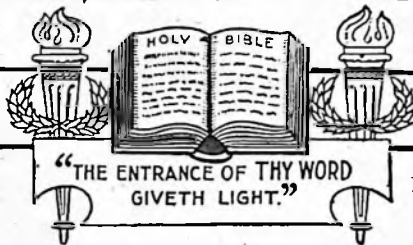


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The Archaeology of Baptism

DR. P. W. EVANS, principal of Spurgeon's College, London, in the Tyndale New Testament Lecture for 1946, discussed whether the Lord's Supper and Christian baptism were introduced by the church into its practices or were set up by the Lord to be observed by all disciples. Dr. Evans showed that these ordinances were authorised by Christ. The teaching and practice of the early Christians indicate clearly that Jesus commanded his disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature, baptising them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28: 19). If this be so, the lecturer urged, then baptism must be practised and interpreted to-day, not according to later developments in theology and practice, but in the light of the will of the Lord who gave the instruction.

I.

THE church is divided because many customs have entered its life that are contrary to the fundamental truths of the kingdom of God. By adding superstitious views to the ordinance of baptism, it has been divorced from the faith of the individual. By robbing baptism of its original significance, many have changed the mode of administering the ordinance.

The new customs associated with baptism have become so widespread and have been practised so long, people are surprised and amazed when it is shown they are not observing the ordinance just as Christ commanded.

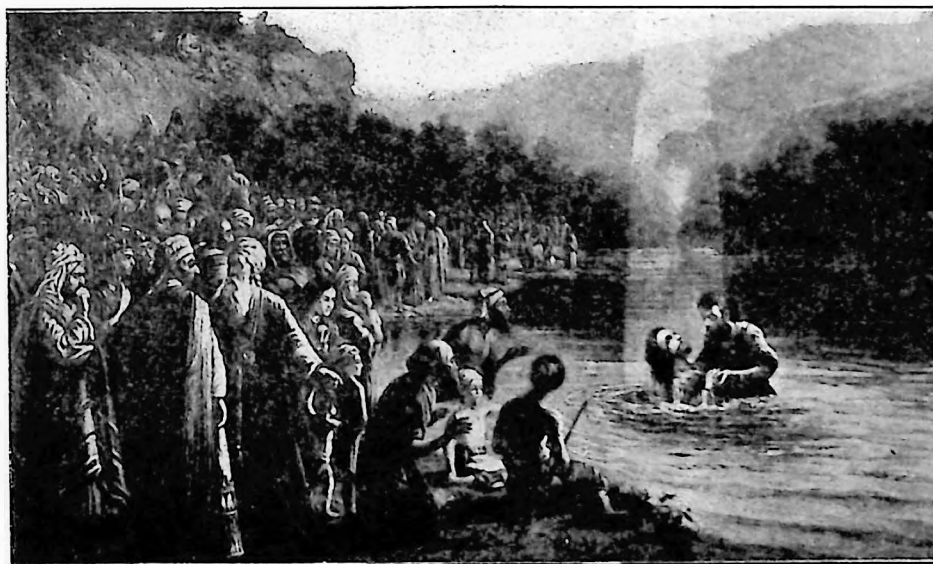
The sprinkling of infants is a tradition that became widespread only late in the history of the church.

W. N. Cote in his scholarly work, "The Archaeology of Baptism," wrote: "As regards the manner in which baptism used to be administered, Tertullian says that the Christians of his time were immersed by howing down with great simplicity, without pomp, and in a few words." Continuing, he writes, "In some very ancient paintings

the candidate is represented as standing in the water up to his waist and the administrator by his side bending him forward. The most remarkable of these paintings is that of the catacomb of San Battisterio. The baptism of the Saviour is roughly sketched and painted in the old technical style." Describing this picture, the Italian writer Bottari, in his work entitled, "Roma Sotterranea" (underground Rome) says, "Upon the wall, over the arch, the Redeemer is represented up to his waist in the waters of the River Jordan, and upon his head rests the right hand of John the Baptist, standing on the shore. It is by mistake that modern artists represent Christ in the Jordan up to his knees only, and John pouring water upon his head. And although on the portico of the church at San Lorenzo, outside of the walls of Rome, that saint is seen in a painting pouring water upon the head of San Romano, this was certainly not the case, as that picture is far more modern (12th cent.) than those of the first centuries, and the artist was evidently ignorant or wrongly informed concerning the acts of San Lorenzo."

Many Greek manuscripts have pictures of the early mode of Christian baptism. "In the Barberini Library, at Rome, there is a Greek Psalter of the eleventh century which contains a picture representing the baptism of the Eunuch by Philip. The Eunuch is standing up to his neck in a pyramid of water, the usual form in the earliest representations of Christian baptism. Philip is clothed in purple. Close by, the two are seen in a chariot with four horses driving away at full gallop. This painting exists also in a Byzantine manuscript, in quarto, of the eleventh century, in the British Museum."

The early Christians used the Greek word for fish, *ichthus*, as a symbol. The word represents the first letters in Greek for, "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour." This practice of indicating figuratively our Lord as *Ichthus* or Fish, led the Christian Fathers to link with it the waters of baptism. Augustine could, in



The Baptism of Jesus.

(Cont. on page 149)

CHURCH PREPARES FOR NEW TASKS

★ GENEVA

PREPARATIONS FOR AMSTERDAM

THE Administrative and the Arrangements Committees for the Assembly met in Geneva from January 20 to 23, and worked out the details of the programme for the Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

This Assembly will be an important event in the life of the churches. One hundred and thirty-five churches will be represented there, from large and small nations of every continent. The number of participants is expected to be 1400: 450 official delegates, 350 alternates, 100 delegates representing church youth movements, the remaining places being occupied by the press, consultants and fraternal delegates, visitors and staff of the World Council.

The official allotments of seats are: 85 delegates from the Eastern Orthodox Churches, 110 from the churches of the Continent of Europe, 60 from the churches of Great Britain and Eire, 90 from the churches of the United States and Canada, 50 from the churches of Asia, Africa, Central America and the Pacific Islands, 25 from the churches of South America and Australasia, 30 from various minority churches in all parts of the world.

The Administrative Committee spent a whole day discussing the report on the future programme and action of the World Council, which will be submitted to the Assembly at Amsterdam. It was decided to publish the first number of the new publication, "Ecumenical Review," just before the Amsterdam Conference.

The Preparatory Committee examined the work for the four sections which will be set up at the Assembly, and which will supersede the four present study commissions. It was agreed that the volumes prepared for Amsterdam should be sent out to the delegates, and should then appear in their final form immediately after the Assembly.

The Geneva broadcasting station arranged for a broadcast to be given by Pastor Marc Boegner, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Bishop Berggrav, Pastor Martin Niemöller and Professor F. O. Nolde.



★ UNITED STATES

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

A NEW Protestant organisation has issued a manifesto urging reaffirmation of the American principle of separation of church and state. Calling itself the Protestants and Other Americans for the Separation of Church and State, the group declared that the Roman Catholic Church was seeking to "fracture the constitutional principle" in securing support for its parochial schools from the public treasury.

Contending that religious freedom in the U.S.A. sprang from the separation of church and state, the manifesto demands that free transportation, lunches, text-books and other aids to sectarian education be abrogated, and that the Presidential representation at the Vatican be discontinued. "Protestants and Other Americans United," concludes the manifesto, "respectfully demand that Congress shall not . . . abdicate its responsibility to defend the Constitution regardless of political pressure on the part of any sectarian interests."

The new organisation professes not to be anti-Catholic in a religious sense. It asserted that its opposition to the tactics of this church was confined to the political arena. Those signing the manifesto are all well known in Protestant

circles, but the document made it plain that Jews and Roman Catholics also were invited to join in the interest of maintaining freedom of religion. Among the signatories are Dr. John A. Mackay, President of Princeton Theological Seminary, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, former editor of "The Christian Century," etc.

The following programme of immediate objectives was set forth:—

"To enlighten public opinion in support of religious liberty. . . . To resist every attempt by law or the administration of law further to widen the breach in the wall of separation of church and state. . . . To work for the repeal of any law . . . which sanctions the granting of aid to church schools from the public school treasury. . . .

"In seeking these objectives we are determined to pursue a course that cannot be justly characterised as anti-Catholic, or as motivated by anti-Catholic animosity. As Protestants, we can be called anti-Catholic only in the sense in which every Roman Catholic is anti-Protestant. Profound differences separate us in the area of religious faith, but these differences have no relevancy in the pursuit of our objectives as clearly defined in this manifesto. The issue of separation of church and state has arisen in the political area and we propose to meet it there."

The executive committee will be elected annually by an advisory board of 100 members from the various parts of the country.—E.P.S.



★ S.W. PACIFIC

PHENOMENAL GROWTH OF CHURCH

AT the Morpeth Conference, N.S.W., Norman Goodall, of the International Missionary Society, spoke of the spread of the church in Pacific Islands.

Seen within the wider stream of Christian history, said Mr. Goodall, the South-west Pacific was one of the wonder areas of missions. There had been in this area a phenomenal growth of the younger churches, which could be traced as in other times and places to "the blood of the martyrs, which was the seed of the church." The South-west Pacific had a record of indigenous Christian churches that was notable in the history of missions. Many of the island communities had become completely evangelised. There were many large indigenous churches which had become self-supporting and self-governing, and generally speaking, there was no shortage of native ministers. The Bible had been translated in its entirety in many areas, and the literacy percentage was extraordinarily high. In addition, a number of island churches, especially the Samoans, Fijians and Tongans had, for the best part of a century, sent out their missionaries into various parts of the Pacific. In spite of all this, however, there was now ground for some anxiety about the future of Christianity in the islands. The chief reason for this was the fact that the old insularity had been broken down for good. This meant that native churches which had grown strong in their isolation had now to withstand new and strange forces. In facing this situation, it had to be recognised that the level of training for the native ministry fell below what the times demanded. This weakness was part of a more widespread weakness in the general educational standards of the area. Good work had been done at the primary level, but there was scarcely any secondary education worthy of the name. Behind all this was the great problem of recreating the native culture which,

while preserving the best elements of the past, would be fundamentally Christian. Mr. Goodall added that the churches of the area might effectively be brought together in a South-west Pacific Christian Council, through which the affairs of the whole area could be studied. In closing, he drew a distinction between Kagawa's "desperation evangelism" and the call of the Whitby conference to a new era of "expectant evangelism." He felt that a creative and redemptive accent could best be heard in the latter phrase, which was based upon a fresh realisation that authentic evangelism was founded upon God's activity and not ours.



★ NEW CALEDONIA

COMMUNISM AMONG NATIVES

PASTOR MARC LACHERET, of the French Protestant Mission in New Caledonia, said at the Morpeth Conference that among post-war problems was the rise of communism among the natives of New Caledonia and the Loyalty Islands. Since they were given their freedom by the French Government, many natives had adopted a childish form of communism. "The missions are trying to combat communism with Christianity," he added. In this sense they were being assisted by many natives, who had formed a Native Association eighteen months ago. About one-third of the population of 15,000 were members of this association, which while having no official nexus with the church, nevertheless looked to it for advice and help.



★ JAPAN

DEMANDS OF PEACE

FRANK W. COALDRAKE, missionary in Japan, answers the question: What has defeat done to Japan's warriors?

First, it has sent them back to the ranks of citizenship as men bearing a certain measure of disgrace, certainly penniless, and mostly deprived of power. What influence they have in the community is a separate point.

Most of the ex-soldiers would again answer a "call to the colors" if they received it. Their reasons would be the same as formerly, namely, just that it was "A call to the colors." A few would resist such a call. Many would join in public discussion before the call came as to the likelihood, or need of it, and after it came, as to the rightness of obeying it.

The warrior has gone back to his hoe or his hammer, to his rubble or his rush mat, to his seaweed and sweet potato. He is still consciously a Japanese, and still, as a Japanese, his chief concern is to live as artistically, i.e., with as much aesthetic enjoyment, as possible, on as little as possible.

The present is pregnant with possibilities. There is a dawning desire to live up to the Constitution, to become in fact what the Constitution describes—a country without any soldiers. A Foreign Office official said to me after I had answered his searching questions about the White Australia Policy: "Japan has a great chance to become a peace-loving nation. It would be wonderful if we could become known and understood among the other nations as the world's peace-loving nation. We need only two things to make this possible—trade, and an emigration outlet."

Proceedings of The Victorian Conference

*R. T. Pittman, B.A., Dip.Ed., presents a general report of programme,
giving results of election and an outline of decisions reached.*

THE eighty-third conference of churches of Christ in Victoria held its opening session on March 25, 1948, in Lygon-st. chapel. J. Holloway, conference president, welcomed delegates. W. G. Graham, secretary of conference, brought greetings from groups and individuals.

The church at Mt. Evelyn was admitted to conference.

Introducing the Executive report, W. G. Graham explained that this year a special appeal was being made for support of a crusade of evangelism. Other appeals would not be made.

The statistics cause much concern every year. Collecting accurate statistics is a major problem. Assessing our real numerical strength is another big difficulty, for many churches, presumably, have long supplementary lists of members. Figures presented to conference are confined, more or less, to our active membership, and now that annual fees from the churches are assessed on a "per capita" basis, a further fluctuation of figures might occur. The statistical sheet reveals that 475 have been added by faith and obedience and 475 in other ways, a total of 950. Losses by revision of roll total 1052 and by other means 459, a total of 1511. Nett decrease is 561. The church membership now stands at 11,439.

Mrs. Washfold, president of women's conference, presented a report on the women's work.

F. T. Morgan introduced the Christian Union report. The report of the Advisory Board was presented by J. McG. Abercrombie.

R. Ennis presented the Properties Corporation report. The building at Mont Albert is to be moved to Braybrook housing area. The building at Bentleigh has been moved to make way for a church structure in brick. A start has been made with the Springvale property.

F. N. Lee brought for consideration of conference "a new line-up in brotherhood finance." He advocated a weekly offering for all brotherhood work, and urged the appointment of a finance committee to arrange a budget system. J. A. Wilkie and V. L. Gole contributed to the discussion.

R. C. Bolduan, chairman of the department, introduced the report of overseas mission work. H. Williams told of his visit to the New Hebrides.

D. A. Cockroft introduced a discussion concerning home mission problems. He was followed by J. A. Wilkie, J. McG. Abercrombie and A. W. Stephenson.

Principal E. L. Williams spoke of the work at the College of the Bible.

W. Clay spoke upon the subject, "Undergirding Social Service Plans." He was supported by W. T. Atkin and F. E. Buckingham. Dr. Kemp spoke of the appreciation expressed by the people in Britain for the parcels of food sent from the churches.

At the home missionary demonstration on Friday evening, B. J. Combridge spoke on the theme, "Increasing Strength for a Growing Task." Mrs. Washfold, on behalf of the Women's Mission Bands, presented cheques totalling £686 — £343 for home missions, £274 for foreign missions and £68 for the College of the Bible. Lantern slides were shown by C. Jackel and W. Gale, showing home missionary work in Gippsland.

The first business on the morning of Satur-

day, March 27, concerned the report of the Aborigines Mission Committee. F. Funston introduced the leaders of the discussion—E. Atkinson, of Mooroopna, and Doug. Nicholls, of Fitzroy. Both speakers told of good work being done among their people.

A. W. Stephenson spoke to the report of the Literature Committee. Present conditions restrict considerably the importation of literature and also local production.

"Co-ordinating the Work of Conference Departments" was the subject of an address by R. Ennis. J. McG. Abercrombie and W. F.



A. E. Hurren,
Newly-elected Victorian Conference President.

Nankivell contributed to the discussion. Subsequently resolutions concerning this were passed.

On Saturday afternoon the first business discussion was introduced by V. C. Stafford. The theme was "Implementing Our Youth Projects." A well-prepared book with large pages was used to illustrate the work of the youth department. L. A. Trezise brought greetings from 130 campers at Monbulk, and also enlarged upon the statement by Mr. Stafford. R. Watt spoke of the financial aspect. R. A. Banks reported on C.E. activities. B. Huntsman also spoke on various aspects of youth work. Miss Goudie urged the importance of temperance teaching.

A. B. McDiarmid spoke on the subject, "The Place of Authority and Liberty in our Life." K. J. Patterson and S. Neighbour contributed to the discussion.

The overseas missions programme on Saturday evening was preceded by a song service led by A. Haskell. Dr. W. A. Kemp told of his visit to the mission stations in India, and conveyed greetings from the missionaries. The scripture lesson was read by W. Fong, of the Chinese church. R. Bolduan introduced Miss Kennedy, of Kaniva, who is going to the New Hebrides as a qualified nurse. Hariba Waghamade, B.A., spoke on the subject, "Missions in New India." The secretary of the Presbyterian F.M. Board, G. Anderson, M.A., gave an address on "Missions in the New Pacific." Greet-

ings to the missionaries on the field were sent from the meeting.



CONFERENCE NOTES

A preachers' session was held on Thursday afternoon, March 25. The speaker was H. M. Arrowsmith, L.Th., vicar of St. John's, Toorak. V. Stafford presided, and introduced the new president of the association, A. Withers.

At the tea which followed the preachers' session, A. W. Stephenson introduced the subject of "Visitation Evangelism," and was supported by other speakers.

On Thursday evening, K. A. Jones gave an address on "Heritage and Task." The early church was characterised by heroic qualities, and a passion for bringing the gospel message to the hearts of men. Our great task is to reproduce to-day the qualities of the early church, and to restate the abiding message in terms suitable to present-day conditions.

J. Holloway presided over the sessions of conference with ability and kindly firmness in keeping to schedule. The programmes were full of good things, and it was difficult to find time for discussion of some very important matters. The various topics were presented with ability, and provided much food for thought.

In place of the offerings at the various sessions of conference, a special fund was opened for a crusade for a Christian world. W. Clay presented the appeal, and the total amount raised during the sessions up till Saturday evening, March 27, was £1288/12/-.

At the Friday morning session, A. E. Hurren was introduced as incoming president. He responded to the expression of confidence from the retiring president, and presented to him a Bible. A. E. Hurren then gave an address on the subject, "Christ's Purpose in the Church."

During lunch on Friday two delegations were welcomed. W. C. Collard, vice-president of the Baptist Union, brought greetings, and J. D. Northey represented the regional committee of the World Council of Churches.

On Good Friday afternoon, Dr. Hyman Appel- man gave a message appropriate to the occasion. The address was followed by a devotional session.

During the sessions of conference at Lygon-st. chapel, solos were contributed by R. Lang, Mrs. C. G. Taylor and Miss D. L. Clark. Miss Pittman and Miss Louey played the organ accompaniments. During the service in the Independent Church on Sunday, when the conference sermon was delivered, Miss F. Cowper rendered two solos, accompanied on the organ by Cedric Gower.

In the conference sermon E. L. Williams, M.A., discussed the question, "Whither Our Brotherhood?" under three headings: Advance or Recession? Unity or Division? Co-operation or Isolation?

