

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. XXXI, No. 51.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1928.

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

On Taking Christmas Seriously.

CHRISTMAS season—the happiest time of all the year—is upon us. With what eager anticipation the children look forward to the great day! But the older folk, too, enjoy it as much as do the children. To Christian and non-Christian it is a time of joy and gladness.

Not many people now are interested in the question whether or not December 25 is the exact or the approximate date of the birth of the Lord Jesus. There may have been quite other than Christian associations with the allotted day we keep. But few of us would doubt that Christmas, with its thoughts of peace and goodwill, is one of our greatest boons.

On looking through the church advertisements for Christmas, we noted that one preacher was announced to speak on "Taking Christmas Seriously." That suggests that some folk at least are not seriously regarding the day, and leads us to reflect on our own customs and how the season should be seriously considered.

To very many people Christmas is nothing more than a holiday season. Their thoughts do not linger at all on the event which the day celebrates or on the meaning of the first Christmas greeting. There is much loss in this, for the greatest thing which happened on earth, that which meant most to humanity, was the incarnation of the Son of God. Christmas ought to be a time of joy for the angelic chorus declared "good tidings of great joy"; but he who finds joy in mere pleasure-seeking misses the true Christmas spirit.

One happy feature of the season is that the minds of countless numbers will for a little time revert to Bethlehem and the birth of our Lord. Tens of thousands who rarely at other times think of Christ will for a little while on Christmas day think of the child in the manger. We cannot regard such as taking Christmas very seriously; but it is a gain if the minds of such are turned even for a time to the coming of our Lord.

Christians surely will take Christmas seri-

ously. The churches think they do so. Our Sunday Schools have Christmas trees and treats. Our churches have special services, with carefully prepared and elongated musical programmes and carefully attenuated sermons—surely choirs and their leaders take Christmas seriously. Doubtless some people are attracted who might otherwise leave thought of Christ out of the Christmas celebration, and so good may be done.

We take Christmas seriously when we ponder on the real significance and catch the spirit of the day. The coming of the heavenly Babe to Bethlehem was an event which changed the world. God's interest

in humanity was then declared as it could be in no other way. Childhood was honored as it could not otherwise be, and the love which is out-poured at this season on the children owes its inspiration to the Child of the manger. The wise men brought their gifts to the new-born Jesus. Here is the source of our Christmas giving. We give to friends, to dear ones at home or separated from us; to the children in our schools; to the sick in hospitals; to the poor and needy. There is a time of the year when no one minds an extra appeal for those who are poor and needy. That time is Christmas; and what a fine and practical thing it is that there should be this feeling of a common humanity and a joy in giving and sharing if only for one short season.

Christmas is a time of peace and goodwill. Are we catching the spirit of Christmas? This year we have had some world advances towards greater peace and goodwill among the nations. Behind these movements is the spirit of the Prince of Peace. Our Industrial Peace Conference was an appropriate introduction to a Christmas season. Whatever makes peace, harmony and goodwill comes from God. Christmas speaks to us of God's interest in man and his desire for peace and reconciliation. To take Christmas seriously is to consider what we can do in the way of furthering the cause of peace.

Above all, to take Christmas seriously is to show in our lives an appreciation of the great gift of God, and of the purpose of the incarnation. We cannot separate Bethlehem from Calvary, for the very purpose of the coming of the Son of man was to give his life a ransom for many. To live in appreciation of the great condescension of the Son of God is the only way to take Christmas seriously. We must catch and manifest the spirit of humility, self-sacrifice and love which prompted him to come not to be ministered unto but to minister. He must be the inspiration not alone of our Christmas giving but of our life of service for God and humanity.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And thought how, as the day had come,
The bells of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Then, from each black, accursed mouth,
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearthstones of a continent,
And made furlorn
The households burn
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong."
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fall,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

—H. W. Longfellow.

The Greatest of All Anniversaries.

Fred. T. Saunders.

The calendars of the world are crowded with great days. But it is significant that the greatest day in the calendar is that which marks the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem. This is a day in the calendar of humanity, a day dedicated to childhood and the home, and all the world falls under its spell. The most bitter enemies of Jesus are compelled in defiance of their own wills, to render him a certain homage. The world centres its festivity, its kindness, its generosity, its abandonment to the children's joy, and its good-will, in his birthday. A modern wise man and philosopher has urged men to hitch their waggon to a star. Did he overlook the fact that the notable wise men who did that were led by the star to a manger?

What spaces lie between star and manger! What daring imagination has joined them so intimately? Who has been so venturesome as to unite the highest in heaven with the lowest on earth? Yet, though nations have risen and fallen; though arts, sciences and philosophies have waxed and waned; though wars, tumults, and shakings have swept their tornado path down the ages, the story of Bethlehem's Babe has crept ever nearer the hearts of men, and lighted with fadeless joy the sanctuaries of their homes.

The nativity of Jesus changed the chronology of the world. That Child, born in poor circumstances, without sword or pen, divided the story of mankind into before and after! In that manger lay an influence—ineffable and appealing—that liberated, like the winds of Elnos, at length would change the moral and spiritual climate of the earth. Small wonder that countless multitudes gather round the cradle.

The Bible is full of surprises. Probably it contains none half as surprising as this. Try to imagine the mental shock experienced by the shepherds, the wise men, by Herod. Could human fancy conceive of associating a great king with a peasant woman's babe? Let us not blame the wise men if they hesitated a moment at the top of the street. They were kings seeking a king. They rode in pomp and finery. That back street set on either side with the narrow and commonplace houses of the poor was no street for the dwelling of a king! It means much that they went on in obedience to the leader-ship of the star. God chooses insignificant things through which to work, and in his wisdom the Bethlehem cradle is greater than Bethlehem steel. While battle plans perish poems live. War songs die, but folk songs are immortal. Let us get back to the cradle and stand in awe with the wise men.

Read again the chapter telling the birth of Jesus. Shut out all your theories and let the simple majesty of its beauty tell itself to your heart. You will enter once more the soul of youth with a sense of rebirth into your earlier, better, blither self.

It will awaken within you the child that is never wholly lost, but only blurred in the man or the woman. That story tells us we are of finer stuff than that to which old Time's power has transformed us; and that in what men call dreamland lies the true home of the soul. That the secret of life—too simple to be found out—is to use the powers of a man in the faith of a child; to combine the child sense of wonder and joy with the hard facts with which experience makes us familiar.

No other birth has stamped such an impression on the world. The efforts of enemies of the Christian faith to destroy the sanctities of this joyous memorial have been in vain. This festival alone is cosmopolitan. Each nation celebrates its own heroes, this day the world brings its homage to the

THE CHRISTMAS MESSAGE.

Christmas bells are ringing

Across the waters clear.

Happy echoes bringing

Of Christ, who once lived here.

The birds, the chorus swelling,

Of joy and love are telling,

And from the skies the angel's voice:

"Peace on earth, good will to men.

On this happy day rejoice—

Christ is born again!"

And from the lake to the sky above

Resound the echoes of Christmas love.

—Ruth Hartman.

feet of the Babe, and all grades and classes clasp hands over the cradle memories of Bethlehem.

What is the secret of the perennial vitality of this anniversary? There is an entire absence from the events of the stable of the trappings with which men, even those who are followers of the Babe, mark things they would make important. Indeed, the only mighty features are the gentleness and the tenderness of the occasion. It is the glory of Almightyness, not to be strong but to be gentle. When God would do the greatest thing for his world, he laid a little child in the arms of humanity. By his gentleness he makes us great.

The gift of a divine life to the world assures by a depth and certainty of knowledge not otherwise obtainable that we ourselves belong to God. That little Child is son of man as well as Son of God. Having once seen the Son of God cradled in the arms of human motherhood, divinity can never again seem to us that dread summit of being lying cold and vast against eternity. God can only be to us the most tender, intimate, and warmly loving of beings. That is the message of the angels. The unseen is a place of beauty not of horror. God is love—our Father; heaven is

home. Christmas commemorates the events which at once established the Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man. No wonder then, that though some festivals fade as anachronisms, this abides forever.

Christmas Day is a perennial denial of the notion that men must be selfish to be successful. It stands for joy because others are joyful. On this day we forget competitions, class struggles, and other terrible features of our economic life. We more than forget them, we defy them. We find happiness in making others happy.

Christmas proclaims once a year that the world may take Jesus seriously. He came with good tidings of love, and to embody that gospel as a ruling force in men's lives. As Easter teaches hope in the life to come, Christmas asks us to hope for the life that now is. Mr. Hoover says the world is going forward on the feet of little children. Bethlehem gave the same message hundreds of years ago. The hope of the world is in its children.

Christmas Day comes nearer to being Christianised than any other day in the year. On that day we have a better understanding of Jesus and his mission. The memory of the Christ Child helps us to put into force some of the ideals of the Christ Man. For that day we gain an intimation of Jesus' plan for every day.

Who is so blasphemous as to deny his heart's best hope? The choice of the world must be made at that cradle—between the Babe of Bethlehem and battleships, between the spirits in each. They represent opposite extremes and cannot remain forever in the presence of each other. "Peace on earth among men of good will." How far off it must have seemed in that day! How far off it seems to-day! Hate hangs like a pall over the world. Nevertheless it will come true. It is not a myth, nor a mockery. Not in our day, not in many days, perhaps, but at last, in the sweet might of him of whom that message sings, the earth will fill up with men of good will and war shall be no more. As men bow in the presence of the Child, and lay their strength at his feet, and have his spirit born in their hearts, this little Child shall lead them in paths of perfect peace.

