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How to Make the Best of Bible School Day.

A. P. Wilson.

The universally recognised importance of the Bible School makes any apology for pressing its claims absurd. Facts and figures reveal its usefulness, and the church that neglects so great an agency practically cuts its own throat. The needs of the Bible Schools Department are the same as Home and Foreign Missions, *men and women first, equipment second*, and throughout all as the sieves of war, *money*. The work of the organiser has proved an unqualified success, but we need more of the same work. A full-time organiser is not too much for the demands of the children, and the training of their teachers. We are pleading for at least £500 to make satisfactory arrangements for the plans of this year.

The folk interested in Bible School Day embrace every department of church work from the highest to the lowest. First, there is the preacher. I do not wish to elevate him unduly, but if it is true, and there is no reason to doubt it, that "if a Sunday School is bad, the fault lies with the preacher of the church," his relative importance is surely great, and he should have from the officers of church and school a freedom to act commensurate with his responsibility. The preacher's vision, his opportunity of fresh ideas, often his superior education, makes him the friend, philosopher and guide of the Bible School. He should be regarded as the confidante of the teacher, the support of the superintendent, and the friend of the scholars. Every effort should be made by him to merit, by them to render, the respect due to his position. Then there is the school superintendent. His influence and work are necessary to make the day a success. If he does not view this with favor, he can drag and make it a poor success. Church secretary, Bible School secretary, scholars, teachers, parents, and last, but not least, the great body of church members—all these must be reached if Bible School Day is to be a success.

Plans for the work.

To reach all these is our object. First, there must be an organiser, and he must plan first. Concerning some leaders in the offering, "They plan little, they give little; they expect little, they get little." Such an one needs to be appointed by the church of-

ficers, having their full confidence and support. It should be his first duty to form a committee. No more interested committee could be found than the Bible School staff, with the addition of any enthusiasts outside of the staff. This committee with an executive for planning would be all the machinery necessary. The duties of this committee would be:—

1. Talk up Bible School Day, to scholars, parents, friends.

2. Arrange for special services on May 2nd, e.g., 1) Communion, Children's address, Bible School collection, 3) Bible School. Take the usual school, but use a special lesson to point to (a) Bible School benefits, (b) Jesus Christ as the Saviour, 7) Young People's Evangelistic Service, with special plea for acceptance of Christ. A receiver of envelopes should be appointed at the door.

3. Divide the district up into territories, so that every church member receives a neat invitation card to the services, a booklet of information, an offering envelope, and an invitation to participate in the offering. This needs to be done personally during the last week of April.

4. On April 25 let each teacher give to his class an invitation, preferably written, personally inviting the parents to the church services, to sit with their children and take charge of them.

The Superintendent and Officers: The moral support of the superintendent cannot be too much impressed. Coldness or dilatoriness on his part is almost criminal, certainly suicidal. I believe that the superintendent who opposes Bible School Day, or the work of the department generally, has missed his vocation; for both stand for the advancement of the cause of the children. Good announcements of the day, given with enthusiasm and warmth; his backing-up of the leader chosen; his presence on the platform on the day—all will tend to press the work forward.

Church Secretary: Some secretaries are true to name—they keep secrets. Announce in large type, give the preacher a little fillip. It will help.

Treasurer: As soon as appointment is received, do not let a frost set in with "This is more than last year." "Don't think we

can reach it." "Too many offerings," etc. Of course it is more than last year, and thank God it will be more next year if possible. Make our good better, and our better best. Let your face shine with this definite purpose, and say, "We are going to reach this height too "for the glory of God." Give progress reports as the offering proceeds; send money to headquarters promptly.

The Preacher: Yes, brother, we count on you. Preach two good fresh sermons *before the day*. It's no use talking about it when it's there. An exchange with that in view will be a help, but only for one address. Your word is best for local conditions.

May I suggest a few topics:—The Ages of Conversion; The World Debt to Bible Schools; Your Own Debt to the Bible School; The Evangelistic Possibilities of the Bible School; The Child and the Church. Speak about our Department in sermons, conversation, and visitation. Send to every home your personal letter (50 duplicate-cost 2/6). Have a definite aim—£5 or £10, as the case may be; not the lowest either, but an ideal that you reasonably may expect to be reached. If you have a Bible School banner, it might easily be displayed.

Educated enthusiasm.

Every helper in this work needs first not to be ashamed of his own offering, then know the business on which he is engaged. Learn from our insurance agents how to work. They know what they want, and what you want. They present their case so that their want shall be your need. Know all about the Department, its officers, their work, and with that knowledge, and a study of each case approach this with no fear. It is the Lord's work.

Finally, this is divine service. We are all followers of the greatest Lover of children. They ask for bread; shall we give them a stone? Make your gift to the Bible School on your knees. You learnt of Christ in its circle, you grew in grace by its teaching. Your whole life is tinged with its influences. Your debt to the Bible School is incalculable. Lessen it, then, by ever so little. All we have done and can do is to knock at your heart's door. Beware lest you turn away from your door the gentle hand of one of those "whose angels always behold the face of our Father in heaven."

Editorial Notes

Federal Evangelisation.

One of the important subjects discussed at the Federal Conference in Sydney was that of Federal Evangelisation. The fact that a strong self-supporting church had been established in Launceston as the direct result of the mission of S. G. Griffith, financed by Federal funds, was regarded as evidence of what could be done. It was pointed out that the Commonwealth territories of Northern Australia, Papua, and the Federal capital demanded our attention, while the greater part of Queensland and some other States was untouched by our plea for primitive Christianity. Then there are important border towns, such as Broken Hill, Corowa, and Albury, claiming consideration. Unfortunately the present does not appear the most auspicious time in which to launch a great financial scheme, but with the near return of prosperous seasons there is reason to hope for some movement to be inaugurated worthy of the cause with which we are identified. Not only will it be necessary to engage a competent preacher with a singing assistant, but there will be the expense of halls, advertising, etc., and the care of the churches established. But the disciples of Christ are becoming a strong people in the Commonwealth, and the time has come for them to contemplate great things. It will be advisable for the Federal State Committees to consider at an early date how best to co-operate with the Federal Executive in planning the work and working the plan for an energetic system of Federal Evangelisation.

Prohibition Progress.

With the adoption of prohibition by Alabama and Arkansas, the number of "dry" States in America was brought up to 16, and now Idaho has passed a downright prohibition bill which the Governor has signed. The State Senates in Iowa and Nevada have voted for prohibition by large majorities, and South Carolina is expected to follow. It seems certain that before this year closes there will be at least 20 States in which the importation, manufacture and sale of intoxicants will be prohibited. Montana and Massachusetts have voted to submit the matter to a referendum. Kentucky is likely to join the list of white States in the immediate future. New Hampshire and Vermont by the process of local option are nearly "dry," while Michigan and Missouri are not far behind. A sign of the times is seen in the fact that out of 2160 daily papers in the United States, 629 will not accept liquor advertisements, while Alabama has passed a law forbidding papers to publish liquor advertisements. When will Australian papers follow suit? With 80 per cent. of her area under

"dry" law, and 55 per cent. of her population in "dry" territory, the United States bids fair to lead the English speaking world in this reform. The "Christian-Evangelist," to whom we are indebted for the above information, says: "It is a dull day this winter that does not see a State legislature somewhere strike John Barleycorn a blow."

Early Closing and Young Men.

It may reasonably be expected that the new Government in South Australia will take an early opportunity of introducing an Act to ratify the decision of the electors that the sale of intoxicants should cease at six o'clock. It will be at least a year, however, before the will of the people can be put into practice. In the meantime it behoves the leaders of the six o'clock victory to take steps to provide for the leisure time of the men, and especially the young men, who will no longer be able to resort to the liquor bars. It is possible that the benefits of early closing may be minimised if no provision is made for the occupation of the evenings. It may be taken for granted that more attention will be given to technical classes, and public reading rooms, but there is a considerable proportion to whom, unfortunately, such institutions present but little attraction. There will be many temptations, and among them the efforts of those who will try to evade the new law. The consideration of the best means to interest our young men, and to win them from the evil influences to which their leisure will subject them, is worthy of the best intellects of the reformers in the Central State, and should not be delayed.

Judea for the Jews.

It is yet early to discuss the rearrangement of the map at the conclusion of peace. Many moons must wax and wane before the war is over, but that Germany, with Austria and Turkey, must be defeated appears to be inevitable. Time is with the Allies opposed to them, and the longer the struggle is protracted, the more emphatic the result will be. The great resources of the Russian and British Empires, to say nothing of the rest, are practically inexhaustible, and as time goes on these will be brought to bear with increasing weight. Turkey is certainly doomed, and her rule in Europe is approaching its end. Constantinople will probably fall into the hands of the Russians. Palestine is likely also to be wrested from her grasp, and already suggestions are being made that it should be handed over to the children of Jacob. The well known writer, H. G. Wells, has advocated this in the "Times," and there is much to be said in its favor. If Greece, by the consent of the Powers, was restored to the Greeks, why should not Judea be restored to the Jews, her neutrality being guaranteed? It may be that after eighteen centuries of banishment the nation that, although "scattered and peeled," has yet preserved its identity, will be restored to its home, and the genera-

tion now living will be brought to realise in the fulfilment of prophecy the verity of the Word of God.

Capital Punishment.

It would appear that capital punishment is growing in disfavor. At one time in England men were hung for stealing forty shillings' worth of property. Now in the British Empire the death penalty is practically abolished, except for murder, while in some countries it is entirely abolished. In the United States, South Dakota has just voted out capital punishment, being the ninth State to do so. It is an open question whether hanging is a real deterrent to murder. Those who believe it is not, contend that sheep-stealing in England has become less common since the death penalty for this crime was abolished. Advocates of its abolition appear confident that the experience of the nine States in America will prove that murder will be less frequent there. An American exchange says that: "The fact that Kansas and Maine furnish less than one-fifth of their pro rata share of murderers may be more due to prohibition than to the abolition of capital punishment, but it is difficult to explain the fact that Wisconsin is in the same category, for it keeps the saloon in its cities, but executes no criminals."

Bible School Day in South Australia. May 2.

The Sunday Schools throughout this State are asked by the Conference Sunday School Executive to observe Sunday, May 2nd, as "Bible School Day." The following is the suggested programme:—

Morning Address.—To stimulate church members and friends regarding the importance and far-reaching effect of Sunday School work.

Afternoon.—Parents and friends to visit the school while in session. A short address to scholars that would be helpful for decision at the evening service.

Evening.—Special service for young people, with appeal for decisions.

Envelopes have been supplied to all churches for distribution, to be used for the morning offering, which is in aid of Sunday School Extension Work throughout the State.

A collection for the Church of Christ Cot at the Children's Hospital will be taken up at the afternoon service.

Picture cards showing a view of the Cot have been forwarded to all Sunday Schools.

The churches and Schools are asked to co-operate in this movement in order to make this day for our young people a success.

On behalf of the Sunday School Executive,

Herbt. Taylor, Convener Sub-Committee.

A New Department of Conference.

Reg. Enniss, Victorian Bible School Organizer.

It may not be generally known that at the recent Victorian Conference application was made by the Bible School Union, asking that Bible School work be made a definite department of Conference, related to Conference in the same way as Home Missions and Foreign Missions. This step was taken only after mature thought. The Bible School Union, comprising only such of our schools as sought affiliation, was until recent years not connected with Conference. That was in the days, now happily well in the past, when generally speaking we failed to recognise the Bible School as a part of the work of the church. It was rather thought of as a side line, a children's department, to be cared for by the women and a few men and youths who felt drawn to the work. But we have come to a higher appreciation of the responsibilities of this work. Our preachers and our official boards are thinking and talking Bible School possibilities and claims. Hence it is not surprising that our Conference heartily adopted the recommendation of the Bible School Union, and to-day the work is a vital auxiliary of Conference, linked as it should be to our Home Missionary work, controlled by a strong committee, and recognised as at least one of the most important departments of work.

The aims of the department.