A church which is preaching the gospel is obeying its marching orders, but one which is failing in this is on the retreat. We can advance only by evangelism. The business of the church is to win men to make Christ the centre of their lives and send them out to apply him to the whole of life. The gospel is the good news of something that works in our own experience. To win for Christ must be the ultimate purpose of every activity, and it must be accepted as the responsibility of every Christian.

Only a united church is equal to a divided and stricken world. Men will not believe the church's claim that it can bridge the divisions of human society—between white and colored, Aryan and non-Aryan, employer and employed,

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nation and nation—when it is divided itself. A united church is an imperative of successful evangelism in our time.

The unity of Christendom by the restoration of the doctrines, principles and practices of the church as disclosed in the New Testament, was the vision that made us a people. We must demonstrate the validity of our plea by maintaining the unity of our own brotherhood. Possible causes of division among us are radical liberalism, reactionary fundamentalism, the assertion of particular interpretations and opinions, and the negation of others who hold different views on some matters. The unity of our brotherhood is preserved by trusting those whose lives are the proof of their devotion and loyalty to a divine Saviour and Lord, and by building upon the pillars of unity. The mind and will of Christ as known with authority only in the New Testament is one pillar, while the other is the principle of liberty in relation to moral, doctrinal and biblical issues on which loyal Christians differ. These two pillars must not be separated.

One of the encouraging features of our day is the gathering tide of Christian union. Gathering impetus at the Edinburgh Missionary Conference of 1910, this movement will demonstrate its progress by the formation of the World Council of Churches at a world council in Amsterdam this year. If we have no contribution to make we ought not to exist. But as we have a real contribution, we ought to be in this movement to make our witness. To isolate ourselves is to become an insignificant backwash at the edge of a mighty stream.



RESOLUTIONS

That we welcome the report that the World Convention will be held in Melbourne in 1950, and request the Executive to undertake the necessary organisation in conjunction with the Federal Conference Committee.

Young People's Department.—This department shall be entrusted with the promotion of all youth work, and shall be controlled by a committee as hereunder, eight to form a quorum. At least eight members of the committee shall be appointed by conference. These shall nominate one member from each of the auxiliaries affiliated with the department, such nominees to be approved by the auxiliaries concerned. The number elected by conference shall at all times be a majority.

That six weeks' notice be required for proposed amendments to the constitution.

That the powers of the Advisory Board be extended by adding the words "or any other matter of concern to the churches" to the clause "to assist churches and preachers in the settlement of difficulties arising from the relationship of preacher and church."

That before submitting complete list of nominations to conference, nominations committee give the churches ample opportunity to send in names to the committee.

That this conference affirms the need for the co-ordination of the work of conference departments in order to secure a well-balanced programme of all brotherhood work.

That the Executive Committee be requested to appoint a committee to investigate the question of co-ordinating the work of the conference departments, to secure if possible the co-operation of the various departments, to refer the findings to the churches at least six weeks before next conference, and report to next conference.

Social Service Department presented several resolutions. These appear elsewhere in the Social Service Notes written by W. H. Clay.

The Australian Christian

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

President.—A. E. Hurren.

Past President.—J. Holloway.

President-elect.—D. A. Cockroft.

Secretary.—W. G. Graham.

Treasurer.—G. W. Mitchell.

Assist. Secretary.—Miss F. Haines.

Executive Committee of Conference.—The above officers of conference and one representative of and from each committee in control of a conference department.

Home Missionary Committee.—The officers of conference, as above, together with the following: J. McG. Abercrombie, A. W. Cleland, R. Ennis, Keith A. Jones, F. N. Lee, G. L. Murray, A. W. Stephenson, M.A., J. A. Wilkie, E. L. Williams, M.A. (Three further members will later be co-opted.)

Advisory Board.—J. McG. Abercrombie, J. E. Allan, A. W. Cleland, A. E. Hurren, Dr. W. A. Kemp, G. L. Murray, W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D., A. W. Stephenson, M.A., together with E. L. Williams, M.A. (principal of the college), and chairman and secretary of the Home Missionary Committee.

Foreign Missionary Committee.—J. E. Allan, R. C. Bolduan, L. Gole, V. L. Gole, J. Turner, B.A., A. B. Withers, C. H. J. Wright. (Three further members will later be co-opted.)

Young People's Committee.—R. A. Banks, F. A. Broussard, P. J. Foster, B. F. Huntsman, Miss B. W. Lee, Mus. Bac., E. A. Lewis, F. T. Morgan, L. A. Trezise, B.A. (Together with a representative from each of the affiliated auxiliaries.

Social Service Committee.—W. T. Atkin, W. A. Brown, F. E. Buckingham, F. Chipperfield, B.Com., W. H. Clay, E. J. Collings, F. J. Funston, S. Neighbour, R. A. Strongman, G. B. Woodbridge. (Four further members will later be co-opted.)

Promotion of Christian Union Committee.—J. H. Charlesworth, E. J. Miles, F. T. Morgan, R. P. Morris, M.C.E., W. F. Nankivell, B.A., B.D., V. C. Stafford, J. Turner, B.A., E. L. Williams, M.A., A. B. Withers.

Literature Committee.—D. E. Allen, G. J. Andrews, H. R. Coventry, D. E. Pittman, R. T. Pittman, B.A., Dip.Ed., V. C. Stafford, A. W. Stephenson, M.A.

Aborigines Mission Committee.—H. R. Coventry, F. J. Funston, C. L. Lang, Doug. Nicholls, J. Wiltshire.

Council of Churches.—R. A. Banks, H. R. Coventry, J. E. Searle, A. B. Withers.

Nominations Committee.—A. W. Cleland, W. A. Fordham, W. Gale, C. L. Lang, D. D. Stewart, and one representative of and from each department.

N.Z. Commission on Gambling

E. P. C. Hollard, of Wellington, reports on church and general brotherhood activities in the Dominion.

THE findings of the recently appointed Commission on Gambling and Betting have been published. They reveal a state of affairs which is not at all creditable to a country of our size. Even the commissioners were led to pass trenchant criticism of the amount of gambling which goes on. One odd aspect is that a group representing bookmakers of the Dominion presented evidence quite openly, and yet bookmakers are illegal operators. This association admitted that about £24 millions has passed through the hands of the bookmakers this last year. The recommendations of the commission are, in a word, these: As bookmaking is impossible to suppress, then regulation must take effect. The associated churches are in process of framing their report on the results. One thing which stood out is the lack of agreement by the churches. The Church of England sought to frame its own case because of its own attitude to gambling; the Roman Catholic church made an appeal to permit gambling for "good causes," leaving those of the National Council, other than the Church of England, to present their plea as the associated churches.

Building permits are very hard to secure, yet the Roman church has no difficulty in securing these permits. The Dominion Protestant paper continues to reveal these things, but the buildings go up with regularity.

Brotherhood Items

The Purnell-Grundy campaign continues in the South Island. They have just finished a short mission at Hokitika, where four were added. They are now at Greymouth, where there have been several decisions. The first year of the campaign is almost over. The results, whilst not large, are encouraging. Churches have been helped by Mr. Purnell's teaching.

At conference, in Christchurch, the Home Missionary Committee is to launch a crusade. At present Nelson and Vivian-st. have launched their campaigns with gratifying results. Vivian-st. rejoices in over 20 additions in recent months, whilst Nelson church received a write-up in the

Wellington press over the amazing work done at Annesbrooke. The paper told of the man-hours donated and the money given. It was quite a boost for our people. The two ministers there, R. H. Blampied and A. Forrest, are busy men.

Palmerston North, under the leadership of H. R. Fitch, is taking a long view of things, planning for another church in the town. A church bus goes out each Sunday to bring in people to the morning services. Additions are reported.

Changes of ministry include the removal of L. E. Jones from Dunedin to N.S.W. He has performed quite a fine ministry in the three years he has been there. Now news comes that H. C. Bischoff goes from South Wellington to St. Andrews-st. C. G. Flood has accepted the challenge of Auckland, and will move to Ponsonby-rd. church, leaving Moorhouse-ave. after conference. F. E. Slattery has gone from Pt. Chevalier to undertake specialised work among children for the Auckland Sunday School Union.

One historic church is at Invercargill, where members settled in 1858. Through the years the church has maintained an outstanding evangelical witness, and celebrates its 90th anniversary. Unlike most of our churches, its building is "old worldish" and quite a landmark in the city. Wallace Harford as minister is making a splendid contribution to the community.

The experiment at Wanganui, where the church set out to help one of the younger ministers, has met with some success. The preacher concerned, P. D. Griffith, has been asked to continue with the church for a further period.

ONCE IN AN AGE

Once in an age God finds us a friend—a friend who loves in us not a false imaginary and unreal character, but looking through all the rubbish and imperfections, loves in us the divine ideal of our nature.

Questions re New Hebrides in the House of Commons

THE Island group are governed by what is known as the Condominium—joint administration of Britain and France. This causes a fair amount of confusion at times, and many facilities and services that might be given were the group governed by Britain alone or by France alone are withheld. Toward the end of 1947 various questions were asked by members in the House of Commons, some of which should interest us as a people.

Vital Statistics

Question.—What steps are being taken to collect adequate vital statistics in the New Hebrides; and is information about the decline in the native population, particularly in Malekula, sufficient to throw light on the causes and possible remedies of the decline?

Answer.—Owing to the size of the various districts of the condominium, lack of transport and shortage of staff, it has only been possible to undertake the collection of vital statistics to some extent in the south and centre of the New Hebrides group. The 1910 figures of population are not considered reliable, but the probable decline in the native population of Malekula is attributable to severe mortality during recent years from epidemics of influenza and whooping-cough. In more settled areas the population is estimated to have increased during recent years.

Native Administration

Question.—When is it proposed to inaugurate a system of native administration in the New Hebrides comparable to that now being developed in the Solomon Islands?

Reply.—I regret that it is not possible to say if or when such a system of native administration can be inaugurated in the New Hebrides. Such a step would, of course, require the consent of the French Government. I am, however, studying what steps can be taken to improve the existing system.

Social Services

Question.—What development and welfare schemes are contemplated for the New Hebrides?

Reply.—The New Hebrides are not eligible for assistance under the C.D.W. Act. In conjunction with the French authorities, we are constantly doing what we can to improve the conditions of the people.

Future Control

Question.—What change is contemplated in the present condominium system operating in the New Hebrides?

Reply.—The question of future constitutional arrangements for the New Hebrides is now under active review in my department; I am unable at present to make any further statement. Any alterations in the existing system would, of course, require the concurrence of the French Government.

Undeveloped Lands

Question.—How much British, French and native-owned land in the New Hebrides is at present undeveloped; and what steps are being taken to make this land available to native communities suffering from shortage of land?

Reply.—It is impossible to provide an answer to the first part of the question, as settled titles exist only in the Southern Islands, and as there are no figures for developed and undeveloped areas. Native communities have been adequately provided for by the allocation to them under the protocol of inalienable native

reserves and by the placing in trust of a large extent of land by the missions; and there is no evidence that they are suffering from shortage of land.

Education

Question.—What steps are being taken to improve educational facilities in the New Hebrides?

Reply.—In the New Hebrides there has been some expansion in the activities of the missions who, on the British side, are entirely responsible for native education. I will, however, consider, in consultation with the High Commissioner, what steps can be taken to improve the existing facilities.

Expenditure on Health and Education

Question.—What expenditure on health and education services in the New Hebrides has been made since the end of the war by the British authorities, and how does this expenditure compare with that of the French authorities, and of missions, on such services?

Reply.—The Minister replied as follows:

(a) Expenditure on health in 1946 and 1947—
British Authorities, £4942.
French Authorities, £32,860.
British Missions, approx. £20,000.
French Missions, nil.

(b) Expenditure on education in 1946 and 1947—

British Authorities, £578.
French Authorities, £6930.
British Missions, approx. £8000.
French Missions—no figures available, but only two primary schools are concerned.

The above amounts are quoted in Australian currency.



COMMENT

After reading about the discussion in the House of Commons, the following will prove useful. The approximate population of the New Hebrides group is 30,000. In commenting on the statement of the Minister re decline in population, it is to be noted that he says, "In more settled areas the population is estimated to have increased in more recent years." He would have been more correct had he said, "The population has increased in areas where missions have a marked influence." It should be noted in this connection that where effective mission work is being done on Aoba the population has increased in recent years, and the people are more healthy than in some other areas, whereas on Pentecost, where intensive missionary work has not been done, epidemics and disease have repeatedly wiped out large numbers of the population.

The statistics regarding health and education should also be studied. Note that whereas the British Government has been complacent enough to allow missions to spend £28,000 on health and education in 1946-47, the Government were satisfied in spending a mere £5500. On the other hand the French Government, not having missions to depend on, spent nearly £40,000. Little or nothing was spent by French missions (R.C.) on either health or education. It would appear that it is high time the British Government did something to subsidise British missions who are increasing medical and educational facilities.



This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-rd., Tranmere, S.A. M.O's should be made payable at Adelaide.

The Archaeology of Baptism

(Continued from Front Page)

this connection, speak of the basin containing the baptismal waters as "a fishpond." Tertullian wrote, "We, smaller fishes, after the example of our Fish, are born in the water, and it is only by continuing in the water that we are safe."

II.

IN the times of the apostles and their immediate successors, converts were baptised in a river, lake, sea, and wherever water was found sufficient for immersion. "In his Second Apology, Justin Martyr (2nd century) stated that this was the custom in his time; he said that the converts were "led to a place where there was water," and baptised.

During the times of persecution of Christians at Rome, the Catacombs were built for places of refuge. Here baptisteries were constructed for the rite by immersion. The most remarkable of these is the baptistery in the Catacomb of San Ponziano. Through a cemetery a stream of water runs. A channel diverted water into a reservoir "which was used for administering baptism by immersion from the first to the fourth centuries."

It was only after the conversion of the Emperor Constantine to Christianity that the church's rites were permitted in public. Under his reign church buildings were erected with great splendor. Buildings were also set up in which the converts were baptised. "This rite being performed by immersion, and the number of persons being considerable, because, in general, it took place only at the two most solemn festivals of the year, a spacious building for this purpose was required, and one was usually erected in the vicinity of a church." "An idea of the size of some of these edifices may be formed when we remember that in some places, as Antioch, no less than three thousand persons sometimes received baptism at one time."

III.

THE word "baptistery" is derived from the Greek *baptisterion*, a large vase in the ancient Roman baths, which was used to bathe in. "The Christian baptisteries were circular or octagonal in form." W. N. Cote gives a list of over 60 such baptisteries built in various centres in Italy from 4th century to 14th. One of these baptisteries is described as being eighty feet in diameter; the interior adorned by a double range of columns supporting arches, on which rises the drum, or circular part, supporting the dome, which is pierced with a clarestory of twelve windows. The baptistery of Pisa was begun in A.D. 1153. It remained unfinished because of a lack of funds. Eventually it was completed in 14th century. This baptistery was built with a diameter of one hundred and sixteen feet, the walls being eight feet thick. "The principal entrance, facing the east and the duomo, is by a decorated doorway; on the frieze above is the martyrdom of John the Baptist, and various scenes relating to our Saviour; among these is a representation of baptism by immersion, the Saviour standing in water up to his neck."

In the British Isles there were baptisteries in use from early times until at least A.D. 627. The Christian preacher Paulinus is referred to as immersing great numbers of converts. Dr. Cathcart in the London "Freeman" described one of these natural baptisteries as it existed in the 19th century. "About eleven miles from Cheviot Hills, separating England and Scotland, and about the same distance from Aln-

(Continued on page 154)

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Here and There

At the opening session of the Hyman Appel-man mission in the Exhibition Building, Mel-bourne, it is reported there was a congrega-tion of 3000.

A. Anderson, secretary overseas mission board, is in Victoria. At combined district gatherings he is presenting the claims of foreign missions.

E. W. Pittman, who since his retirement from active service as a preacher has been living at Clare and Hart, S.A., is in Wake-field-st. Hospital, Adelaide, for surgical treat-ment.

E. C. Hinrichsen spoke at the Home Mission Demonstration of the N.S.W. Conference, Syd-ney, and then travelled by plane to Perth, W.A., to preach the conference sermon at the Western Australian conference.

Work of church at Ormond, Vic., is prosper-ing, especially among young people. Miss Betty Martin has started a Good Companions Club. After 12 months of morning Sunday school it has proved to be a wonderful success, with addition of more scholars. Attendance is up to 140 scholars nearly every week. Mr. Martin is continuing to give helpful addresses, and is doing a splendid work among young people and in visitation of district.

At Prospect, S.A., a New Testament crusade has been organised. This will continue from April 4 to 30. A tent has been erected at corner of Milner-st. and Prospect-rd. Here J. E. Brooke and R. Vincent plan to present "plain facts about New Testament Christian-ity." A vigorous advertising plan has brought the effort under the notice of the public. We trust those leading the cam-paign will enjoy great blessing and success.

Since the departure of G. T. Black from district over two years ago, meetings at Minyip, Vic., have been held only fortnightly. Mr. Black being in district, arrangements were made to hold a service on Easter Sunday in home of A. F. Newell at Litchfield, 24 miles from Minyip. Appropriate hymns were sung, and Mr. Black spoke. A happy time of fellow-ship and communion was spent around the Lord's Table, when ten were in attendance. The meeting was much appreciated.

At a meeting of representatives of the dif-ferent German missionary societies to the Jews held in Hanover on Jan. 9, 1948, it was unanimously agreed to constitute a German committee on the Christian approach to the Jews. It was agreed, moreover, to request the German Missionary Council to give recog-nition to this committee, and to admit it as an affiliate in the membership of the German Missionary Council. The latter, at meeting in Bethel-Bielefeld, on Jan. 15, agreed to do this.

At Easter nearly 50 young people from E. Kew, Vic., under leadership of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Elliot and Mr. and Mrs. T. Turriff attended an-nual Easter camp at Upwey. At meal table problems of all descriptions were discussed with profit to all. All the young people took some part in leadership of many spiritual meetings which culminated in camp fire on Sunday evening, when four decisions for Christ and many reconsecrations were regis-tered. On Easter Monday a visit to camp site at Monbulk was arranged.

The Victorian Churches of Christ Christian Endeavor Committee presented efficiency awards on March 29 to the following societies: Country Junior: first, Kaniwa. Suburban Junior: first, West Preston; second, Balwyn. Intermediate: first, Coburg; second, Thornbury. Junior and Intermediate societies in Victoria are urged to begin now to keep careful records of committee work and general progress. Separate awards are made for country and suburban. Societies have raised the sum of £92/12/1 for aborigines work at Carnarvon, W.A.

There are 5000 natives in the Northern Ter-ritory in supervised camps at missions. About 2000 are employed mainly in the pastoral in-dustry. The remaining 7000 natives in the area are either nomadic or relatives of those employed. During the war 1000 were em-ployed by armed services in work about camps and general laboring.

Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, has sent us the request of The Provisional Committee of the World Council, urging that special prayers be offered for the Amsterdam As-sembly, planned to meet in August, 1948. It has been suggested that Pentecost Sunday be set aside to emphasise the need of unity within the church.