Christianity is the only religion with an infant at its heart. And the child always conquers. That is the secret of Christism. When King Edward I, though he had defeated the Welsh, found their spirit unconquered, he showed his kingliness in an act which forever united Wales and England in loyal bonds. A little son, the royal heir, was born in Carnarvon Castle, and the King, taking the babe in his arms, presented him to the fierce and sullen chieftains as the Prince of Wales. Their hearts were conquered instantly. Their swords flashed in the air as they swore eternal fealty. The King of heaven would find in the hearts of rebellious men to himself in eternal allegiance by the infant Prince of Peace. The stupendous fact that God is with us in his Son makes Christmas the greatest of all anniversaries.

The Other Wise Men.

Matthew 2: 1, 2; 9-11.

S. J. Southgate.

"The Magi have a special claim for study because their visit is said to mark the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. To the children everywhere these wise men have a peculiar interest owing to the fact that they were the inventors of Christmas presents, a custom which has continued without intermission from their day, and one which will remain in operation, doubtless, till the last syllable of recorded time. Probably, however, many who adopt the pleasant custom give little thought to the Magi. The period of Christmas, always regarded by Christians with the deepest devotion, has influenced many who in other respects do not closely follow the teachings of the church. Never before was there a time when its message of 'peace on earth and good-will to men' was more valuable or more necessary than to-day, nor was there, perhaps, ever previously more opportunity for generous giving, in love and unselfishness, not only of material gifts, but of those sympathies and kindnesses which heal wounds and attract friends.

"Many of the ancient historians tell of a conviction in the East, derived from ancient prophecies, that ere long a powerful monarch would arise in Judea and gain dominion over the world. So these wise men would see in the infant king the destined Lord of the world. That the phenomenon of a new star should be interpreted as the signal of the coming King was in strict accordance with the belief of their age.

"Now it so happens, although the exact year in which Christ was born is not ascertainable from Scripture, yet, within a few years of what must, on any calculation, have been the period of his birth, there undoubtedly did appear a phenomenon in the heavens that could not possibly have escaped the observation of an astrological people. On December 17, 1603, there occurred a conjunction of the two largest planets, Saturn and Jupiter. In the following spring they were joined by Mars, and in September, 1604, there appeared between Mars and Saturn, a new star of the first magnitude, which, after shining for a whole year, gradually waned in March, 1606, and finally disappeared. Brownowski, the pupil of Kepler, who first noticed it, describes it as sparkling with an interchange of colors like a diamond, and as not being in any way nebulous or offering any analogy to a comet.

"Kepler, by calculating backward—and this has been verified by other independent investigators—discovered that such a phenomenon had happened just after the date of the birth of Christ. Such a conjunction would at once have been interpreted by the Chaldean observers as in-

dicating the approach of some memorable event, and since it occurred in the constellation which was supposed by astrologers to be immediately connected with the fortunes of Judea, it would naturally turn their thoughts in that direction. The form of their interpretation would be moulded both by the astrological opinions of the Jews—which distinctly point to this very conjunction as an indication of the expectation of a Messiah—and by the expectation of a Deliverer, which was so widely spread at the period in which they lived."

There are other stars and other wise men in our land, and in all lands to-day. There is a star in the east, a star of promise for every wise man, and this star, if followed, will lead to Jesus Christ just as

GIFTS AND GIVERS.

"What shall I give to thee, O Lord?
The kings that come of old
Laid softly on thy cradle rude
Their myrrh and gems and gold,
The martyrs gave their hearts' warm blood,
Their ashes strewed thy way;
They spurned their lives as dreams and dust
To speed thy coming day.

"Thou knowest of sweet precious things
My store is scant and small,
Yet wert thou here in want or woe,
Lord, I would give thee all!"
There came a voice from heavenly heights:
"Incline thine eyes and see
Gifts to the least of those I love
Thou givest unto me!"

surely as the Star in the East rested over the stable in Bethlehem of Judea, a sign to the Magi that he whom they sought was within.

Would we be included in the company of the other wise men, we shall see in this guiding star, these points:

First, there will be obedience. This will be one of the first and surest indications of our wisdom. The happy result of the Magi's search for Jesus was brought about because they were obedient to the heavenly vision. That vision still glows bright and clear for all who have eyes to see. In this twentieth century, this age of advancement, of enlightenment, of learning and cleverness, the truly wise will come back to a belief in the virgin birth, the incarnation; back to an incorruptible faith in the deity of Jesus; back to a simple childlike—Jesus;—relief in Jesus as the Saviour of the world; back to an unconditional and whole-hearted and reverent acceptance of his gospel. Wisdom is justified of those who recognise and receive the simplicity and sublimity of his word. The other wise men are all who have kept their faith in,

and rendered obedience to, this divine and saving Jesus.

Those who would be numbered with the other wise men will see in the actions of the Magi an example of consecration rare in history. Their un-stinted homage, their free-will and costly offerings, their supreme faith, their unflinching hope, their long and perilous search for the King, have made them models of consecration. It costs something to find Jesus to-day. It costs us our sin and our worldliness; it costs us the poignant sorrow of separation from father and mother, brother and sister, houses and lands; it means, in so many cases, a complete break with life-long and cherished associations; it means the sacrifice of all we have upon the altar of consecration; but if we do this we are wise men, modern Magis who have followed the star and found the Saviour. In these latter days we know other wise men who can tell a beautiful and a wondrous story of how their consecration to Christ has changed all life for them and their loved ones. Shall not our ambition be to covet the appellation of "The Other Wise Men"?

What was it that inspired the Magi every step of their long journey? What was it that prevented them from turning back? What was it that sustained and heartened them through delay and peril and opposition? Nothing but the hope of seeing Jesus, of realising the fulfilment of their life's desire.

The wisdom of to-day is that which offers its gifts to the new-born King; new born in every heart that will receive him. Let the Book of God's remembrance contain this entry: Now when Jesus was declared unto the other wise men, they fell down and worshipped him, and when they had opened their treasures they presented unto him gifts, obedience and consecration, and he gave to them a gift more precious than anything they could name—he gave them hope and life and salvation.

All the wisdom of the ages cannot compare with obedience and consecration and hope of those who are wise with the wisdom of the Christian, those who are the other wise men of an un-seeing and a foolish world.

May this Christmas-tide find us singing with the heart and with the understanding:

"As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leaching onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led to thee.

"As with joyful steps they sped
To that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him, whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek thy mercy-seat.

"As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly King."

Scenes and Voices from the Upper Room.

THE GREAT INTERCESSORY PRAYER.

(John 17.)

A. W. Connor.

The last words of counsel and comfort had been spoken; the last notes of the hymn had died away, but before they go out into the darkness they stand silent in that room—the room that will be ever to them a sacred memory. There was the table with the remnants of that wonderful feast—the bread and wine, at which thirteen had sat down, but which closed with only twelve. There also was the basin, the pitcher, the towel, associated now with the Master's act of humble service. One thing remained to complete the picture: prayer. "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come."

The prayer that follows reveals to a pre-eminent degree the inner sanctuary of the soul of Jesus. We see the Lord concerning himself as the victim to be offered on the altar for man's redemption. We are made conscious that we are in the presence of the whose communion with the Father is perfect, and with awe and reverence we enter on what is holy ground. Let us notice

His Divine Consciousness.

That memorably night had opened with Jesus on his knees, girt with a towel, washing the feet of men. The attitude is that of a servant of men, but John is careful to tell us that "Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he came from God and went to God." Now, as we come to the closing scene, we are faced with the fact of the same consciousness. "Lifting up his eyes to heaven he said, Father." The memory of that attitude and voice of intimacy would be to the disciples a precious legacy. The Father to him was such a reality that they would find it the sheet-anchor of their faith for all time. The words of the prayer reveal the same thing more clearly: "Thou hast given him authority over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." He brackets knowledge of himself with that of God as the condition of enjoying eternal life. He claims that by a completed work he has glorified God. He speaks of having been sent from God, and of "the glory I had with thee before the world was." Here is a clear revelation of the pre-existence of the Son of God, of the incarnation and redemptive work of Christ for men. For what and for whom does Christ pray in such an hour? The prayer moves in three spheres, and a glance at each may be of help.

His Prayer for Himself (1-5).

He prays for himself, "Glorify thy Son," and yet only for himself that the world may be enriched and saved. It is a prayer of perfect communion. Seven things Jesus affirms he had done: (1) Glorified God; (2) Finished the work given to him; (3) Revealed God's name to men; (4) Kept them given to him; (5) Sent them forth on a world mission; (6) Given to them God's word; (7) Given to them the glory given to him. Only one prayer—"Glorify thy Son"—is for himself. Self-consciousness is at its sincerest in the presence of death, or at the throne of God. Who could have imagined such words, or who dared to put such claims into human lips? They affect themselves as genuine. You can feel the holy intensity as he prays that his own might be sanctified in view of their world mission: "As thou didst send me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world."

His Prayer for the Apostles.