It will be well to make known the aims of the committee having this work in hand. Briefly stated they are—First, to popularise the Bible School. Second, to increase its scope. Third, to make the work more efficient. Fourth, to strengthen the bond between the church and the school. To state this programme in detail would require much more space than could be devoted to such a purpose. This much, however, may be added. Efforts are being made to so raise the thought of our people regarding the Bible School, and so add to its attractiveness, that the popular thing will be to attend, rather than to regard the Bible School as a small concern beneath the dignity of those out of their teens. Steps are proposed for enlisting for Bible study large numbers, not only of children, but of adults—fathers, mothers, shut-ins, invalids, Sunday workers, etc., and also of seeking to help all the life of all the people who can be enlisted. By means of teacher training, the study of plans of organisation and methods of work, possibly by the introduction of graded lessons to suit the mental development of the scholars, and including teaching upon fundamentals not provided for in the International Uniform System of Lessons, it is hoped to make the work more effective. Then it is expected that our churches can be helped to see that Bible School work is not apart from, but a part of church work; that the Bible School, providing as it does the teaching service of the church, is a vital part

of the work, and as such the church should assume management of the school, such management including control, direction, and financial support.

The plans of the department.

No attempt will here be made to mention all the plans in mind for the work. Some even of those named will possibly not eventuate, while others will be suggested as the work unfolds. The following may, however, be briefly alluded to—

Visitation of Schools.—The appointed school visitors, as well as the Organizer, will systematically visit schools, making suggestions, helping in organisation, and giving needed encouragement.

Helping the Teachers.—It is important not only to be willing to teach a class, but also to know how. Already help has been given to our metropolitan teachers. This will be continued, monthly conferences being held, and occasionally Schools of Efficiency arranged. Plans are in hand for holding Schools of Methods in large country centres, and for arranging study classes in Bible School methods even in remote country parts.

College of the Bible and Bible School Work.—Negotiations have been commenced with a view to having a course in Bible School work included in the curriculum of the College of the Bible. The Board of Management of the College are most favorable to this. It is thought that in addition to helping College students, some plan may be devised for linking our College up with the work of teacher training.

Annual Examination for Scholars and Teachers.—Continuing the plan used in the past, the annual examination for those connected with our schools will be continued, efforts being made to render this increasingly helpful.

Securing the Co-operation of the Church.—Churches will be urged to assume the financial support of the schools, and to find a seat upon the official board for the superintendent of the school, as representing the young section of the church, and as the leader of the teaching department. Schools will be advised to secure the appointment of the superintendent by the church, and to solicit for him fitting recognition.

A Place for Children at the Morning Service.—In order that children may form the habit of church attendance, churches and preachers will be asked to encourage their presence at the morning service, and to make at least a part of the service of special interest to the young life.

School Buildings.—Unfortunately in the past little consideration has been given to the work of the Bible School when erecting

our chapel buildings. Where possible we shall try to secure better provision for the school work by churches about to build.

Teaching our Plea.—The course of lessons in general use makes no provision for teaching those truths which we hold dear, and which we should specially emphasise. It is hoped by the introduction of graded lessons to meet this need, and to grow in our schools those who upon reaching mature years will be well-informed church members.

Temperance Work.—Most of those in our schools are in the habit-forming period of life. Schools are being urged to secure the habit of total abstinence, using as a means the temperance pledge.

Winning the Scholars for Christ.—We estimate that probably about one thousand children in our Victorian schools each year arrive at an age when decision for Christ is most likely to occur. Efforts will be made to secure a larger percentage of these for Christ and his church.

Retaining the Young People.—The "Big Boy Problem" has ever been a serious one, and scarcely less difficult is the holding of girls in the teen age. But that they can be held is abundantly demonstrated by our American work, and also by some of our Victorian schools. They cannot be retained by things catchy or by trickery, but only by a systematic provision for the needs and aspirations of young folk in these critical years. We shall hope to suggest means which will help.

The claims of the department.

Our Bible Schools are our biggest asset. From them will come most of our future church members, preachers, missionaries, etc., and if we wisely develop this branch of our work, the number of members and workers re-ulting can be largely enhanced. Nobody will think that this department of work, covering all of our churches, seeking to help our nine thousand scholars and one thousand teachers, can be carried on at a small cost. At least £200 must be given by our churches this year if the above programme is to be started upon, and that sum cannot be thought by anybody as in keeping with the importance of the work. More and yet more must be done in order to bring this great work to its rightful place, and to realise its possibilities. Some of us may have to literally burn out in the work. More and yet more must be given to make the work possible, but the cost will be trifling if we can but succeed in holding the majority of our young people in our schools and churches, and saving them for a life of service.

The opportunity to give is on Bible School Day, Sunday, May 2. If we owe anything to the Bible School; if it helped us; if we think it can help others; if we believe the Bible School Department is helping to develop the work, let us give largely for the sake of the One who was great enough to stoop even to the little children.

The Friendship of David and Jonathan

Bible School Lesson for May 9, 1 Samuel 20.

W. C. McCallum.

David's plight was desperate; more desperate just now than it ever was. He had been idolised in the songs of the people, but these songs did not provide weapons against the deadly purposes of Saul. David was alone, a fugitive. Later he gathered a band, and though still a fugitive was better able to protect himself. He describes his situation at the time of our lesson, "Truly as the Lord liveth, and as thy soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death."

In this hard and desperate situation Jonathan's friendship became David's defence. David possessed in large measure the qualities that go to command friendship. Throughout his career he always had friends. Even his subordinates, his officers, act toward David not merely as their king and commander, but as if in a real sense he was their friend and they were his. This ability to make friends enabled David to hold together his band of outlaws, discontented fellows, and adventurers during his sojourn in the wilderness, and the true friends that he had made became his resource when Absalom raised the standard of revolt against his father.

We all acknowledge the value of friendship, and we all desire to have friends, but friends are made by being friendly. The possession of true friends was not simply David's luck, but the natural result of his own nobleness of heart and generosity of spirit. David did wrong things, but no one can accuse him of little and petty things. This bigness of heart made him capable of commanding and holding friendship. If we want friends we must be a friend.

In Jonathan David found one who equalled if not excelled himself in capacity for friendship. The beautiful and rare thing about Jonathan's friendship was its pure unselfishness. He was the heir to the throne of Saul, but this does not seem to have weighed a moment with him when it came to David, whom he had readily seen to be the chosen future king of Israel. The only instance in which the thought of himself appears is when Jonathan pledges David to kindness while he lives, and after his death to his descendants. This, in view of all that David was to receive and which according to all recognised rights of descent should belong to Jonathan and his heirs, was a very small request indeed.

The important thing to note about the friendship of David and Jonathan was the high plane upon which it was formed. David said to Jonathan, "For thou hast brought thy servant into a covenant of the Lord with thee." It was a covenant of friendship formed according to the highest and

best that David and Jonathan knew, and sealed by the solemn calling of God to witness the pledge of each to the other.

True friendship must be formed in this spirit. Thus it is based upon high and noble and enduring foundations. It does not expire through the attainment of some temporary end for which it was formed, but has unlimited prospect of growth. A friendship such as this indeed can not only claim time but also eternity for its scope and exercise. Such friendship affords not only the very best opportunity and play for human qualities of love and helpfulness, but it also has capacity for lifting the friends bound by it to higher things, where the best ever becomes better, and the noblest nobler, till the Father himself takes us into his higher school to show us things that eye hath not seen, and teach us things that have not entered into the heart of man.

How many of our friendships are contracted upon this plane? Friendship! what a variety of brands we have! Business friendships, or to put it bluntly, being a friend to a man for what we can get out of him. Social friendships, or being friendly because it is nice and pleasant, and of entertaining that all may in turn be entertained. Other friendships less tolerable, the friendship of the leech or parasite, that so-called friend that hangs around as long as there is hope of benefits, and is missing in the time of trouble; friendships of indulgence, friendships of the cup, of the gaming table, of complicity and compact in sin. All these pass rapidly before us in review, but how wretchedly they all beggar the name of friend, and what a travesty upon friendship. They all grovel in the dirt, while true friendship lifts its eyes to the heights.

Happy are we if we learn early that that is only worthy to be called friendship which is such that God can bless, which appeals to the best within us, and calls us imperatively and constantly to do and to be in worthy and worthy manner.

The question David wished to have settled was whether it would be safe for him to return to the palace of Saul. Twice Saul had attempted his life, but had come to another mind with the return of sanity. After this third attempt, however, David feared that it will not do for him to return. He fears that the king's hatred of him and his purpose to kill him have become too deep-seated for him to think of returning. Jonathan, who already had reason to know how Saul envied and hated David, solemnly promised David to be on the watch, and if his father should determine good toward David, to inform him, and should evil be

determined, to let him know so that he could go away in peace.

An immediate opportunity was presented for the purpose of finding out Saul's state of mind in the feast of the new moon. At this feast the officers and members of Saul's household were expected to be present. Should David be absent, his absence would occasion remark, and in the nature of that remark by Saul Jonathan could see his attitude toward David.

This feast of the new moon seems to have been an occasion of importance in Saul's household. The Hebrews emphasised the new moon especially, far more than the Sabbath, in their sacrifices. That this feast of Saul's was accompanied by sacrifice is implied in the reason suggested by Saul for David's absence the first day—"Surely he is not clean." In fact, in general, it may be said there was no sacrifice without a feast, and no feast without a sacrifice. At this same new moon David's family had their yearly sacrifice at Bethlehem, and David suggests that Jonathan could explain his absence through his having been summoned home by his brother, his father presumably having died, and thus his eldest brother being head of the family.

When Saul on the second day of the feast enquired the reason of David's absence, Jonathan explained that he had given him leave to go to his family's annual sacrifice. Saul would be exasperated at the loss of the expected opportunity of getting David into his power and further annoyed that David should profess a greater obedience to the wish of his elder brother than to the desire of his king for him to attend the feast of the new moon, but this was not all or the worst, for he plainly saw that Jonathan had favored David and planned to keep him out of his father's hands. His pent-up fury burst forth upon his son. It galled him to think that Jonathan should befriend the man who aspired to the throne. Jonathan's remonstrance in favor of David brought for answer his father's javelin hurrying towards him. This was enough. Jonathan arose from the table in terrible anger, not at the shame his own father had heaped upon him, but at the shame and injustice done to his friend David. Jonathan's friendship rang true as steel, the friend came first in his thoughts, and he could be fiercely angry, just for the sake of a friend who was wronged.

Jonathan now sought David at the appointed place of hiding, and they take a touching farewell of each other. Jonathan saying, "Go in peace, forasmuch as we have sworn both of us in the name of the Lord, saying, The Lord be between me and thee, and between my seed and thy seed for ever." Not without reason did David say of Jonathan, when he heard of his death, "I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan; very pleasant hast thou been unto me; thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women."

New South Wales Conference.

The thirtieth Annual Conference gathering of the Churches in New South Wales have been eminently satisfactory.

The meetings commenced on Wednesday, March 31, with a temperance demonstration in the Enmore Tabernacle, at which addresses were delivered by F. Collins and H. G. Harward on "The Attitude of the Church toward the Liquor Traffic," and "The Patriotism of Prohibition" respectively.

The following epigrammatic text, which appeared under the temperance section on the State programme, is worthy of wider circulation: "Alcohol robs the State of wealth, the body of health, the youth of ambition, the home of happiness, and heaven of souls whom Jesus died to save."

The Thursday evening meeting was an "inspirational service," at which S. Stevens and G. T. Walden spoke on "Young People and the Ideal Life," and "Young People and Patriotism."

Friday, the real day of business, dawned cloudy and threatening, but even that did not damp the ardor of brethren for a real good discussion on the business affairs of the Conference. But it is always so. Lots of brethren in the individual congregations would let nothing smaller than a funeral (their own) keep them from a business meeting of the church, while the roof would almost quake if they came to the church prayer meeting. But as before "these ought they to attend, and not leave the other unattended."

Still we are very delighted to see the seats get full to transact the business of the churches. This is not less important than other things, though it unfortunately becomes less spiritual, say, than a prayer meeting.

This we commenced with a short address by G. H. Browne, of Auburn, from the words, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." The thoughts expressed put us in a better frame for the transaction of the business.

BUSINESS SESSION.

Friday's business session was marked by a good attendance and keen interest in the affairs of the brotherhood. Much lively discussion took place on many of the items that were brought before the Conference.

One new church had applied for affiliation—that of North Auburn, and was accordingly received into the Conference.

Country and Inter-state visitors were welcomed by the President, to which Breu, Main, Mitchell, and C. A. G. Payne responded.