From April 24 to 26 the South Australian Youth Department will hold a Bible School and Youth Workers' Conference at Grote-st. chapel. Subjects to be discussed are Bible school and club work, C.E. programmes, pro-jects, models, community centres, religious films, camping, and worship programmes. Mr. V. C. Stafford, Director of the Board of Chris-tian Education, will speak on "The Australian Front" and "What About Lesson Material?"

The Visitation Evangelistic Campaign in Victoria is creating interest. Twelve churches in Melbourne are selecting and training per-sonal workers. In Ballarat preparations are being made to introduce this type of approach to people. A folder, entitled "Home Visita-tion Evangelism," written by Spencer Austin, of U.S.A., and adapted for use in Australia, has been printed. Copies at one and sixpence per dozen may be secured from Austral Co. Other literature for use in campaigns is now being prepared and will be ready next week, including "Instructions to Visitors" and de-cision cards. W. F. Nankivell, of Camberwell, Vic., is now working with Stan. Neighbour in a special drive at Oakleigh. Other efforts in various centres will follow. We trust brethren will co-operate and pray for this new venture of faith.

South Yarra church, Vic., has asked Mr. Har-greaves to continue his ministry for a further two years. On March 14, Good Companions attended combined dedication service in Swanston-st. chapel. Evening service on March 14 was special for ex-service men and women, a good number being present. Mr. Hargreaves gave an interesting address. At C.M.S. meeting on March 19, Mr. Holt, of Toc H, spoke to men on activities of Toc H. On March 21 local Good Companions took charge of evening service. Miss D. Reynolds gave a special talk to Good Companions, which was enjoyed also by adults present. Miss Adele Blackeley, of Prahran, sang a solo. Sunday school is keenly interested in a com-petition which is being run to create interest in attendance and to gain new scholars. Church is pleased to have Mr. and Mrs. F. Lewis again after five months' holiday in New Zealand.

On March 14 and 16, Kaniwa-Bordertown-Naracoorte District annual conference meetings were held at Kaniwa, Vic. In the chapel on the Sunday, G. M. Mathieson, of Horsham, was special speaker, and gave helpful and inspir-ing addresses at each of the services at 11, 3 and 7.30, and also at combined C.E. meeting at 10.15. Attendances were 128, 112 and 130 respectively. On Tuesday in shire hall B. W. Manning, of Fullarton, S.A., addressed the gathering of 150 at 11. At 2.30 Mrs. McCann spoke of Buffalo Convention; 130 attended. At 7.30 H. L. Williams gave a lecture illustrated with movie films of our New Hebrides mission work, and B. J. Combridge gave the final ad-dress of conference; 175 attended. Each of these meetings was helpful, a fine spirit of fellowship prevailing. Newly-appointed of-ficers: President, A. F. Williams; vice-president, Arthur Milne; secretary, H. C. Wheaton.

Services are well attended at Cottonville, S.A., and members are interested and faithful. Average offerings for March were £11/13/11. Two lads were baptised during month. On evening of March 14, another youth service was held, when several young people effectively presented a message on "What Youth can Make of Life with the Friendship of Christ." An outstanding service was held on Sunday evening before Easter, when choir, under Mrs. Major's leadership, and with assisting singers, rendered Stainer's "Crucifixion." Mr. Kevin Kitto, of Glenelg, and Mr. Milton Titcombe, were soloists. The cantata was listened to in a deep spirit of worship. Bible school is pro-gressing after recommencement. Anniversary services have been postponed until October. Ladies' Auxiliary held a picnic in the gardens. Their meetings have been well attended. Church is supporting Mr. Brooke in prayer as he co-operates with Mr. Vincent during April in tent campaign at Prospect.

ADDRESS

J. B. Baker (preacher Long Plains church, S.A.).—Churches of Christ Manse, Long Plains. Phone, Long Plains 15.

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BROADCAST SERVICE

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SWANSTON STREET

(opp. Public Library).

SUNDAY, APRIL 11.

11 a.m., Mr. David Hood, Mildmay Evangelist from London, will preach.
7 p.m., preacher, K. A. Macnaughtan. Subject, "Death in the Summer House."

(Evening service shortened to allow of participation in Appelman meeting.)

HEAR J. ERNEST BROOKE and RAY VINCENT presenting
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Next meeting of above will be held at Swanston-st. lecture hall on Friday, April 16, 2.30 p.m.

The Australian Christian

News of the Churches

Western Australia

Kalgoorlie.—Church had a visit from J. Waldeck (Bolivian Mission) on Feb. 22. He was speaker at morning service, and on Tuesday gave an illustrated address on mission work. Bible school is doing well under leadership of Roy Beard. Ladies' Mission Band commenced year's work on March 4. There were two decisions on March 7. All services are well attended, and Mr. Fewster's addresses are appreciated.

Tasmania

West Hobart.—There has been a slight increase in attendances over past two weeks, especially in morning services. Speakers have included C. Smith (Sydney), W. M. Cooper, J. Park (conference president) and H. England. Miss N. Woolley was soloist at gospel service on March 21. Bible school attendance on same date was highest for some time.

Launceston.—At annual business meeting of church on March 8, reports of church and auxiliaries showed a year of definite progress. Membership stands at 250. Average attendances for year: communicants 115, gospel service 126. Financial statement revealed splendid giving to church and brotherhood funds, £1232 being contributed for all purposes. The splendid ministry of S. H. Wilson was commended. T. Burt, W. Spinks and T. J. Wilnot were elected deacons. The visit of Hayden McCallum, of Christian Student Movement, was appreciated. He addressed morning meeting on March 14, and over 30 brethren listened to an impressive address on his experiences at Oslo Conference and in Europe at monthly Men's Fellowship gathering. At annual picnic of church at Perth, on March 1, nearly 100 enjoyed a day of fellowship.

Queensland

Gympie.—On March 7 a united gospel meeting was conducted at Monkland. It being first anniversary of Monkland Women's Guild, members of guild provided features dealing with "Women of the New Testament Church." Mr. Wilson spoke. Gympie and Monkland guilds now combine meeting at Monkland chapel on alternate Thursday mornings, remaining for lunch and fellowship. Ladies of guild have promised to help in providing some requirements for flannelboard recently given to Monkland for expression work in Sunday school. Appeal for donations for purchase of extra supplies for both Sunday schools met with a ready response from church members. Flannelboard illustration, and a model made by one S.S. class of scene at the tomb on resurrection morning, were displayed at night meeting on March 21. Mrs. Leddy and Mrs. Marshall are still inmates of General Hospital. William McCollm, of Mackay, and Pauline Edmonds, of Nambour, previously of Mackay, were married at Nambour on March 15 by Mr. Wilson.

Brisbane (Ann-st.).—There were good attendances at both services on March 20, when C. J. Mackenzie spoke in morning and F. C. Hunting conducted gospel meeting; Mrs. Pfeiffer was soloist. During Easter services, church enjoyed fellowship with many country visitors in attendance at annual conference. On Easter Sunday morning, when F. C. Hunting was speaker, chapel was taxed in accommodating 232 present and again during afternoon service when A. Anderson, of S.A., preached conference sermon to a large congregation. Entire service was broadcast. Another 120 were present at night, when C. J. Mackenzie gave an excellent address, and a man and wife and a younger man pledged themselves to a closer walk with Christ. F. C. Hunting baptised a sister, who desired to follow her Lord in this ordinance. Misses Audrey Haworth and Ivy

Roberts sang a duet. Church welcomes back Miss Margaret Nichols after prolonged sojourn in south owing to illness. Church cricket team finished third in grade for season just concluded.

South Australia

Murray Bridge.—On March 21 Florence Thomson was baptised. During week before Easter, Ministers' Fraternal held combined meetings, climax being Easter services in different churches. A. E. Talbot is again in hospital, but it is hoped that he will soon be back. A successful working bee was held on Mar. 20, when men of church accomplished a large amount of work. Several visitors have been welcomed.

Prospect.—Half-yearly meeting was held on March 17. Reports showed all auxiliaries in good standing. Arrangements for tent mission to begin on April 3 were well in hand. Pre-Easter services were conducted on March 21, R. Vincent preaching. There was singing by choir, and Mrs. Dix sang a solo. At close of evening service F. Collins (Kilburn church) baptised a young man. On March 28 Easter services were conducted by R. Vincent.

Kilburn.—Second anniversary of church was celebrated on March 28 with F. Collins as speaker. 18 adults and 25 young worshippers attended. 78 were present at 10 a.m. Bible school. 7 p.m. gospel service was conducted by a group of young men from Maylands. Those assisting were D. Brooke (president), W. Heath (speaker), R. Brown (scripture reading), and H. Walpole. 18 adults and 6 children enjoyed an excellent service. Sisters Pritchard and Phillips have consented to lead Young Worshipers' League.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—Good pre-Easter services were held on March 21, W. Beiler preaching. At evening service choir rendered "The Story of the Cross," Gordon Ellis conducting. Mr. and Mrs. Yates, from Brighton, Vic., and Mr. and Mrs. Illingworth, from Malvern-Caulfield, Vic., were present in morning. Miss Elsie Collins, who has had fellowship with church for several months, is returning to Queensland. Two have been welcomed into membership—David Lewis, from Norwood, and Miss Roma Hollister, previously baptised.

Semaphore.—Work amongst young people is encouraging. At last meeting of "Happy Hour" there were 57 present. Y.P., J.C.E. and Bible school are increasing in numbers, and a Boys' Brigade is to commence shortly. Mission Band elected officers for coming year. Men's Fellowship held a sports evening on March 8. Harvest thanksgiving services were held on March 21, when 90 communed for day. Solos and appropriate anthems were given by choir. A young man rededicated his life to Christ. Renovation offering amounted to £66. Easter services were held Mar. 28, choir assisting in evening. Church intends to renovate building.

Balaklava.—A. E. Cremin has addressed all meetings since commencing his ministry, and attendances at morning services have been good; attendances at evening services are encouraging. Church has increased Mr. Cremin's salary and guaranteed a substantial car allowance. A social evening was held on March 3 in honor of Ada Roberts and Keith Cotile, before they were married on March 13. On March 17 a kitchen evening was held to honor Elaine Marriott and Volney Whiting before they were married on March 20. Mr. Cremin officiated at both services. Mrs. J. Gibson has been elected superintendent of kindergarten with Mrs. H. Roberts as assistant. Mr. Warhurst passed away on Mar. 9; sympathy is extended to the sorrowing ones. Mrs. A. J. Webb has been very sick, and the church hopes for a speedy recovery. Balaklava was centre for Northern District Conference. It was a

time of inspiration and help to all. Before conference, men of church co-operated with sisters in cleaning chapel and hall. Harvest festival was held on Feb. 29. All gifts were given to local hospital.

Nailsworth.—During past weeks attendances at all services have been well maintained. Bible school again passed previous records with several new scholars. Junior C.E. has also enjoyed increased enrolment. C.E. anniversary services were held on March 21 and 22, both meetings being helpful and inspiring. A. J. Fisher showed a film strip of World Convention at Oslo. The film projector was an outstanding success. Church is grateful to I.C.E. who were responsible in securing same. Opportunity was taken to present Graham Giddings with an electric jug on the occasion of his marriage. F. Collins gave a helpful address at this meeting, which concluded with basket supper.

Strathalbyn.—Average attendance for March was 49 in morning and 36 in evening. Harvest thanksgiving services were conducted by Ira Durdin on March 7. Thankoffering was £86/15/-. Gifts given for festival will be sent to Britain. Fruit and vegetables were given to local hospital, and jam to Morialta Home. In absence of Ira Durdin on holidays at Tumby Bay, H. Filmer spoke on morning of March 14, and Mr. Albright, representing S.A. Alliance, at night. Congratulations are extended to church treasurer, Max Caudle, on his marriage to Dorothy Milne, of Bordertown. Church enjoyed fellowship with visitors during month. E. Caudle's health is improving. Mr. Pring is back and able to take part in services after illness.

Fullarton.—"Second coming" meetings were held on Good Friday. At 3 p.m. there was a good attendance, when B. W. Manning presided and Gerald Simpson (Beulah-rd.) and E. Humphrey Hall (Baptist) gave excellent addresses. At basket tea a good number gathered round tables in fellowship and remained for evening meeting, which was largely attended. B. W. Manning again presided; Whitridge Bowen (Stepney Christian Church) and Reg. Burrow (Burnside Christian Church) gave splendid addresses. On Easter Sunday morning there was a good attendance, when B. W. Manning preached. In evening he gave the story of the cross. Choir assisted with an anthem, soloists being Winnie Thorpe and Mr. Derbyshire.

Long Plains.—Church continues to meet in local memorial hall, and is enjoying spiritual blessing under leadership of J. Baker. Speakers assisting in absence of preacher at Owen have been M. Rundle, M. Jenkin, M. Daniel, K. Jenkin, of Long Plains, K. Aird, of Adelaide, and Mr. Barrett, of Prospect. Their help has been appreciated. Many gifts of money and furnishings for use in rebuilding plans have been received, for which church is grateful. Young people were represented at Tumby Bay and Gawler youth workers' camps, from which great spiritual uplift was gained. C.E. has re-opened activities, after harvest recess, and shows marked improvement in interest and attendances. Church enjoyed fellowship with Mr. Baker's parents, from Victoria, on Mar. 28.

Ungarra.—Church has had fellowship with several visiting speakers in past few months. Several young people from Y.P.S.C.E. joined in Bible study camp with some 20 others led by G. R. Stirling, youth director, at Red Cliffs, Tumby Bay, from March 1 to 7. Mr. Stirling was speaker on Feb. 29 in morning. Ladies' Guild is working steadily; yearly report was encouraging. Presidents and secretary were re-elected for ensuing year. Sunday school and church tendered a gift evening to Miss M. Fraser on March 16 on occasion of her marriage to Don Jarvis on March 18. Wel-

come was also spoken to Mrs. Clarrie Laurie, and a Bible was presented to each couple by secretary of church. Combined fellowship meetings were planned over Easter at Tumby Bay.

Cowandilla.—On March 14 Keith Ewers addressed morning meeting; W. E. Fisher conducted gospel meeting. On March 18, Band of Hope held a special meeting. 91 were present. Miss Mills, of Queensland, was in charge; 21 new members were welcomed. Morning service on March 21 was conducted in form of a "covenant service." There were 10 covenanters. At conclusion of making of the covenant Mrs. E. Markham sang the consecration hymn. An appropriate address was given by W. E. Fisher. The service was designed to encourage those who have been added to church during the past 12 months. A member was received by transfer. At evening service W. E. Fisher addressed a well attended meeting. A young men's quartette (C. Simins, K. Ewers, W. Docking, N. G. McLean), assisted. On March 24, at annual business meeting, all reports indicated church and auxiliaries to be prosperous. J. Grigg was re-elected secretary; J. Dixon, treasurer; H. Hemer, J. Dixon, Mrs. Trowbridge, manse finance committee; J. Grigg, J. Dixon, G. Hossack, deacons. During month church had fellowship of G. Wood, West Preston, Vic., and Mr. and Mrs. Yate, Brighton, Vic.

New South Wales

Burwood.—Since beginning of year all services have been well attended. Greater interest has been shown in gospel meetings, inspiring addresses being delivered by Mr. Davis. Meeting each Wednesday night has taken form of an intercessory service. Since taking new form, attendance has improved considerably. Membership has increased by nine in recent weeks, three being received by faith and baptism and six by transfer. Bible school picnic was held on March 13.

Seven Hills.—Attendances have improved during last few months. Two were received recently by transfer from Victoria. On Mar. 28 G. H. Eager, with assistance of slides and suitable music, conducted an interesting Easter service. V. B. Morris, of North Sydney, is erecting manse, assisted by the minister, Mr. Eager, who preaches on Sundays, and is builder's assistant during week. Special efforts are being made to interest Bible school scholars and increase attendance.

Lane Cove.—Meetings since beginning of year, in general, have been well attended. Five have been received into fellowship of church, one as a baptised believer and four by faith and baptism. The fellowship has been enjoyed of a number of visitors. Alan Leggatt has returned to district after some years in business at Springwood. Mrs. Cooper, after many years of physical weakness, has been called home. Sunday school has welcomed many new scholars, and under leadership of Mr. Ferguson is progressing well. Picnic at Balmoral was enjoyed by many. On March 28 church renewed fellowship with a former preacher, P. C. D. Alcorn, who addressed church. In evening H. J. Patterson was preacher.

Chatswood.—Much interest has been shown in an evangelistic campaign which is being launched by the church, many of the young people's auxiliaries taking an active part in assisting the preacher to bring the message of God's love to the people. Boys' Club at one evening service showed how they looked on Jesus as their hero. Other bands of workers are contributing their share of the work in other ways. A visit from A. Anderson was enjoyed as he presented pictures of work in India and China. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Gilchrist, from Bassendean, W.A., were amongst visitors during month. Choir ably presented "The Crucifixion," by Stainer, and also assisted on March 26 at City Temple with two very fine anthems.

Gilgandra.—Church held annual business meeting on March 19. Work is progressing favorably under interim leadership of V. Quayle. Recently a week-night gospel service has been conducted at home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Christian, and on March 16 there were three confessions. Harvest festival services were well attended first Sunday in March, and there was an excellent display of gifts, the latter afterwards donated to district hospital and "Lillimur" Girls' Home at Dubbo. Mrs. Thompson has been ill for some time. V. Quayle is to take up work at Wedderburn in April. Bible school is practising for anniversary.

Doonside.—Attendances at worship and gospel services are maintained. Recent speakers have been C. Bowser, R. Bartholomew, G. Sloman, G. Morton, H. T. Edwards, S. Reeson, O. Wainwright. During last few weeks two have decided for Christ. Work of Ladies' Fellowship continues in good spirit. Mrs. Louene, has returned home from hospital. On Feb. 28 a shower tea was held in honor of approaching marriage of Joy Coles and Doug Reeson; many useful gifts were presented. They were married on March 13, R. Greenhalgh officiating. This was first marriage performed in chapel and first in district. In honor of the occasion, church presented the couple with a family Bible.

Belmore.—On March 7, A. Anderson, Federal F.M. secretary, gave an interesting talk to Bible school, illustrating with moving pictures of mission work in India and China. At gospel service Mr. Wylie, of Inverell, delivered a stirring gospel sermon. Doug Nicholls and family visited Bible school on March 21, and all were delighted to have fellowship with them. Mr. and Mrs. Nicholls rendered a delightful duet and Mr. Nicholls played a hymn on a gum leaf, and gave an interesting talk. Mr. Lewis, of Albury, was speaker at gospel service on March 28, and L. Dewberry exhorted church in morning. Church enjoyed fellowship with a number of country members in city for conference week. Work in church and all auxiliaries continues to prosper.

Broken Hill.—Members are cheered by coming of Mr. and Mrs. R. Hilford and family, from North Perth, W.A., to labor with church. Mr. Hilford gave appreciated addresses at both services on March 21, when Jacqueline Hosking confessed Christ. She is from Bible school. L. Warren gave address at Wills-st., Railwaytown, at 11 a.m. On March 23 a welcome social was tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Hilford and family, a large and representative audience being present, including representatives from many local churches. Mr. and Mrs. R. Warmbrun, from Mudgee, who have been transferred to Commonwealth Bank, have been welcomed into fellowship. Sympathy of church is extended to Mr. and Mrs. L. Warren, Mrs. Warren having recently lost her mother and Mr. Warren his brother, both of Adelaide, on March 15.

Lismore.—Annual business meeting of church was held in chapel on Feb. 16 with good attendance. Report of Ladies' Guild stated activities were re-commenced on March 5, 1947. There was average attendance of 13. 307 sick visits were made by guild sisters, and 432 garments mended for hospital by sewing bee. Eight meetings of Women's Mission Band were held during year. A number of garments were made for India. During election and re-election of officers Max Smith was added as a deacon and also as assistant to church secretary, R. R. Wotherspoon. Clare Savill and Beryl Brown were re-elected organists; Dorothy Vanham assistant. A class has begun for Sunday school teachers. A lantern lecture was given in church hall by A. Anderson. Each Wednesday night a meeting is held by young men interested in discussing Bible and religion. Mrs. Vanham, wife of the preacher, S. W. Vanham, passed away after long illness. The funeral service was conducted by R. M. Wilson, of Mayfield.

Victoria

Coburg.—J. Wright, of North Essendon, gave splendid addresses in special evangelistic effort last month; J. Burns assisted as song-leader. Church is engaging in visitation evangelism. D. Johnston, regular reporter to "Australian Christian," after three weeks in hospital, is home again and making good progress. W. Gray is training scholars for Sunday school anniversary. Average number of communicants during March was 104. New tennis court on church property is almost completed.

Ballarat (Peel-st.).—At annual business meeting of church on March 17, reports from all organisations showed good progress. Officers elected: Elders, J. Lacy (treasurer), A. Graham; deacons, Messrs. P. and G. Graham, Compton, Hearn, Robinson, Floate, N. Lacy, Horbury, McLeod (secretary). Meetings have been well attended, and addresses of Mr. McKenzie inspiring. Sunday school and church picnic at gardens on March 20 was enjoyed, as was kinder and primary picnic held previous week. Officers plan to renovate school hall.

Carnegie.—Men's Society held a P.S.A. on March 14, when Brighton Salvation Army band rendered musical items, Adjutant Rothwell being speaker. Church co-operated in combined churches' preparatory mission at Murrumbidgee prior to Hyman Appelman campaign, J. A. Lewis being missionary. Evening service on March 21 was shortened to enable members to attend Appelman mission at Malvern town hall, where four young men from Carnegie church made their decision. H. R. Coventry conducted Easter services on Mar. 28. Attendances at all meetings lately have increased.

West Preston.—19th anniversary of Bible school proved one of the most successful. Items by scholars, singing of school and addresses by visiting speakers and Mr. Withers were enjoyed. At evening service on March 21, two, who had recently owned Christ, were baptised by Mr. Withers. With several of the young people, Mr. Withers attended camp at Monbulk. Fellowship was enjoyed with Mr. and Mrs. H. Williams, of Kaniva, on Mar. 28. Mr. Williams addressed morning meeting and spoke of work in New Hebrides. At night G. Barnett conducted gospel service. Help of these brethren was appreciated.

Frankston-Moorooduc.—Moorooduc celebrated third anniversary with good meetings. Sunday evening, March 21, saw 40 present. K. A. Jones (College of Bible secretary) was speaker and Mr. Whittington (Gardiner) soloist. Their services were appreciated. On March 23 Mr. Hagger conducted a bright programme of musical and elocutionary items, artists being Frances Cowper, Mr. Cuddy, H. Lee, Master Gilham, Mrs. J. Bentley, Misses B. and P. Holmes. A fine address by C. J. Cunningham (Cheltenham) followed, and ladies served a delightful supper. About 90 were present, including contingents from Red Hill and Frankston.

Melbourne (Swanston-st.).—About 500 present on morning of March 28 completely filled church building, when Dr. Hyman Appelman was speaker; there were a number of responses to his appeal. K. A. Macnaughtan has been speaker at recent meetings, and in addition, addressed a number of services at Baptist Church, Elsternwick, and Methodist Church, Kensington. These addresses were given as part of the simultaneous preparatory meetings in connection with the Appelman campaign. At Elsternwick there were several confessions. On evening of March 21 choir rendered the "Crucifixion" with Mr. Watson conductor, L. Davies organist, and Robert Hardy and Harold Helmore soloists.

The Australian Christian

Geelong.—On April 4, services were conducted by Mr. Stirling. At night Mr. Smail sang a solo. On April 3, Junior Endeavor Society had a hike to Queen's Park.

St. Kilda.—Evening service on March 21 was wholly given to screening of Passion Week. Afterwards, film was screened outside. First of monthly fellowship teas was held prior to service. Much sickness prevails among members.

Collingwood.—Attendances at all services have been very good. On morning of April 4, Mr. Gross, from Burnley, and Mr. Bartholomew exchanged platforms. Church was pleased to see Mrs. Edney back after illness. Bible school attendances are good. Girls' club is improving.

Cheltenham.—Stirring addresses by J. C. Cunningham marked services on April 4. Weekly prayer meetings were to commence on April 6. Kindergarten department is introducing mothers' club and play hour for children. W. Hayes, who has been laid aside for some time, is slightly improved.

Kaniva.—Usual services of the circuit are being conducted and Mr. Combridge's addresses are encouraging all. Attendances have been good. At last Y.P.S.C.E. meeting, B. W. Manning, of Fullarton, S.A., gave a most interesting study of scripture. I.C.E. and J.C.E. continue with much interest being shown.

Frankston.—On March 28, Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Holmes, from Red Hill and Cottesloe, W.A., and Mr. and Mrs. H. Watkins, from Balwyn, were received into membership. G. W. Barnett, former student preacher, who was present with Mrs. Barnett, addressed morning meeting. Mr. Hagger preached at night. On April 4 R. V. Holmes preached at Moorooduc. Mr. Hagger preached at Frankston and conducted a women's service at night. Miss W. Lee was soloist, her messages in song being much appreciated. Mr. Hagger conducted service at Mornington at 3 p.m.

Swan Hill.—J.C.E. has been changed to Friday evenings instead of Wednesday afternoons; attendances are becoming better, and children enjoy their meeting. At annual church business meeting on March 17, favorable reports were received from all auxiliaries connected with church. On March 20, harvest thanksgiving was held. There was a fine display of goods, sold to aid church building fund on following Monday. Easter Sunday was also monthly broadcast service. This was a beautiful service, and attendance was good. Sunday school at Murrawee has combined with Swan Hill Sunday school. Young people of Berean Fellowship continue to have good meetings.

Preston.—Successful anniversary services were conducted by Bible school on March 14 and 21, scholars singing splendidly under leadership of S. W. Gray, who was presented with a baton as a token of appreciation of his services. F. Chatley, a former superintendent of school, was also recipient of a gift in appreciation of several years' leadership. Special speakers were W. G. Graham on afternoon of March 14 and V. C. Stafford on evening of 21st, both giving appropriate talks to scholars and adults. J. E. Searle was speaker at remaining services. An encouraging feature was good attendances at afternoon gatherings on both Sundays. Three soloists (Bible school scholars) also created added interest, as did also instrumentalists.

Red Hill.—On March 20 a working bee was held to improve church grounds. Endeavor held a special meeting on March 20. Good wishes were extended to N. Moore on occasion of his birthday. On March 21 Mr. Moore spoke in morning to a splendid attendance. Monthly food for Britain appeal amounted to £4/14/3. Mr. Moore preached at gospel meeting on March 21. A young man confessed Christ, also a young lady from Bible school. Teachers of Sunday school held annual meeting. Following were elected: Superintendent, L. Brown; treasurer, D. Andrew; secretary,

R. Salmon; kinder superintendent and treasurer, Mrs. W. Torney; cradle roll superintendent and kinder assistant, Miss A. Prossor. Members of church and Y.P.S.C.E. paid a visit to Moorooduc church on evening of March 23. On March 28 N. Moore gave a resume of conference meetings, also giving an address to Y.W.L., which has increased to 21 members. At gospel meeting Mr. Moore gave a forceful address. Social services offering amounted to £1/6/4. A young man and woman were baptised. Mrs. A. Greaves and Trevor Torney have been sick.

North Williamstown.—A choir trained by Harold Tovey, and assisted by visiting soloists, rendered Stainer's "Crucifixion" on March 21. R. M. Streader, of Bendigo, gave a helpful address on Easter morning. Mrs. White was baptised at evening service on April 4. At a youth rally on April 3, footballers Doug Nicholls and Doug Dowling gave inspiring talks. £3/3/- was donated to "Bibles for Russia" fund. Boys' Club enjoyed an evening of games at Coburg on April 1, R. Lane again earning thanks for providing conveyance for boys.

Drumcondra.—Sunday school picnic at Batesford on March 20 was greatly enjoyed. Six young people attended leadership camp at Monbulk, and several representatives went to conference. Representatives from Upwey Convention held in Geelong over Easter attended and gave testimonies at evening service on March 28. Two sisters confessed Christ on March 21. Mr. Lugg, representing Sailors' Rest in Geelong, and Mr. Matthew, of Geelong and District C.E. Union, have been recent speakers at Y.P.S.C.E. Mr. Pigdon is conducting a flannelboard serial of "Pilgrim's Progress" each Sunday morning with Y.W.L.

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IN MEMORIAM

DENNIS.—In treasured memory of Alice, our beloved mother, who passed away 31/3/33; also our dear brother, Fred, accidentally drowned, 27/12/1924, aged 19 years.

"Those memories sweet, how dear they are!"

GLUYAS.—In loving memory of my dear husband Albert, who was called home April 4, 1945; loved father of Rae, Margaret, John and Kevin.

"Till the day breaks and the shadows flee away."

HOLLOWAY.—Loving memories of our very dear friend, Mrs. M. Holloway, passed away at Hampton, April 12, 1945.

For a space the tired body

Waits in peace the morning's dawn,

When we shall be re-united

On the resurrection morn.

—Ever remembered by A. and F. Buckingham, "Bangalore," Emma-st., Caulfield, Vic.

PAGE.—In loving memory of Verosa, who died on April 4, 1941; also Ray, late A.I.F., who died Nov. 15, 1942; dearly loved daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Page, Preston, loved sister and brother of Charles Page, of Preston.

WHITTINGTON.—Treasured memory of my beloved husband William, and loving father of Frank and Mabel, Wallace and Maynie, grandpa of Marjorie and Douglas.

And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which we have loved long since and lost awhile.

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April 6, 1948

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BAPTISM

(Continued from page 149)

wick Castle, the celebrated seat of the Dukes of Northumberland, and near the village of Harbottle, there is a remarkable fountain. It rises on the top of a slight elevation, and at the present time it is thirty-four feet long, twenty feet in breadth, and two feet in depth, but it is capable of being made deeper by placing a board over an opening at one side. A stream issues from the spring which forms a little creek. . . . The traditions of Northumberland point out this fountain as one of the baptisteries of Paulinus, the apostle of the North of England, where he immersed three thousand during the Easter of A.D. 627."

R. Brown, in "Sacred Architecture," wrote: "In Ifley church, Oxfordshire, which is supposed to have been originally built by the Anglo-Normans, there is an Anglo-Saxon font for total immersion, which was the practice adopted in the first ages of Christianity."

In view of all this evidence, W. N. Cote made this important claim in his interesting work entitled "The Archaeology of Baptism." "In the primitive church, and down to the fourteenth century, the ordinary mode of baptism was by the immersion of the whole body in water. The original term baptizo conveys the meaning of immersion, and no other. On this point we have most valuable testimony from the Fathers of the church, and other ecclesiastical writers."

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The Australian Christian

Obituary

Edwin H. Paul

INGLEWOOD church, W.A., in the home-call of Edwin H. Paul, has been called upon to part with a foundation member, its first secretary, and a past school superintendent. He was also the contractor for our beautiful brick chapel. Our brother was taken from us on March 4. He had been in hospital for several weeks, but was brought home several days before the end, and was thus able to spend the last days in the gentle care of those who loved him so much. His end was in peace. At the time when illness overtook him, at the close of last year, he was a deacon of the church and church reporter to the "Australian Christian." His place was seldom empty at any service of the church. Few men could live to be missed more by the church. He was baptised as a lad about fifty years ago by G. P. Pittman, who was with us for the service of remembrance at Inglewood on March 14, when the chapel was crowded. Our brother was also a foundation member of the church at Moreland, Vic. The large gathering of friends at the graveside indicated something of the very great esteem in which he was held by the Christian community. Mr. Ernest Paul, of Shepparton, Vic., was with his brother at the end. To Mrs. Paul and Nancy, so much beloved by the church at Inglewood, and to Muriel (Mrs. Arnup), fondly remembered here, but now in Victoria, and to all the loved ones, the church at Inglewood extends its deepest sympathy, knowing that the sorrow of parting is sweetened by the recollection of all that awaits "the dead that die in the Lord."—R.R.

Mrs. Rachael Preston

AT her residence, on Jan. 31, the home-call came to Mrs. Rachel Preston, aged 85 years, a dearly loved member of the church at Wolfram-st., Broken Hill, N.S.W. She came into membership twenty years ago at time of the Hinrichsen and Stewart mission. She was a faithful member and regularly attended communion service until prevented by ill-health. For several years she had been unable to attend, but the women of church visited her quite often for past seven years. They gave her a birthday afternoon, and numerous floral tributes and greetings were presented. She looked forward in happy anticipation to these birthday afternoons from year to year. She was a very lovable character, of a quiet and gentle disposition. Her simple Christian faith and God's book were a source of spiritual strength and comfort to her. The sympathy of the church is extended to her family of six daughters and three sons. The risen Christ of the Easter message has made death just a narrow star-lit span between the companionship of yesterday and the reunion of to-morrow.—E.M.W.



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VICTORIAN CONFERENCE

WITH reluctance we draw attention to a weakness in the Victorian conference, especially pronounced this year. On Good Friday, conference adjourned from 1 till 2 p.m. for luncheon, to be served in two sessions. The first session was over by 1.30, but it was 1.48 before the first party could begin to leave the tables, and 1.55 before the second session commenced, hungry folk being locked out until then. Conference, due to recommence at 2 o'clock, actually did so at 2.10. Meantime the second luncheon party hurried through their meal, were late for conference, had little opportunity of getting seats, and heard from the open air only odd sentences of the overseas missions business and of Hyman Appelmann's address.

All this was caused by the introduction of two visitors to the first luncheon session at 1.30; these visitors were invited to address "conference" and responded (excellently, by the way) while the second luncheon party waited impatiently outside for the closed doors to open.

We submit that these lunch-period courtesy talks should be discontinued, especially as they are out of order, being addressed to "brethren now meeting in conference." Conference is not meeting, having adjourned for lunch.—J. Plummer, Reservoir (in the first luncheon party).

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Notes and Comments on Social Activities

Will H. Clay

Social Questions at Conference

NOT much time is given to the consideration of social questions at conference. Having this in mind, only four questions were presented—drink, gambling, international relationships and immigration as it relates to a white Australia.

We submit the four motions without comment. All were unanimously approved.

Conference deplores the continued ravages of the liquor traffic resulting in disorder, lawlessness and accidents, many of which are fatal, and urges the Government to restore to the people rights to reduce licences at least the equal of those existing to increase them. Conference urges further that drink shall be removed, as far as possible, from our transport systems upon which the safety of the people depends, and that even the presence of liquor on a passenger-carrying aeroplane shall be regarded as a punishable offence; such a provision would constitute a guarantee of sobriety for travellers by air which is their indisputable right.

This conference of churches of Christ registers its strongest disapproval of the inordinate amount of time, effort, consideration and money being expended on horse and dog racing, and the ever increasing amount of gambling associated with them. The amount of space devoted to these sports by the daily press, time by broadcasting stations, consideration by transport systems and public bodies, and money being expended by the general public are, in the opinion of conference, a reflection on the moral integrity of the community, an unjustifiable interference with our economic order, and a waste which should be checked by the Government.

In view of the present world unrest, this conference of churches of Christ in Victoria, having denounced war as a means of settling international disputes, appeals to fellow-Christians everywhere to be urgent in prayer and endeavor to eschew all forms of speech and all manner of conduct that may tend to breed hatred and bitterness, and to foster international antagonisms that may lead to war. Conference urges, further, that Christians shall discountenance all forms of war propaganda and shall use all their powers individually and corporately, to maintain the peace of which Christ himself was the author.

This conference, while endorsing the Government's policy of immigration which gives priority to those of British nationality and the white races, deplores the existing offensive and unchristian color bar which excludes orientals and colored peoples, the moral and cultural standards of whom are, in many cases, at least the equal of our own. Conference is of the opinion that the White Australia policy of the Government should either be recast or substituted by a quota system to which nationals of other countries could not take exception.

There will be general agreement that all these questions are of major importance. It was to be expected that we would find unanimity of opinion on drinking and gambling, and we were not disappointed. On the questions of international relationships and the White Australia policy it was discovered that there is much room for New Testament teaching in our churches, and it would be well if some attention were given to it before another world crisis is upon us. The Social Service Department suggests the booklet, "Peace and War"; copies, 6d.; folders free.

Christian Guest Home

Before the Social Service Committee disbanded prior to conference, occasion was made to present Mrs. Ross, retiring matron of the home, with a gold wristlet watch as a memento

of their appreciation of the two years of service, most of which she rendered as matron, she has given the home. The March meeting closed early, and the women of the committee invited members and a few friends to partake of refreshments. Mrs. W. A. Brown, Mrs. Gill, Mrs. Neighbour, Mrs. Clay and Mrs. Ploog, who deputised for Mrs. Washfold, the Women's Conference president, all bore testimony to the sterling worth of the guest, and the genuine regret we all felt that it had become necessary for her to relinquish her work. Mrs. Ross expressed her sincere appreciation of the words that had been spoken and the tangible evidence which accompanied them. She confessed the sadness she felt at the parting, but gave the assurance of her continued interest in the home. It is a matter of satisfaction that Mrs. Ross will still be resident in the district and that she has been elected to the Women's Auxiliary.

Miss Jeffrey, who has previously relieved Mrs. Ross for a holiday period, with a friend, Miss Canham, has kindly undertaken to carry on in the interim until permanent arrangements are completed. The committee and friends are combining with the guests at the home to say good-bye to Mrs. Ross and express a welcome to our temporary helpers.

Resignation

F. E. Buckingham has resigned his full-time engagement as field representative of C.F.A. to take up full-time work with the Prahran church, where he has served as part-time preacher for the past twelve months. The committee accepted the resignation with regret. His action, however, is tempered in the knowledge that he has consented to serve to the best of his ability as field representative in an honorary capacity.

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