With the cross and glorification of Jesus the first phase of the work of redemption was completed; but there is a second phase, and that involves the great task of witnessing unto the ends of the earth. The task is unfinished, "As the Father sent me, even so send I you." These

men, God's gift to him, were to be his ambassadors to the world—the world of unbelief that will oppose, but still the world that is to be won to faith in him and salvation. The method is to be by incarnation, which is the method of divine redemption. This involves, not only "God in Christ," reconciling the world unto himself, but Christ continuing himself in a new incarnation in the lives of his own people. The prayer of Jesus becomes a great evangelistic and missionary challenge. "That the world may come to believe" is the passionate prayer of our Lord. The promised Holy Spirit was in view of this great task, and the prayer that the apostles might be kept sanctified and unified is in order to the same great end. How, then, can anyone oppose missions, or be even coldly indifferent to the great cause that lay so near the heart of the Master we serve? The glory of the church must ever be her missionary witness; her shame, alas, is her ease and indifference in face of the world's need and the revealed will of her Lord.

THE SOUL AS SHEPHERD.

The Shepherds sing; and shall I stand he?

My God, no hymn for thee?

My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds

Of thoughts and words, and deeds.

The pasture is thy Word; the streams thy grace

Enriching all the place.

Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers

Out-sing the daylight hours;

Then we will chide the sun for letting night

Take up his place and right;

We sing one common Lord; Wherefore he should

Himself the candle hold.

—George Herbert.

His Prayer for All Believers (20-23).

The final movement of the prayer reaches out to all believers, to "those who believe through their word." Our faith rests ultimately on their word. For them and the whole true church of God—"Those whom thou hast given me"—Christ prays: "That they all may be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us; that the world may believe that thou didst send me." The burden on the heart of Christ was that men and women should first of all be united in truth to him and the Father, and that thus being one in him they might become one with each other. Too often in studying this word, and presenting a plea for Christian union, it is presented as if a common creed, a common name, common office, and common observance were all that were needed; as if all that might already exist, and there be no such unity as is here pictured. Christ goes to the root of the matter when he insists upon union with himself and God as the basic thing. "Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth." Such spiritual unity arising from a common birth of God, will lead to a visible union which will be the mother of faith. At some stages the church has attained a colossal unity, but not being based on Truth, became the cause of unbelief and protest.

The sublime model set before us by Christ can never have been attained, but always with the feeling of heights as yet unattained. "As thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, what a oneness was that! And yet at the moment when Jesus uttered the words it was unperceived save by a few anointed eyes. Such a model leads to heart searching, and is a rebuke to all carnal hickerings, self-seeking, or failure in co-operative service. It calls loudly upon all who would

present a plea for unity to foster, to cherish and manifest the spirit of unity. There can be no "unity of the spirit" without the spirit of unity.

It is worth noting that this whole prayer is repeated in verses 22, 23 with a significant addition. Here, Jesus says that the gift of glory to the disciples was in order to oneness. "The glory which thou hast given me, even as thou hast given it to them, that they may be one, even as we are." What is this gift of "glory" given by God to Christ, and by Christ to his people? I find it hard to answer this. May the glory given to Christ be that of Sonship? Christ also gave to his disciples the glory of becoming sons of God (John 1:12; 1 John 3:1). Or may the glory be John 10: 18? Was the "glory" given to Christ the right to lay down his life and take it again? The use of "glory" in John 1: 14, "We beheld his glory," takes us close to the central truth of Christ the "Word made flesh" giving himself for man's redemption. The "glory" given by Christ to his church would be the right to "suffer with him" in going out as the end of God for man's salvation. Such glory does lead to unity with Christ and the Father; unity in the great purpose for which Christ came and died; unity in the task for which the church prays. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Let us give a demonstration of this unity, and it will be a real reality to the wider union for which we long and pray.

The Believer's Glorification (21-26).

Beyond the prayer that his disciples might be kept sanctified and unified, one thing the heart craves to know. What shall be the consummation of this union with Christ? "Father, it is my will that these, thy gift to me (the true church), may be beside me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me, because thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." Could human language go further in setting forth the glorious consummation of the life that is united to Christ? "That they may be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory." What will that glory be? I know not. Only this—it will be the glory that centres in the redemptive work of Christ for a lost world. It will be glory "as of a Lamb that had been slain," i.e., offered in sacrifice, and the sight will evoke from all the redeemed host, from "ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands" the mighty anthem of praise, "Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honor, and glory, and blessing." "Blessing and honor, and glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." Amen.

MISSION AT BENDIGO, VIC.

At Bendigo, Vic. one scholar made her decision under Bro. Hurren's preaching, and has been received into fellowship. On Dec. 2 there were five gatherings at church anniversary services. A special offering was made for building a new school. On December 3-9 was one of great blessing. Bro. Jas. E. Thomas arrived on Dec. 3 and was welcomed at a workers' tea that evening, later giving the first message of a week's effort. Each evening from Monday to Saturday there were splendid meetings, and all addresses were enjoyed. One young woman decided during the week. Services on Dec. 9 were inspirational, and at the personal invitation six scholars took their stand for Christ, five of whom were baptised on Dec. 16, a young man making the good confession on the same date. Bro. Thomas's stay brought spiritual uplift and happy fellowship. Special thanks are extended to soloists (Bren. Streander and Brewer, and Sisters A. J. Ingham, of W.A., and G. Briggs), and to organist and violinists, who assisted in the musical side of services. Children's Christ-mas trees was held on Dec. 13. During the absence of Dr. Cook, Bendigo, Bren. A. Dunster, E. Duns, J. Ellis, F. Finlayson, J. McKerrie, R. McNaughton and A. Pettigrove have taken services at Golden Square.

The Home Circle.

Conducted by J. C. F. PITTMAN

BETHLEHEM.

Never in all human story

Was a sight so wondrous seen;

Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,

Cradled in a manger mean.

Angel heralds in the sky;

Loudly shepherds kneeling by.

Then the lamp of life was lighted,

Brighter than the rising sun;

Then were heaven and earth united;

Peace of God on earth begun—

Peace the troubled world to fill.

Peace to men of holy will.

Prince of Peace, thy way before thee

Lies through nameless grief and pain;

Death's dark shadow ever o'er thee,

But it leads to highest reign.

Glory that could never be

But by way of Calvary.

—J.P.

THE HALT—FOR THANKSGIVING.

"Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, in the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and for ever. Amen."—*1*ude 21, 25.

"All the year thy grace hath kept me,

Thou my help indeed hast been,

Marvelous thy loving kindness,

Every day and hour hath seen."

Another year is drawing to a close; it is a fitting time to record our united grateful thanks to God for all his loving kindness and mercy, which have been so great, so constant, and so abundant, all through the days. The Lord's abundant ones thank him, not only for his abiding goodness and saving grace, but for his keeping power and guiding love, rejoicing also in the hope of his coming glory. All his people are going to be presented at Court, when the king comes. "To him be all the glory, both now and for ever. Amen."

"As year by year, my feet are drawing nearer,
To where thou dwellest in the home above;
Let Faith grow fuller, and let Hope burn clearer

Let Faith and Hope are crowned by perfect
LOVE."—Selected.

SHARING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

It is a beautiful custom in Sweden, where the whole family arise very early and go to church, to leave candles illuminating the homes. Candles are drawn back and the Christmas trees within displayed, so as to give Christmas cheer to all who pass in the darkness just before dawn.

We, too, can spread the Christmas cheer by letting our Christmas lights shine out in the darkness during the blessed holiday season. No one knows how many hearts are warmed, in how many the Christmas spirit is rekindled, by passing glimpses of cheery rooms, bright with lighted candles, gay with holly and mistletoe, merry with happy children. Every home should breathe the Christmas spirit so that wayfarers and lonely ones may be cheered by a passing glimpse into its brightness.

Read the Christmas stories. Sing the Christmas carols. Breathe in the Christmas spirit and then try in every way to inspire others with it to share with others the Christmas joy. It is not gifts, you know, or preparations, or celebrations, or companionships, but the blessed spirit of Christmas, the realisation of the peace and joy which the day brings, first felt in our own hearts, then shared with every one we meet, which makes that day a happy one for ourselves and all around us.

Christmas Day is love's day; It is music's day; It is poetry's day; It is the day for the heart to be glad and for the face to be sunny, when wrinkles are smoothed away from every brow, when the lip never curls in scorn, when the tongue speaks no word of bitterness, when the hand is lifted against no mortal soul. It is the day when every heart should strive to make every other heart remember the song of the angels hosts. "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, in men good will."

This is the spirit of Christmas. May we all have it, and, having it, share it—"Kind Words."

THE WISE MEN.

If I had been a wise man

That night so long ago,

I would have followed that bright star

And found the Christ I know.

And I would give the best I had

As did those men of old

Their gifts of frankincense and myrrh—

The story has been told

Until we know it all by heart.

And we are glad that they

Could visit little Jesus

On that first Christmas day.

WHEN SATAN TREMBLES.

No problem daunts the modern advertising man. In the window of a little book store in New York was recently heaped a great pile of Bibles, marked very low. Never before were Bibles offered at such a bargain, and above them all, in big letters, was the inscription: "Satan trembles when he sees Bibles sold so low as these."

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

As old Father Christmas comes round once again,
May all his good wishes bring good in their train;

Each thought for another, each kindly deed done,
Refresh some poor brother, give someone some fun.

Right jocular the greeting we give as we pass—
Yes, even when meeting a lad and his lass.

Convention may tell us this shouldn't be so,
However, "the world loves a lover," we know,
Ring out, chiming bells, ring aloud, sweet and clear,

In Christmas we sum up the joy of the year,
Sad hearts must be brightened, their grief put to flight,

Their burdens be lightened, their troubles set right,
May each one endeavor some pleasure to give,
And count it a favor, wherever we live,
So simple it is—just a word of good cheer.

WAITS.

"No far you have been giving your attention
To a turkey stuffed with sage. Now you are about to give your attention to a sage stuffed with turkey."

Now Governess—"Now, Tammy, tell me what are weights and measures?"

Tammy—"Please, miss, waits are people who come howling round the door at Christmas time, and measures are what father says he will take to stop 'em."

SAGE.

At a Christmas dinner a well-known politician was called upon to make a speech. He rose and began:

"So far you have been giving your attention to a turkey stuffed with sage. Now you are about to give your attention to a sage stuffed with turkey."

The Family Altar.

J.C.F.F.

Monday.

And a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone, and cast it into the sea, saying, Thus with violence shall that great city Babylon be thrown down, and shall be found no more at all.—*Rev.* 18: 21.

The many systems in existence, professing to be Christian, have induced a confusion of tongues like unto Babel of old. They will pass into sudden oblivion when the Lord appears.

Reading—*Rev.* 18: 21-24.

Tuesday.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.—*Rev.* 19: 7.

The bride ever met her garment,
But her dear Bridegroom's face,
I will not gaze on glory,

But on my King of grace.

Not at the crown he giveth,

But on his pierced hand;

The Lamb is all the glory

Of Immanuel's land.

Reading—*Rev.* 19: 14-10.

Wednesday.

And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.—*Rev.* 19: 11.

White linen is often used as a symbol of purity in the Scriptures. This should always be a mark of the followers of Christ. They should "be pure even as he is pure."

Reading—*Rev.* 19: 11-21.

Thursday.

And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.—*Rev.* 20: 15.

A terrible punishment, but so is the sin of rejecting Christ a terrible offence to God. There is no other sin so wicked; and nothing pleases God like humbly accepting his mercy in Christ Jesus.

Reading—*Revelation* 20.

Friday.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.—*Rev.* 21: 1.

Peter (2 Pet. 3: 7-13) describes the manner in which the present heaven and earth shall pass away; and speaks of the "promise" of new heaven and new earth. The most important thing is the truth that no sin will mar their glory and that God's servants shall inherit them.

Reading—*Rev.* 21: 1-14.

Saturday.

And the building of the wall of it was of jasper, and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass.—*Rev.* 21: 18.

We are taught here in figure that the glory of the future state will be infinitely greater than the most precious things of earth.

Reading—*Rev.* 21: 15-27.

Sunday.

And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their forehead.—*Rev.* 22: 4.

"His face"; not as it was on the cross, but as described in *Rev.* 1: 16, all glorious and bright.

Reading—*Rev.* 22: 1-9.

Readings for Missing Week—*Monday, Rev.* 22: 10-21; *Tuesday, Gen.* 1: 1, 3, 2: 7-24; *Wednesday, Gen.* 3: 1-20; *Thursday, Gen.* 4: 1-18, 7: 11-16; *Friday, Gen.* 8: 1, 13, 9: 19; *Saturday, Gen.* 11: 1-9, 12: 1-9; *Sunday, Gen.* 11: 17-15: 16.

Pioneering in the Far North.

HINRICHSSEN-STEWART MISSION, ROCKHAMPTON, QLD.

Never before have the missionaries seen such striking answers to prayer. All over Australia there were earnest Christians praying that God would bless the work. The workers in the field could feel the assurance of prayer. They wish all who prayed to know that God, in a way beyond imagination, was listening and answering.

We entered Rockhampton knowing that a tremendous task confronted us. Although we have gone to about twenty new fields for missions, there were always a few to assist. In the city of Rockhampton there was not one soul to assist. The missionaries were strangers and were viewed with suspicion on every hand. Everything had to be paid for very dearly. The vacant block on which we pitched our tent was only granted after agreeing to pay £1 per week. The pitching and arranging of the tent was no small task for the few lands available. It was late on Saturday afternoon when the tent was pitched. After that the missionaries had to commence placing handbills in the letter boxes. In this way it is estimated that each of the missionaries walked between twenty and twenty-five miles each Saturday for several weeks. There was no one to assist for a time.

On the first Sunday morning there were five people present, i.e., Bro. and Sister Manning, Bro. Stewart, and Bro. and Sister Hinrichsen. When the time for the evening meeting arrived there was much anxiety as to what kind of meeting would be held. It was fairly well attended, and the attendances have been growing every Sunday night since. There were 19 decisions the first week, and Bro. Manning was kept very busy arranging for baptisms and instructing candidates. He did his work magnificently.

On the first night a large load of people motored from Mt. Morgan (more than twenty miles distant). The whole twenty have since come into the church, as well as others from that town. Rockhampton people seemed to be starving spiritually. Again and again men and women, with tears in their eyes, have said, "This is what we have been looking for for years." Others said, "Why didn't you come years ago?"

When progress was being made it was necessary to think about a block of land and a building. The Church Extension Committee had kindly made available £300, but this was not sufficient in a city. At this stage Bro. Winter, who lives nearly four hundred miles from here, visited Rockhampton. He very kindly made available £500. He has also made generous gifts. This encouraged the workers. Owing to God's blessing upon the mission it was felt

that a central site should be secured, hence extra money was needed. Again, God sent a brother to the rescue. Bro. Peers, who is a member of the church at Brighton, Vic., was in Rockhampton, and he volunteered to loan a further £400. These amounts, along with some £200



Those Present on the First Sunday of the Mission.
(E. C. Hinrichsen, H. W. Manning, D. Stewart, Mrs. Hinrichsen, Mrs. Manning.)

transferred from the thankoffering to the building account, made the building possible. It seemed like a miracle for men to offer to loan money in these days of financial stress.

The block of ground cost more than £500. It is on the tramline in one of the main streets. The building is one of the prettiest inside that we have in Australia. The beautiful open histery made of white-glazed tiles is one of the most attractive (if not the most attractive) in Australia. The platform is near the street, thus making it possible to have a school-hall at the rear, separated by a movable partition.

We thank all who have helped financially or in any other way. We wish you could be with us on a Sunday, and you would say, "I never made a better investment in my life."

The power of the gospel is recognized in the fact that there have been 226 confessions and a thankoffering of £100. On the first Sunday morning there were five present; last Sunday (Dec. 2) there were 205 who partook of the

Lord's Supper. It is a cause for great rejoicing that this cause has grown from nothing to more than self-supporting in a few weeks. God is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we are able to ask or think. There was a struggle, but there is a great victory. Unfortunately, there is no man definitely appointed for this work. The missionaries are staying on in Rockhampton to consolidate until the preacher arrives by having a few services during the week. On Thursday and Friday of each week the services are conducted in a hall at Mt. Morgan. That this is wise is proven by the fact that already there have been twenty confessions since the mission closed. Staying on is very costly. Expenses would easily have been met if it had not been necessary to hand over more than £200 from the thankoffering toward building expenses. If any who have not assisted have a desire to help this new work they may do so and encourage greatly even at this stage. Rockhampton P.O. will find us.

Mr. Wendorf at his own expense stayed in Rockhampton and supervised the erection of the building and helped in other ways. Mrs. Wendorf (President of Sisters' Conference), who is really responsible for the mission being conducted, also assisted by attending to the ladies who were immersed. She had the honor of turning the key of the chapel, and was presented with a gold key in honor of the occasion. The preacher and some of the Bundaberg members rendered some assistance early in the effort.

For the whole effort and the wonderful results we thank God and take courage as we enter other new fields (1 Thess. 5: 25).

The next field to be entered is to be Kedron. This is a very different type of field, being a new suburb of Brisbane. The delightful thing in connection with this effort is that it is financed by the church at Albion. This is surely in harmony with New Testament teaching—a church branching out and starting a new cause. The selfish idea of one big church is not there. This is the first case of its kind in our experience. We rejoice in the thought.—E. C. Hinrichsen.

BEATITUDES.

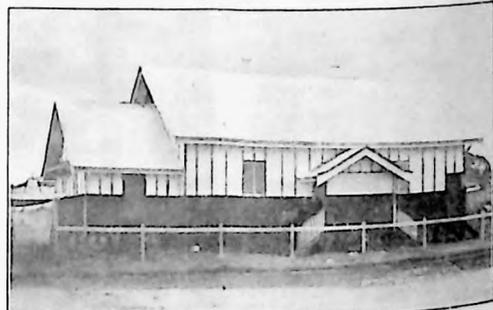
Blessed the eyes that look upon the Earth
In love, and find in every blade of common straw
Remembrance of a Kingdom's birth;
And in the gaze of solemn ox and ass, the awe
Of Bethlehem's manger with its Babe cries
From Paradise.

But blessed beyond all are they
Whose souls have learned to penetrate and see
Beneath all cloak of blindness or of sin,
A child of God, unwitting still perhaps without
Each prodigal, yet certainly to be
Frought home some day.

—Selected.



Those Present on the Last Sunday of the Mission.



The New Chapel, Rockhampton, Qld.

Here and There.

We wish all our readers the happiest of Christmas seasons, and much joy and blessing in a new year of service for the Master.

The following telegram reached us on Monday—“Splendid meetings Rockhampton, Queensland—further confessions—Arnold.”

The Victorian Department of Social Service is an urgent need of funds to help others over the Christmas tide. Readers are invited to assist.

