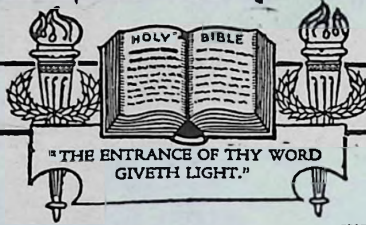


Fraser

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The Hope of the West

OSWALD SPENGLER, in 1918, wrote a book which he entitled "The Decline of the West." The theme of the book included a discussion of a theory of history which set out that national life followed a natural course. There is a birth, a period of growth, a time of decay and finally death. The author could point to the past to illustrate his main theme. Many nations have passed through the periods with almost invariable regularity. Babylon and Persia grew, flourished and declined. What of Egypt, Greece and Rome; did they not rise and fall? Great nations have arisen, flourished, and have passed away. It would seem as though an inevitable cycle had to be followed with a kind of fatalistic end. Such a view of history is similar to that suggested by Thucydides in his introduction to the history of the Peloponnesian war. There he stated that his record of events was to allow readers to "see the truth of what both *has* happened, and *will* hereafter happen again, according to human nature."

I.

The tragic conclusion of Spengler's book concerns the fate of our western civilisation. The author has declared that our civilisation is doomed. We have passed through the period when culture flowered in glory; we have now entered the final stages of a declining civilisation.

It is interesting to note that Plato, in "The Republic," pointed out that the life of a state passed from a kingdom to a democracy and then, at last, to a tyranny. A tyrant of the ancient world was merely a dictator. Thus when we reach the stage of a tyranny, or dictatorship, we see the final era of decline drawing near. The process of decline has led to efforts to arrest the downward trend of our present civilisation, and dictatorship in various forms has been imposed upon societies. The fact that individual members of a nation need to be regimented is an evident token of national decay. The rise of dictators points to a deep-seated disease: they are symptoms of national decay.

When we consider the natural world

and the man of nature, we perceive that there is a fatalistic cycle. There is "a time to be born and a time to die." The great oak grows from the acorn, but with time it perishes. Mountains have a beginning, but the day of decay descends even upon them. The natural world and those who live in it seem to be governed by a fatalistic cycle of time. Nations living according to that natural order, denying the supernatural principles of life, also seem to follow the same naturalistic curve.

II.

The prophets of ancient Israel were aware of that truth. Perceiving that those nations denying the spiritual life of Jehovah perished, they called upon Israel to reject all forms of naturalism and sever all ties with the nations of a pagan world. They urged Israel not to look for alliances with such people as the Egyptians, but to become the servants of the Lord. The ancient seers grasped that the fatalistic cycle of events could be broken by divine and godly qualities renewing the life of the nation.

"Surely the people is grass," Isaiah cried. "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

But even the men of nature are not left without hope in a fatalistic world, for the prophet said, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."

Israel's failure to respond to the call of the prophets and to measure up to "the way of the Lord" brought failure and national disaster. Because of this neglect an escape from natural history's fate could not be effected, and men faced a future that would have been full of despair had not the hope of the Messiah given a gleam of light.

When we open the book of the Revelation of John we see the same problem set at the heart of the discussions concerning historic and eternal events. In the vision John saw beside the throne of the Lord a book that was sealed. The book contained the events of the future. With the book closed and sealed, it seemed as though

fate held the future. An angel asked for some one worthy to come and smash the seals of fate and break the cycle of the future. However "no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon." John became distressed at such a prospect and wept much. One of the elders said to him, "Weep not, behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and loose the seven seals thereof." When the Lamb who had been slain came forward and took the book, tears gave way to rejoicing. All heaven and earth rejoiced because the Lord by reason of his sacrifice was able to open up pages of history that might have been fatalistic, but were now full of glory and hope.

III.

For those who follow the natural order we see no hope in this crisis. A denial of the revelation of God, the resurrection of the Lord and the Word of God must result in national and individual destruction.

Christ's sacrifice was not sufficient to break the inevitable order of the natural man. While his death has made it possible for men and nations to transcend the naturalistic way of life, men must act in response to his love. A drowning man must lay hold of the rescuer's hand if he is to be saved. The Lord has set out the divine way on which decaying institutions may be revitalised. There is now no need for nations to go the way of the civilisations which decayed in the past; but to avoid that fate individuals of the nation must turn to the Lord and share in the burdens and responsibilities of the righteousness that exalteth a nation.

Let men and women of the nations understand what might be and can be their fate, so that they will turn to the Lord to avoid it and find their salvation.

Practical duty enriches the fancy and the heart, and action clears and deepens the affections. No one can have a true idea of right until he does it; any genuine reverence for it till he has done it often and with cost; any peace ineffable in it till he does it always and with alacrity.—Dr. Martineau.

In the Times of Moses

R. T. Pittman, B.A., Dip.Ed., is a careful student and teacher of modern developments in the science of archaeology. His discussion of some of the results of this new science reveals interesting confirmation of the Bible record.

THE glory of ancient Egypt has long been known by historians and archaeologists. Indeed evidence of it stands in bold relief for anyone to behold; but many secrets long hidden in the sands have been made known by the explorer, thus enabling the scholar to reconstruct the life of ancient Egypt in astonishing detail. Is there anything of special interest to the Bible student concerning the days of Moses, anything which may be considered under the category of recent discovery?

Moses and Egyptian Life

Dr. A. S. Yahuda, who has held the chair of Semitic languages in various universities, published a work in 1932 entitled "The Language of the Pentateuch in Its Relations to Egyptian," and in 1934 a book with the title "The Accuracy of the Bible." In these books he argues very strongly that the writings of the Pentateuch demonstrate that the author must have been acquainted with minute details of Egyptian life and language related to the period in which Moses lived. On the evidence adduced, he opposes vigorously the "documentary theory" so popular among Biblical critics which claims that the books traditionally ascribed to Moses were written by various authors at a much later date. A similar line of argument was advanced, and a similar conclusion reached, by William Turnbull Pitler, M.R.A.S., in a large volume entitled "The Pentateuch: a Historical Record." The writer was well qualified for his task, as for many years he was a missionary working in the regions from which his data were collated, and had an expert knowledge of the ancient languages. Without the claim being made that all the arguments of these writers have been universally accepted, the fact remains that here are recent works which arrive at conservative conclusions concerning the Pentateuch, thus strengthening the position reached by scholars like Sayce and E. Naville, who dealt such trenchant blows against the destructive critics. Certainly there is a much less confident tone to-day among those who were wont to talk of the "assured results" of criticism, and there is a rapidly growing number of experts who are leaning to a much more conservative position than that of the school of Wellhausen so popular when many commentaries were produced.

The Princess Who Found the Baby Moses

The date of the Exodus has long been a question of debate. Many scholars thought that the question was settled in favor of what has come to be called the late date, that is, the time of Rameses II. for the oppression (1232-1225 B.C.), and the time of Merenptah (1225-1215) for the exodus. Recently, however, evidence has been increasing in favor of the early date, which makes Thothmes III. the Pharaoh of the oppression and Amenhotep II. the Pharaoh of the exodus. The date of the exodus on this calculation would be about 1447. This earlier date, while still not accepted by all, has found the approval of a large number of authorities, largely due to the remarkable discoveries of Dr. Garstang at Jericho. Assuming the early date to be correct, the Egyptologist is justified in claiming that the princess who found the baby Moses was probably the reigning Pharaoh's favorite daughter, Hatshepsut. Now a good deal is known about this lady. She appears to have been a very strong-minded woman, who even announced her intention of reigning as a man, and made this clear by adopting male

attire. After the death of her father, her brother came to power, but Hatshepsut was practically queen. Probably her rule accounts for the position held at court by Moses, and it was perhaps her death which gave the signal to her brother to increase the afflictions of the chosen people. At any rate, when she died, her brother obliterated many of her monuments in an effort to blot out her memory.

The Mosaic Ritual

In 1929 the French archaeologists Schaeffer and Chenet began work on the site of Ras Shamra in North Syria, and very important discoveries were made, some of them bearing directly on the narratives of the Pentateuch. C. F. A. Schaeffer delivered the British Academy Schweich Lectures for 1936, and in these the results derived from the discovery of the cuneiform texts at Ras Shamra were discussed. Evidence shows that eight languages were in use in the city, three of which are as yet unidentified. Incidentally it may be recalled that at one time the claim was made that writing was unknown in the days of Moses. Now it is possible for S. L. Caiger, in his "Bible and Spade," to print a page with illustrations of the various languages Moses could have used in signing his name! Recent discoveries at Ras Shamra, Lachish and in the Sinaitic peninsula have brought to light alphabetic scripts from the time of Moses.

Deciphering the texts found at Ras Shamra, the experts brought to light some striking parallels with the ritual associated with the

tabernacle in the wilderness. Not only are there names of God familiar to Bible students, but the various offerings—trespass, peace, wave, burnt, new moon and others—are indicated. Other references are made to various technical terms associated with the tabernacle, such as "courtyard of the tent," "the holy place of the holy places," etc. A tripod was found with little bells like pomegranates suspended from it. In Ex. 28:34 we read of the golden bells and pomegranates which adorned the robe of the high priest.

Much more could be said of this period, but enough has been stated to show that the scripture narrative is vindicated in its references to many things which were once thought erroneous, at least as applied to the days of Moses.

The Power of Faith

ONE ship drives East,
And another drives West,
While the self-same breezes blow.
'Tis the set of the sails
—And not the gales
That bids them where to go.

Like the winds of the sea
Are the waves of faith
As we journey along through life.
'Tis the set of the soul
That decides the goal
—And not the storms of life.

"I am a man and I count nothing that is human alien to me." The sentence which, when first spoken in the Roman theatre, made it ring with applause. Trite as it is, we can scarce come upon it now without the whole heart rising to welcome it.

No character, we may affirm, was ever rightly understood till it had been first regarded with a certain feeling, not of toleration only, but of sympathy.—Thomas Carlyle.

WORLD OF BOOKS

Christianity's Contribution to Life

CHRISTIANITY, as set out in the New Testament, has a contribution to make toward the life of individual and nation. This was again emphasised while reading four pamphlets dealing with various phases of Christian truth. The first introduces us to the way that brings us into the Christian life. It is a decision day manual that has been used with gratifying results for some years, but is now renamed and issued under the title *The Christian Way*. This little book, in an attractive cover, contains fourteen helpful studies of truths related to the way of salvation in Christ. The author, Horace Kingsbury, is well known to many in Australia. We recommend the book to leaders of junior Bible classes or clubs. It is worthy of a wide distribution and careful reading.

The Christian life introduces us into the church. The many divisions in the church are a great grief to us. How did these occur? Is there a way to avoid them? These are questions people often ask. T. H. Scambler, B.A., Dip.Ed., principal of the College of the Bible, Glen Iris, discusses some of the problems raised and gives an interesting answer to questions asked by many. In a pamphlet now entitled *The Romance of the Churches of Christ*, he discusses the origins of church movements and the rise of the Restoration Movement. It is a well-written study and very helpful.

The divided church has become very weak because of the sins of sectarianism. Many are working to bring about unity and thus help to restore the influence of the church in the world. Are there any guiding principles

to help such workers? Mr. E. L. Williams, M.A., lecturer at College of the Bible, Glen Iris, ably discusses this question in a folder of six pages entitled *Principles of Union*. We hope the pamphlet will have a wide distribution. We need to hasten the day when the united church will be an effective force in social and national affairs.

Allan B. McDiarmid, M.A., B.S.Litt., of New Zealand, has written five essays on various aspects of modern political movements and their relation to church. The small book of 45 pages is entitled *Totalitarianism and Christianity*. The writer does not claim to present a deep study of all the facts, but has been anxious to make suggestions in the book for those who have not previously given thought to present-day problems. Subjects mentioned in the book include "Protestantism and Democracy," "Perils of Democracy and Christianity" and "The Church in the Crisis." "It is hoped," the author states in the preface, "that these essays will help clarify an issue which to many is very confused." The book has had a ready sale in New Zealand, and there are many in Australia likely to find an interest in the problems mentioned in the essays.

The Christian Way, by Horace Kingsbury, 32 pages, price 3d.

The Romance of Churches of Christ, by T. H. Scambler, B.A., 16 pages, price 2d.

Principles of Union, by E. L. Williams, M.A., 2/6 per 100.

Totalitarianism and Christianity, by A. B. McDiarmid, M.A., 46 pages, price 1/6.

South Australian Home Missions

Annual Offering, March 1

The President's Call

E. Ross Manning

THE apostle Paul was a Christian missionary in every sense of the word. He carried the gospel into new fields, and established churches amongst the Gentiles. But in Rom. 10: 1 we read, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."

He loved his own people and yearned for their salvation. So we in Australia, whilst having a part in and rejoicing in the victories and successes of our overseas work, yearn, and pray and work for the salvation of our own people. When we stand before the judgment seat of Christ, faithfulness even in the smallest things will be taken into account, also the spirit in which we have carried out our duties and obligations.

To be truly faithful, to make real progress in our service to God,

We Should Have an Aim

Here and now may we ask ourselves, What am I living for? What is my aim? David had an aim before him; it was to build a house for God. We see something of the inner working of his heart from these words: "I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God" (1 Chron. 29: 2).

Nehemiah the patriot was stirred when he heard of the desolate condition of his own beloved city, and he set his heart and his energies upon the rebuilding of the walls and the gates of Jerusalem, and the restoration of the true worship of God within that city.

It is men of such calibre that God is wanting amongst us to-day; men whose hearts have been stirred by God, and who will attempt something definite for him; men with an aim before them, whose affections are toward him and toward the cause of Christ.

Paul was such a man, and what a power he was! At home or abroad, he preached Christ and him crucified.

What is our aim in our home mission work? Is our heart's desire and prayer

That Australia Might be Saved?

Then let us see that our home mission churches are supported and strengthened; that missions be held, the gospel proclaimed, Bible schools maintained, and young men encouraged to equip themselves for voluntary service in our churches. Surely no building need be closed where a witness may be given.

Let us work, watch, pray and give until our task is accomplished and we are gathered to our Lord.

The Present Need in Our Home Mission Work

W. L. Ewers

THE one great need in these days is to maintain the work in the fields now being assisted, and to see that our help is not withdrawn from any one of them. This has become all the more necessary because of the removal of so many members from country centres, due to enlistments, militia call up, munitions and other war service. The membership in some churches has been seriously depleted, and great financial stress has been created, with the result that churches not assisted by the H.M. Committee for years have recently had to receive or are now seeking financial help.

This problem for the committee becomes all the more acute because, apart from the Ed-

wardstown-Colonel Light Gardens circuit and Fullarton, all the churches helped financially are in the country. Efforts have been made to secure the addresses of all who move to the city, so that they may be linked up with our nearest church.

How to Meet This Need

The present financial assistance to all our fields cannot be continued on a decreasing income, hence the appeal for as large an offering as last year, £1000. May it never be said of our S.A. churches that, during these war years, it became necessary through lack of adequate support to inaugurate a policy of retrenchment.

God's Plan

In times of national crisis has not changed since a widow, who was in dire need herself, was commanded by the prophet to "make me a little cake first," with the glorious assurance that "the barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail."

For the Christian there must never be any attempt, even in these days of war, to apply the world's principle of the law of self-preservation. We live on the higher plane of faith, with a recognition of God as the supreme owner of all we possess, and of ourselves as stewards. We know that, if we place him first, it is still true that, while we share with others, there will always be sufficient meal and oil for our own needs.

Let it then be, all of us together for him and for others with £1000 on March 1.

Youth Faces the Future

Douglas H. Pike

THE man who would dare predict future events to-day is either very brave or very foolish. Violent changes are hourly taking place, and we spend most of our energy adapting ourselves to this fluid scheme of things. With a future so unknown and unimaginable, how is youth to face it?

Millions are finding an answer to that problem. They have thrown overboard mast and sails and are seemingly content to drift with the current. "Sufficient unto the day" is their motto, and the devil take the hindmost. It would be so wonderfully easy to hand out blueprints covering every detail of the business of living. If ever there was a time when that could be done, it is not now. The changing world may not allow us to plan in detail, but we refuse to drift.

The Greatest Problem for Youth is Unity

The canker of isolation has eaten deeply into the structure of civilisation. Each department designed for progress must overcome its shibboleths and petty jealousies and learn to co-operate. The church is guilty too. It has never got rid of the hermit idea. We cannot stand aside from the mass of men and be content to look on critically. We may be horrified and disgusted by the men we meet. We may feel we have nothing in common. We may long for our own private cave of solitude. But the hermit disease is near-mortal and is strangling the church from within.

This present time is the greatest opportunity unity ever had. It is being forced upon us. Our whole existence is in the melting pot. The old mountain ranges, rivers and oceans, which marked the boundaries of nations, have ceased to function. There is no

more distance. The barriers of class and culture are crumbling. It is a day of total disintegration or total unity. We want unity—not an undigested, wholesale lumping together, but a creative unity inside which we are free to think and breathe. That unity must be totally Christian. Youth wants no more hybrids. We are ready to unite, and our unity must be around our Lord Jesus Christ.

The plea of churches of Christ is for the unity of all believers centred in Christ and the recognition of his Lordship in thought and life. Other religious bodies now raise their voices with ours calling upon Christians everywhere to close up their ranks so that "like a mighty army" the church may advance in a campaign of world conquest. As a body of Christians we urge that the basis of unity is to be found in New Testament principles and practices. The cause of Christian unity upon which our movement is founded and the dire need of our Australian people for the gospel provide youth with sufficient motives for generous giving to home missions on the first Lord's day in March.

Fields and Finance

Fields Where Preacher is Employed by the Committee

Broken Hill (Wolfram-st. and Railwaytown), J. Ernest Brooke.
Victor Harbour and Goolwa, B. W. Manning.
Gawler and Williamstown, Walter N. Bartlett.
Edwardstown West and Colonel Light Gardens, Douglas H. Pike.

Subsidised Fields

Fullarton, Will Beller.
Murray Bridge, Norman G. Noble.
Naracoorte, A. C. Killmer, B.A.
Moonta, F. G. Banks (completed work in January).

Kadina and Wallaroo, M. T. Lawrie.
Central Eyre Peninsula, H. G. Norris, of Tumbay Bay (periodical visits).
Berri, Winkie and Moorook, Stanley L. Patching.
Stirling East and Aldgate Valley, Stanley H. Wilson.

New Fields for Future Work

Albert Park, for which funds for a building are being raised through the League of Five Hundred, on a block purchased by the Port Line Group of churches.

Whyalla, where church is planning to build on block already secured.

Finances

Twelve fields (eighteen churches and six preaching stations) look to the brotherhood for assistance.

Amount required for salaries and subsidies, £1140.

The committee aims for a thousand pound offering, including duplex envelope gifts. Last year's offering totalled £1015.

The committee expects to balance accounts at the end of February, and the March offering will be used for future work.

The 1942 appeal in a nutshell: "The largest possible offering from the greatest possible number for the most vital work of the brotherhood."

Church offerings and private gifts should be sent to—

H. R. TAYLOR, organiser & financial secretary,
90 Cheltenham-st., Malvern,
or 24 McHenry-st., Adelaide.

Notes on Current Topics

Representing Real Life

I DO not know the contents of the newspaper department bearing the above heading. Generally writers who pride themselves on being realistic tend to be purveyors of the sordid, and frequently they who cater for the vicious justify their nastiness by the claim to represent real life. Alas, there are ugly things in life—poverty of the most dreadful kind, wicked living, drunken orgies, immorality, cruelty, war atrocities, and everything implied in Paul's catalogue of vices contained in the first chapter of Romans.

But "real life" has much of good as well. Even in a world at war, there are hosts of things to cheer. There are many people of serene mind and loving heart. There are those who practise kindness as a characteristic of their daily living. The poor are visited, the fatherless and widows are cared for, hospitals are provided, and hosts of voluntary workers offer themselves for service for the benefit of their less fortunate brothers and sisters. The horrors of war are relieved for us by the remembrance that countless acts of noble heroism, devotion to duty, and sacrifice are constantly being performed. Men offer their lives willingly for country and freedom. Around our doors, in every street, there are kindly folk, not all of them Christian, who are striving to live helpfully.

No description of "real life" is adequate which concentrates attention upon the sordid. Real life is enjoyed by those whose every-day lives are producing the fruit of the Spirit.

Prayers for Rain

It is a marvel that so many professing Christians are still living careless lives and neglecting the services of the house of God.

"Be Ye Perfect"

H. J. Patterson, M.A.

Text.—"Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"—Matt. 5: 48.

STANLEY JONES believes this to be the key to the Sermon on the Mount. It is the goal of life and that which precedes our text are the marks of the perfect life. They are difficult to practise but help make the complete Christian life.

The Goal of Life

Many folk think of heaven as the goal— heaven, the reward for faithful service rendered. But that is hardly worthy of Christ. Surely he did not come into this world to help us to escape its problems and catastrophes by simply stepping out into a heaven. Heaven is not much mentioned in the New Testament till we come to the Revelation of John, which was written to hearten a people who were being called upon to suffer intense persecution. To them victory would be given. But the primary call was to the establishment of the kingdom of God on earth. So John the Baptist called men to repentance and so did Jesus, for that very purpose. That should be our objective here. If we set out to escape our difficulties and selfishly to ignore the needs of suffering humanity we may miss our heaven after all, for heaven is not so much a goal as a by-product. It comes as true happiness comes by attention to something else. The New Testament makes it clear that we seek to be complete or perfect in Christ. Jesus said to a rich young ruler, "If thou woldst be perfect go and sell all that you have and give to the poor and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come follow me." Paul often re-

Days of national prayer, and days of prayer for rain, move them not. Judging by their actions, their country's need in a time of grave danger leaves them careless and indifferent. A revival is needed within the church. With its advent we may expect blessing and progress.

The President of the N.S.W. Methodist Conference on February 8 (a day of prayer for rain) said that "it may be that we are suffering to-day because of neglect of the things essential to stability and progress. If the future were entrusted to those who fear not God, neither regard man, society would end in darkness and ruin."

Mr. Lock was reported as answering the objection that prayer for rain is unscientific. "We have the power to overrule, or suspend the operation of one law by another," he said. "We may rise in an aeroplane and thus defy the law of gravitation. Surely the Creator of the universe is not prevented by natural law, which is really the expression of himself, from answering the cry of his needy children? God is not the slave of his own laws."

I greatly dislike the statement that when a weight is lifted or an aeroplane rises to a height the law of gravitation is either defied or superseded. God does not need to contradict or break any of his "laws" to interpose for the benefit of his creatures.

The Bible makes it clear that it is God who sends the rain, and it gives an effective prayer for rain as an illustration of the truth that the prayer of a religious man avails much in its working.

A. R. Mann.

ferred to this perfect life, c.f., Eph. 4: 11-13; Phil. 3: 12-14; Col. 1: 28, 29. The writer to Hebrews (6: 1-3) makes it clear that the man in Christ must leave the elementary things such as repentance from dead works and faith toward God, teachings of baptism and laying on of hands, and resurrections and eternal judgment and go on to the perfect life. We Christians often think of church membership as a clear passport to heaven.

What Is This Perfection?

Paul said, "I press on." Life is a constant struggle for victory. To succumb to temptation is not to go on. But to take life as a means towards perfection of character will enable us to say I am getting a little more like Jesus and as he would have me be. We will not complain because of trouble nor think hardly of God because he seems to neglect us, but rather praise God that we are counted worthy to suffer for the sake of Christ. God is perfect in love and we must become more like him. God gave and forgave. But there is also perfection of character in God, so Jones reminds us. To get that there must be subjection to discipline. "Character is made in the stream of life amid buffetings and blessings. The diamond must be subjected to the cutting and polishing. We must be disciplined in the hand of God ere this perfection or completeness be realised. Our conduct, too, must show more Godliness in it. What do ye more than others? The Christian must readily and graciously go beyond all others. He takes it all and bears it all and leads the way toward a new order for Jesus Christ's sake. "Be ye therefore perfect."

The Home Circle

J. C. F. Pittman

TRUE REST

REST is not quitting
This busy career;
Rest is the fitting
Of self to one's sphere.
'Tis loving and serving
The highest and best;
'Tis onward, unswerving,
And this is true rest."

A HINT

I AM a very busy housekeeper, says a Bible reader, but every day brings tasks which employ my hands, leaving my mind idle. It is while doing these things that I learn verses from the Bible, or review those already learned. The results are surprising, but there is no secret about my success, except that I began and kept on. Sometimes I am too tired and dull to learn, and wait until the next day, and try it again.

I find this memorising is good mental discipline. At first, being unused to such study, it was difficult for me to learn even one verse correctly, but with a determination to have every "and" and "the" right, I can now commit to memory rapidly.

I find, too, that the constant repetition of high thoughts and noble language improves my own expression, especially in prayer.

While committing the Bible to memory, cares, worries, bitter thoughts, vain regrets, morbid fancies, and all the jumble of things which lumber an unoccupied mind are crowded out. By frequent repetition, rich meaning stands out clearly in the lines which would otherwise escape my notice. This growing familiarity with the Bible makes it ready for use in guiding my own way, and in helping others. How can I walk and talk with God unless I have in mind some word of his to which I can respond, or which satisfies my own questions and aspirations?—Selected.

Californian: "Now in my state we can grow a tree that size in about a year. How long did it take you to grow that one?"

Floridian: "Can't say for sure, but it wasn't there yesterday."

The Family Altar

TOPIC—FIRST THINGS FIRST

Feb. 16—Matthew 8: 19-22.

" 17—Mark 1: 16-20.

" 18— " 2: 13-14.

" 19—John 1: 35-42.

" 20— " 1: 43-51.

" 21— " 21: 15-17.

" 22—Psalm 23; Matthew 6: 19-34.

THE trouble with many of us is that we lose all sense of proportion. Things which will not matter in the long run are given first place, while essential things are disregarded. Material pursuits and pleasures so entirely engross our attention that little time is given to the cultivation and exercise of Christian graces. This ought not to be. Instead, we should always place first things first, praying lest we be tempted to reverse the proper order by substituting the material for the spiritual. "The kingdom of heaven," wrote J. W. McCarvey, "must be sought first both in point of time and of interest, and it must be kept ever first in our lives after it is found."

A Boy Hymn-Writer

A Hymn for March—No. 33 (Mar. 1).

OUR hymn-writers come from many nations and centuries; from all branches of the Christian church and from both sexes. They include archbishops and booksellers, landed proprietors and school teachers, university professors and governors. They wrote originally in many languages. Some wrote in the fulness of a long and ripe experience, many wrote in the prime of life, some few in their very youthful days.

An outstanding hymn from the latter group is John Milton's version of the 136th Psalm which was written while he was still a school-boy at St. Paul's School, London, and only 15 years of age. The refrain of the psalm is well-known to us, every one of its 26 verses ending with "for his mercy endureth for ever." Milton uses 24 verses and closes them all with

"For his mercies aye endure,
Ever faithful, ever sure."

Our use of only six of these—verses 1, 7, 25, 16, 23 and 26 of the psalm—is easily explained, apart from the demands of our "hour" of worship and the general breathlessness of twentieth century life. For one thing, the verses are very unequal in merit and some are not readily understood. Further, we would not all be edified by singing the lines:

"And large-limbed Og he did subdue
With all his over-hardy crew."

Or the later ones:

"Let us therefore warble forth
His mighty majesty and worth."

But even if warbling (as a devotional exercise) has gone out of fashion in our day, let us thank God for this 15-year-old hymn-writer and pray that our treasury of sacred song may still have its contributors!—F.J.F.

Be Still!

A BEDSIDE sermon applicable both to life's activities and distresses. It comes from the "South African Leader."

She had been through a serious operation that morning. It was in the late afternoon that I saw her. She looked amazingly well, like a person who had had a deep refreshing sleep. "It has been a wonderful experience," she said. "I went into it very confident and very quiet. I left everything quietly to God. When I emerged from the sleep the words were running through my mind, 'Be still . . . be still.' I talked to her quietly about these words. They are the opening words in the tenth verse of Psalm 46. In the first nine verses the Psalmist is talking—witnessing hid in God. But in this tenth verse, God interrupts the flow of the Psalmist's words, as though to say, 'Now, Isalah, I think you have talked enough! Be still and know that I am God.' And, fittingly enough, there is only one more verse to the Psalm!

Be still, and know that I am God! We talk too much at times about God, and enjoy him too little. When a great painting impresses me, I must talk about it. But if I do nothing but talk about it, the whole experience would wear thin. I must come back to the painting again and again, and be still! So, I must talk about God. But, I must also be still in his presence. The soul often makes the most progress when it stands still!

"WE shouldn't rejoice in life's beautiful things
And find gladness and joy that we're
eager to share,
We just couldn't feel half the good each
day brings
If it weren't that God's love sends us people
who care!

—Mary Eversley in "Christian World."

Our Young People

W. R. Hibbert

YOUTH USE THE PEN

THE January issue of "The Australasian" finds hope in the fact that young men are using the pen as well as the sword to shape the larger liberties. Attention is drawn to the leading article in "The Brighton Grammarian." The editor of this school journal is one of the prefects, and writing concerning "The New Order," takes the boy's view of condemning the mistakes of the past and by expressing his hopes for the future. It is a healthy sign to find young editors as well as headmasters putting religion to the fore in their editorials and speeches.

Sow Seeds!

The writer declares, "The best way to destroy the wicked and noxious weed of evil is to sow the strong seeds of good. We must clearly outline our policy for the restoration of civility not only between individuals, but between all nations."

Give Attention to the Roots!

"Obviously it is an immense task," says the youthful writer as he looks toward the future, "but by beginning the project in the embryo stage it can be greatly simplified, and this means that we, the youth of the world, must get down to work at once. This does not mean mounting a soapbox and loudly proclaiming 'the rights of man,' nor does it mean the formation of some sinister society which will display a glaring insignia or even a uniform. It requires that we must change our spirit, in

fact, the spirit of everyone. The best way of doing this is by means of religion.

Enjoy the Fruits of Religion!

"Many people, especially youths, are under the misapprehension that the word 'religion' means an end to gaiety and enjoyment, and the adoption of a mournful attitude to life. This idea is entirely wrong, for to recognise religion, and even more to be a Christian, we should adopt a happy outlook on life, a will to do good where we can, and to work for a common goal of brotherhood.

Reverence the International King!

"This way is so easy, yet so difficult, for, as has already been said, one cannot become a Christian by wearing a badge. However, if every boy and girl could be brought to reverence the International King a world brotherhood would soon exist."



NEVER LET EVIL
GET THE BETTER
OF YOU; GET THE
BETTER OF EVIL
BY DOING GOOD.

Appeal for Home Mission Funds in S.A.

USING as a slogan, "The largest possible gift from the greatest possible number for the most vital work of the brotherhood," every effort is being made by the Home Mission Department to raise £1,000 as the annual offering, inclusive of duplex envelope contributions. Between £1,100 and £1,200 will be required for salaries and subsidies to meet the present commitments. By careful financing the committee expects to balance accounts at the end of February. All money received through the special offering will be used for future work. Some of the leaders of past days used to justify fresh expenditure of funds and even bank overdrafts with the advice, "Trust the brotherhood." We are confident that the brotherhood will not fail us now.

Problems of the Work in Wartime

Like the other States, we are suffering from a dearth of preachers. Several churches in the country are being compelled to carry on their services with local speakers. Brethren in the metropolitan churches are finding it impossible to go far from the city to take appointments owing to petrol restrictions and the demands of their work on time and energy. The question is asked on every hand, How are we to carry on our Sunday evening services under black-out conditions? It has been suggested that gospel services might be held in the afternoon at the close of the Bible school.

Suggestions to Parliamentary Committee on Broadcasting

A committee representing the Council of Churches and other organisations presented evidence during the recent visit of the parliamentary committee to Adelaide, and made a very good impression with concrete proposals and criticisms. It was submitted that the A.B.C. should produce a "Wireless Listener's Hymn Book," containing 100 to 150 hymns, from which all hymns used in broadcasting services

should be chosen; that during the regular hours of worship commercial stations should provide programmes suitable to these hours, and that commercial advertising should be banned from all stations throughout the day. Strong representations were made to limit the broadcasting of racing information to running descriptions, and it was pointed out that wireless broadcasts were to a large extent responsible for the increase in betting. Exception was also taken to broadcasting advertisements and talks extolling the use of alcoholic beverages.

Work Among the Aborigines

A small committee has been appointed, with A. E. Hurren as chairman, to act in conjunction with the Federal Aborigines' Mission Board in W.A. The first Lord's day in September has been selected for an offering from the churches towards the work. All communications should be addressed to the secretary, Mrs. W. Green, Shipsters-rd., Torrensville.—H. R. Taylor.

The World's Bible

IN one of the last conversations I had with D. L. Moody, in his own home in that beautiful Connecticut valley, he and I had been talking at length about the place of the Bible in national life, and of its vital importance. And suddenly, looking at me, he said, in that sharp, crisp manner, shooting out the words almost like pistol shots, "Oh, yes, the nation needs the Bible; but take it from me, the Christian man is the world's Bible, and in many cases a revised version is necessary."

The victories of the missionaries of the cross in the world have not been won merely by the circulation of the Scriptures, but by the missionaries' lives themselves. The truth has been incarnate in life.—Dr. G. Campbell Morgan.

Here and There

In Our Time

Mr. Arthur Baker has accepted a call from the church at Lismore, N.S.W., and expects to begin his ministry there early in March.

Mrs. C. T. Oliver, of 67 Rochester-rd., Balwyn, E.8, Vic., reminds those interested in the Bible-women's fund that she will be happy to receive donations as early as possible.

All Victorian churches are requested to share this year in the annual offering for Church Extension. Sunday, March 1, is the day appointed by conference for this yearly appeal.

On Monday we received the following telegram from Sydney:—"Many problems but very much encouraged first week Hinrichsen-Morris mission Hornsby; two decisions last night—Little."

Notices of motion for Victorian Women's Conference must be in hands of secretary not later than Feb. 28. The address of Miss Remetch, the secretary, is 1 Elizabeth-st., Hawthorn, E.2.

A successful social evening under auspices of the Melbourne Western Suburban District C.E. Fellowship was held at Sunshine on Feb. 14. D. C. Ritchie was re-elected president, with Mr. Griffiths vice-president and Miss D. Pearce secretary and treasurer, for the ensuing year.

Lord Elton, who has won a wide circle of hearers from his broadcast talks, told a Nottingham (England) audience last week that the outcome of the war would probably shape the future condition of the world for a thousand years. "We had no right to gain a victory," he said, "unless we felt ourselves able to frame the pattern of the new age which would follow the war."

Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, has made public reference to the debt he owes to his mother, who died last week at her home in Bristol. Mrs. Alexander was left at the early age of 28 with four children. She made her home a religious nursery, one of her sons becoming first a school teacher, then a Baptist lay pastor, and finally a Minister of the Crown.

With the loss of Singapore we are anxiously waiting news of the fate of our own men who were in the desperate struggle. We must expect losses. With great valor and against great odds, young men have faced the foe to defend the homeland. We pay a tribute to their readiness to sacrifice themselves for others. Our deepest sympathy is extended to homes that have suffered the loss of loved ones.

The Chinese work at Queensberry-st., Carlton, Vic., is being affected by the times. Morning meetings keep up well. Many of the members with their children have moved away from the city. Because of this the Bible school had only a few scholars in attendance, and it has been decided to transfer these to schools of nearby sister churches. It is hoped that church workers at Lygon-st., East Kew, Ringwood and Bayswater will give kindly oversight to the Chinese families while they are in their districts.

Owing to the development of the Working Men's College, Melbourne, the Gordon Institute for Boys is required to vacate its premises. The Gordon Institute has been conducted on similar lines to the Burwood Boys' Home, and an arrangement has been made for the boys of the Gordon to transfer to Burwood at the end of this month. The addition of 25 more boys fills Burwood Home to capacity and may lead to greater expansion. One difficulty to be faced is the matter of additional staff, and the committee will be glad to hear of a suitable woman to help in this way. Enquiries should be made of Fred. T. Saunders (president) or G. Wright (secretary), at the office, 303 Collins-st., Melbourne, C.1.

C. Burdeu, Federal President, writes: "You will be sorry to hear that R. L. Williams has been compelled to withdraw from his ministry at the Albion church on the doctor's orders. It is evident now that he resumed work too soon so that his health has gone back. He is, however, much better than he previously was. Great meetings were held on Sunday, Feb. 15, when the church was shocked to hear the decision following medical advice. General regret has been expressed in view of the great work accomplished and the promise of an outstanding ministry. The prayers of the brotherhood are asked on his behalf."

Prof. Alex. Findlay, writing in the "British Weekly," Nov. 27, 1941, on the text "born of water and the spirit," said:—"Some think that this means 'spiritual seed,' but the prevailing opinion is to the effect that Jesus meant: You, Nicodemus, though you are so high up in church and State, must go and get baptised by John, that is, you must go down to the bottom of the class—or, as we used to say, 'to the penitent form.' It is no use saying that to expect you to submit to the humiliation of exposing yourself to the charge that all your respectability is a delusion and sham is an insult. It is as though Jesus were telling a bishop or highly placed Nonconformist official that he needed converting; no wonder Nicodemus was flabbergasted."

Ourselves and the Present Situation

THE serious threat to our national life is growing more intense and is becoming very dangerous. The fall of Singapore and the invasion of the Dutch possessions open up the way for direct attack against Australia. Reverses have aroused a storm of criticism. In the heat of the moment many wild statements are being made. It is hardly right to heap blame upon others when we have all, more or less, contributed to the present situation. The selfishness of our private and national lives over many years has made the present position possible. Many of those who now demand stern action were, a few years ago, among those who discouraged preparations for just such a situation. Whether the attitude then was right or wrong matters not to the real force of the argument that we have all contributed to the failures of the nation.

Indifference to the spiritual life of the community is, even at this late hour, apparent. Whatever strength a nation has, and in whatever way it is expressed, real power must go back to spiritual values—to God. The mere natural strength arising from men's own endeavors may prevail for a time, but soon it will come to an end. Only those who draw upon the deeper fountains of the spirit will hold out and prevail.

This is not a fit time to condemn others, but an opportune moment to examine ourselves; it is a time to place ourselves in the balances to see where we are found wanting.

Are we all bearing our responsibilities in the affairs of the community? Have we left duties to others? As members of the church we may compare what we ought to be doing with what we are now doing. Are we setting an example by regular attendance to the services of the church? Are we helping at the services for the public proclamation of the gospel? Are we assisting in the instruction being given to the rising generations? In so far as we have failed to do our part, we have helped to allow the present situation to arise. We should be humble, and not critical. We should make this a time for repentance and not fault-finding.

The Mission of the Church

PRINCIPAL WM. ROBINSON writes in the "Christian Advocate," Nov. 26, 1941:—"The church exists for the threefold purpose of worshiping God, of Christian action in the world, and of evangelising the world. It cannot fulfil its proper function if the last of these is neglected, and we fail to see how, in such a case, worship can, in any Christian sense, be real, or Christian action have much telling effect. A church which is not evangelising is a contradiction of the church."

The Right Spirit

WE will have to make this a hard year. We will have to bear much that will be unpleasant. War's destruction may even disfigure parts of our own continent. But if we develop the right spirit, most of us will get much exhilaration out of the ordeal. At all events the greatest task in our history is now before us. There is no escape from it. Let us face it in the grand manner.—"Herald," Jan. 11, 1942.

A Well-known Preacher Passes

DR. CHARLES STRONG, one of Melbourne's best-known clergymen, died, in his 98th year, at Lorne, where he was on holiday. Memories of a historic doctrinal dispute, culminating in his resignation from the charge of Scots church, are revived by Dr. Strong's death. Dr. Strong arrived in Melbourne in 1875 to accept a call to Scots church. In 1884 Dr. Strong resigned his charge, but the Presbytery, instead of accepting the resignation, proceeded to discuss his supposed views and to denounce him in the church. He left Melbourne for Europe, and the Assembly passed a resolution, proclaiming that he was no longer a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Dr. Strong returned to Melbourne in 1885, and later, at the request of many members of his old congregation, he founded the Australian church. Dr. Strong took an active part in helping many charitable institutions.

A RAY OF PEACE

"I do not ask, O Lord, that thou shouldst shed
Full radiance here;
Give but a ray of peace, that I may tread
Without a fear.

I do not ask my cross to understand
My way to see;
Better in darkness just to feel thy hand
And follow thee.

Joy is like restless day; but peace divine
Like quiet night.
Lead me, O Lord, till perfect day shall shine,
Through peace to light."

—Adelaide Anne Proctor.

ADDRESSES.

R. J. Anderson (preacher Springvale church, Vic.).—41 Kerferd-rd., Glen Iris, S.E.6. 'Phone WM 3463.

W. S. Lowe, B.A., B.Com. (preacher Ponsonby-rd., Auckland, N.Z., church).—31 Tutanekei-st., Grey Lynn, Auckland, W.2.

W. H. McCallum (preacher St. Kilda church, Vic.).—77 Argyle-st., St. Kilda, S.2. 'Phone, Windsor 4958.

S. Neighbour (preacher Oakleigh church, Vic.).—109 Willesden-rd., Oakleigh, S.E.12.

S. W. Taylor (secretary Maryborough church, Vic.).—39 Park-rd., Maryborough.

T. Turriff (secretary East Kew church, Vic.).—22 Panoramic-rd., North Balwyn, E.9.

News of the Churches

TASMANIA

Southern District.—The monthly visit of southern Tasmanian churches conference executive to Dover and Geeveston was made on Feb. 8. At Geeveston good meetings were held, N. J. Warmbrunn speaking at both services. B. J. Golder was speaker at Dover services, the meetings being also well attended.

Devonport.—On Jan. 25 B. Burt gave two good messages. Mrs. Wescombe sang a solo at night. On Feb. 1 Mr. Street gave a good morning message. At night he preached, and baptised a young woman. On Feb. 8 F. T. Burt spoke in morning. The right hand of fellowship was extended to Mrs. A. Smith. The church had fellowship with Miss R. Thomas, of Fairfield, Vic., and other visitors. At night F. Burt was preacher.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Kalgoorlie.—H. R. Fitch gave both addresses on Feb. 8. Two girls from Bible school confessed Christ. Allan Hunt rendered a solo. The church said farewell to Dorice Polkinghorne, who is entering the Teachers' Training College.

Perth.—At church meeting on Feb. 4 good-bye was said to Mr. and Mrs. J. Gibson and their two daughters before their departure for Adelaide. Presentations accompanied warm expressions of appreciation by Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiltshire, Miss A. Alexander, J. A. Ewers, E. R. Berry and A. B. Povey for valuable services rendered by the recipients in many departments of church work. On morning of Feb. 8 visitors were welcomed and A. G. Elliott gave a profitable exhortation. At gospel service E. R. Berry rendered a solo. A stirring message was given by J. Wiltshire, who afterwards delivered a broadcast address.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Queenstown.—On Feb. 8 Mr. Brooker addressed the church and preached at night. On Feb. 15 Mr. Cornelius spoke to the young people and addressed the church. Scholars are practising for their anniversary. In the evening Mr. Brooker preached. Girls' Club and Ladies' Guild have commenced work for the year.

Edwardstown West.—Reports to circuit committee show progress at both churches. Mr. Train spoke on Feb. 15 in interests of home missions, and at night Cliff Butler preached. Record attendance Bible school of 127 scholars and teachers, 61 being in kindergarten in room 18 ft. x 14 ft. A piano has been purchased for kindergarten. A Bible class has been started by Mr. Pike.

Prospect.—P.B.P. and K.S.P. clubs held an enjoyable combined chaplains' evening on Feb. 10. W. L. Ewers, of Hindmarsh, conducted morning service in connection with home missions. C. Schwab preached at night. Fellowship with visitors was enjoyed during the day. Ladies' Guild is sewing for hospitals and charity. Girls' Club making comforts for boys overseas. All auxiliaries are working well.

Mile End.—Attendances have been well maintained, and a good spiritual tone exists. At annual business meeting all retiring office-bearers were re-elected. Much work had been accomplished by sisters and C.E. societies. Nearly £700 had been contributed for all purposes during year. A vote of confidence was recorded for Mr. Fitzgerald's efforts during past year. A farewell social was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Crouch and family and a gift to each presented. These have gone to Pt. Lincoln. The past fortnight Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald have been on holidays, and the pulpit has been ably filled by Messrs. Green, Coin, Lamphire and H. R. Taylor; the latter placing the claims of home missions before the church.

Adelaide (Grote-st.).—On Feb. 8 A. E. Hurren spoke morning and evening. At close of gospel address a lady and two men made the good confession. Hearing aids recently installed are proving a blessing. Gordon Ellis addressed midweek prayer meeting on Feb. 11. Prayers of church go with him as he returns to Glen Iris. On morning of Feb. 15 W. F. Nankivell, B.A., of Unley, exhorted the church. A. E. Hurren preached at night, when a mother reconsecrated her life, and her young son and an elderly lady confessed Christ.

Murray Bridge.—Ladies' Guild resumed on Feb. 3. Church offering for Federal Aborigines' Missions Board was taken on Feb. 1 and one from Endeavorers' social on Feb. 3. Burdette-Pompoola circuit services were conducted by N. G. Noble and A. C. Page on Feb. 8, assisted by duets of Mrs. Les. Blenkiron and Iris; Murray Bridge gospel service by D. C. Dix, soloist Sister-Nath Grundy. Church condolence is extended to Sister Wesley Searle, of Claypans, at passing of infant son. Prayer also accompanies Elliott Brake, local "Australian Christian" agent, who left for A.I.F. duties on Feb. 10.

Hindmarsh.—On morning of Feb. 15 an exchange of preachers in interests of home missions took place. W. Beiler's message was well received. Evening service began and will continue at 6.30 p.m. to try to meet prevailing conditions. W. L. Ewers preached. At annual business meeting of the church on Feb. 12 officers were elected: Elder, C. H. Trembath; deacons, W. W. Magor, E. A. Pierce, W. C. Moore, J. Holden, T. H. Derham, A. J. Galliford, E. J. Frost. Reports from auxiliaries were very encouraging, J.C.E. and Y.P.S.C.E. especially so. Y.P. financial statement showed splendid giving. The financial statement of the church was also encouraging. A fund was established to provide comforts to the boys overseas, and £8/2/4 was received; parcels worth £6 have been sent on. Report of Dorcas revealed valuable work done.

Unley.—On Feb. 4 a visit by Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Hammer was enjoyed by 60 or 70 members and friends. A film of their work in New Hebrides was screened. Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bell and Mrs. E. Alexander were welcomed to fellowship by transfer from Forestville, Mrs. Martinson from Queenstown. Mr. Nankivell is supervising religious instruction at Unley primary and super-primary schools, and teaches three classes each week. The S.S. has had a cadet messenger corps in operation for some months. Boys on bicycles take messages to absentee scholars after school. Mr. Nankivell's son Frank secured a scholarship in leaving examination, and Miss Betty McCallum secured top place at recent Commonwealth typistes' examination. H. R. Taylor and A. E. Hurren gave splendid addresses on Feb. 8 and 15 in connection with H.M. offering.

York.—At annual business meeting of the church on Jan. 28 the following were elected: Elders, A. B. Chappell, H. J. Horsell; deacons, J. J. Dodd, W. M. Simons, C. L. Walladge, F. Weeks, S. H. Young; secretary, E. J. Harding; assistant secretary, G. G. Aird; treasurer, S. H. Young. Deaconesses, Mesdames G. Aird, J. Follett, jun., R. J. House, H. D. Warner. A farewell social was also tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Durdin. Presentations were made to Mr. Durdin by H. J. Horsell on behalf of church and to Mrs. and Miss Durdin by G. Aird on behalf of Bible school. Mr. Durdin concluded a three years' ministry on Feb. 8. On 15th W. C. Brooker addressed the church on behalf of home missions and A. B. Chappell preached at night. Annual Sunday school picnic was somewhat restricted, but arrangements were made for an afternoon's outing at Prince's Square and scholars served with tea on church grounds.

Dulwich.—Three young people from same family—Glen, Baxter and Rosalie Hillson—have confessed Christ and were baptised by Mr. Collins on Feb. 15. Letters have been received from K. Townley and E. Jeisman at distant militia stations. Mrs. Simons broke her hip in a fall and is in hospital. Rain marred school picnic at Botanic Gardens. K. Jones gave a home mission message on Feb. 15. Mrs. Vincent (nee Millie Smith) and her husband were welcome visitors from N.S.W.

Semaphore.—On Feb. 8 Mr. Paddick addressed two well attended services. On Feb. 1 the church officers invited auxiliary leaders and delegates to confer with them. Mr. Paddick outlined plan for betterment of church work. The discussion yielded some excellent suggestions and auxiliaries represented were pledged to greater zeal. On Feb. 15 Mr. Jones, of Henley Beach, spoke on behalf of home mission work and Mr. Paddick addressed gospel service. The church has decided to commence evening service at 6.30 p.m. until end of March, after which for the winter months it will commence at 4 p.m. Duplex envelope system of giving has been adopted, and results have justified the venture to date. Letters of transfer have been received from Hindmarsh church on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Brooker, Miss Daisy Brooker and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Brooker.

QUEENSLAND

Brisbane (Ann-st.).—The Tuesday youth tea and fellowship is proving attractive and helpful. Splendid meetings were held on Feb. 15. There were 203 communicants. Miss G. Dunn, of Council of Churches choir, helped with an evening solo. Mr. and Mrs. T. G. H. Westwood and Barbara now have membership at Ann-st.

Charters Towers.—Meetings are improving in numbers and interest. Several visitors have been present. Women's Christian Fellowship met on Feb. 5 after recess for Christmas holidays. Young Worshipers' League had a special service on Feb. 8, league members taking part. Those gaining certificates for past year received them at this service.

South Brisbane Circuit.—Meetings continue to be well attended. On Feb. 1 T. M. Kirkwood was preacher at Moorooka in morning; at night he spoke to a fine congregation at Sunnybank, and one young woman confessed Christ. Mr. Beckett was speaker at morning service at Moorooka on Feb. 8 in absence of T. M. Kirkwood at Sunnybank; Mr. Kirkwood was the preacher at Moorooka for evening. T. M. Kirkwood in his endeavor to make the Moorooka church a "praying church" now has a weekly prayer meeting with average of 21. At annual business meeting of the church all officers were re-elected. On Feb. 15 Mr. Kirkwood was preacher at Kedron, whilst H. G. Payne was preacher at Sunnybank. Gordon Clare, the circuit assistant preacher, was speaker at morning meeting at Moorooka. Mr. Woff took the service at the Sunnybank church for gospel meeting. C.E. society held monthly fellowship tea. At gospel meeting Mr. Kirkwood was preacher.

VICTORIA

Portland.—T. Robb preached splendidly on Feb. 8, when the day of prayer was observed. A. Rivett gave an excellent address on Feb. 15. Attendance at prayer meetings has shown marked increase during past month.

East Kew.—On morning of Feb. 15 Mr. Candy was speaker. Sunday school is preparing for anniversary. During gospel service one young woman was baptised. A Mutual Improvement Society has been formed and is proving helpful.

Moreland.—The choir is rendering excellent service at gospel meetings. Members of K.S.P. conducted morning service on Feb. 16. Mr. Graham preached in the evening. Prizes were presented to young worshippers at Bible school. Well attended A.R.P. lectures are being conducted. Women's Mission Band commenced 1942 activities on Feb. 11, when Mrs. Clark, of Box Hill, gave a travel talk.

Burnley.—During absence of Mr. McRoberts through illness, Mr. and Mrs. Crisp, of Mackay, Qld., have taken charge of the work. Services have been well attended, and the messages by Mr. Crisp helpful and inspiring. Well attended prayer meetings are conducted.

Carlton (Lygon-st.).—There were largely attended services on Feb. 15. Mr. Baker spoke at the three meetings. Mrs. E. McClean was back after severe illness. Sunday school children from Queensberry-st. mission have joined with Lygon-st. Bible school for duration of the war.

Footscray.—Church business meeting was held on Feb. 16. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. H. Middlemiss in the death of her sister, Mrs. Harris. Ladies' Aid held first meeting for year on Feb. 17, and Mission Band on Feb. 3. Ladies of the church have decided to assist in the appeal for College of Bible.

Boort.—On Feb. 8 Mr. Retchford preached his farewell sermons prior to departure for N.S.W. Bible College. On Feb. 15 R. Lanyon conducted morning service and Mr. Stocks gave the gospel address. Members were pleased to welcome Sister Evans, sen. Miss B. Webb has returned to the city to take up nursing.

Caulfield (Bambra-rd.).—On Feb. 8, Padre Young gave a message to the church. On Feb. 15 Miss Lila Brown was received into membership by faith and baptism. H. M. Clipstone spoke at both services. I.C.E. enjoyed a visit from Carnegie intermediates. A kitchen tea was given to Miss J. Moore, who was married on Feb. 14.

Sunshine.—On Feb. 3 a meeting of members was held to receive a self-denial offering. Mr. Hagger gave an appreciated message, and £45/16/- was obtained. Recently the Endeavor Society presented the church with 40 hymn-books. On Feb. 14 a social evening attended by combined Endeavor Societies of Western Suburban Conference was enjoyed.

Reservoir.—Services continue to be well attended. G. Grainger spoke at both meetings on Feb. 15. Mr. and Mrs. G. Hing were received into fellowship at morning meeting, transferred from Northcote. Mr. Hing has taken over Y.P.S.C.E., and great interest is being shown. Ladies' Guild held first meeting for the year on Feb. 12, when officers were appointed.

North Essendon.—Messrs. White and Roberts conducted children's mission on Feb. 8; attendances since have averaged well over 200. Mr. White conducted gospel meetings on Feb. 8 and 15. On Feb. 15, the school attended Sunday School of the Air (3DB), J. W. Burns conducting singing. The church has made a donation of £5/5/- to S. H. Mudge testimonial fund.

West Preston.—The chapel was full at celebration of church anniversary on Feb. 8. In morning E. L. Williams was speaker, and at night J. D. Lang preached the gospel. Good services on Feb. 15. W. A. Wigney was morning speaker. In the evening an old folks' service was held, when Mr. Wigney was helped in the service by aged Mr. Phillips and Mr. Bean.

Preston.—At morning service on Feb. 15 two young people were welcomed by faith and obedience. G. M. Mathieson commenced an interim ministry. He spoke at both services to good congregations. At night a solo by Mrs. Mansey, of Tasmania, was enjoyed. An offering for Federal Aborigines' Board amounted to £2/7/-; Bible school scholars were entertained by teachers and staff on Feb. 14 in lieu of annual picnic.

Prahran.—Morning speaker on Feb. 8 was J. Methven. Mr. and Mrs. Vallence, from St. Arnaud, were received into fellowship. Miss Joyce Hall rendered a solo in evening, when Mr. Snow, from Carnegie, was speaker. On Feb. 11 the church business meeting was held. It was decided that gospel meetings would be held at 4 p.m. during lighting restrictions. On Feb. 15 Mr. Methven conducted an induction service for the newly-elected deacons. In the evening Mrs. Methven gave a solo and Mr. Methven delivered a searching address.

Stawell.—Mr. Randall preached on Feb. 8. On Feb. 2 yearly business meeting was held. All officers were re-elected and Mr. Tromph was added; he was also elected church treasurer. Ladies' Mission Band resumed on Feb. 11 after a long period of recess.

Parkdale.—On Jan. 18 A. W. Stephenson commenced a part-time ministry and has given very helpful messages both morning and evening. On Feb. 8 A. T. Cuddy rendered a solo splendidly at gospel service and on 15th the choir rendered an anthem. Prayers of the church are with Mrs. C. A. Box, who went into Austin Hospital on Feb. 12. H. R. Chandler, Boronia, presided at worship service on Feb. 15.

Geelong.—On Feb. 8 Mr. Macnaughtan gave morning address, prior to which Endeavorers took part in C.E. Union service broadcast and Mr. Macnaughtan gave an address. There was a good attendance at both services. One sister was received in from Adelaide. After gospel service, at which Mr. Macnaughtan spoke, Padre Robinson, who was amongst visitors, led the song service till C.E. societies from other churches came, when a praise and testimony meeting was well attended. On Feb. 15 Mr. Macnaughtan spoke in morning. Evening service was conducted by C. J. Robinson.

Maryborough.—The church is in good heart. Breaking of bread attendance averages 80 each month, with building well filled at both services. Sickness has prevented attendance of some loyal folk. On Feb. 15 there were four decisions. School is back to usual, recording 100 on Feb. 15. Phi Betas have presented a piano to kindergarten. Prayer meetings average over 20 each week. Mr. Hepburn has returned to Hamilton. Misses Readhead and Richards have been welcomed from Bet Bet. After-meeting is incorporated in gospel service with excellent results. Ladies' Aid has commenced its new year of service.

Dunolly.—Messages have been appreciated from Mr. Living, of Amphitheatre, and J. Sewell, Bet Bet, in absence of Mr. Quayle on holidays. Most auxiliaries have commenced new year's work. Girls' Fellowship "biscuit" evening for soldiers created keen interest; Mrs. Draffin, of Presbyterian Church, gave an interesting talk. The church regrets the loss of two keen workers, Miss G. Scott, who has assisted as organist for a number of years, and Miss Joyce Scott in youth work in auxiliaries. Best wishes go with them to Thornbury. Mr. