, faction, and hate drive out the Christ and bring in the woes that we endure so unwillingly. Long ago George MacDonald wrote:—

"The children cry, the women shake,
The strong men stare about;
They sleep when they should keep awake,
They wake ere night is out.

"For they have lost their heritage—
No sweat is on their brow;
Come, babe, and bring them work and wage;
Be born, and save us now."—Selected.

CAROLS IN THE DEPTHS.

To enjoy a jolly Christmas dinner while intombed some hundreds of feet beneath the earth's surface sounds incredible, and yet one Yuletide three plucky miners underwent this strange experience. An accident occurred in the Alhna shaft at Ely, Nevada, and these three—Bailey, McDonald, and Brown—were cut off from the outer world by tons and tons of earth.

The rescuing party worked like giants, but it was soon apparent that the trio could not be reached under forty days. Engineers succeeded in running three tubes down into the cavern where the men were. By means of these tubes a regular telephonic communication was opened, and food supplies sent down.

Christmas Day dawned, and a cold turkey and slabs of Christmas pudding were little by little directed down the tubes into the hands of the expectant miners.

After dinner a gramophone was connected with the telephone, and carols cheered their hearts down there in the depths, and helped them to forget that so many days must pass before they could be released.

A PLEA FOR PEACE.

"Lord, through the coming year I make no plea
For wealth or power; neither that of grief
I have no portion; but where'er I be,
Grant me thy peace!

"I ask not that my days shall pleasure know
Nor that from sorrow I shall find relief;
In hours of joy, in hours of pain or woe,
Grant me thy peace!

"If storm clouds lower; if the sky be grey
And lightnings rift the air; if stormy seas
Threaten to me engulf, dear Lord, I pray,
Grant me thy peace!

"If those I trust deny me, or betray,
Till sorrow's chalice holds but bitter less;
If hopes, long cherished, fail me by the way,
Grant me thy peace!

"If joy bids fair to be my welcome guest—
Lest I forget—oh, leave me not alone;
But let my happy heart have added zest;
Grant me thy peace!

"That peace which passeth understanding give,
A peace which deadens pain when hope hath flown;
In joy, in grief, whether I die or live,
Grant me thy peace!"

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS.

"The Christmas tree must have its roots in the heart, or it will bear no sound fruit on its branches."

"I wish you a merry Christmas! goes half-way to the goal; 'I'll make you a merry Christmas! touches the goal-post."

"As it is not what you give at Christmas, so much as how you give it, so it is less what you do in life than how you do it."

"O Brother mine of birth Divine,
Upon this natal day of thine,
Bear with our stress of happiness
Nor count our reverence less,
Because with glee and jubilee,
Our hearts go singing up to thee."

NO ROOM.

An editor at a dinner-table, being asked if he would take some pudding, replied in a fit of abstraction, "Owing to a crowd of other matter we are unable to find room for it."

THE REASON.

Bilton (sternly)—"What's the reason that young man stays so late when he calls?" Miss Bilton (demurely)—"I am, papa."

THE OPTIMIST.

The bald man entered the barber's shop and asked for a bottle of his best hair restorer.

"Here is a preparation"—the barber coughed over this last word—"that will grow hair on an egg-shell."

"Right," replied the other. "I'll take a large bottle, and please wrap up a brush and comb with it."

The Family Altar.

— J.C.F.P. —

Monday.

Behold, I send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant, whom ye desire, behold, he cometh, saith Jehovah of hosts,—Mal. 3: 1.

"Arrayed in mortal flesh
The covenant Angel stands,
And holds the promises
And pardons in his hands;
Commissioned from his Father's throne
To make his grace to mortals known,"
Reading—Mal. 3-4.

Tuesday.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise,—Matt. 1: 18.

"The Babe, whose birth
Was the great business both of heaven and earth,"
"Christmas is not dead. The news that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us is just as cheering news as it was on the Day of Pentecost."—F. D. Maurice.

"Every day should be the birthday of the Saviour to a renewed soul."—C. H. Spurgeon.

"The Christmas spirit is greatly promoted by the merry greetings. With changed words, prolong them through the year."

Wednesday.

Opening their treasures they offered unto him gifts.—Matt. 2: 11.

"What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would give a lamb,
If I were a wise man I would do my part—
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart."
Reading—Matt. 2.

Thursday.

In those days cometh John the Baptist—Matt. 3: 1.

"The last, and greatest, herald of heaven's King,
Girt with rough skins, hies to the desert wild;
There burst he forth—All ye whose hopes
rely

On God! with me amidst these deserts mourn;
Repent! repent! and from old errors turn."
Reading—Matt. 3.

Friday.

Then the devil leaveth him; and behold, angels came and ministered unto him.—Matt. 4: 11 (with Luke 22: 43).

Dr. John Duncan wrote: "If in the upper world we shall see the angel that came and ministered unto him, I think the whole church will be greatly interested in that angel."

Reading—Matt. 4.

Saturday.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.—Matt. 5: 8.

"Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God—in all temptations, trials, and aridities, in the agony and bloody sweat, in the cross and passion: this is not the prerogative of the future life, but of the present."
Reading—Matt. 5.

Sunday.

When therefore thou doest alms, sound not a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have received their reward.—Matt. 6: 2.

Dr. Johnson said: "The morality of an action depends on the motive from which we in- If I sling half a crown to a beggar with intention to break his head, and he picks it up and buys victuals with it; the physical effect is good; but with respect to me the action is very wrong. So, religious exercises, if not performed with an intention to please God, avail us nothing. As our Saviour says of those who perform them from other motives, 'Verily, they have their reward.'"
Reading—Matt. 6: 1-18.

Our Young People.

Conducted by Leslie C. McCallum, M.A.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

If you could throw my front door wide
And walk right into me,
'Twould be the loveliest Christmas gift
I'd ever hope to see.
My heart's door opens wide to you,
And love keeps house within,
So, on this happy Christmas Day,
Come in, dear friend, come in!

A CHRISTMAS STORY.

All the stars that shine in the heavens belong to God, and all were made by him. Occasionally a new star comes into our vision, and then men speculate as to whether it is a new star or an old friend who has returned after a lapse of many years.

Long years ago there appeared in the Syrian sky a beautiful bright star that attracted the attention of some very wise men who could read the messages which the stars brought. The new star told them that far away a new King whom they wanted to see very much had been born. Immediately the men set out on the long journey to the far-away country in search of the new King.

Now the star which the wise men saw in the sky shone for everybody, but only a few men saw it. I suppose most of the people were so busy about their own affairs that they never thought of the stars. Perhaps some noticed it, and even inquired about its meaning, but they never thought of taking the long journey into the far country to see the new King. Stars do not make a noise when they shine, like crackers, and so people are apt to miss seeing them.

God gave the star to all, but he would not force any of those who noticed it to go and see the King—this they had to do of their own free-will.

And do you know that to-day, this very Christmas time, God has set a shining star, so to speak, in each of your hearts? Every time you want to be good, that is a ray from his Star; and every time you pray, and really want to speak to your Father in heaven, that is another beam from the little star he has placed in your heart.

Now, just as the Christmas Star shone over all the world, but only a few followed it and found the Saviour, so, though God has put so much that is beautiful into the world, unless we each for ourselves copy the example of the Wise Men and follow the Star, it cannot help us.

Some people are content with thinking beautiful thoughts on Sunday and forget about them at other times; but you are not going to be like this. You are, with the Wise Men,

going to thank God for the star which he has placed in your heart, and you are going to follow and obey every good thought, so that you will not only find the Saviour but will become like him in character.

So my wish for you this Christmas is that you may see the bright star which God has lit for you, and that as you see it you may follow it every day, and it will surely bring you to that place where you will find the great love of the Saviour, and so for you there will be the brightest of all New Years.

OUR PICTURE.

The Bible Class of the Kalgoorlie Church of Christ, Western Australia, has closed another year of service. At the time of the mission conducted by Bren, Hinrichsen and Brooker the class was under the leadership of the evangelist, Bro. C. H. Hunt. But with the large increase in the membership of the church Bro. Hunt's pastoral duties forced him to relinquish the leadership of the class. Bro. F. D. Pollard was called to lead the class in August, 1926, when the number on the roll stood at twenty-eight. The enrolment now stands at 41 and the attendance for the year has averaged 30. The main function of the class has been that of supplying teachers for the Bible School. From the Bible Class have gone 23 who have taken up work as teachers in the school. Kalgoorlie possesses a constantly shifting population, and although thirteen members of the class have left the district, there are still twelve of the foundation mission members in regular attendance. Mr. D. Beames, the treasurer of the class, has had the pleasure of handing over to the school the sum of £24/15/-.

DRUMCONDRA BIBLE SCHOOL.

Two years ago this month the Bible School at Drumcondra, North Geelong, was founded. It commenced with an actual attendance of about eighteen and a staff of four teachers. Since then the school has made steady progress. On Sunday, December 11, the school celebrated its second anniversary. There was an attendance of fifty officers, teachers and scholars, and at both the afternoon and evening meetings the number present was most encouraging. At the evening service every available seat was occupied. The children, under the direction of Bro. Emory, of the church at Latrobe Terrace, sang splendidly. One pleasing feature of the work at Drumcondra is the number of young men who are in active service. If present indications are to be trusted, there should be a very bright future before the church at Drumcondra. The Victorian organiser was the speaker at all services on December 11.



Bible Class, Kalgoorlie, W.A.

Prayer Meeting Topic.

January 4, 1928.

THE RICH CHRIST.

(John 1: 11, 16.)

F. J. SIVVER, B.A.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." "And of his fulness have we all received and grace for grace." So many references are made to the sorrows, the poverty, the loneliness, the homelessness of Jesus, that we are likely to forget the other side. Those who knew him best, his biographers, had a very different picture to present. Matthew writes as one who was impressed by the majesty of Christ. To Mark, Jesus was the man of action, full of life-giving vitality. Luke loves to illustrate the universality of the Master's sympathy and Saviourhood. John adds the finishing touches to the portrayal when he says, He was "full of grace and truth . . . and of his fulness have we all received and grace for grace."

The Wealth of Jesus.

Although he had no money and possessed no property, yet Jesus was rich beyond the dreams of avarice. At the close of his earthly ministry, he bequeathed to his followers a great legacy—"my joy" and "my peace."

A highly successful business man once said that the habit of happiness was worth more than ten thousand pounds a year to him. How infinitely more precious was the joy of Jesus! His was a joy beyond the reach of circumstance. It was the joy of being in perfect harmony with God the Father, and the joy of knowing that his sacrifice would be the means of redeeming countless thousands.

Through all his utterances we can catch the undertone of a great peace—"the peace that passeth all understanding." Think of him, hanging in agony upon the cross, and yet so much at ease as to be able to forget his own sufferings and to plan for his mother's welfare, and to hear and answer the cry of a penitent thief. One who possessed such joy and peace was not poor but rich indeed.

Think next of what John says of him: he was full of truth and grace. To understand perfectly the nature of man, to know the mysteries of the being of God, and to be so fully conscious of the rectitude of his own life as to be able to say, "I am the truth," "the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, they are truth," that surely was wealth of the highest kind.

And if it is possible to mark degrees in such riches, the highest degree is to be found in the fact that Jesus was full of grace. Men caught the accents of that grace in his very speech. Even the prejudiced people of Nazareth wondered at "the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth." It was this grace seen on his face and expressed by his every gesture that won the hearts of little children and drew them with hurrying feet to his side. It was this grace that held and helped the woman at Sychar's well. This grace attracted publicans and sinners and made them willing to forsake their ill-gotten gains and haunts of sin in order to follow him. What is this grace? "Grace," says Dr. J. D. Jones, "is stooping love, the love of a superior for an inferior, unmerited love, love given where it is not deserved, love bestowed upon the loveless."

The Riches He Bestows.

It is popular these days to exalt and extol human nature. But man is not great of himself. He is only great when possessed by Christ. Apart from the gospel man is broken and bankrupt. But there is no need for any to remain in this sorry plight. For God is ready not only to forgive but to save to the uttermost. "My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in Christ Jesus."

TOPIC FOR JANUARY 11.—THE WITNESS OF THE BAPTIST.—John 1: 23.

Foreign Missions.

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

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

We wish our readers a very happy Christmas and New Year. In this wish we know all our missionaries join most heartily. They more than anyone else rejoice in the wholehearted support of F.M. work by the large majority of our Australian churches.

MR. AND MRS. ANDERSON.

Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Gwen and Pearl are now in Queensland. Bro. Anderson has visited all the six States of Australia. He is spoken of by those who have heard him as our "missionary orator." No meeting so small, no weather so trying that he cannot triumph over with his eloquence and cheerfulness. After Bro. and Sister Anderson have finished their itinerary in Queensland, they will rest awhile in Victoria.

Bro. Anderson has asked the F.M. Board to allow him to spend the time between the close of his itinerary work and his return to China in pastoral work. The Board has agreed to this request. This will be a help to the F.M. Board financially, and a great uplift to the church with which Bro. Anderson labors.

MISS CAMERON.

At Swanston-st. church on Monday evening, Dec. 19, Miss F. Cameron gave her lantern lecture on work amongst the orphan and friendless girls at Shrigonda, India. Many interesting views were shown. At the conclusion words of farewell were spoken by the F.M. president, Bro. A. G. Saunders, and Bro. A. W. Connor, Victorian Conference President. Sister Mrs. R. P. Clark, in the absence of the Women's Conference President (Mrs. Shipway), presented Miss Cameron with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, and expressed the love and good wishes of the sisters of Victoria. Miss Cameron left for Adelaide by the express on Tuesday afternoon. Miss Cameron has visited five of our States: Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. Everywhere she has spoken missionary interest has increased. Those who heard her will never forget the entrancing story she tells of the work among the children she ministers to in India.

CHILDREN'S DAY.

New South Wales Bible Schools have broken records in Children's Day offerings this year. So far the following schools have reported their offerings:—Merewether, over £40; Erskineville, over £27; Belmore, over £27; Taree (a small country school), £7; North Sydney, £4; North Auburn £3; Canley Vale, £4/8/-; Burwood, £1/16/-; Seven schools' total, £114/4/-. The largest amount so far reported from one scholar is £4/14/-. Many others have raised over £1.

N.S.W. F.M. DAY OFFERING.

The offering to date amounts to £886, and the treasurer, Bro. Morton, expects this will be increased to at least £900. Well done, New South Wales! This amounts to over 4/6 per member.

F.M. TREASURY EMPTY.

This is the lean part of the year. The sending of the monthly budget allowance to India this month emptied the treasury and compelled us to arrange for an overdraft. Any of our church or State treasurers, and any orphan supporters who have money due to the treasurer, will save us overdraft interest by sending to Geo. T. Walden, the Federal Secretary, Unley, S.A.

CHRISTMAS CABLES.

Cheap cable charges enable Christmas greetings to be sent to missionaries. This will bring our missionaries nearer to the homeland.

THE FEDERAL SECRETARY.

G. T. Walden is visiting New South Wales, telling the story of "Twenty Years' Mission Work in the New Hebrides." Dec. 18 was spent with the Enmore and Erskineville churches. Will correspondents please send all communications to Unley, S.A., as usual?

MISSIONARIES IN AUSTRALIA IN 1928.

During the whole or part of 1928 we shall have the largest number of Churches of Christ missionaries on furlough since we began F.M. work in 1890. At present in Australia: Miss Florence Cameron, Nurse Dorothy Clark, R.T.N.A., and child Dorothy; Mr. and Mrs. Anderson and two children, Gwen and Pearl; on their way to Australia: Dr. and Mrs. Killmier and two children, Neville and Bruce; Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Watson and their children, Nancy, Florence and Henry. To arrive later: Mr. and Mrs. F. MacKie and their child Melville; Miss Mary Thompson, Miss Elsie Caldicott. Total, twelve missionaries and nine children. Many of these we hope to have present at the Federal Conference in Adelaide, October, 1928.

MISS MARY THOMPSON.

In Miss Mary Thompson's last letter she gives the following very interesting story of an Indian Christian: "We have had an interesting visitor with us this week. He is the father-in-law of our head-master, and told us how he had to leave his home when he became a Christian. After some time his father allowed him to come home on a visit and afterwards his brother, who was ill, sent for him, and both of them told him they, too, believed on Jesus Christ. Just lately he has had the joy of baptising a married niece, her husband, sister and two other relations. Some years ago the niece left her home at night and came to the missionary's house asking for baptism, but she was taken away forcibly early the next morning. They had her married, but she remained faithful to her convictions, and through her others have been brought to a knowledge of Jesus Christ."

THE LAW OF LOVE.

"For we must share if we would keep
That good gift from above;
Ceasing to share we cease to have—
Such is the law of love."

PUBLIC DISCUSSION, MASONIC HALL, COLLINS-STREET

Between
DR. JOHN L. BRANDT,
Minister Church of Christ, Swanston-st., Melb.,
— and —
MR. J. S. LANGLEY,
Secretary Rationalist Association of Australia.
Tuesday Evening, January 10, 8 o'clock.
Subject, "Why I Believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Affirmative, Dr. Brandt; negative, Mr. Langley,
Tuesday Evening, January 17, 8 o'clock.
Subject, "Is Jesus the Christ the Son of God?"
Negative, Mr. Langley; affirmative, Dr. Brandt.
Admission—Reserved Seats, 1/-; unreserved, 6d.
All surplus above expenses to Melbourne and
Children's Hospitals.

Tickets obtainable from W. C. Craigie, 265 Lit.
Collins-st., Melbourne, and Austral Publishing
Co. Ltd., 530 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne; also at
Masonic Hall on night of meetings.

MARRIAGE.

DAVIE—FISCHER.—On Nov. 17, at Henley Beach, S.A., Church of Christ, by Mr. Ross Graham, Harry L., younger son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Davie, Reynella, to May W., elder daughter of Mrs. and the late Mr. T. B. Fischer, of Henley Beach. Present address, Tumby Bay, South Aus.

IN MEMORIAM.

OLDFIELD.—In loving memory of Arthur Oldfield, who passed away on Dec. 26, 1926. "Until the day break, and the shadows flee away."
—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

RADFORD.—In fond and loving memory of dear Dorothy, who passed away on Dec. 23, 1926. Still living, still loving, still ours.
Sleep on, dear loved one, thy task is o'er,
Those loving hands shall toil no more;
The sun has set, the race is run,
The Saviour's voice has bid thee come.
—Inserted by her heart-broken mother, father and family, Swan Hill, Vic.

TIDD.—In affectionate memory of our dear son and brother, Ernest, who was called to the higher life (suddenly), Dec. 27, 1920. Loving memories.

As we loved you, so we miss you,
Thoughts of you are ever dear,
Loved, remembered, longed for always
As it dawns another year.
—Inserted by his loving parents, brothers and sisters, 29 Falmouth-st., Glenferrie.

WANTED.

The Church of Christ at York, S.A., will require the services of a full-time evangelist at about the end of February next. Applications will be received until Jan. 14 by the undersigned, from whom further particulars may be obtained.
—S. H. Young, Secretary, Port-rd., Welland, S.A.

Brother to engage in part-time work with Camberwell church. Communications, indicating salary required, may be addressed to W. A. Fordham, 260 Riversdale-rd., Camberwell.

The church at Ma Ma Creek, Queensland, wishes to secure the services of a preacher. Particulars from J. S. Metcalf, Mt. Whitestone, Grant-ham, Qld.

Jas. E. Thomas and family hope to leave by motor en route for Sydney on Jan. 2. If any other brethren are planning to start that day, will they please communicate with Bro. Thomas, 2 Jersey-st., Canterbury (Phone W4469)?

COMING EVENTS.

JANUARY 8.—Hinrichsen-Brooker Mission commencing Parkdale. Tent near chapel, corner Como-pde. and Birdwood-st. We look to sister churches to help by prayers and presence this promising seaside prayer.

JANUARY 21 and 22.—Opening of Kyneton Chapel. Arrange to be present at the opening of the new Church of Christ Chapel at Kyneton on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 21, and at the special Sunday services on Jan. 22. Meals provided. Good motor trip.

AGENCIES.

"Advertiser" (church member), recently returned from England, has several valuable agencies for disposal, sole rights Australasia. Capital required in most cases, but all genuine marketable lines. Apply in first instance to "Southall," 137 Lord-st., Richmond, Vic.

BEAUTIFUL WEST ULVERSTONE, TASMANIA.

Delightful Home for paying guests, close to beach, river and town. Apply Mrs. W. H. Nightingale, South-rd., West Ulverstone, Tas.

APPEAL EXTRAORDINARY.

The Victorian Department of Social Service appeals to the Brotherhood to help the many of our own people who are bordering on destitution. Let all who can send a contribution once to the Secretary, Will H. Clay, 49 Elizabeth-st., Melbourne.

Here and There.

We wish all our readers the happiest of Christmas seasons, and a bright and joyous New Year.

On Tuesday we received the following telegram from Warragul, Vic.: "Delightful service Monday. Hinrichsen-Brooker; £120 contributed.—Waters."

Moore-rd. Church of Christ, Durban, South Africa, is prospering. There were six confessions on Nov. 13, one on Nov. 20, and two on Nov. 27.

At Mile End, S.A., three ladies confessed Christ on Dec. 11, making a total of nine confessions for the week. The work of Bro. Ewers is being blessed.

Bro. J. Chivell is now preacher of the church at Bayswater, Vic., in succession to Bro. A. N. Hinrichsen, who has gone to Wangaratta. His addresses are much appreciated.

Seven were welcomed into fellowship at Geelong, Vic., on Dec. 11. Two decided for Christ after Bro. Stevens' evening address, and two more on Dec. 18. 49 have been added to the membership since March last.

Allan Walkley, son of Bro. and Sister A. J. Walkley, of Hindmarsh, is listed among graduates of the Adelaide University as Bachelor of Science. His parents returned from a trip round the world on Dec. 11, just in time to be present at the commemoration.

During her trip abroad Mrs. E. Campbell Ludbrook crossed to America and paid a visit to Bro. Hugh McLellan, spending a delightful time with him and his family. She also visited her relatives in England, including Mr. John Crockatt, a report of whose death appeared in our last issue.

Will correspondents please note that there will be no issue of the "Christian" next week? Reporters are asked please to send on reports for issue of Jan. 5, but not to send next week. Some reports came too late for insertion in this issue. Others had to be much compressed as an alternative to holding over.

It is the intention of the Victorian Prohibition League, early in the New Year, to begin intensive organisation with a view to the approaching no-licence poll in 1930. One of the first steps in this direction will be the appointment of a general director. Reference to this projected appointment appears in our advertising columns.

Norwood, S.A., had good meetings on Dec. 18. 176 met in the morning and 26 at night for breaking of bread. At night three were baptised. After a powerful appeal by Bro. Baker, two ladies made the good confession. Members have been greatly interested in the pioneers of our movement, and 54 copies of "Elder John Smith" have been despatched.

Balwyn, Vic., Ladies' Aid Society had a very successful sale of goods, opened by the Mayoress of Camberwell (Mrs. J. D. Howie). Mrs. E. W. Greenwood thanked the Mayoress, and the Mayor replied. The ladies expect to clear £100. There were splendid meetings on Dec. 18. The choir, under J. E. Austin, rendered appropriate Christmas selections in the evening. Jas. E. Thomas spoke morning and evening.

During the absence of Bro. Paternoster, Bren-Hagger, Pond, Southgate, Arrowsmith, Crossman and Aderman assisted at Enmore, and were greatly appreciated. There was one confession. Bro. Paternoster preached on Dec. 11, and at night unveiled a roll of honor in memory of the men who have served the tabernacle as preachers, and those who have gone forth as preachers, and those who have given of Bro. R. E. Jeffrey, and is a fitting tribute to the memory of these men. At the close Bro. J. Parsonage was baptised. Home Mission offering amounted to £121.

Benalla, Vic., had good meetings the last two Lord's days, about 23 members being present on each occasion. The Bible School is going on nicely. Home Mission offering amounts to £22/2/-.

Anniversary services were held at Brim, Vic., on Dec. 11, Bro. H. J. Patterson, M.A., addressing crowded meetings. Successful gatherings were also held on Dec. 12 and 13. The Home Mission offering amounted to £50.

Bro. Wm. Morrow, M.L.C., our Federal Conference President, writes as follows: "On Friday I received the following cable from St. Louis:—'Executive committee voted Burnham attend Federal Conference Adelaide.' This means that we are to be favored with the presence of Dr. F. W. Burnham, and I presume Mrs. Burnham, at our next Federal Conference. While in St. Louis it was our pleasure to be guests of Bro. and Sister Burnham, and we found them to be worthy people indeed. He is a princely fellow, cultured, refined and dignified. I am sure his coming amongst us will be a great inspiration and blessing to our brotherhood."

A public discussion has been arranged between Dr. J. L. Brandt, of Swanston-st. church, and Mr. J. S. Langley, Secretary of the Rationalist Association of Australia, to be held in the Masonic Hall, Collins-st., Melbourne, on Tuesday evenings, January 10 and 17. The subjects will be: First night, "Why I Believe in the Resurrection of Christ." Affirmative, Dr. Brandt; negative, Mr. Langley. Second night, "Is Jesus Christ the Son of God?" Negative, Mr. Langley; affirmative, Dr. Brandt. Admission will be 1/- reserved, 6d. unreserved seats. Surplus proceeds to Melbourne and Children's Hospitals. Arrangements have been made for sale of tickets with Mr. W. C. Craige, 265 Little Collins-st., Melbourne, and Austral Publishing Co.

The mission at Strathallyn, S.A., which closed on Dec. 5, proved a time of blessing, and resulted in 14 making their stand for Christ. Much interest was manifested throughout, parties from Milang, Pt. Sturt, Murray Bridge and Macleod being frequently present, as well as a large local representation, to hear Bro. Raymond's excellent doctrinal teaching and forceful gospel messages. The tent was almost full on the closing evening. A thank-offering realised £53/17/-.

Bro. Raymond was presented with a fountain pen and a cheque in token of appreciation of the personal sacrifice made by him, and in recognition of his services. The church expresses thanks to Nailsworth church for releasing Bro. Raymond free of any expense for the period of the mission.

Bro. A. E. Hurren commenced his ministry with Bendigo church on Nov. 20. Meetings throughout the day were very fine; 160 being present in the morning, and 260 at night. Bro. Hurren's addresses were of a very fine spiritual tone. A public welcome was held on Nov. 21. Mr. F. W. Collins presided. Addresses were given by W. Collins (church secretary), Mr. D. A. Mr. A. E. Streader (church secretary), Sister W. H. Perkins, Kenley, Mr. A. Pettigrove, Sister W. H. Perkins, Dr. J. Cook, Mr. Duncan Reeves (Ministers' Fraternal), and Mr. S. Dorman (Baptist church). Bro. and Sister Hurren responded. A musical programme was given by members of the church choir. The Mutual Improvement Society tendered a banquet to Bro. Hurren on Nov. 28 in the Y.M.C.A. hall, about 80 being present. The anniversary of the opening of the chapel was celebrated by special services conducted by Bro. Hurren on Dec. 4. A special offering taken for the purpose of reducing the church debt amounted to £31. During the first year in the building, to £31. The church has been abundantly blessed. It has been a time of continual progress. Meetings have been wonderfully attended throughout. During the year £127 has been paid off the over-

draught at the bank, in addition to payment of interest bill. £146 has also been paid to the credit of the interest account, which will meet interest for the next 18 months. Bro. Hurren is settling down in the work well. Some of the biggest meetings have been held since his arrival. On Dec. 11 one young man made the good confession.

Seven girls were baptised last Sunday night at Gardiner, Vic., one of whom confessed Christ and was baptised the same hour. Two were received into fellowship in the morning. At night a large audience listened to a joyful Christmas message from Bro. Gebbie and special Christmas music from the choir. This last quarter of 1927 is proving to be a time of rejoicing over more than 20 confessions and numerous additions by letter.

Nailsworth church, S.A., recently purchased an organ, and reduced the debt on the building to the extent of £63. This was made possible by the liberal thank-offering given by the church on the first Lord's day in November. Five by letter and three by faith and obedience have been received recently. In the absence of the preacher, who was at Strathallyn during November holding a tent mission, gospel services were conducted by A. M. Ludbrook, G. T. Walden, H. J. Horsell and C. Caldwell. Bro. Raymond commenced his third year with the church on Dec. 18, when he preached to splendid congregations.

The church and Bible School anniversary festival at Warnambool, Vic., was held recently with unqualified success. The presence of Bro. W. Gale was a large factor in this success. Bro. Gale gave his lantern lectures on Tilet and Victorian Home Missions, addressed the children at the prize-giving, and preached twice on the Lord's day. In addition he addressed the Bible Class and conducted a teachers' conference. The prize-giving on Tuesday night was most successful. School prizes, F.M. awards, attendance seals and exam. certificates were given out. Several interesting items were also given. Muriel Petterd received the gold medal awarded by the Bible School Department for ten years' unbroken attendance. A presentation was also made to Mrs. Petterd, who has resigned from kinder superintendency after many years' faithful service. The tea and public meeting on Thursday were very successful, with special singing by a ladies' glee club. On Saturday a picnic was held in the gardens, when Father Christmas came to the kindergarten children. Home Mission offering is a record, totalling £11/18/-.

N.S.W. Churches of Christ Children's Home was officially opened, in the presence of a splendid gathering. Bro. K. A. Mackenzie, Chairman of the Social Questions Committee, presided and was supported by Dr. Richard Arthur, M.L.A., Minister of Health, the Conference President (Bro. S. J. Southgate), and Bro. W. J. Crossman, Organising Secretary of the Committee. Dr. Arthur, who performed the official opening, received a hearty welcome. He said the Churches of Christ should feel proud of such people as Mr. and Mrs. Carter, whose practical Christianity had made the home possible. Bro. Crossman brought before the visitors the aims of the committee concerning the home, and the amount of money required to finance same. About £70 in cash and promises was donated. The committee is appealing for a number of brethren and sisters who would be willing to contribute £10/10/- for the purchase of a bed and bedding, etc., donors to have their names placed at heads of beds on a brass plate. Annual subscribers of £1/1/- are also being sought. Erskineville church hand was in attendance, and a musical and devotional programme was presented. Afternoon tea was served on the lawn. Afterwards an opportunity was given to see over the home. The Board of Management is grateful to the following who have accepted honorary positions: Hon. Physician, Dr. C. A. Vercos; Hon. Legal Adviser, Hon. D. R. Hall; Hon. Dental Surgeon, Mr. Milton D. Hunter.

OBITUARY.

AGHAN.—Bro. Will Aghan, of Middle Park church, Vic., received the home-call on Oct. 19, at Sydney, at the age of 46 years. Bro. Aghan was well-known in New Zealand and had often spoken in our churches there. He was baptised in New South Wales by Bro. E. Bagley. For a time he was superintendent of the Sunday School at Middle Park. We pray that God will bless and comfort Mrs. Aghan, and Joyce and Athol, and all the sorrowing relatives.—A.B.

AMERY.—On Nov. 19 Bro. R. Amery passed away at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Willson, Belmore, Sydney. He had reached the age of 87 years and nine months. He was born in London and was baptised by the late C. H. Spurgeon, when about 12. He came under the ministry of the late Thomas Bagley, and joined the church at Paddington. He was always an industrious worker in the Lord's vineyard, helping in Bible School, open air, and in every possible way. For a number of years he was quite blind. He never failed to pray for the prosperity of the church he loved. He fought a good fight, and kept the faith. We commend the dear ones to the God of all comfort.—J. Chapple.

KING.—On Oct. 20, at his residence, Box Hill, Vic., Bro. W. C. King, aged 71, fell asleep in Jesus after almost five years of suffering. In April, 1917, he united with the church at South Richmond, being baptised by Dr. A. C. Garnett, M.A. For a short time Bro. King and his family met with the church at Echuca. Our brother's active membership with the Box Hill church was of short duration, for an injury to the heart compelled him to spend the last four years as an invalid. The beautiful spirit of patience displayed during those years of pain was a silent testimony of an unflinching faith in the love of God and Christ. Bro. King loved the church. The funeral took place in the Box Hill cemetery, Bro. J. E. Allan officiating. The church extends Christian love and sympathy to Sister Mrs. King and her four sons.

RENTON.—Mrs. Renton was born in Kilmally, Scotland, 1834, and passed into the presence of God, Nov. 8, aged 93 years. Until her marriage to G. W. Renton in 1853, she was a member of the Presbyterian church, but in that year united with the church. From that time until recently, when her health broke down, she was an ardent worker for the Master. After a few years membership at Ballarat, Bro. and Sister Renton returned to Scotland for 19 years. In 1889 they returned to Melbourne, and transferred membership to Swanston-st. Eight weeks later Bro. Renton died, and the widow remained a member for a few years, then transferred to Lygon-st., and continued there for twenty years. In 1916 Mrs. Renton came to Sydney and placed her membership at Mosman, where she continued for nine years until her decease, a consistent worker for God and the church. Sister Renton was well known for her upright Christian character, her hospitality, and willingness to be used of the Lord. She was one of the oldest members of the church in Australia, having been a member for over 74 years.—A. E. Adams, Mosman.

THE COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

The Board of Management desires to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following contributions during November:—

Churches—Annual Offerings.—Victoria: Bet Bel. £2/11/-; Stawell, £2/10/4; Drumcondra, 13/-; Doncaster, £8/5/6; Northcote, £6/8/6; Ascot Vale, £6/10/-; Dandenong, £1/15/6; Shepparton, £2/6/-; Cosgrove, 9/-; Gardiner, £13/12/10; East Kew, £1/11/-; Collingwood, £2; North Richmond, £4; Ballarat, Peel-st., 8/-; Oaldleigh, £3/13/-; East Camberwell, £2/4/6; Ivanhoe, £3/11/3; Melbourne, Swanston-st. (add.), £59/16/5; Brighton, £11/13/-; Brunswick, 17/-; Middle Park, £4/14/3; Castlemaine (add.), £1/19/6; Carlton, Lygon-st. (add.), 3/-; Chelsea, 19/-; Prahran, £3/17/6. New South Wales: Mosman, £1/9/-; Auburn North,

5/-; Tarce, £3; Lidcombe, £3/6/9; Burwood, £1/5/-; Chatswood (add.), £31/3/7; Enmore, £47/13/9; North Sydney, £1/15/-; Paddington, £1/11/6; Chatswood (add.), £10; Hamilton, 10/-; Petersham, 5/-; Marrickville, £8/9/9; Bankstown, £1/2/5. South Australia: Gawler, 16/-; Kadina, £1/5/-; Strathalbyn, £1; Queenstown, £5/2/-; Tumbly Bay, £8/3/6; Adelaide, Grote-st. (add.), £2; Cowandilla, £2/13/-; Cottonville, £1; Henley Beach, £2/1/-; Unley (add.), 9/-; Bordertown, £12/10/-; Mundalla, £14/6/4; Owen, £1; Butler, £1; Balaklava, £8; Berri, £2/7/-; Western Australia: Kalgoorlie, £8/8/7; Perth, £8/16/3; West Subiaco, 11/3; Maylands, £1/16/-; North Perth, £2/14/-; Bassendean, £3/3/2; Bunbury, £3/7/-; Claremont, £1/17/9; Inglewood, £2/15/6; Subiaco, £3/12/5; Brookton, £2/18/6; Bruce Rock, £1/0/6; Cottesloe, £8/17/-; Queensland: Charters Towers, £2; Roma, £2/16/-; Brisbane, A/O, £11/1/-, D/E, £2/0/4; East Ipswich, £3; Albion, £6/8/-; Rosewood, £1/15/-; Zillmere, 13/6; Gympie, £2; New Veteran, £2/0/6. Tasmania: Devonport, £1/18/-; Geveeston, £1; Hobart, 4/12/-; Invermay, £2/7/6; Launceston, £6/3/-; Mole Creek, 10/-; Dover, £1/1/-; Kellevie, £1/4/-.

Individual Contributions.—Victoria: Mr. and Mrs. Sligrotam, £2; Mrs. and Mr. H. Rees, 5/-; Anonymous, per A. R. Main, 10/-; E. J. Bone, £1; Miss G. Ancear, 2/6; E. J. Turner, 10/-; Mrs. E. J. Turner, 10/-; F. P. Shaw, 10/-; Miss T. Morris, 2/6; H. Green, 2/-; Mrs. McKinnon, 5/-; Miss H. Hargreaves, 10/-; R. Oliver, 5/-; Miss E. Bennetts, 5/-; Mrs. W. Downey, 10/-; Mrs. M. Hargreaves, £1; Miss D. Hargreaves, £1; Miss M. Hargreaves, 10/-; Miss G. Beaton, 5/-; Alb. Williams, £1; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Smith, 10/-; J. Urquhart, 5/-; Mrs. J. Innes, 5/-; Mrs. M. Innes, 5/-; Mrs. Cowe, 10/-; Miss E. Hargreaves, 5/-; Miss I. Forsyth, 7/6; A. T. Stevenson, 5/-; Mrs. E. Ashworth, 2/6; Mr. and Mrs. V. Hargreaves, £1; Mrs. E. G. Middleton, 5/-; Miss D. O'Neill, 10/-; Miss A. Beaton, 5/-; Mrs. S. Brehaut, 10/-; New South Wales: P. G. Saxby, £5; H. Edwards, £1; "A Friend of the King," 5/-; Mrs. A. A. Thomson, £1; W. A. Hunter, £10; A. G. Lester, 10/-; Miss A. Woolley, 10/-; Miss S. Woolley, 10/-; South Australia: C. E. Wyatt, 10/-; G. D. Wright, £5; C. W. Norton, 10/-; E. N. Long, £1/1/-; W. H. Parker, £2/10/-; Western Australia: C. J. Garland, £6; Miss M. Mitchell, 10/-; E. R. Berry, £1/1/-; A. W. Manning, £2. Queensland: W. H. Winter, £18; Miss J. Jenner, 10/-; Mrs. C. Firth, £1/1/-; Tasmania: Mrs. A. A. Howard, 2/6.

Special Contributions: Victoria: Church Extension Department, A/c J. Black, £2/10/-; Women's Mission Bands, £6/13/4; Offering, Demonstration, Piano Fund, £8/16/9; Windsor church, A/c Services Org. Seely, £1. Western Australia: Claremont-Girls' Club, Radiator A/c, 10/-; Glen Iris Girls' Association, A/c Special Prize, £2/2/-.

W. C. Craigie, Hon. Treasurer.
Fred. T. Saunders, Org. Secretary

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The monthly meeting was held in Grote-st. hall on Dec. 1, when 74 sisters were present, 50 delegates responding to the roll-call. Devotional exercises were led by Miss J. Whitfield, who took for her topic, "The Ministry of the Clouds." Mrs. S. Fewell sang a solo. Mrs. Ross Graham presided over the business session and welcomed Mrs. Ira Paternoster, of Sydney. The treasurer, Mrs. Bond, reported receipts: Foreign Mission, £11/4/-; Home Mission, £4/7/6. General Fund, £11/16/2. The following committees also reported: Home Mission, Foreign Mission, prayer meeting, Dorcas and Hospital (who had paid 110 visits during the month). Gifts were brought for hospitals. The obituary report stated that Mrs. Mobsby, of Norwood; Miss Coombe and Mrs. Barclay, of Maylands; and Mrs. Riches, of Mile End, had received the home call. There were six additions from the Sunday Schools to the churches during the month.—M. Mauger, Assistant Secretary.

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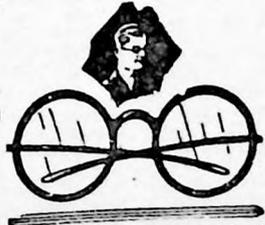
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News of the Churches.

Tasmania.

West Ulverstone.—The church appreciated a visit and lantern lecture from Miss F. Cameron, from India. Ian Nightingale is in hospital recovering from an operation for appendicitis.

Devonport.—The church enjoyed Sister Miss F. Cameron's helpful message and beautiful lantern views. Two more C.E. members were enrolled. Bren. A. R. Harvey and W. H. Nightingale have exhorted the church and preached recently.

Launceston.—Most successful Prospect Bible School anniversary services were held on Dec. 11. Will Waterman delivered a fine address. The gospel service was conducted by Bro. N. G. Noble at night. On following Saturday afternoon and evening the picnic, annual tea and programme were greatly enjoyed. The Y.P.S.C.E. closed a year of good work by a river trip to Hostella, with Miss Florence Cameron as guest. Sister Cameron's messages to school and gospel service on Dec. 11 were instructive and much appreciated. Christmas services were conducted by Bro. Noble on Dec. 18.

Western Australia.

Northam.—Bro. Buckingham spoke at both services on Dec. 4; one confession at night. At the prayer meeting on 7th inst., two more confessed their faith. Bro. S. Paine addressed the church on Dec. 11. The three men who had confessed Christ during the previous week were immersed at night.

Perth.—On Dec. 11 the third anniversary of the men's class was held. Bro. D. Hill gave the afternoon message to an open session. In the evening the men's choir and quartette rendered fine messages, and Bro. Schwab spoke on "Scriptural Sidelights on Racing, Wrestling and Fighting." In the afternoon three scholars confessed Christ.

Inglewood.—As a result of a recent successful book social, the school has started a library with 100 books. The ladies have held their second sale of work for this year, and have reduced the debt on the seating by £35. On Dec. 7 Bro. Wesley spoke at the prayer meeting, after which a social was held to bid Bro. and Sister Wesley farewell as they leave for the country. Fitting speeches and a suitable presentation were made.

Maylands.—The women's guild conducted the prayer meeting on Nov. 30. Bro. and Sister Uren, with a number of Chinese brethren, gave an interesting message in song and story. An offering was taken for Home Missions. Bro. Harris, on behalf of the Sunday School, read a very interesting paper on "The Relationship of the Church to the Sunday School" at the prayer meeting on Dec. 6. Bro. Rodier spoke on Sunday morning, 11th inst. The Home Mission offering to date approximates £20. Bro. Hunt (Kalgoorlie) is expected to hold a tent mission at Maylands in March.

Fremantle.—There have been seven confessions recently, two being at Palmyra gospel service anniversary on Dec. 11. Miss Mabel Sharp, of China Inland Mission, gave appreciated talks to the Bible Class on Nov. 20. Bible School, 180 present, Nov. 27. Palmyra Sunday School on Dec. 4, and girls' club on Dec. 9. Junior C.E. held anniversary services on Sunday evening, Dec. 4 (180 present), and on Tuesday, Dec. 6, when a large gathering enjoyed the programme. The society had an average attendance of 50 for the year, and started the new year well with 56. Bro. Fiddament is president, replacing Bro. Rowe, now farming at Carnamah. The ladies' Aid and Endeavor Societies gave a combined social to Mrs. and Miss K. Wardle on Dec. 12, prior to their departure for three months to the Eastern States. Home Mission offering reached £35 as against £13 in 1926.

Kalgoorlie.—On Nov. 30 a business meeting was well attended. Fine meetings all day on Dec. 4. Bro. Pollard exhorted. Bro. Hunt gave a fine gospel address. A baptismal service was held. Sister Davey and Bro. Morrow were married on Dec. 7. Sister Blunderfield is now out of hospital. On Dec. 10 the Y.L.O. held a cake afternoon in aid of club funds. Sunday, 11th, fine services all day. Bro. Geo. Banks exhorted the church. Bro. Hunt spoke at night. Sister Bird was welcomed into fellowship. 186 met at the Lord's table. Bible School attendance was 199. Sister Rogers, who is in the hospital, will soon be with the church again. On Monday night, Dec. 12, the young Ladies' Own held a concert, and the large audience thoroughly enjoyed the programme. The Girls' Club fund benefited by over £15. It is the aim of the young ladies to attend the next Conference in a body, and they are building up their funds for this purpose. Much of the success of the club is due to Sister Etheridge, who is untiring in her work for the girls.

Queensland.

Gympie.—On Dec. 7 Bro. S. Vanham spoke on "The Second Coming." On 11th, he exhorted, and also preached on "Unmasked." The building was well filled. Sister Dixon, one of the pioneer members, was present from Albion.

Roma.—The business meeting of the church was held on Nov. 30. Every department of church work is in a healthy condition. The financial statement showed a debit of £11. The work is being maintained by local brethren. On Dec. 4 the Bible School Children's Day Service was much enjoyed. Bro. L. R. Pitman gave an appropriate address. The church has enjoyed the fellowship of Bro. and Sister Leech from Warra.

Annerley.—Special meetings were held on Dec. 11 in connection with the women's guild. To a large morning meeting Bro. Young spoke on "Women Worth Knowing." At night, when the chapel was full, his theme was "The Woman whom God called Great." Both addresses were much appreciated. The guild held their final meeting for the year on Dec. 13. £57 (a record) was raised by the sisters during the year, several funds being helped.

Wynnum.—Bro. J. K. Martin commenced his ministry in Wynnum-Hawthorne circuit on Dec. 4. There was a good morning attendance at Wynnum. In the evening Bro. Martin spoke at the children's anniversary service at Hawthorne. On Dec. 9 Wynnum church tendered Bro. Martin a hearty welcome. Conference President (Bro. J. Stewart Trudgian) presided. Other speakers were Mrs. Wendorf, Bren. H. C. Payne, A. Reick, A. Hinrichsen, W. A. C. Wendorf, A. Miles, A. Patterson and Alderman W. C. Dart. Bro. Martin suitably responded. On Dec. 11 Bro. Rhodes spoke in the morning. Bro. Martin spoke at night to a large audience. On Dec. 10 the Y.P.S.C.E. spent an enjoyable afternoon at Lindum. The Sunday School is growing.

New South Wales.

North Sydney.—On Dec. 18 Bro. Harbutt exhorted. Bro. Cyril Lawrence conducted the gospel service. Bro. Lowne is in the hospital, the result of a motor accident.

South Kensington.—On Dec. 18 attendances were large. 207 in the Bible School. At night, after an address by S. J. Southgate, two married women made the good confession.

Enmore.—Splendid meetings on Dec. 18. In the morning G. T. Walden spoke to a large audience, and at night a Christmas choral service was held. After Bro. Paternoster's appeal four men, two fathers and sons, confessed Christ. A father and son were baptised. Offering for Christmas cheer totalled £16. Bro. Dr. E. Burdley has returned after his trip abroad.

Hurstville.—On morning of Dec. 18, Bro. Flood exhorted. The evening service was good. Bro. Hinrichsen speaking on "The Everlasting Goal." On Dec. 15 the children's Christmas tree was held. C.E. work is flourishing. The sisters' aid held a social afternoon on Dec. 15.

Chatswood.—Bro. E. Verco was received into fellowship after baptism. Bro. L. Gilmour addressed the church. Bro. Whelan gave a beautiful gospel message. Three young girls and one young man were baptised; also one young woman on Dec. 5. On Dec. 18 seven were received into fellowship. Bro. P. Dixon exhorted, and Bro. Whelan preached the gospel. During past nine months, there have been 45 baptisms. Home Mission offering amounts to £147.

Petersham.—The Bible School picnic at Cabarita was most enjoyable. On Dec. 4 Bro. Hibbard exhorted, and Bro. Arnott preached in the evening. Sister Pearl Anderson, from China, sang a couple of hymns. Sister Winks, of China, was also present. The church was pleased to have Bro. and Sister Anderson and Pearl on Dec. 5, Bro. Anderson giving an inspiring missionary talk on China. The Bible School is in a healthy condition. A competition rally between the various classes has helped considerably. Children's Day offering amounted to about £2.

South Australia.

Glenelg.—Members appreciate the inspiring messages of Bro. Edwards. Bible School attendance is good. Prayer service is growing; 38 at last meeting. C.E. concert was crowded.

Crystal Brook.—Two very fine meetings on Dec. 11. After a fine address by Bro. J. G. Bridgman on "The Requirements of the Lord," a lad, son of Bro. and Sister Bain, made the good confession.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On Dec. 11, Bro. Pocock addressed the church, and Bro. Walden spoke at night on "Conquests of Christ in the New Hebrides." Four confessed Christ. In the evening of Dec. 18 the choir, under the leadership of Bro. A. J. Gard, rendered the cantata, "Bethlehem."

St. Morris.—On Dec. 18 Bro. Pascoe was received by transfer from Mile End. At night appropriate anthems were rendered by the choir. There were 160 scholars and 25 teachers at the Bible School. The boys' physical culture club's final meeting for the year on Dec. 14 took the form of a social and display by the club members.

Kadina.—On Dec. 11 three young lads took their stand for Christ. These, with one other who had previously decided for Christ, were immersed on the morning of the 18th, and with two young women, transferred from York and North Croydon, were received into fellowship. Bro. Bowes is giving powerful gospel messages.

Queenstown.—On Dec. 18 Bro. Brooker spoke to the church on "God Speaking Through His Son." In the evening he took for his subject, "A Part of a Great Plan." On Tuesday evening the Girls' Wattle Club held their Christmas cheer evening, as a result of which 14 parcels of groceries were distributed around the district.

Croydon.—Bro. Graham spoke on Sunday morning concerning the birth of Christ. The evening service was well attended. Christmas hymns were sung, and anthems rendered by the choir. Bro. Graham continued his talk on the significance of the birth of our Lord.

Cottonville.—Bro. C. S. Hughes, of Pt. Pirie, has accepted the invitation to labor with the church as evangelist; he will commence duties on Jan. 1. There were splendid meetings on Dec. 11. Bro. Finlayson spoke in the morning on "We Would See Jesus." The singing at the gospel service was much appreciated. The attendance at Bible School grows each week; 127 present, 0 new scholars. The kindergarten, under the leadership of Miss D. Harper, is making rapid progress, 46 being present. On Dec. 6 Bro. Austin, of the World-Wide Bible Society, delivered an inspiring address at the C.E. consecration meeting. A party of Endeavorers visited the rally at Gawler, when an enjoyable time was spent.

QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE.

The last meeting for this year was held in Ann-st. chapel on Dec. 1, the president, Mrs. W. A. C. Wendorf, being in the chair. Mrs. H. Bassard (prayer meeting superintendent) led the devotional session. The treasurer's statement was received. Mrs. Yorke, superintendent hospital visitation, reported 95 visits to hospitals, tracts, fruit and flowers being given to patients. Mrs. Haigh, obituary superintendent, had written three letters to the bereaved. The president reported holding £100 for the Rockhampton mission, and had many more good promises. A good prayer meeting had been held at Hawthorne. Mrs. Young presided, and the president gave a helpful address on "Bright Lights Ahead." Hawthorne sisters provided afternoon tea. Collection in aid of Rockhampton mission fund amounted to 17/3.

At the Aged People's Home, "Normanby," on Nov. 3, Mrs. Freeman Davis gave a fine address on "Women's Work in China." Sixty were present, including the aged folk. A free-will offering of £2/12/6 was presented to the speaker. Afternoon tea was provided by the Executive. The next Executive meeting will be held on Feb. 2, 1928. The president invited all sisters present to afternoon tea, which she had provided. —G.P., Sec.

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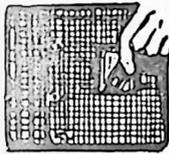
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