Will our reporters please note that there will be no issue of the “Christian” next week, as we wish to avoid the trouble of arranging duplicate reports.

We learn that Bro. H. A. Saunders has accepted an engagement with the church at North Williamstown, Vic., and expects to commence his labors there on Jan. 20.

Anxiety caused by the serious illness of King George is now tempered with increasing hope that he will recover health. Continued fervent prayer will be offered that he may be spared to the Empire.

Bro. W. A. Wigney has accepted an engagement to labor with the church at Echunga, Vic., and is due to commence labors there on the first Lord's day in February. During January he will assist the church at Chelsea.

Our readers will deeply sympathize with Bro. and Sister R. Campbell Edwards in the loss they have sustained through the death of their daughter, Gwendoline, who passed away on Monday last at the early age of nineteen years.

Mrs. E. G. Warren, wife of our broken Hill preacher, suffered a sad bereavement last Thursday in the death of her sister in Bennington, S.A. This is the second bereavement Bro. and Sister E. G. Warren have had during the last five weeks.

Visitors at Emuore on Sunday included Bro. and Sister McGlashen, of Glenelg, S.A.; Bro. Fox, of Kensington, and Bro. Lassic, of College of Bible. At night Bro. Paternoster spoke to a large audience on “The Manner of His Coming.” Miss Nancy Marley sang two solos.

The C. R. L. Vawter Mission Party, which is coming to Australia next year at the invitation of the N.S.W. Home Missionary Committee, expects to begin work in Australia by conducting a mission in co-operation with the church at Glenferrie, Vic. This mission will probably begin on Feb. 21.

At Brim, Vic., Bro. Searle delivered fine gospel addresses the past two Sundays. On Dec. 9 he conducted an anniversary service, speaking on “Youth at the Cross-roads.” A good number were present. Selections were rendered by the scholars. On Sunday last Bro. Searle's subject was “Blind Man.”

At Glenferrie, Vic. on Sunday morning three members were received on faith and baptism, and there was one confession at the evening meeting. The choir rendered special Christmas music. Bro. T. H. Scambler spoke morning and evening. The kindergarten department had a happy time with Father Christmas on Dec. 15.

We learn that Bro. B. W. Manning has been released from his engagement with Balaklava church, S.A., and hopes to return to Rockhampton, Q., to labor with the church there. Bro. Manning, who had much to do with the establishment of the cause in Rockhampton, expects to resume his work in that city in March.

The two weeks' mission conducted by Thos. Hagger at Hornsby, N.S.W., closed Dec. 9. Morning and evening attendances were very good. A meeting for men was held in the afternoon when Bro. Hagger spoke on “Can a Man Trust His Bible?” and a girl was baptised. Much good has been done. The teaching was full of help and edification.

After a year of happy and faithful service Bro. Atkins concluded his labors with the church at Montrose, Vic., on Nov. 25. Before leaving he was presented with valuable and useful presents from the Christian Endeavor Society and the church. On Dec. 2 the church welcomed Bro. Ira Paternoster, who has come to take up the work in this place.

At Red Cliffs, Vic., Bro. Alex. Cameron is preaching with power. On young men was baptised after the district half-yearly conference on Dec. 12. On Dec. 16, after Bro. Cameron's address, a married man made the good confession. Bro. P. Burden occasionally exhorts the church during Bro. Cameron's monthly visit to Merheim.

At Nailsworth, S.A., Bro. Raymond has completed three years' ministry with the church, marked with success throughout. The new church building is assuming shape. A young man made the good confession on Dec. 12. We regret to report the death of Sister Miss Dorans. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Beer, of N.S.W., in their sad loss. Mrs. Beer was in membership at Nailsworth before going to Orange.

Brighton, Vic., had splendid meetings on Sunday. In the morning Bro. Hensley, late of the Seventh Day Adventists, exhorted. A young man was received by faith and baptism, and Bro. L. D. Searle and wife, who have been for some time out of touch, were received by statement. On Saturday afternoon Father Christmas visited the kinders and distributed presents. At night the intermediate and senior departments held a successful social.

Mr. and Mrs. Gellie, with their daughter, Miss Ngarl, left Melbourne on Tuesday for a holiday visit to New Zealand. Bro. Gellie addressed good meetings at Gardiner on Sunday last. One was received into fellowship in the morning, and at night four persons responded to the invitation. During Bro. Gellie's absence, Bro. L. C. McCallum, M.A., and F. T. Saunders have kindly consented to fill the platform. We regret that Bro. Skyrme, who with Mrs. Skyrme recently returned from a visit to the home land, is laid aside through illness.

There were good meetings at Tarco, N.S.W., on Dec. 9; Bro. V. C. Stafford commenced his ministry with the church. Wingham members were present, and a helpful time was spent. Bro. Stafford addressed the church in the morning, spoke to the scholars in the afternoon, and preached in the evening, when the building was comfortably filled. His messages were enjoyed. A happy time was spent on Dec. 8, when the social club had an outing at the beach. The president (Bro. Frank Chave) welcomed Bro. Stafford on behalf of the members.

At Essendon, Vic., during the last two weeks attendances were fairly good. Bro. Smith's addresses are much appreciated. On Dec. 9 three young ladies from Bible School made the good confession, and were humored and received into fellowship. On Dec. 16 one young lady made the confession. Bro. Smith's ministry came to a close on Sunday night. Bro. A. H. Pratt takes up the work as from Dec. 23. All auxiliaries are doing good work. The ladies' guild handled the secretary a cheque for £25 to go to the loan. The quarterly business meeting on Dec. 12 was largely attended.

Meetings at Geelong, Vic., are well attended, and much good work is being done by Bro. and Sister J. Clipstone. Last Sunday morning the topic was, “Why Christians may be Cheerful.” Three members of the Bible School were baptised and received in during the week. Bro. Clipstone's gospel message was “After Death, What?” As a result of the sale of gifts, the What? was able to hand over to the treasurer £10. Christian sympathy goes out to Sister

Miss Wilmore and family, whose father has passed away. K.S.P. club held a successful social, and intend going into camp during the holidays.

The kindergarten department at Dulwich, S.A., made a presentation to their superintendent (Miss E. Perleia) on the occasion of her marriage to Mr. Roy Arnold, of Wangaratta (Vic.). The ceremony took place on Dec. 15 at Dulwich chapel. On Wednesday last the final meeting of the Mutual Improvement Society took the form of a social gathering at the home of Bro. W. Morrow. Bro. and Sister Morrow and Bro. and Sister Storer entertained the members. Bro. Morrow gave an entertaining talk on Dickens' characters. Good meetings on Dec. 16. Bible School well attended, with Bro. Kentish (superintendent) back in his place after illness.

The work at Prospect, S.A., is very encouraging, with good meetings for worship, although much sickness prevails. Two recently were baptised and welcomed into fellowship. On Nov. 25 a “father-and-son” service was held, when about twenty young men were on the platform, some taking part. Two male quartettes were well rendered. Bro. Russell was the speaker. On Nov. 27 a “father-and-son” banquet was given under the direction of the churches of the northern group. 64 men and boys were present. Bro. and Sister Black and Walden gave two fine addresses. Bro. and Sister Black have returned from India, and Bro. Black is giving some delightful addresses to the young men's class, with special reference to Miss Mary Thompson writes from Haridwar, India, as follows: “The annual convention of the American Disciples of Christ was held in Jubbulpore on Nov. 8. All their missionaries on the field were present, also Mr. Hughes, of the Australian Mission, and Miss McVillie, of the British Mission. For four days the convention began at 8 a.m., with a season of silent prayer lasting fifteen minutes. Then devotional meetings were conducted every morning in turn by four of the older missionaries. The messages given were helpful. Papers were afterwards read on various subjects connected with the work. For several days the social service has been held in memory of those of our number who have passed away during the year. Two were taken from us last year—Mrs. Thompson, of Hatta, and Adelaide Gail Frost, who has been an invalid for some years past. The reports from the various fields were encouraging, and all felt we had spent a profitable time together.”

At Malvern-Gaulfield, Vic., on Dec. 9 an impressive service was held in connection with “White Gifts for the King” service, the object being to give a gift to someone else rather than receive one. Bro. Anderson spoke on “Noble Giving.” A large clothes-basket and the kindergarten cradle were well filled by the scholars and brethren, and the whole were handed to Bro. Clay for the work of his department. On Dec. 16 the church celebrated the tenth anniversary of the opening of the new building. All meetings were well attended. Bro. L. C. McCallum was the speaker for the day; he was one of the early preachers of the church. The afternoon gathering listened with interest to an address by Bro. Scambler. All were delighted with the other items of the afternoon. Miss Preston gave eulogiumary items; Mr. Val Wolf, solos; Mr. Roy Arnel, violin solo; and the Stoughton male quartette party sang. Luncheon and tea were provided by the ladies, and occasion was taken to congratulate Sister McDonald, who reached the age of 80 years on that day. She is still active and interested in the Lord's work. The evening service was helped greatly with items by Miss Preston, Mr. Colin Babh, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Anster. Bro. Anderson's subject was “The Contemporaries of Jesus.”

ADDRESS.

A. H. Pratt (preacher Essendon church, Vic.),
15 Mackay-st., Essendon.

BIRTH.

HUGHES. On Dec. 1, at Nurse Greenwood's, Randazzo, to Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hurten a daughter (Lorna May). Both well.

OBITUARY.