The churches as a whole report a net decrease of 28.

Bro. Walker, of Lismore, drew attention to the fact that half the additions for the year came from the Bible Schools,

An animated discussion arose over the reported decrease. Bro. Burns said that it was more apparent than actual. Bro. Grant said that it was a good thing that some folks were struck off, for they should never have been on. Bro. Wright made a good point re the necessity for a proper oversight. Bro. Illingworth urged the improvement of the morning meeting. Bro. Saunders gave some startling figures re the last five years' total revisions, showing that the total losses were nearly half the present membership.

Breezy and interesting reports were made by the representatives from the Home Mission churches. Good progress was reported from North Auburn, under the combined la-



H. G. HARWARD.

The newly-elected President of the New South Wales Conference.

bers of Bro. G. Grey, W. Crossman, and A. E. Forbes. The recent mission conducted by Bro. Forbes gave 3 additions to the church there.

Bro. Bagley said that they had begun at Chatswood 15 months ago with 15 members; to-day they had 60 on the roll. Bro. Pond spoke optimistically of the work at Erskineville, and stirred the Conference with his story of good things being done.

Horn-by is looking forward to good times under the labors of Bro. L. Gordon. Eloquence, earnestness and erudition are a good combination in any preacher.

Bro. Fretwell rightly demands that attention be paid to the needs of an immense field like Newcastle and Maitland.

Bro. Brown, from Wagga, tickled the Conference for a few moments by telling of one of his Bible Class girls who had sat up late studying her lesson. Later in the night her mother came in asking for the matches. "Oh," said the girl, drowsily, "I gave them to the Philistines." It was a good thing, he said, when the scholars even dreamed of their Bible lessons.

Balmain's cause was advocated by Bro. Bulgin; and he deserves well of the Committee.

Church secretaries came in for some words from Bro. Harward, for the way they treated requests for information.

Bro. Stevens got in a good plea for the Richmond-Tweed district, and got a motion through that special attention be given to it this year.

Bro. Burns followed suit for the Manning, Wallamba, Camden Haven district,

and got a similar resolution carried.

The Aborigines are marked out for special consideration by the Foreign Mission Committee this year also.

Miss Oldfield delighted the Conference with her exposition of mission study methods. She deftly suggested that the deacons should be formed into a circle to study the mission question.

The Foreign Mission Committee's aim for 1915 is £1000.

Bro. Illingworth urged the cultivation of a more fraternal spirit between the Home and Foreign Mission Committees.

Bro. Harward will grace the presidential chair for 1915.

W. Gale, Conference Secretary and Bible Schools Organizer, was re-appointed.

Members of the Home Mission Committee are as follows:—Bren, Harward, Arnot, Hilder, Illingworth, J. Stimson, Dr. Hardley, Price, and T. Rofe.

Foreign Missionary Committee: Bren, Forbes, Saunders, Crossman, Holtz-Thompson, Russell, Taylor, Browne, and Poole.

Bible School Committee: Bren, G. Stimson, H. G. Payne, R. Arnot, Rush, L. Gordon, Pond, Parker, Gale, and Steer.

Temperance Committee: Bren, Garden, Logan, Grant, Lewis, Smith, and Stowe.

Credentials Committee: Bren, Harward, Illingworth, Price, J. Stimson, and Hilder.

Church Extension Committee: Bren, Rofe, J. Stimson, D. R. Hall, A. Morris, Ashwood and Day.

Auditors for Home Mission and Temperance Committee: Bren, J. Sculler and E. Roberts.

Auditors, Foreign Mission and Bible School Committee: Bren, W. Day and Thompson.

HOME MISSION RALLY.

The evening Home Mission Rally with the motto, "Christ for N.S.W.—N.S.W. for Christ" was most highly inspiring from an attendance point of view; as also induced from every other point as well.

President A. Price delivered his masterly address, dealing with world politics and their relation to the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Bro. Price is to be complimented on his effort.

Sister Tonkin, our beloved missionary from China, being present, was asked to take a seat on the platform and to speak to the gathering. Her words were both inspiring and in-structive, and we all felt proud of our representative in China.

Bro. Burns, of Taree, spoke on "The Call of the Bush," placing before the gathering the needs of the districts far removed from the rush and excitement of city dwellers, making an earnest plea for fuller consideration of the claims of such places as he was there to represent.

The only blot on the whole gathering was the fact that Bro. Pond, who was programmed as the other speaker, was really crowded out by the number of items which went before. But in his usual good humor, he smilingly invited the people to attend his meeting at Erskineville on Sunday evening, and he would deliver his address there. As

it was, he made a tidy little speech full of good humor and interesting facts, showing how rapidly the cause had grown in New South Wales in the last fifteen years, an increase of something like 400 per cent.

An offering, which realised £480, in cash and promises, was taken up at the conclusion of Bro. Burns' address. This figure is highly satisfactory, considering the drought and war.

Solos by Bren. Way and Rankine were most highly appreciated, the music of the latter song being the composition of the Emmore organist, Bro. P. W. Dixon.

SESSION FOR SPEAKING BRETHERN.

Saturday forenoon was set apart for the edification of the preachers and officers, and a right good time we had. A. R. Main dealt with the reading matter of the preacher. He of course gave the unique place to the Book of books. But he by no means allowed any present to imagine that one who hoped to shine in the preaching world should content himself with that study alone. History, biography, poetry, psychology, theology, etc., were all spoken of as necessary to the mental equipment of the preacher.

A lively discussion followed, Bro. L. Gordon perhaps contributing the most striking thoughts to this part of the discussion. The ordinary business man, he said, reckons the preacher's salary by his own, and says I can live on so much; why can't the preacher? But the ordinary business man perhaps can live on beef and mutton, but the preacher has to eat beef and mutton, plus books, periodicals, etc. He then gave some startling figures concerning a course of reading he and other students had gone through. The result of the discussion was at least productive of this much good. It allowed those who were not preachers to see something of the inside of a preacher's ordinary life. One brother confessed that he had never dreamed that preachers had so much to do, and from henceforth he would sympathise more with them in their labors. But perhaps the best result was the suggestion made by Bro. Grant, supported by Bren. Hinke, Rofe, and others, that an effort should be made to establish a preachers' club in the city, containing a library of the best books for the preacher's study. Great was the pleasure when Bro. Rofe spontaneously offered £25 toward the establishment of such. Subsequently we learned that Bro. Hardley gave another £25 to the same praiseworthy object.

C. R. Mitchell followed with an address on "Democracy and Authority in Religion," which was listened to with rapt, if critical interest. A most animated discussion followed, in which Bren. Burns, Main, Price and others took part, the discussion centring around Bro. Mitchell's plea for Christian Union, which he set forth as the central purpose of the Churches of Christ. It was pointed out in reply that the plea of the Churches of Christ was not merely for

union, but union upon the original, and therefore divine, basis.

SATURDAY'S BUSINESS SESSION.

At 2.15 p.m. the Conference reassembled to consider the reports from the Bible Schools and Temperance Committees, also the Foreign Mission report, which was postponed from Friday's gathering.

Much credit is due to Bro. Gale, our worthy Bible Schools Organiser, who has amply justified the confidence reposed in him by the Bible School Committee.

Much cannot be said regarding the Temperance report. Bro. Garden and Bro. Grant—both of Hurstville—are, however, to be complimented upon the splendid enthusiasm they manifest in this cause. There is nothing that the disciples are sounder on than the temperance question, and there are few things in which generally they take less interest.

Bro. Garden spoke in vigorous terms, urging the brethren to display more interest than heretofore.

Bro. Grant said that his offer to cover all money sent to the Committee from the brethren had not yet been challenged. Bro. Rossell said that it was perhaps because the brethren had not been requested definitely to do so. He knew that many had contributed direct to the funds of the N.S.W. Alliance.

Bro. P. G. Saxby suggested that the Temperance Committee consider the wisdom of helping in the Gloucester Electorate next election, as they were there within a stone's throw of winning.

Quite a vigorous discussion arose during the making by F. T. Saunders of the Foreign Mission report.

A notice of motion which created a good deal of interest was proposed by Bro. Burns, "That in the opinion of this Conference of Churches of Christ in New South Wales, the time has arrived when closer relations and a better understanding should exist between that portion of the Church of Christ known in the world as Baptist Churches and those represented in this Conference, known simply as Churches of Christ. That the incoming Home Missionary Committee be instructed to seek a conference with representatives of the said Baptist Churches for the purpose of making arrangements for closer fellowship, such as has been obtained between the churches in Victoria."

The mover said that it was not necessary that he should spend much time in urging the desirableness of such a movement upon their part. As those whose existence was an organised protest against the divisive attitude of denominationalism, he felt it incumbent upon the churches of Christ to be always seeking to break down barriers and remove the obstacles from the path of union.

A short discussion followed, in which Bro. Harward, Payne, Jinks, Crossman, Price and others took part. Bro. Harward, as incoming President, promised, while not being too sanguine of results, to give it his

earnest attention, and do his part toward achieving something in the matter.

All the speakers likewise manifested their sympathy with the motion, Bro. Price making mention of the fraternal spirit shown in the letter which they had received from the Baptist secretary when Bro. Crossman came to them from that body. The resolution was carried unanimously, and it is to be hoped that some definite result will be obtained.

With the carrying of various votes of thanks and the doxology and benediction, the business sessions of the Conference came to a close.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY SYMPOSIUM.

At 7.45 p.m. we were promised something new bearing the title of a "Foreign Missionary Symposium."

Bro. Clydesdale, President of the outgoing Foreign Mission Committee, presided, and explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to give in condensed form facts relating to the foreign fields in which they as churches were interested. He likened Australia to a jewel set in the midst of heathen darkness, upon which there necessarily devolved the duty of spreading the light of the gospel of Christ. He first called upon Bro. Rossell to speak on behalf of China.

Bro. Rossell was to speak of Australia as a base for the evangelisation of China. He urged upon Australia because of its nearness to that great land the necessity, the importance, the duty of commencing work in China.

Bro. Hingworth spoke on behalf of Japan, which he reminded the audience was our ally in this present European conflict. Japan was not an uncivilised country, as many supposed, but was composed of 46 millions of highly cultured people. The three dominant religions amongst these 46 millions were Shintoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism. Each of these had contributed something to the advancement of the nation. Yet those people knew and we realised that Japan needed the Christ to bring them to God. The story of the growth of Christianity in the last fifty years was most inspiring, as may be judged from the fact that there are to-day 15,000 Japanese Christian workers in that country.

G. H. Browne spoke on behalf of India. He said that there were 300,000,000 people in the land for which he was asked to make a plea. They, like Japan, had many religions, but they were religions that were not clean, 90 per cent. were illiterate, while there were no less than 2378 castes and tribes, all of which contributed to the difficulty of evangelising the people. Buddhism, which had the greatest increase of any of the native religions, only showed an increase of 11 per cent., while Christianity had increased 32 per cent.

Bro. Pond spoke on behalf of Africa. He said that he had for years been specially interested in Africa, because years ago he had felt a special call to go to Africa. He de-

clared that Africa was calling to-day in a much wider sense to the brotherhood of this country. The similarity of climate and the greatness of Africa's need were voices calling into us to-day.

F. T. Saunders spoke on behalf of the islands of the Pacific. He pointed out that Australia was itself an island in the Pacific, and as such, from his viewpoint, must first be won for Christ, that she might win her sister islands of the sea. The fact that we were commercially interested in these islands should be an argument in favor of missionary enterprise.

Bro. Price said that he was supposed to combine all that had been said by the other speakers into one address. He thus established Christianity in the homeland as the first and most effectual means of spreading it to the nations abroad.

Bro. Collins introduced the second part of the symposium with a talk on the Educational Aspect of Missions. The fundamental difference between the heathen and the Christian has been summed up in these words, "The heathen believes that God is, the Christian believes that God is love." The first thing that men must be taught is that God is love, and to love God in return. But to begin with the growing child shows the greatest wisdom on the part of missionary bodies. Teach the children missionary stories, and the heroism of it all will appeal to them as nothing else will.

Bro. Crossman spoke of the education of the adult. The need for such education was proven by the rows of empty seats there that evening. The churches need missionary evangelists who will push the cause of missions. The New Testament church was a missionary church, and if we would be like it, missions must occupy a large place in our church life.

Bro. Forbes spoke of stewardship. Stewardship was another word for responsibility. We were responsible for the spread of the gospel of Jesus. We would recognise our stewardship in proportion to our sympathy with Christ's objective.

Bro. Bretwell spoke on "Promotion of Prayer." Some one has declared that "Knowledge is power," "Money has power," but "Prayer is all powerful." The evangelisation of the world in this generation depends upon the revival of prayer. He thanked God that his mother had taught him to pray. He prayed God to give us in the words of the poet, "A passionate passion for souls."

During the evening Miss Davies, from Paddington church, sang with fine effect the solo "Abide with me," and Bro. Forbes also delighted the audience with a solo called "Pass it On."

CONFERENCE SERMON.

Sydney brethren, and those who were there as visitors, will remember Easter Sunday for two things: the rain which rained all day, and the Conference sermon on "The Bible's Witness to Christ." A great crowd

gathered in the City Temple. It is an interesting thought also that Bro. Main's testimony to the credibility of the Bible story of Jesus was given in a building that had been erected for the purpose of destroying that very truth. It is well known that the City Temple was built as a Free Thought Hall. Many have expressed the hope that the sermon will be put in some permanent form.

MONDAY'S OUTING.

The rain which began on Sunday did not abate on the day following. Hurstville was the scene of events on this day. The brethren in this district had erected a large tent on the ground on which they intend to build their new tabernacle, but the fates were against them, and as one remarked to the writer, a boat race would be more fitting than a conference.

However, the hall was dry, and all proceeded thither, led by the enthusiastic Bro. Garden.

Bro. Rush and Bro. Price were set for the edification of the gathering, the former speaking on "Methods of Church Extension," and the latter on "Church Finance." Bro. Rush said that the right basis of church extension was loyalty to the cause. His early training in the Church of Christ was amongst the old school who had taught him that the greatest thing in the world was the Church of Christ. He thanked God for that training, for he still regarded the church as the greatest and grandest institution in the world. Much is being said about loyalty to the Empire; but he regarded the Church of Jesus Christ as greater even than the Empire. Empires and kingdoms will pass away, but the Church of Christ will abide for ever.

An interesting discussion followed, in which several of the brethren took part.

Bro. Price said that church finance was an important subject because the future depended largely upon the wise provision made in the present for future needs. He advocated the unnumbered envelope with a tabulated system of giving to the different auxiliaries in the church. Giving must be from the whole church. It would be a sad day when the poor depended upon the rich to keep God's work going.

After the singing of a hymn, those present partook of the bounty of the Hurstville brethren.

One of the features of the day was to be the laying of the foundation stone of the new tabernacle. The rain which had fallen for the thirty hours preceding happily eased off at the hour appointed for the outside ceremony. Consequently those who came to behold the event could do so without the discomfort of getting wet.

Bro. Grant, Mayor of Hurstville, opened the function by announcing the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation." Bro. Collins then led in prayer, after which Bro. Grant called upon Bro. Harward to perform the ceremony. After a few well chosen words expressive of his pleasure at being called upon to do so, and explanatory of the plea of the Churches of Christ, he tapped the tab-

let with the handle of the trowel, and declared the stone well and truly laid. The singing of the doxology and prayer brought this important function to a close.

Bro. Garden had planned for an afternoon session, to be addressed by Bro. Wooster, Lamb and Menzies, on the all-absorbing theme, "The Second Coming of Christ." Bro. Lamb and Menzies are the Baptist pastors at Burton-st. Sydney, and Newtown respectively.

Bro. Garden announced that Bro. Wooster was unable to be present, owing to a severe attack of influenza.

The addresses of the two brethren who spoke were masterly expositions of a great theme, and all who had the pleasure of listening to them were amply rewarded for venturing out in such unpromising weather.

Mr. Menzies' theme was "The Time of the End." He advanced several arguments such as the state of the church, and the great world events which are happening, as proof of his contention that the end is drawing near.

Bro. Lamb addressed himself more directly to the question of the Lord's second coming. He made reference to the return of the Jews to Palestine, and gave figures showing how prophecy is being fulfilled today in a remarkable manner. He declared it to be within the range of possibility that the next few years would see them in their ancient home, an independent self-governing people.

At the conclusion Bro. Grant moved a vote of thanks to the speakers. Bro. Menzies and Lamb replied. The latter expressed his pleasure at noticing that the Conference on Saturday had carried a resolution seeking closer fellowship with the Baptists. For his part he said that he could not see why we should not be one. He understood the position of both companies, and could see no insurmountable barriers to union. These remarks were received with warm applause.

Mr. Hickson, who is of the Brethren fellowship, presided over this meeting.

It was fitting that the State Conference should conclude with such a gathering as the foregoing. Surely we wait for the Son of God from heaven, and a fine spirit of unity was manifested in having one from the Brethren fellowship to preside, and two from the Baptists to speak on this entrancing theme.—G. E. Burns.

[See also page 268—Ed.]

The Anvil and the Hammer.

I stood one evening by the blacksmith's door,
And heard the anvil ring the vesper chime,
Then looking in I saw upon the floor
Old hammers worn with beating years of time.

"How many anvils have you had," said I,
"To wear and batter all these hammers so?"
"Just one," the blacksmith said, with twinkling eye.

"The anvil wears the hammers out, you know."
And so methought the anvil of God's Word
For ages sceptic blows has beat upon;
And though the sound of clanging blows is heard,
The anvil is unharmed, the hammers gone.

—Selected.

West Australian Conference.

The Conference was held in the chapel, Perth, on Friday and Saturday, April 2 and 3.

At 9.30 a.m. the proceedings opened with the largest attended devotional service the writer has seen at a Conference in West Australia. This was led by F. E. Alcorn.

The President, T. H. Scambler, presided at all the business sessions. He extended a welcome to the delegates and visitors, and referred to the pleasing fact that there were now ten preachers laboring in the State. Bro. Alcorn, Connor, Rodger and Stirling responded.

Greetings were read from the Conferences in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria, the Federal Foreign Mission Executive, the Sisters' Conference, and the Council of Churches, W.A.

The churches represented were: Brookton, Bimbury, Claremont, Collic, East Pingelly, Fremantle, Harvey, Kalgoolie, Kelmescott, Maylands, Manjimup, North Perth, Northam, Perth, Subiaco, and West Guildford.

The church at Bridgetown was admitted to the Conference.

A Committee on Resolutions was appointed, and later in the session submitted the following, which were unanimously adopted:—

1. "This Conference of the Churches of Christ in Western Australia desires to express its unwavering loyalty to the throne and person of his Majesty King George V., and, while deploring the war, it feels the justice of the cause which our Empire has espoused, and prays that under God's providence an early and satisfactory end may be accomplished."

The motion was carried unanimously, the gathering singing the National Anthem.

2. "This Conference views with great satisfaction the progress of the temperance movement. It is in full accord with the present proposal to limit the hours of sale of intoxicants to the hours between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., and is deeply moved by the action of his Majesty the King in pledging himself to abstinence and in abolishing all intoxicating liquors from the Royal household, and it commends his example to the citizens of this State."

EXECUTIVE REPORT.

The Executive Committee's report was adopted as printed. It referred to the splendid work done by the Sisters' Auxiliary Conference, the aggressive campaign against the evils in the State, carried on by the Council of Churches, the efforts of the Council of Public Morals to check the growth of immorality among the young, the appointment of a military chaplain (T. H. Scambler), and the continued progress of the College of the Bible.

The clause "Statistics" read:—"We now have 16 churches, with a membership of 1163. The additions for the year were: By

faith and baptism, 143; formerly immersed and restoration, 30; letter, 160; isolated members not on any church roll, 70. Total, 340. The losses were: By death, 8; discipline and revision of roll, 146; letter, 87. Total, 241. An increase of 168 members. There are 15 Bible Schools, with 1528 scholars and 222 teachers, an increase of 117 scholars and 27 teachers. There were 46 scholars added to the church."

In the matter of finance it was shown that the receipts totalled £1,228/16/11, the largest contribution ever made in the State. Of this amount £1682 had come from the ordinary



E. G. WARREN.

The newly-elected President of the West Australian Conference.

sources of income, as against £751 and £793 for the two preceding years. The expenditure for salaries, travelling expenses and subsidies amounted to £1049, the year closing with an overdraft of £114/10/3, as against £33/7/11, with which the year opened.

Congratulatory reference was made to the churches at Collic and Subiaco, on the enterprise displayed in establishing new centres at Ewington and West Subiaco, and erecting chapels in each centre, and the church at Claremont on the completion of their church home.

Regret was expressed at the inability of the State to send representatives to the Federal Conference, and the thanks of the brotherhood was tendered to the auditors, E. M. Evan and A. G. Fishwick.

It was decided: (1) That messages of congratulation be sent to the Chinese Class and the Sisters' Conference on the interest they had shown in the general work of the Conference, the Church Council of Western Australia on the achievements of the year, and G. T. Wallen on his appointment as Chaplain to the Expeditionary Forces.

(2) That the Home Missionary Committee be asked to consider the matter of differentiating between the amounts given by

assisted churches for the payment of their preacher's salary and those for Home Missions.

(3) That the Executive Committee further consider the question of conserving the time on Good Friday in order to permit the more important features of our work to be discussed.

ISOLATED MEMBERS.

The Isolated Correspondent's Report showed that there were 322 names on the roll. Of this number 70 were not on any church roll in the State. In 11 districts where no meetings were held, there were five or more members re-riding, and in all we were represented in 73 towns. Those in isolation had contributed £57/6/9 for Home Missions and £2/17/6 for Foreign Missions.

CHURCH BUILDING EXTENSION.

The Church Building-Extension Committee reported that they had assisted the Claremont church with their chapel to the extent of £178. They had in former years assisted the churches at North Perth and West Guildford. The money received during the year, £55/6/10, included a bequest of £30 from the late Miss C. Stevenson.

Attention was called to the fact that the churches at Bridgetown, Harvey, and Manjimup would all require assistance during the present Conference year, and that the Committee depended upon the May offering to enable them to advance the required loans. The assets were now £401/0/7.

LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

Continued progress was reported by the Literature Committee. The sales for the year amounted to £188/4/1, and the net profit, £23/9/-. The capital account now amounted to £163/9/6.

The secretary, D. M. Wilson, was congratulated on the growth of the department, and the hope was expressed that a book depot would eventually be established in the city.

HOME MISSION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

The Home Mission Committee's Report showed that operations had been carried on in eight districts, viz., Brookton-Pingelly, Bimbury-Harvey, Fremantle, Kalgoolie-Boulder, Maylands, North Perth, Northam-York, and West Guildford. Six preachers were employed, and two others labored with churches subsidised by the Committee. The Fremantle church had, early in the year, become self-supporting, and was now assisting the Committee. Meetings for breaking of bread were held at Bridgetown, Danguin, Narrogin and York, and preaching services had been started at Manjimup, Pintharke and Woodlands. In the fields assisted by the Committee there had been 141 additions. By faith and baptism, 118; formerly immersed and restoration, 23. The adoption of the duplex envelope system had greatly assisted the financial side of the work. The clause, Future Work, expressed the desire

to maintain all existing work, and locate change-lands in the Collic district, and one other centre to be agreed upon. This was most heartily adopted.

During the consideration of this report 200-minute addresses were delivered by F. E. Alorn, H. C. Rodger, Wm. Marsden, H. R. Stirling, E. G. Warren, G. T. Fitzgerald, and the Organising Secretary, H. J. Banks. Some of the addresses were thrilling, and the whole season was most helpful and inspirational.

The following resolutions were adopted: 1. That our motto for this year shall be, "A net increase of 400 church members and 4500 for Home Missions."

2. That with a view to extend the church in Western Australia, this Conference recommends each church in the Association to form, wherever possible, a band of evangelistic workers.

3. That each church in Western Australia be urged to hold a brief gospel mission before next Conference.

BIBLE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

This Committee had only held one meeting during the year. The report stated that on account of the varying methods being used in the schools there was little hope for concerted action. They appeared, however, to be in a generally healthy condition.

FOREIGN MISSION REPORT.

The report of the Foreign work was well received. Some of the best speeches of the Conference were made during its consideration. The amount received during the year, including a bequest of £30 from Miss C. Stevenson, was £247; seven Bible Schools had sent contributions, and two of them (Perth and Maylands) were each supporting an orphan in India. A large number of garments had been made by the sisters and sent to Miss Thompson for distribution. The Chinese Class had made fine progress. Under the ministry of Bro. James 11 men were immersed, making the total membership 23. These brethren had contributed £11/6s. Reference was made to the interest created by the visits of Dr. and Mrs. Macklin, and Miss R. Tilley. Two new missionaries had been sent to India last year, bringing the total number now supported in all countries by the Australian churches up to 18. One young man from Western Australia had volunteered for foreign work and it was expected that he would in due course go forth as a medical missionary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES.

The election of officers and committees resulted as follows:—President, E. G. Warren; Vice-President, A. Bell; Treasurer, H. Wright; Secretary, H. J. Banks; Assistant Secretary, R. W. Ewers; Home Mission Committee, W. B. Blakemore, E. R. Berry, A. W. Connor, C. A. G. Payne, J. Rhodes, T. H. Scambler, and D. M. Wilson; Foreign Mission Committee: Secretary, W. B. Blakemore; Treasurer, C. A. G. Payne; Committee, H. Cole, E. Eaton, E. M. Evan, E. Jeffery, E. Nelson, T. Robinson, and J. Platt; Church Building Extension: Secre-

tary, H. Paterson; Committee, G. P. Preston, G. D. Cleretko, H. Wright, and H. J. Banks; Temperance Committee: T. H. Scambler, A. W. Connor, A. Stephenson, F. J. Whelan, F. Buckingham, W. Davis, and P. E. Wedd; Literature Committee: G. O. Birchill, and A. G. Fishwick; Isolated Correspondent, H. J. Banks; Obituary Reader, W. Marsden; Church Council, A. Bell, E. M. Evan, W. B. Blakemore, A. W. Connor, T. H. Scambler, H. Wright, E. G. Warren, G. T. Fitzgerald, E. R. Berry, A. Johnson; Bible School Committee: President, F. D. Pollard; Secretary, H. Matthews; Committee: R. F. Robbins, W. Jacob, F. Lushay.

The obituary list, which was read by E. G. Warren, told of eight who had entered into their rest.

Short topical meetings were conducted by Bro. Wm. Marsden and D. R. Stirling, prior to the Friday afternoon and Saturday morning sessions.

The sisters, as usual, provided an excellent dinner and tea, and fully deserved the praise and thanks accorded them.

In addition to the business sessions, public demonstrations were conducted by the various committees. The Foreign Mission meeting held on the Tuesday night preceding Good Friday, was the largest of its kind ever held in the State. The Conference President and W. B. Blakemore were the speakers. The latter told the story of "Our Fields, the Workers, and their Work," illustrated by lantern views.

The Sisters' Conference business sessions occupied the whole of Wednesday, and closed with a social session at night, when Mrs. Harry and Bro. H. C. Rodger were the speakers.

On Thursday night the Bible School Committee entertained an interested company by a discussion of the question, "Holding the Young to the School and the Church." Daniel Ross talked on "The Boy Scout"; D. R. Stirling, "The Junior Meeting"; and A. A. Lightfoot, "The Primary Teachers' Class."

The Home Mission meeting on Good Friday night was of a high order. Anthems were rendered by a combined choir under the baton of H. Wright, and Miss Netta Wright pleased the large audience with her song.

The President's address was listened to with rapt attention. It was a fine effort. His theme was "Christianity and the World Crisis." Bro. Rodger followed with a thoughtful address on "The Restoration Movement and Home Mission Evangelisation."

The Conference sermon was delivered in the Lake-st. chapel, Perth, by A. W. Connor. He chose as his topic, "The Church's Source of Power." It was a fitting termination to a splendid series of meetings, and the very message that was needed as the workers returned to their fields.

The social function of the Conference, the picnic, was held in the beautifully appointed Show Grounds at Claremont, and the large attendance vouches for the popularity of the gathering.—H. J. Banks.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

FOREIGN MISSION FUND.

Churches: Foot-scar (support of Sundaba), £10; Newman (Support Malabar), £12.

Bible Schools (Children's Day): Malvern (additional), 2/6; Brunswick, 10/2; Windsor, £1 10/2; Castlemaine, 12/2; Warrnambool, 8/6; Hazelcote, £1 8/2; Hampton (additional), 2/6.

Other Contributions: F. Gosper, Lake Rowan, £3; T. Hagger (Conference promise), 10/6; Bible College, Glen Iris, £3/10/2; Miss W. H. Ludbrook (Conference promise), 10/2; "Gratitude" (support Malabar), £2; Miss M. Enderby (Conference promise), 5/2; Mrs. P. Rees (Conference promise), 10/2; Girls' Mission Fund, Ballarat (for Bible Woman), £2; Luncheon C.E. (support of native), £2/5/2; Preston J.C.E. (support Chimernie), £1/5/2; "Two Tiny Tot" (Children's Day), 1/2; Berwick J.C.E. Society, 7/3; T. E. Buty, £1; Mrs. J. A. Parker, Long Plain, S.A. (support Eden), £5; Bible Class, Berwick (support Eden), £1/10/2; F. G. Martin, Apollo Bay, £1/10/2; L. Broad, Port Douglas, Qld., £1; H. Bang, support native, China, £5; Mrs. H. W. Grant, Doncaster, £10; Mission Band, Doncaster, £3.

R. Lyall, Late Fed. Treas., N. Melbourne, Vic. J. L. Mulford, Late Fed. Act. Sec., Ascot Vale, Vic.

VICTORIAN HOME MISSION FUND.

The following amounts have been received during the month of March:

Churches, per Collectors: Burnley, £1; Moreland, £1 18/2; Doncaster, £1 14/2; Box Hill, £1 13/2; Ulmra, 6/2; Lilbourne, 14/2.

Churches, per Duplex Envelopes: Brighton, £2 10/2.

Individual Gifts: W. G. Harman, Kyneton, 10/2; W. A. Brown, Kaniva, £1; A. Clarke, Taradale, 10/2; J. H. Broussard, Doncaster, 5/2; F. G. Martin, Apollo Bay (Ballarat Church), £5 10/2; R. G. Cameron, Merbin, £1.

Conference Fees: Taradale, 10/2; French Island, 10/2; Box Hill, 10/2; Brunswick, 10/2; Nth Fitzroy, £1/2; Meridith, 10/2; Foot-scar, £1; Wonga Park, 10/2; Alhura, £1/0/6; Collingwood, 10/2; Kyneton, 10/2; Lancefield, 10/2; Moreland, £1; Brim, 10/2; Swan Hill, 10/2; Stawd, 10/2; Harcourt, 10/2; Harsham, 10/2; Echuca, 10/2; Burnley, 10/2; Geelong, 10/2; Newmarket, £1; Carnegie, 10/2.

Annual Offering: North Fitzroy (additional), 10/2; P. Johns, Yarrowagon, £1/10/2; Meridith (additional), 10/2; Carnegie, £1 8/2; Kerans, £1 10/2; Northcote (additional), 13/2; Brighton (additional), £1/11/6; Port Fairy, £1/8/2; Mrs. C. J. Fisher, Inverloch (Ascot Vale Church), £1; Mrs. E. Cripps, Pt. Franklin (Lygon-st. Church), 10/2; Miss D. Dark, Sorrento (South Richmond Church), 5/2; Mrs. Girdlestone, Frankston (North Richmond Church), 5/2.

Assisted Churches (toward Preacher's Support): Kyneton, £8 13/4; Swan Hill, £4 6/8; Polkemmet, £1 10/8; Lake Hoga, £1 12/6; Collingwood, £2 3/4; Brim, £1 10/2; Scepterong, £1 17/6; Dandenong, £2; Taradale, £1 6/2; Geelong, 13/2; Wonga Park, £5; Danally, £2 14/2; Maryborough, £7 1/4; St. Arnaud, £2; Mille Park, 10/2.

Miscellaneous: Dimolly, £1; Galah, £1; Warragul, £5 (for use of tent); Aged Evangelists' Fund, £8 13/4; Refund to T. McCallum's travelling expenses, £1 12/6; Refund on W. F. Nankivell's ticket, 7/2; Churches, for advertisement: Doncaster, 3/2; Box Hill, 3/2; Foot-scar, 3/2; Wonga Park, 3/2; Collingwood, 3/2; Fitzroy, 3/2; Carnegie, 3/2; North Carlton, 3/2; Brighton, 3/2; Dandenong, 3/2; South Yarra, 3/2.

*Special gifts to reduce debt on transactions of year 1914-15.

**The annual offering has now reached £223 10/0.

Total, £1273/11.

W. C. Craigie, Treasurer, 285 Lt. Collins-st., Melbourne; T. Hagger, Secretary, 15 Walcott-st., Geelong.

Reports from the Field.

Tasmania.

LAUNCESTON—Our meetings on the 11th of April were below the average. W. Ling presided, and Bro. Day gave an excellent address on the need of prayer. Still another of our young men has left us, Bro. Christmas, in the way we have lost 12 of our young men. Our prayer will be that God will bring them all safely back. At our C.E. concert meeting three new members were welcomed. Our Sister Miss Parkyn is still in the hospital. We trust she may soon be restored to health.—D. Dawde, April 15.

New Zealand.

COLLEGE OF THE BIBLE.

Annual Offering By New Zealand Churches, FIRST LORD'S DAY IN MAY

CHRISTCHURCH—Easter Sunday our meetings were rather small, since very many were away at the Dunedin Conference. Bro. Crowe spoke in the morning on "My Father's Business," Bro. Rhind preaching at night on "Christian Warfare," using illustrations from the European war. Bro. Nelson spoke at the prayer service on Wednesday on Gal. 2: 20. Thursday night the Band of Hope began its year's session with a good programme of recitations and songs; Bro. Gramham is the new president this year.—P.S.N., April 19.

DUNEDIN NORTH—On March 21 our local brethren conducted the services. C. Scadden exhorted in the morning, and Bro. Hearle preached at night on "The Lens of the Cross." On the 28th (the Day of Visitation), Wellington occupied the platform morning and evening. Last Lord's day H. Wellington, of Petone, conducted the services. The attendance at the meetings was small, probably owing to some of the members being at Conference.—M.S.

NELSON—On Lord's day, April 11, the morning service was well attended, Bro. Hrough presiding. Bro. Dickson, who has recovered from his indisposition, gave a splendid address. A large congregation greeted Bro. Dickson at the evening service. His subject was "Love and Obedience." The discourse was listened to with close attention. Bro. and Sister Dickson have commenced their visiting. The prayer meeting and the Linkway Society continue to do good work, and are well attended.—C.G.

RICHMOND—Last Lord's day one made the good confession—the husband of our Sister Eves. The preacher was Bro. Callum, of Wellington. The right hand of fellowship was extended to our new brother this morning. Morning's worship was well attended; evening meetings are improving. There is a good spiritual tone in the church.—B. G. Cooper, April 11.

West Australia.

PERMANTLE—Lord's day morning, April 11, Bro. Fisher presided over a good meeting. The exhortation was on "True Friendship." F. Vanman is training the Bible School for their anniversary. Monday evening, the Senior C.E. had an interesting meeting. Bro. and Sister Black gave us an instructive talk on their work among the aborigines at Hanover Bay. Bro. Black is a sister of the late J. B. Fisher. All departments of the work are going along well, and the meetings are keeping up an interest.—E. G. Warren, April 13.

CLAREMONT—During the past month our Lord's day morning meetings have much improved in attendance. Several brethren and sisters have come to live in the district; we look for-

ward to their fellowship and help. F. D. Pullard, of North Perth, is conducting the gospel services, which are improving in attendance. One young woman confessed her Lord at this evening's meeting.—H.E.E., April 11.

SUBIACO—Meetings have been very good. Bro. Rodger, of Dunbury, preached on Easter Sunday morning, Bro. Alcorn assisting at night. Our esteemed Bro. Thomas Wedd has been suddenly called away from earth in the very prime of life. He was one of our isolated members. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife and her family, and to the other bereaved ones. It was a sad duty to the writer to bury his friend of the old days in the Chellenham (Vic.) church, where our late brother was well known.—A. W. Connor, April 9.

Queensland.

BOONAH—The church is preparing for a two weeks' mission, to be conducted by Bro. Nightingale, who is unsparring in his efforts to make it a success. The mission is to commence on the 17th inst. A few days ago our Bro. Nightingale, with a few helpers, erected large calico printed signs in conspicuous places in and around our town. The Sunday School and Bible Class have doubled in number the last six or eight weeks, and the spiritual tone of the church is good. Since last report a young man was baptised. We are earnestly praying that our mission may be a great success.—W.C.W.

WEST MORETON CIRCUIT—During the past month we have had bright meetings, with encouraging results. On March 21, one young woman, from the Bible School, confessed her faith in Christ; she was baptised on March 28. On April 11, a young woman confessed her Master, and was baptised the same hour at Rosewood. The young woman travelled over 100 miles for the purpose of obeying her Master's command. Mount Walker anniversary was held on Easter Monday. A very enjoyable day was experienced. Representatives from Boonah, Ipswich, Marlburg, Rosevale, Rosewood, and Ma Ma Creek were with us for the occasion. We tender our thanks to Bro. Nightingale, Morton, and Pastor Gogle, of the Lancelfield Baptist Church, for their helpful addresses during the day. Our work generally is healthy.—C.H.P., April 12.

South Australia.

TUMBY BAY—On Good Friday a united service was held at night in the Institute, when all the Nonconformist churches were represented and took part. A good congregation assembled, and an offering of £110/- was given for the Belgian Relief. On April 8, the Protestant churches again united for the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, with E. J. Piper spoke as the Society's deputation. At the last election, beside the Early Closing Referendum, a local option poll was taken in this district (Hilmders Southern) with the following result: Votes in favor of resolution No. 1 (for Reduction), 1420; votes in favor of resolution No. 2 (either Reduction nor Increase), 927; votes in favor of resolution No. 3 (for Increase in number of licenses), 208. This gives a majority in favor of No. 2 (Cost 1 and 2 combined) of 317 votes, so that the present situation is that no more licenses may be granted in this district. This is a distinct improvement upon the old condition. The whole district has been blessed with beautiful rains.—A.J.F.

WILLUNGA—The anniversary services of the church in Willunga and Mt. Compass were celebrated on Sunday, April 11th. A special service of song was rendered by the members of the Sunday School, which was much appreciated by the large audience. Bro. Jagers gave a forceful and interesting address. On Monday afternoon a tea meeting was held, of which a good number partook. In the evening a programme of songs, recitations

and addresses was rendered. Reference was made to the building of a chapel at Mt. Compass which, it was hoped, would be an accomplished fact before another year had passed. Ecological reference was made to Bro. Wedd's work. The proceeds of the supper were towards the purchase of an organ for the Mt. Compass services.—April 6.

MAYLANDS—A surprise birthday party was given to Sister Miss Beidmore on Thursday evening by the Girls' Mission Band. A mission in connection with the church will be started on Sunday, May 2. J. T. Wiltshire, of Mile End, will be the evangelist. The meetings on Sunday were fairly well attended. The Bible School numbered 288.—H.R.T., April 19.

NARACOORTE—On Lord's day the meetings were not well attended. In the evening Bro. Warburst preached; two young girls responded to the invitation. On Monday night a meeting is to be held in the chapel, when Mr. A. Willmore, the deputation from the British and Foreign Bible Society, will give an address, and Bro. Warburst will preside.—H.H., April 19.

UNLEY—The Sunday School anniversary services were continued on Tuesday. The tea was served in the primary class room. The scholars were admitted free at 5.30, and afterwards the tables were relaid for the visitors. The little ones of the kindergarten classes were specially looked after in the Adult Bible Class room. We were glad to have so many visitors present. The visitors are to be congratulated on the splendid arrangements for the tea, and Mr. Huntsman, for his valuable assistance in many ways. The following meeting was well attended. Several musical numbers were rendered by the scholars, and addresses were given by two missionaries: Miss Thompson, from India, and Miss Rosa Tonkin, from China.—P.S.M., April 19.

CHINESE MISSION—On Tuesday, April 6, a Chinese social was held in Grote-st. school room. A most enjoyable evening was spent, there being about 100 present. Mr. McPhee was in the chair. Mr. Andrew Gim thanked all the teachers for their help to his Chinese brethren. Mr. Thomas also spoke. A splendid programme was submitted by Misses Weedy, Grannons, Rowe, Hunter, Bowden, Messrs. Rogers, Mathew, James, Quong, Toor, Wing Tsong. Several games were indulged in, and supper was served. It was a most pleasant evening.

KADINA—Our C.E. meetings are still increasing, last Monday's being one of the best. On Wednesday last there was a basket social held in the chapel in start a young ladies' guild, with Mrs. Wedd as the leader, and also start a Mutual Improvement Society, with Bro. Wedd as leader. Both Bro. and Sister Wedd have settled down to the work; and both are held in very high esteem by the members and outside public. Death has claimed three very old residents of the town this week: Mr. Rodda, who was over 90; Mr. John James, and Mr. Almond. We had a splendid attendance at the Lord's table, when Bro. Wedd gave the exhortation. This evening we had a splendid attendance, when we had a thanksgiving service for rain.—Jas. H. Thomas, April 18.

HINDMARSH—The members of the Endeavor Society were pleased to receive a visit from the District Union Executive on Monday last, a very profitable evening being spent. On Tuesday evening a successful young people's concert was held in the lecture hall. The building was crowded. Interesting and novel items were much appreciated. The proceeds, £41/10, were handed over to the District Nursing Society. The concert will be repeated shortly. A. Glastonbury addressed the church on Lord's day morning. Bro. Cuttriss being absent at the camp. Bro. Penfold, from Balaklava, was received into membership. On Lord's day afternoon Mr. and Mrs. McCulloch, missionaries from China, gave addresses on their work. We had a splendid service in the evening. Bro. Treacher presided; Bro. Cuttriss gave a very forceful address. Next Sunday all services will be held in the lecture hall.—J.L.R.

BOCHIEL—On April 4, Bro. Ewers, from Melbourne, gave uplifting addresses to splendid gatherings both morning and night. On April 11, Bro. Hollans commenced his labors with the church. A fair number met around the Lord's table when Bro. Hollans exhorted from John 4: 1. At the gospel service he gave a stirring address from Rev. 1: 20. Fair number at Mt. Templeton; one new member was added to the Employment Society. The committees are doing a fine work. The Society this year has been successful in winning the Increase in Attendance Banner of the Bishakva District Union.—W. McGregor, April 16.

QUEENSTOWN—Good attendance of members around the Lord's table. We were pleased to have with us Sister G. Leslie, Sister Baynes, senr., Bro. Stephenson who has been ill, and Bro. J. Harris who has been laid aside through accident. Bro. Brooker presided, and Bro. Hawkes spoke on Rev. 3. Afternoon, splendid school; 215 present. Evening, Bro. Brooker preached on "Good or Evil." We had our new confessions—one man and three sisters. The building was well filled. The sermon and singing were splendid.—H. Watkins, April 18.

CRoyDON—On April 11, morning, F. Plant presided; A. Dudson exhorted. Bible School attendance was 134 scholars. At the gospel service Jay Manning preached on "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." April 18th, good meetings. Morning, J. S. H. Ferris presided; F. Plant exhorted. Bible School attendance, 181 scholars. At the gospel service W. J. Uren preached on "The Efficacy of Christ and its Significance." Our sister Mrs. Taverner (Annie Taylor) passed into her rest last Monday. The church sympathises with Bro. J. Taylor and family in their sad loss.

MILF. END—Since last report one of our number has been called to higher service. Our young Sister Elsie Greer, who has been a sufferer for some years, passed away on Wednesday, April 14, and was laid to rest in the West Terrace Cemetery on Thursday. She was among the first fruits of the work here, and has been a great help to us. We are glad to be able to report a growing interest in the work here, many strangers being present at our gospel meetings. Two confessions brought to the close of Bro. Wilshire's address.—A married lady and a young lad from the Bible School.—M. April 18.

MOSMAN—Splendid meetings were held on Sunday, April 4, being Bro. Walden's last day of service with the Mosman church. Notwithstanding the heavy rain, he preached to a crowded audience at night; subject, "He is risen." Many confessions were made to the soldiers. The prayers of the church will follow him. Sunday, April 11, at the Bible School, of Bendigo, addressed the church at morning, and Bro. J. Jones at night. Fair attendance at the Bible School in the afternoon.—A. E. O.

LISMORE—During the writer's absence in Sydney W. Davis occupied the platform at the Tabernacle. Yesterday there were splendid meetings. At the close of the gospel address Mr. Brown confessed his faith in Christ. The following shows the position of the Dunoon-road Methodist Rescue work, conducted by Bro. A. V. Terry—18 men, 12 women, 25 children, 12 boys, 30 acres of good land, and a manager's residence valued at £150. Bro. Terry states that the number of souls sought to be increased, as it becomes known that better conditions are available for the aboriginal population.—S. Stevens, April 12.

New South Wales.

CHATSWOOD—Great meetings on Sunday, the Rev. Arnot delivered a splendid address at the morning service. Sunday School growing. At the evening meetings last Lord's day; six received to the faith. Many thanks to have the company of Miss Mary Tomlin, to help in the mission work in India. Miss Lottie Davis, of Padstow, beautifully rendered a fine gospel solo at the evening service. The Bible School univer-

sary will be held on Sunday, May 2, and Tuesday, May 4.—T. Bayley.

MEREWETHER—Bro. Nesbit presided. The writer, after a five weeks' absence, was glad to be present again. A. Fraser gave us an encouraging exhortation on Psalm 23. Bro. Fretwell gave a splendid gospel address. Lord's day School, being a doing a good work in selling flowers on Friday nights for the Belgium Funds. They have handed over to the above over £6. J. Fraser, April 11.

INVERELL—Bro. Waters spoke morning and evening here. "The Memorial Supper 'Till He Come," and "The Compassionate Christ" being his themes. To-morrow our brother leaves for Victoria on vacation. He has his eldest son who is entering a high school for continuous studies. The work will be in the hands of local brethren. Our Bible School officers at their meeting yesterday decided to introduce "Little's Cross and Crown System" of rewards for regular attendance.—H. Wilson Cust, April 12.

THORNSBY—A. Price presided. H. Biddell exhorted at the close of the 22. Break up your fallow. The Rev. Linley Gordon preached the gospel to a full church, his text being "The Unloving God." The interest is growing.—Thos. E. Rofe.

BEHMORE—The meetings yesterday were characterised by much blessing. The worship meeting was presided over by Thos. Edwards. Geo. Gray was the speaker. 83 per cent. of our membership broke bread. A. E. Forbes preached. A husband and wife confessed their sins, and were baptised. The building was crowded; the interest is again awakening.—John Rolger, April 19.

ENMORE—We were pleased to have an address in the morning from Bro. Boyle, Baptist minister, who spoke on Philippians 2: 5. Amongst our visitors were: Iren Cameron (evangelist, from Queenland) and Turner, from Victoria; and Bro. and Sister Jones, who were received into membership from Hurstville. The largest big meeting in the evening, when Bro. Billingsworth in the course of a convincing address on Millennial Dawnism, exposed the false and dangerous doctrines of the Millennial Dawn people, who are led by Pastor Russell, and who are, at the present time, endeavoring to spread their principles by means of picture shows. Mrs. Spencer sang a solo. Bible School attendance was good. E. Steer, our secretary, is making improvements all along the line.—E. L.

NORTH SYDNEY—H. G. Payne presided over a small meeting on Lord's day, April 4. Bro. Fretwell, of Merewether, gave the address. At the gospel service, conducted by Bro. Payne, Bro. Stevens, of Lismore, gave a most interesting address. On Sunday morning, April 11th, Dr. Barclay presided over a good attendance. Assistants by Iren, Reeson and J. P. Jones. Bro. James, of Petersham, spoke. Bro. Payne conducted the evangelistic service, and gave an interesting address on "Joshua." Today's services were well attended. Bro. Symington presided, and Bro. Payne commenced a series of addresses on "The Church and its Members." A fairly good attendance was recorded at the Bible School 6-9 day, 75 being present. There was a good attendance at the gospel service, when Bro. Payne spoke on "Evolution and Evolution." Bro. Payne intends giving a series of addresses on "The Holy Spirit" at the mid-week prayer and praise services.—Cyril T. Garrett.

ST. PETERS—Lord's day, 18th, Bro. Garden exhorted on "Gideon and his host." The Sunday School is progressing; five new scholars yesterday. We are holding our anniversary on Sunday, 25th, and Tuesday, 27th. Lord's day evening Bro. Day preached upon the trial of Christ and Pilate's confession. This meeting was well attended, 48 being present. One of the boys from the Sunday School confessed Christ. Speakers for Tuesday meeting were Iren, Payne and Garden.—C. T. Garrett, April 10.

ALBURN—Splendid meeting this morning at the breaking of bread. Bro. Breach, of Lidscombe, exhorted, the writer presiding. This evening one—a Bible School scholar—confessed Christ. G. H. Browne speaking.—George Stith, April 18.

PADDINGTON—Sunday, April 4th, we had a good attendance at the morning meeting. Several visitors present, including S. Stevens, Lismore, who gave a splendid address. Bro. Collins presided. At night Bro. Mitchell, of Bendigo, preached a fine discourse to a large audience. On April 11 G. Arnot presided over a good attendance. A. Geo. Saunders, from Phillipine Islands, addressed the church in a most helpful manner. At the gospel service the building was almost full. The choir rendered an anthem in good style. F. Hagger, from Victoria, preached his usual well-remembered style on "Back to Jerusalem." We were glad to renew old acquaintance, listen to the familiar voice, and think of the days when our brother labored so successfully with us. The service closed with the singing of "God be with you till we meet again."—A. W. Shearston, April 12.

MEREWETHER—Bro. Wright exhorted on Lord's day morning, his theme being "Christ—The Refiner in the Church." He gave us a very fine exhortation. Bro. Fretwell gave another of his fine gospel addresses in the evening to a large meeting.—J. Fraser.

NORTH ALBURN—Good meetings morning and evening yesterday. Good attendance at the Bible School. Last Thursday night the church gave a social evening to A. E. Forbes. There was a big attendance, and a most enjoyable time was spent. Visitors came from Belmore, Lidscombe and Auburn. During the evening Bro. Forbes was presented with an umbrella from the church, and a pocket book from the young men who made the confession during the mission.

Victoria.

MARYBOROUGH—Several visitors during the holidays, including Bro. Holland, of Mildura, who exhorted last Sunday morning. His message was enjoyed. Bro. Fretwell presided and was splendid. The newly inaugurated Young People's Society gives promise of great usefulness. A nice number of young people are attending. Bible School picnic last Saturday was a great success.—A. P. A. H. April 14.

BURNLEY—Things are moving here. Bro. Lang was with us on Wednesday last to organize a Christian Endeavor Society. This morning at the worship Bro. Henderson presided and Bro. Lang spoke. At the Sunday School and Bible Class we had a good attendance. In the evening Bro. Henderson spoke to a good meeting on "Why Christ Died for Our Sins." We enjoyed a solo by Sister Johnson, from Lygon-st. One young lady made the good confession.—J. A. C., April 18.

FITZROY—On April 11th, good meetings all day. Bro. Beiler speaking at both services. On April 18, two broke bread, the best for some time. We received two sisters into fellowship who recently confessed Christ. Among our visitors we had Sister Lewis, of Launceston. Bro. Beiler exhorted. At the gospel service to a large audience Bro. Beiler preached a powerful address on "The Fact of Christ's Second Coming." The choir sang well.—G. F.

NORTH CARLTON—The church received an uplift on Sunday morning from Thos. Hagger, who spoke on "The Church and its Members." The attendance was fair. In the afternoon and evening the Sunday School anniversary was held, when the children rendered concerted songs under the leadership of E. Butler, the Sunday School secretary. We again enjoyed addresses from Bro. Hagger. Four confessions from the Sunday School at the close of the meeting. Bro. Williams is now laboring with us.—E. G. K.

SOUTH MELBOURNE—Of late we have been helped by addresses from G. D. Verco, Hugh Gray, J. L. Mulford, S. H. Mudge, and Rev. Evans. To all these we desire to express our thanks. On April 4th, G. D. Verco preaching, four made the good confession, three of whom were baptized the following Tuesday evening. On April 11, G. Webster and Sister J. Cannon were united in matrimony. Sister W. Patterson, one of the

The Family Altar.

Conducted by A. E. Illingworth.

BY THE WAYSIDE.

An earnest, concerned sister told me recently a little homely incident which has in it a message for us all.

She was standing one morning on the balcony of the house in which she lives, watching for a few moments the passers-by. Whilst she stood there a man with a withered leg walked down the street. He was whistling gaily, and seemed as happy as any person could be.

This sister said to herself, "That's a lesson for me. If I had a leg like that I don't think I could ever whistle." She felt rebuked for murmuring about her lot, and turning into the house went about her domestic duties with a lighter heart and a more contented spirit. So even our mischievous acts have an influence.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Read Thought—*The body a temple.* Know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price; glorify God therefore in your body.—1 Cor. 6: 19, 20.

Selected Gems—

My God, I heard this day
That mine doth build a stately habitation
But he that means to dwell therein
What house he builds, hath there been
Or not, he is to Man? To whose creation
All things are in doing.

Since then, my God, thou hast
Sovereign a Palace built, O dwell in it,
That it may dwell with thee at last,
Thill thou afford us so much wit
That, as the world serve us, we may serve thee,
And both thy servants be.—George Herbert.

Scripture Reading—1 Cor. 6: 12-20.

MONDAY, APRIL 26

Read Thought—*The eye.* If thine eye causeth thee to stumble pluck it out, and cast it from thee; it is good for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into the Gehenna of fire.—Matthew 18: 9.

Selected Gems—The eye receives impressions; the hand performs actions. Christ tells his disciples that to receive an evil impression may be as sinful and as dangerous as to perform an evil action.—Lymon Abbott.

The eye does not see any more than an opera glass sees. The person sees; the eye, like the opera glass, is the instrument which he uses.—Dr. Thomson.

Scripture Reading—Matthew 18: 7-10.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Read Thought—*The ear.* Take heed what ye hear.—Mark 4: 24.

Selected Gems—It is wisdom not to believe everything that men say, nor presently to pour into the ears of others the things that we have heard or believed.—Thomas a Kempis.

Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of thy tone;
As thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.—F. R. Havergal.

Scripture Reading—Mark 4: 21-25.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28

Read Thought—*The tongue.* Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away.—Matt. 24: 35.

Selected Gems—The two greatest teachers of all time were conversationalists: Socrates and Jesus of Nazareth.—Lymon Abbott.

The picture is the word of the artist; the bridge is the word of the engineer; the home is the word of the mother.

Words are the expressions of the hidden life of the soul.—Lymon Abbott.

To hear him speak, and sweetly smile,
You were in Paradise the while.—Sir P. Sidney.

Scripture Reading—Matt. 24: 32-44.

THURSDAY, APRIL 29

Read Thought—*The hand.* Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.—Eccl. 9: 10.

Selected Gems—Whatever I have tried to do in life, I have tried with all my heart to do well.

Never to put my hand to anything on which I could not throw my whole self; and never to affect depreciation of my work, whatever it was, I find now to have been my golden rule.—C. Dickens, in "David Copperfield."

A half-hearted and reluctant worker in the church is only one degree better than none.—Yes! often worse—a hindrance, not merely no help.—Lymon Abbott.

Scripture Reading—Eccl. 9: 7-10.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30

Read Thought—*The feet.* Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.—Psalm 23: 4.

Selected Gems—The feet are the means of transportation, the symbol of a man's pilgrimage and his progress.—Lymon Abbott.

Sooner or later every pilgrim comes to the valley of the shadow of death. Like Perceval, he is in a land of deep leaves and singing brooks and blossoming flowers and sweet fruits.

But even while I drink the brook, and ate
The goodly apples, all these things at once
Fell into dust, and I was left alone,
And thro' thurst, in a land of sand and thorns.
—Tennyson (in "Holy Grail").

Scripture Reading—Psalm 23.

SATURDAY, MAY 1

Read Thought—*"The conscience."* The light of the body is the eye; therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness.—Luke 4: 34.

Selected Gems—Health of conscience is more beautiful than bodily perfection. It is the virility of the soul; alert, well-balanced, clear-eyed, rejoicing in the truth; sane in judgment, ruling desire with the hand of right reason; courageous in goodness; happy in the felicity of concordance with the eternal right.—C. C. Hall—"Christ and the Eastern Soul."

There are standards of right and wrong by which we may educate our conscience. That standard may be found in the wise words of wise men; but better is it to be found in the great lives of truly great men.—Lymon Abbott.

Worship of a hero is transcendent admiration of a great man. No nobler policy than this of admiration for one higher than himself dwells in the breast of man.—Caryl.

Scripture Reading—Luke 4: 33-36.

THE WEEK END.

Praise and Prayer Note.

Fill thou my life, O Lord my God,
In every part with praise,
That my whole being may proclaim
Thy being and thy ways.

Fill every part of me with praise,
Let all my being speak,
Of thee, and of thy love, O Lord,
Poor though I be, and weak.

—H. Bonar.

New South Wales Conference.

For the information of the brethren we publish some extracts from N.S.W. Reports, not referred to in the article of Bro. Burns.

FROM EXECUTIVE AND HOME MISSION REPORT.

The Statistical Register shows 42 churches, with a combined membership of 3970. The additions were by faith and baptism, 21 by baptized believers, 21 by restoration, 25 by letters, 164. It is encouraging to note an increase of 41 over the number of additions reported last year by faith and baptism.

The losses were 211 by letter, 24 by death, 225 by removal and revision of roll. This we have to report a net decrease of 289.

There are 28 buildings owned by the churches, an increase of three for the year.

There are now 39 Bible Schools on the Register. These schools report 3521 scholars, and 438 teachers, a total enrolment of 3959. Thus we show an increase of 417 scholars, and 64 teachers, a total net gain of 481. So far as can be ascertained, this constitutes a record, and is very encouraging. 114 have been added to the churches from the Bible Schools; an increase of 33. In addition, we have a few schools in the country not tabulated.

The churches helped by the Committee have made good progress. They report 84 baptisms, 11 baptized believers added, 221 restorations, a net gain of 36. There has been in these churches a net gain of 446 in the enrolment of the Bible Schools.

The cash receipts from all sources for the year amounted to £1294/10/-. To this amount must be added the credit balance of £887/7/11 brought forward, and the net gain of £2181/17/11, making together £1383/6/11. The expenditure for the year amounted to £1383/6/11. As all salaries, subsidies, and all other debts contracted by the Committee up to the 27th Feby, were paid on that date, the Committee will commence the new year without a deficiency. The Committee regard this as very satisfactory, considering the financial stress that has prevailed for the seven months of the Conference year. The collectors' receipts were £155 8/8; individual contributions, £456/11/6; annual offering, £305/4/-.

As a result of conference with the Bible Schools' Committee, it was decided to amalgamate the duties of Home Mission Organizing Secretary and Bible Schools' Organizer, and to offer the position to Bro. Wm. Gale, who has filled it with credit to himself and to the satisfaction of the committees concerned.

The following churches have erected buildings during the year—Mosman, at a cost of about £1250; Waaga, £550; Chatswood's property, £100 valued at £1200. Brinkleyville has this year had a hall, at a cost of about £120; a new school building at a cost of about £120; Hornsby, a school hall at a cost of 285.

FROM THE FOREIGN MISSION REPORT.

The statement of the receipts and disbursements for the year shows a rather satisfactory state of affairs, with a view to the consideration of the almost world-wide financial strain existing since the commencement of the great war in August last.

The aim set for the ensuing year at last Conference was £150, the actual receipts for the year reached £317/17/11, thereby falling short of that aim by £132/2/11. The receipts also show a decrease in the number of letters taken in, by £1014/3/-, to which, however, must be added £67/14/5, representing the amount of collections, etc., at Ota mission, brought into this year's Statement and not into that of the previous year. The actual decrease in income is therefore £147/8/6.

Decreases—	
Annual Offering	£29 5 1
Children's Day	10 10 0
	£39 15 10
Increases—	
Collectors' Receipts	£30 8 10
Net Decrease	65 7 0

During the year under review remittances from the Federal Treasury for general purposes were received amounting to £102/0/4, as against £83 received during 1913-1914, a decrease of 17.5. We can rejoice that the Committee has been able to carry on its programme in the New Year on a lesser amount from the Federal Executive than in the previous year, thus enabling that Executive the use of so much more money in other mission fields.

The total disbursements amounted to £137/8/4. The total expenditure on mission districts, including £211, and other expenditure (including loan expenditure on Dunoon Aborigines Mission, £51), £50/5. The money spent on the work in mission fields for the year just ended was less than that of the previous year by £13/4/10, the policy of the Committee being to expend during the currency of the war only so much money as is absolutely necessary to keep the districts up to the present standard of efficiency. The year's expenditure on the whole was less than that of 1913-1914 by £6/1/3, and the actual cash balance carried forward to next Conference year is £68/17/9.

As the annual offering of the churches was taken up prior to any knowledge of European hostilities, it was confidently expected that last year's total of £202/2/8 would be exceeded. The offering, however, only yielded £119/17/7, a decrease of £79/5/1. Drought conditions in some of the country districts no doubt adversely influenced the returns from those districts, but many of the suburban churches have made unaccountably severe reductions, while others, notably Melbourne, Sydney, and Sydney Chinese churches, show handsome increases.

The Children's Day Offering also suffered in comparison with last year to the extent of £16 10/9.

South Australian S.S. Union of Churches of Christ.

A monthly meeting held April 9, 1915. The secretary was instructed to inform all schools that no Scriptural Examination by the Union will be held this year, but that the schools be recommended to enter for the examination to be held by the S.A. S.S. Union.

The secretary was also instructed to ask the S.A.S.S. Union if they, together with the Unions in the other States, had considered the desirability of issuing graded lessons for S.S. purposes, specially adapted for Australian schools, and to inform them that we would be willing to cooperate with them in this work.

Satisfactory reports were received from eight of the schools in the Union.

The special Committee for methods of teaching presented their report and suggestions, as a result of which it was decided to arrange for a three months' course of instruction in teaching. Breun, Adams, Huntman and Baker to be the instructors, and that the classes shall be held free of charge every Tuesday evening for thirteen weeks, beginning on June 1, at the close of which an examination is to be held, and certificates to be given to successful students. The special Committee are empowered to make all necessary arrangements.

The May-day Committee reported that all necessary preparations had been made for the celebration on the first Monday in May, and that good results were hoped for.

First steps were taken towards holding a Workers' Conference some time in June.

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Here and There

Bible School Day in all Victorian and South Australian churches, first Lord's day in May.

D. A. Ewers spent last Lord's day at Murray Bridge, and will commence a mission there on the 28th.

Cyril T. Garrett, of Bay-road, North Sydney, N.S.W., is now secretary of the North Sydney church.

W. J. Way, of Queensland, after visiting the Federal Conference, came on to Melbourne for a holiday trip.

The Federal Treasurer acknowledges with pleasure 1/- from Bro. F. Collins towards the Evangelistic Fund.

F. Hellams has accepted a temporary engagement with the Northern District Conference, S.A., under Dr. Lochiel.

We hear that several of our churches are arranging special children's and young people's services for Bible School Day.

We regret to learn that Bro. E. Davis, preacher of the church in Toowoomba, Q., has been ill with typhoid fever. We are glad to hear that he is recovering.

L. W. Baker, after a much appreciated work of three months with the church at Norwood, has accepted a hearty invitation to labor there for three years.

Last Lord's day E. J. Waters, from Inverell, N.S.W., spoke at South Yarra, Vic., where he formerly labored as evangelist. Old friends were glad to see and hear him.

Miss Rosa L. Tonkin, our missionary from Shanghai, China, arrived in Sydney during the Conference, and was accorded a warm welcome at the State and Federal gatherings.

The attention of temperance workers is directed to the results of the local opinion poll taken on March 27th, on Eyre Peninsula. See the report from Tumbly Bay in "From the Field."

The "Wooroorra Producer" of last week contained long and eulogistic reports of farewell meetings to Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Ewers, who have left Babaklava, S.A., for Morland, Melbourne.

In last week's Editorial Note on the Federal Conference, S.A. is referred to as having only two representatives. It should have been a few. A matter of fact there were eight from the Central State.

We had hoped to print an obituary notice and appreciation of the late Mrs. C. L. Thurgood in this issue, but portion of the material arrived too late, so that we are compelled to hold it over until next week.

At the last meeting of the S.A. Conference Committee a resolution of appreciation was passed of the services of W. L. Ewers, who as secretary for three years of the Northern District Conference, rendered effective service to the General Committee by his organising and executive ability.

At the Foreign Mission Rally of the Federal Conference, the addresses were given by three of our own missionaries—Sisters Thompson and Lockin, from India and China respectively, and Bro. A. G. Saunders, who until recently has been laboring in the Philippines under the direction of the American Foreign Christian Missionary Society. All delivered helpful speeches.

In view of the jubilee celebrations to be held in October, in connection with the Swanston-st. church, the secretary, Bro. Robt. Lyall, will be glad to hear from all old members of the church at a meeting with other Churches of Christ. Address, R. Lyall, Church of Christ, Swanston-st., Melbourne.

Annual Bible School offering in Victoria and South Australia, May 2.

Bro. and Sister J. P. F. Walker, of Lismore, N.S.W., are now on a visit to Melbourne.

New Zealand brethren will please remember the offering for the College of the Bible to be taken on May 2. Let every member make a contribution to this important work.

The flashlight photograph taken at the musical festival in connection with the Victorian Conference looks splendidly. Pictures may be ordered from Bro. Reg. Ennis. The cost is 2/- and 3/6.

The Victorian Women's Conference Executive will meet in the hall, Swanston-st., on Friday, May 7th, at 2.30 prompt. Delegates are kindly requested to be present. All sisters are cordially invited.

Read the article in this issue which tells of the work being undertaken by the Victorian Bible School Department. We think you will be constrained to give liberally, in order that the work may go on.

Isolated members throughout Victoria who are interested in Bible School work will be glad to have a part in the offering on the first Sunday in May. Send your gift to Bro. Reg. Ennis, 45 Dandenong-road, Malvern.

The Y.M.C.A. of Sydney, graciously offered to give to delegates to the Federal Conference the privileges of honorary membership, and placed at their disposal the use of the Association's fine rooms. This kindly act was much appreciated, and many availed themselves of the opportunities presented.

The inter-state visitors to Sydney for State and Federal Conferences were the recipients of the abounding hospitality for which the brethren and sisters of the harbour city are famous. All greatly appreciated the cordial Christian welcome accorded them, and most enjoyed the fellowship which the gatherings afforded.

The monthly meeting of the Victorian Bible School Department has been postponed on account of the holiday on April 26, to Monday, May 3, at Swanston-st. chapel. "Children at the Lord's day morning Service" is the subject for discussion, and H. A. Fraser will give the address. This will be a most interesting meeting. All are cordially invited to attend.

The finest gathering held in Sydney during the Conference period was undoubtedly the Bible School's demonstration held in the Town Hall on Wednesday, April 7. The weather was most unpropitious for such a gathering, yet the hall was filled. Had the night been fine, doubtless many would have been denied admission. The programme matched the attendance, and was altogether delightful. Credit is due to all who had part in the arrangements. The success of the gathering will give a stimulus to the Bible School work for the ensuing year.

In the Billy Sunday revival at Philadelphia twenty-eight thousand persons have expressed faith in Christ and the intention to lead Christian lives. This report is at the end of the eighth week. The meetings will continue to a total of ten weeks, this being the longest meeting yet held by Mr. Sunday. The evangelist will receive a sum not much under 100,000 dollars (£20,000) as a free-will offering, we venture to guess, and whatever may be said about overpaying preachers, it will be the best investment ever made by an American city—Christian Standard.

The South Australian Sunday School Union of the Churches of Christ is arranging a series of classes for teachers and elder scholars on "Methods of Teaching." The classes will be conducted by Bro. Thomas, Hunt-man and Baker, and will be held every Tuesday evening from June 1 to August 31. To judge by the success similar classes have had in Melbourne, this new undertaking should be a great help to all who desire to be more efficient in the important work of teaching the young in our Bible Schools. Anyone desiring further information should write to the Secretary of the Union, Alwin Fischer, Tynte-st., North Adelaide.

We hope to publish reports of New Zealand Conferences in next issue. Some of the copy was too late for insertion this week.

W. L. Ewers commenced work as evangelist with the church at Morland (Vic.) last Sunday, when he spoke to crowdled and enthusiastic meetings.

North Carlton (Vic.) Sunday School celebrated its anniversary on Sunday and Tuesday last. Thos. Hagger was the preacher on Sunday, when four of the scholars made the good confession.

J. R. Cambridge is taking his annual holiday at Granville, in Gipp-land, and while there is preaching the old gospel, with the result that five had confessed Christ up to the middle of last week. It was expected that the Lord's table would be set up last Sunday.

The additions reported in the Victorian Home Mission fields for the month of March were: Swan Hill, 8; Warragul, 9; South Melbourne, 1; Maryborough, 3; Malvern, 3, the total reported being 24, but the reports are by no means complete. This work is highly successful, and should receive the whole-hearted support of the Victorian household.

From an unobtrusive notice in last week's "Christian," or in the daily press of Saturday, many would learn that on the 17th inst. Bro. and Sister Joseph Pittman celebrated their golden wedding. Few of our brethren are more widely known, or rightly held in greater esteem, than these good friends. Bro. Pittman has been a preacher of the gospel for fifty years, having labored as an evangelist in England prior to his coming to Victoria in February, 1838. He is held in honor for his worth and work's sake. For some years Bro. and Sister Pittman conducted the Armadale Rescue Home, and through this became widely known to those who have sympathy with this philanthropic and Christ-like work. Our brother and sister have the inextinguishable joy of seeing all family laboring in the cause of Christ. Their only daughter, Miss Etta Pittman, is an earnest church worker. For forty years she has placed the churches in Melbourne under a debt of gratitude for the way in which she has placed her musical abilities at their disposal. G. E. Pittman is in faithful service on the foreign field, laboring at Dublin as the representative of the British brethren. E. Pittman is evangelist of the church at Glenelg, S.A. J. C. E. Pittman labors with the church at Ascot Vale. S. Pittman has given great assistance to the cause as a musician. D. E. Pittman is manager of the Austral Publishing Company. R. T. Pittman is a teacher in the College of the Bible. Probably no family in all the churches has a better record than this. We extend to Bro. and Sister Pittman our congratulations, and express to them our sincere wishes for a continuance of the divine blessing, and many years of happy service. We in this but express in feeble fashion the feeling of hundreds who have learnt to esteem and love them.

CAPTAIN CHAPLAIN G. T. WALDEN EQUIPMENT OUTFIT FUND.

The Federal Treasurer, Mr. T. E. Rife, of Castlereagh-st., Sydney, will be pleased to receive donations towards providing Bro. Captain Chaplain G. T. Walden with his chaplain outfit. Bro. Walden expects to leave for the front next May.

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CHRISTIAN ATTRIBUTES.

The Secret of Joy. Phil. 4: 4-13.
Joy through sacrifice. 1 Chron. 29: 9-25.
Joy through worship. Nehemiah 8: 8-17.
Joy through confidence. Psalm 27.
Joy through forgiveness. Isaiah 12.
Glad tidings of great joy. Isaiah 40: 1-11, 28-31.
Contact with Christ. John 2: 11.

Where is Truth Found ?

"The believing heart is indispensable to the discovery of truth. I do not say that it is indispensable to the discovery of all truth, although there is a sense in which it is true that no truth can be discovered without it. I do say that the truth he needs cannot be discovered by any man, unless one of the organs by which he sees about perceiving it is the heart of trust and faith. No man by mathematical reasoning can get at the whole truth. We know that no man arrives at all that range of truth which is personal by his mathematical reasoning; that he gets at that, if he ever gets at it at all, by quite other faculties. That is what 'Jemisson' declares in his protest in 'In Memoriam'.

"He'er when faith had fallen asleep,
I heard a voice 'believe no more'
And heard an ever-breaking shore
That tumbled in the Godless deep;

"A warmth within the breast would melt
The freezing reason's colder part,
And like a man in wrath the heart
Stood up and answer'd, 'I have felt

"He does not mean to shut out any set of faculties; he simply means to assert on behalf of another set its rights in our search after and discovery of truth"—R. E. Speer, in "The Master of the Heart."

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