BERNARD.—On Tuesday, Nov. 27, Miss Elsie Bernard passed away at her parents' residence, 28 Mansfield-st., at the age of 28 years. She united with the church in Geelong in 1912 during Bro. Gifford Gordon's ministry, and was a faithful follower of her Master. Several years ago she removed to Melbourne, but about two months ago the doctor ordered her home for a rest. She gradually grew weaker, however, and passed peacefully at 11 in Christ. Her remains were laid to rest in East Geelong cemetery in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives. To Bro. and Sister Bernard and family we extend our deepest sympathy. —H. M. Chipstone.

BROWN.—Mrs. Ethel May Brown, wife of J. W. Brown, of Belknap Hill, Sydney, departed this life on Nov. 7. She was connected with one of the old families of the Emmore church, being the second youngest daughter of the late Bro. and Sister George Munster. She was baptised by Chas. Watt when still in her teens. For 25 years she was a member at Emmore, being still in membership at the time of her death. For many years she was associated with the activities of the church, but for the last few years has been confined to her home through failing health. Her illness was borne with a fortitude and resignation that bore wonderful testimony to the comfort and help she found in her Saviour. A husband and a daughter survive her. Her last resting-place is the Waverley cemetery. The writer and Bro. Paternoster officiated at the home and at the graveside.—Ethelbert Davis.

COOKE.—On Oct. 30 Bro. Frank Cooke was called home at the age of 50 years. He was born at Perth, Tas. At Longford, in a Methodist meeting, he accepted and confessed Christ as his Saviour. Later, as his knowledge of the Word grew, he joined the Church of Christ in Lameston. For a time he was in membership with the church at Lygon-st., Vic. When he came back to Tasmania, he settled at Penguin. In 1905 he married Miss Beard, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Byard, of Lohard, officiating. Our brother had been a resident of Melbourne for about twenty years. Deep sympathy is extended to the dear wife and her eleven children.

GOULD.—On Nov. 16, after many months of patient suffering, Sister S. Gould, of Naracoote church, S.A., passed away to be with her Saviour. Our sister was born in the Naracoote district 67 years ago, and here most of her life was spent. During a mission conducted by Bro. Wainwright about eighteen years ago, our sister obeyed Jesus in baptism and entered into fellowship with the Church of Christ, and she has been a faithful member ever since. Mrs. Gould is described in the "Naracoote Herald" as being a "valued and useful member of the Church of Christ, an active member of the local Church Society, a lover of flowers, and one who, by her kind and unselfish life, had won the esteem of all with whom she came in contact." The writer can heartily endorse all this. A husband and a son and daughter remain to mourn, but they sorrow not as those who have no hope.—A.H.B.

TAYLOR.—In Brisbane General Hospital an old disciple in the person of Bro. Albert Taylor passed away at the age of 62 years, after a long and painful illness. His patience and faith were a triumph of the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Bro. Taylor was baptised in Liversidge chapel in Yorkshire, England, at the age of 21 years. Later he migrated to Victoria, and became a member at Swanston-st. From thence he removed to Ascot Vale, where he was a humble worker and teacher in the Sunday School, until he moved to Moreland. Some time later he settled in Queensland, having received an appointment as manager of the

Ithica Wool Scour. He was of a quiet disposition, was a lover of truth, supported the work liberally, and was an officer at Annetta, Brisbane. His wife, two sons and two daughters are left to mourn his departure, but not as those who have no home. Bro. Toward conducted services at the home and graveside.—J.C.

WINNILL.—On Thursday, Nov. 15, Mrs. M. Winnill, of Auburn church, N.S.W., was called home. Our sister had been a patient sufferer for many years, but the bronchial attack which carried her off was of short duration, and her home-call was not expected. She was baptised by Bro. E. J. Waters during his ministry at Inverell about 11 years ago, and had been in fellowship with Auburn church for about nine years. To her two daughters (Mrs. E. Fernside and Miss L. Winnill), and other sorrowing relatives and friends, we extend our sincerest sympathy. The writer conducted a short service in the chapel and officiated at the graveside in the Brookwood Cemetery.—R.O.S.

VICTORIAN DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

Employment.—Woman, cook and wash-up only, for a family at seaside from December 27, 12 week. Convenient house and agreeable people.

Employment.—Boyzens of men, some married with families, waiting. The odd job appreciated. A brother with A.F.A. and secretary's qualifications, willing, as clerk. Lady Clerk, ledger-keeper, accustomed to Burrough's book-keeping machines (temporary employment). Lady Typist, shorthand and book-keeping, experienced and reliable. Waiters, motor-drivers and plumber waiting. Register with the department. No charges either way.

Christmas Appeal.—The following additional amounts have been received. (In italics only given):—M.C.L. £2 2s.; G.S. £1; "As Unto Him," 10s.; E.H.E. 10s.; O.L. £1 1s.; C.G. £2 2s.; S. 10s.; E.L.J. 5s.; "Sympathiser," 5s.; O.A. Pensioner, "In the Name of Jesus," 10s.; O.P. 5s.; A.L. 10s.; Miss D. 10s.; Preston J.C.E. £1; Mrs. H. 2s.; D.H. £1; Three Sisters, 10s.

—Will H. Clay, Sec., 49 Elizabeth-st., Melb., C.A. The Victorian Women's Social Service Auxiliary gratefully acknowledges parcels from Hampden, 5s. and groceries; Fitzroy, Ascot Vale, Tox and clothing; Ormond, 2; Carnegie, Maryborough, Bannock, 2; postcard and doll's pram; Mont Albert, Victoria Park, Ormond, Tox; Ewendon J.C.E., 2; Northcote, 2; General Dorcas, Gardiner, Clyde. Up to 12/11/28.—(Mrs) D. Allen, 12 Boundary-rd., Surrey Hills, E.10.

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Queensland.—E. Oldfield, 10/-; Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Jones, 10/-; W. H. Winter, £18; Mrs. J. B. Harding, 11/6; J. B. Perrett, £1; Miss G. J. T. Perrett, 5/-; Miss M. A. Perrett, 5/-; W. Francis, 10/-; W. Clarke, £1; E. Snow, £1; Mrs. E. Snow, £1; L. Broad, £1.

New Zealand.—H.M., £1; Miss Margt. Johnston, £1.

Special Contributions. Students' Loan Fund, S.A. Evangelistic Union Trust Fund, £50; Scholarships, Glen Iris Girls' Association, £2 2/-; Radiator Fund, Wallaroo C.E. Society, 6/-; Furnishing Fund, Sisters' Conference, S.A., 12/-; Women's Mission Bands, Victoria, £8/19/10; Piano Fund, Offering Demonstration, £10/15/-.

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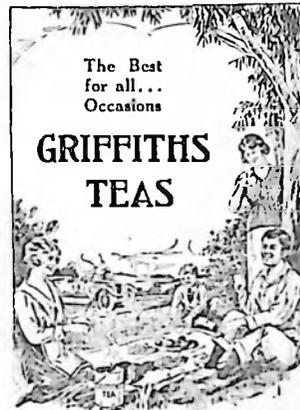
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News of the Churches.

Queensland.

Kingsgrove.—Two young women and one young man, who decided for Christ at a gospel service conducted by Bro. C. S. Trudgian, of Gympie, also another young woman who had previously confessed Christ, were baptised on Nov. 25 by Bro. S. Vanham, evangelist.

Maryborough.—The children's anniversary services were very successful and well attended. The concert and pre-figuring on Dec. 3 drew a record audience. Bro. A. N. Hurrilsson presided. The full school, about 90 voices, sang choruses at several of the special services. Mrs. Bulke (Snyder) has returned.

Mundaberg.—December 9 was harvest thanksgiving day. At morning service Bro. B. L. Williams, of the College of the Bible, who is spending his holidays in the district, gave a very fine address. At gospel service Bro. A. Hurrilsson spoke. "What shall Your Harvest Be?" One man confessed Christ, and another was welcomed into fellowship.

Western Australia.

Kalgoorlie.—On Dec. 9 a sister who had been baptised was welcomed into the church. Bro. Banks gave a fine message to the church. Bro. Pollard in the evening preached a powerful sermon. Solos were rendered by Bro. Bert Nelson and Sister Pollard. 113 broke bread during the day.

Sulphur.—The work still continues in splendid manner. On Dec. 9 Bro. Carter addressed both meetings, which were attended by 100 persons. During the evening teachers and those interested in the school were addressed by Bro. Carter at Bible School. A time of rich blessing was experienced.

Humbury.—There was a splendid meeting on Dec. 2. By offering to date 18.55. Broen, Hicks, Hillier and W. Taylor were invited to sing, and then to Bridgetown and helped with services there. The sunny circle gave a successful concert and social to make provision for a trip to conference. On Dec. 6 a young girl was baptised at the evening meeting; attendance, 20.

Tasmania.

Sulphur Creek.—Bible School anniversary services were held on Dec. 2. Special addresses were given by Bro. W. Waterman, of Invermay, to good audiences, afternoon and evening. The children sang some special hymns while prizes were distributed to every scholar during the afternoon service. Good spirit and interest prevail.

Launceston.—Margaret-st. church enjoyed a successful series of services on Dec. 2, 3, and 5, the occasion being the Bible School anniversary and the opening of the ministry of Bro. F. Collins.

At 7.30 a.m. on Dec. 2, fifty were present in a special prayer service. About 120 broke bread during the day. Bro. C. Nicholls presided over a fine meeting at 11 a.m., and welcomed Bro. and Sister Collins and family. Bro. Collins delivered a splendid message on "In Trust with the Gospel." At 3 p.m. over 200 were present, when the scholars, under the able leadership of Bro. H. H. Taylor, sang anniversary hymns, and the cradle roll department distributed the cards. Bro. Collins' message on "Straight Street" was enjoyed by all. In the evening the building was packed, several being unable to gain admittance. The scholars, assisted by the choir and orchestra, rendered social singing.

Bro. Collins delivered a splendid address on "There is a God Here." On Dec. 3 the school hall was well filled, when a welcome meeting and social was tendered to Bro. and Sister Collins and family. A fine programme was much enjoyed. The Sisters' Guild arranged an afternoon social in the school hall on Dec. 5 to welcome Mrs. Collins. The church was well filled on Wednesday evening, Dec. 5, when the

Bible School held their demonstration and distribution of prizes. A fine spirit is manifested.

South Australia.

Grate-st.—Last Sunday Bro. J. Willshire addressed both meetings, the subject at night being taken from Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress." "The Light and the Night." This proved interesting and helpful. Mr. Donald Magarey was soloist, and the choir rendered the anthem, "Light in Darkness."

Queenstown.—On Dec. 16 Bro. Brooker exhorted the church. Bible School attendance was good. Bro. Brooker's evening subject was "The Light and the Night." On Thursday afternoon the "bright home" was held. On Thursday evening the girls' wattle club paid a visit to the Port Adelaide Seaman's Mission and gave the programme.

Naracoorte.—Meetings are keeping up, and showing improved attendance. One young man was baptised on Dec. 13 and received into fellowship the following Lord's day. A complimentary social was tendered by the church to Sister Florrie Hawkes on the eve of her marriage. A pleasant evening was spent during which a presentation of a sylvanite toilet set was made to the guest of the evening.

St. Morris.—A social afternoon on Dec. 12 brought in a lovely group year's work on the part of the sisters' sewing guild. Fair attendances at both services on Dec. 16, and 190 scholars at Bible School. The boys' gymnasium club, in the presence of a good gathering, gave a fine demonstration in Trammere Hall on Dec. 12. Contributions to the programme by members of the G.I.L. were appreciated.

Kadina.—On the morning of Dec. 9 a sister immersed during the work was welcomed into fellowship. At the gospel service on Dec. 16 a young man from the Bible School took his stand for Christ. Plans for Pentecost campaign have been completed. The K.S.P. club is going into camp. The health of Bro. Bawes has caused some anxiety lately, but with care he will not be called upon to withdraw from the work.

Croydon.—Good congregations continue. After the evening service on Dec. 16 the choir went to Hindmarsh town hall and supplied the programme for a service held to give the needy of the district Christmas cheer. On Saturday afternoon the kindlers held their annual Christmas Eve, when about 200 Christmas stockings were distributed. About 100 parents were present with the children. The senior boys of the school went for an outing to the hills.

Crystal Brook.—The work has been going along nicely, and splendid meetings have been held. Bro. Handall was present on Nov. 1. The Sunday School progresses. Bro. E. J. Miles, of the College of the Bible, is spending his vacation with the church, and commenced work on Dec. 2, when he delivered two splendid addresses. On Dec. 1, in Bro. Baln's home, a happy social gathering was held to welcome Bro. Miles. On Dec. 9 Bro. Miles spoke at both services, when he gave a nice gathering, several new faces being seen.

Hindmarsh.—Services on Dec. 9 were helpful, and attendances good. In the morning Bro. Geo. Matheson, of East Ballarat, Vic, spoke on "The Spiritual Glow." Bro. Matheson also addressed the men's class in the afternoon on "Facing Facts." Bro. Allen Brooke delivered a very fine evening address on "Hurling for God." A young lady from the Bible School made the good confession. Bro. Brooke delivered a helpful message last Sunday morning entitled "Whispers of God." In the evening his topic was "Steeled Hearts." At the evening service a young lady was baptised. Attendances were large, and the meetings were helpful and interesting.

Cottonville.—On Dec. 16 Bro. H. B. Taylor, of Unley, delivered a beautiful morning address on "Sunday Observance." Bible School attendance was 151. Two more decisions. The Bible Class is improving in numbers weekly. Bro. Hughes' discourse "How to Study the Bible" was very helpful. After Bro. Hughes' message on "Baptism" three girls, three boys and three young men, all from the Bible School, were immersed. A children's entertainment was given by scholars from the Bible School and kindergarten on Dec. 15. Plans to purchase library books amounted to about £7.

Forestville.—On Dec. 5 the Dorcas Society held a social afternoon, when sisters from other churches were present to hear the report of the year's activities. The sisters have worked well to help relieve distress. On the same evening the K.S.P. club closed a successful year with a social to which parents and friends of the members were invited. The messages of Bro. Hanson were helpful and enjoyed. Sister Jean Pascoe was received into fellowship on Dec. 2, and on Dec. 16 the church had fellowship with Bro. D. Ritchie, home for College vacation.

Norwood.—An average of over 200 at breaking of bread has been maintained for the three Sundays of December, and the gospel services have been well attended. On Dec. 16 Mrs. and Miss Daeh, of East Ipswich, Qld, were visitors. We regret to announce the death of Sister Mrs. Young and also that of Bro. A. J. Webb, Mrs. Young died of a painful illness lasting over three weeks, and Mrs. Webb of a death in a moment, as a result of a motor collision. He has left a wife and four children to mourn their loss. Much is being done to relieve distress which is prevalent. During the month four evening offerings are being taken for benevolent work. The Endeavor Society is making weekly gifts of groceries for the poor, and this work is also involving twelve Christmas puddings and twelve Christmas cakes.

Berri.—In Berri and circuit the work has been well maintained by the able ministry of Bro. A. E. Talbot; his helpful addresses are appreciated by good audiences. The young people's Bible study and social gathering, which is a normal and most interesting monthly sewing circle is doing practical work. Recently the officers received a gift from the sisters' auxiliary of a supply of cups and saucers for the church. Miss Elsie Caldwell, of India, recently had fellowship. Her talks to the morning meetings also to the Berri and Winkle Bible Schools, on her work in India, were most interesting. A special week-night gathering was arranged during her visit to hear more of the work. Bible Schools at Berri and Winkle recently held their annual picnic at Lake Bonney. Bro. Talbot has been elected president of the newly-formed Preachers' Fraternal of ministers of all Protectors' Fellowship of isolated brethren from Narang. Over 30 miles across the river was appreciated; also a visit of brethren from Bannark, formerly of Prospect.

Victoria.

Cheltenham.—Meetings on Dec. 16 were very good. There was one confession. Seaside individuals were invited to attend the services.

Warragul.—Attendance at Bible School continues to increase. Good addresses by Bro. Wigney on Sunday. Several old members were present.

Fairfield.—Meetings are well attended, and good interest is shown. Two have made the good confession. The dear sister Mrs. Moore is laid aside with severe illness.

Wangaratta.—Bro. C. W. Jackel addressed good meetings on Sunday. "Justifiable Pride" was the title of his gospel message. Bro. Campbell conducted a fine song service.

Oakleigh.—On Dec. 16 there were good meetings. Bro. Hunt addressed the church in the morning. In the evening an offering was taken for social service work. The J.G.C. also contributed to same.

Hallart (Pee-lat).—Continued interest and good meetings at all services. During Bro. Matheson's absence on holiday Bro. Willie

(Dawson-st.) and H. Greenwood (College) ally assist. Our young lady has accepted Christ, and is a Kilda. Bro. Burns, of Fitzroy, spoke last Sunday morning. The choir assisted Bro. Andrew with evening service. Sister Hibbs was soloist. The K.S.P. club held a birthday social on Monday, proceeds going to Home Missions.

Castlemaine.—Bro. Easton, on Dec. 16, Morning service, "The Ministry of Trinitarians" singing, "The Way of the Burning Heart," H.M. offering to date, £18. The C.E. Society visited the benevolent home, entertaining the inmates, and dispensing Christmas cheer.

Box Hill.—Good meetings on Dec. 16. Bro. A. E. Hingsworth, of Northcote, was the morning speaker. The night service was conducted by members of the Phi Beta club. Attendances were very good. The Bible School is increasing its membership; 218 scholars and 31 teachers were present on Dec. 16.

Pyramid Hill.—Marked improvement in attendances on Dec. 16, when addresses by Bro. H. G. Cameron were much enjoyed. The church appreciates the action of Boort church in making it possible for Bro. Cameron to visit Pyramid Hill once each quarter. A Christmas tree has been held for the children of the Bible School.

Middle Park.—On Dec. 9 the church enjoyed a visit from Bro. Wells, of Moreland, at the morning service. Bro. Wells, who is soloist at the service was "A Man with a Grievance." Bro. Baker spoke at both services on Dec. 16. The church is greatly indebted to Bro. Sahlberg for his services as song-leader at evening meetings.

Preston.—On Dec. 9 three made the good confession. On morning of Dec. 16 Mr. Lawson, from North Park Baptist church, who exchanged with Mr. Fisher, gave a splendid address. At the evening service the singing and Bro. Fisher's address were fine. On Dec. 13 Bro. and Sister MacKie addressed the mid-week meeting.

Carlton (Argon-st.).—Two new members have been received into fellowship. Bro. A. G. Sanders spoke morning and evening on Dec. 16, interesting in the evening various favorite Bible characters which had been suggested by members. A successful Christmas tree for the younger children of the school was held on December 15.

Drummond.—On Dec. 9 there were good meetings; 122 at Sunday School, 66 in the evening. Dec. 16, fair meetings, and good addresses from Bro. Baker. Decision day was held in Bible School, and a number made the decision. Two have been received by faith and baptism and four by letter. 116 present at school on Sunday.

Yarragon.—Good meetings during the last two weeks. The Y.P.S. rally was brought to a close on Nov. 20, when a social evening was spent. Bro. Pratt, on behalf of the Y.P.S., presented Bro. Harry Walker with a book prize for composing the best rally song. On Dec. 13 the Christmas tree was held; all Bible School scholars received a gift.

Drummond.—A social was held on Dec. 15 to welcome Bro. Stanford. A large gathering of church members and friends met in the Mechanics' Hall. Three car-loads journeyed from Kyneton and helped greatly with the program. Bro. Stanford's messages are thoroughly enjoyed. Church and S.S. meetings are keeping up well in numbers.

Sunshine.—On morning of Dec. 2 Bro. C. Large gave a fine address. Bro. Storey preached in the evening. On Dec. 9 Bro. Thompson gave the morning address. In the evening Bro. C. Large preached a fine sermon on "The Greatest Thing in Sunshine." Bro. Large has taken over the preaching for the present. The Bible School has welcomed 12 new scholars since last report.

Harcourt.—On Nov. 21 the Sunday School picnic was held. On Nov. 25 special meetings were held morning, afternoon and evening. The church welcomed many old friends and visitors. On Monday evening a gospel service, and on Tuesday evening a social evening were held. Bro. and Sister Connor, from Prahran, were present at all meetings, and the messages of our brother were greatly appreciated.

Bet Bet.—On Nov. 25 Children's Day was observed. Bro. Newell had a collection of curious facts from the islands about which he gave an interesting talk. Bro. Ludbrook spoke at both meetings on Dec. 16; his messages were much appreciated. In the afternoon he gave an interesting illustrated address to the Bible School. Many members have been away through sickness, but meetings are improving.

South Melbourne.—Bro. Waterman spoke at home services on Sunday. His teachers' training class is well supported. The Bible School had an attendance of 224. The scholars were treated to a Christmas social last week. Last Saturday, out of a membership of 126, 118 kindergarten children were present to receive a gift each from the Christmas tree. Two sick sisters are making a steady recovery.

Hampton.—On Dec. 9 Bro. J. C. F. Pittman presented the Gospel. The girls' club held a social on Dec. 12 in honor of the president, Mrs. D. Pittman, to whom a presentation was made. The kinders were given a Christmas treat on Dec. 15. A Children's Day service was conducted last Sunday afternoon, when Bro. H. Watson gave an address. Broen. Shean and Jones were the morning and evening speakers.

South Richmond.—The Sunday School held a very successful conference. The singing of the children under Bro. Haywood was very fine. A sale of gifts held on Dec. 7 and 8 was very successful, realising £55. Last Thursday the church met to farewell Bro. C. Jackel, who has resigned to take up church work elsewhere. Our brother was the recipient of a writing-case as a token of goodwill and esteem. The church welcomed Bro. Slaterson, who is succeeding Bro. Jackel.

Ringwood.—The Bible School gained 15 new scholars during the recent attendance rally. On Dec. 1 a social was held to welcome the new scholars, and a presentation was made to Bro. Lassic, of the College, who conducted the rally which has now left. Last Lord's day Bro. English, who is going to Mount Albert, preached at Ringwood address. Bro. Smith, on behalf of the church, presented him with a Seaford Bible. The sisters' sewing class has handed £25 to the deacons for the use of the church.

Surrey Hills.—On Dec. 16 Bro. Combridge gave helpful messages. On Dec. 13, under the superintendence of Mrs. S. J. Wilson and a band of helpers, the Sunday School children were given a tea and Christmas tree entertainment. Gifts brought by the children for the Christmas tree were distributed to the inmates of the children's orphanage at Brighton. On Sunday evening another special offering was made for the social service department. Through the interest of Mrs. D. Allen, the superintendent, an American kindergarten piano fund.

Kyneton.—A district conference consisting of the Lancellet, Drummond, and Kyneton churches was held at Kyneton, on Dec. 1, concluding with a tea in the Freemasons' Hall. During the afternoon two musical items were enjoyed, also an address by Bro. Stanford. At night the M.S. concluded the year's activities with a very successful social. Children's Day for Foreign Missions was observed in November with special singing by the school. Addresses were appreciated from Bro. A. Stirling and Fewster, on 9th inst. Bro. Greenwood being on holiday at Ballarat East.

Footscray.—Last Saturday Sister Olive Atken, youngest daughter of Bro. B. Atken, of Romburnra, in the chapel to Mr. W. Barrett, of Romburnra, who has come to reside in Footscray. The children of the kindergarten, and many parents, met at a Christmas tree. Every child received a present, and refreshments were served. At the morning service on Dec. 16 the secretary announced the engagement of the secretary, Bro. D. Stewart, whose work would commence on Dec. 23, 1929. At the social of the club, held a successful concert in aid of the Bible School last week. At the social of the girls' club on Dec. 11, a good time was spent.

Parkdale.—The tennis club held an enjoyable social on Dec. 12. At a splendid morning service on Sunday, Dec. 16, a silver medal was presented to Bro. Arthur Genn, by the Young Worshipers' League, for attending every Lord's day for two years. For attending each Lord's day for one year certificates were given to Sisters Misses Coleman and Suter. A young member of the club was present during the day. Bro. Stephenson gave inspiring addresses. Bro. Stewart was present in evening, having returned from mission work at Rockhampton, Qld., and was a soloist acceptably. The officers are planning special assistance to the church at Chelsea.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—Good meeting last Lord's day morning and excellent sermon. The evening service was crowded. Bro. Moore talked on the birth and infancy of Jesus and special music was rendered by the choir, with assistance of friends. Selections from "The Messiah" were beautifully sung by Mrs. F. L. Mitchell, Miss Bessie Martin, and Mr. Midflin, while Mr. Thompson sang a solo from the cantata, "Bethlehem." The choir sang "And the Glory," also "The Hallelujah Chorus." Mr. E. Tippett ably conducted, and Mr. Harold Barrett at the piano and Mr. C. H. Mitchell at the organ were efficient. The Christmas hymns by the congregation were greatly enjoyed.

Camberwell.—The work of the church has been greatly consolidated by Bro. Mumford, resulting in increased attendance at meetings for worship, and a healthy activity in all the auxiliaries. A young man made the good confession and was baptised last Lord's day. The work of the Phi Beta club has been busy preparing for a sale of work on a limited scale, which resulted in £20 towards the church debt. The Lord's day school is growing. The picnic passed off happily. Bro. Forbham has been appointed leader of the cricket team selected from the various churches to visit Adelaide as guests of Grole-st. With deep regret we report the death of Sister Miss Gwen, Edwards, eldest daughter of Bro. and Sister Campbell Edwards.

New South Wales.

South Kensington.—Good meetings continue. On December 16 Bro. Allen and Manning, from the College of the Bible, were present. The Bible School flourishes with a strong home department, cradle roll, and a recent average attendance of 180.

Gratton.—The work is going ahead steadily, attendances keeping up in all services. Bro. and Sister Buxwell are holidaying in Adelaide and Melbourne. Miss Poynting is enjoying a holiday in Sydney. At the request of the teachers, Bro. Greenhalgh repeated the address "Jack the Giant Killer" at the public school.

Broken Hill.—At annual business meeting of the church good reports were given from church and auxiliaries. Bro. J. Gremer and E. G. Warren were elected elders, and Broen. Clark, Warren, Johnson, Beckham, Thomas, Hall, and Gremer were elected deacons. Bro. Gremer, secretary; Bro. Les. Warren, treasurer; deaconesses, Mrs. J. Gremer, Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Davies. There were 79 additions by baptism and restoration, and six were received into fellowship of Hailwayton church. Over 25 new scholars have been received into the Bible School since last report. Attendances at all services are keeping up well.

Lismore.—On Nov. 28 a successful sale of work gave £65 to the building fund. Bro. Harold Neaves, recently immersed, was received into membership on Dec. 2, when Home Mission offering was taken. A splendid Bible School anniversary was enjoyed on Dec. 3, when 78 prizes were awarded. Twelve State Scripture examination certificates were presented. Two special prizes were given for best work at Rural Bible School Scripture classes conducted by Bro. N. G. Noble. Sister Elsie Robinson was received into fellowship from Bunawayton on Dec. 3. The Bible School is preparing for a Christmas cheer for inmates of Churches of Christ Children's Home, Sydney.

VICTORIAN WOMEN'S EXECUTIVE.

The executive held its last meeting for the year on Dec. 7, Mrs. Clark presiding. The devotions were led by Mrs. Illingworth. An address was given by Miss Jones, matron of Eye and Ear Hospital, in which she spoke very highly of our visitors. Reports presented and received were treasurer's statement, Home Mission, Foreign Mission, General Dorcas, Prayer Meeting, Mission Bands, Isolated sisters, Social Service, Hospital visitation. Next meeting will be February 1, 1929. The executive wishes all our sisters the season's greetings.—L. Homelch, secretary.

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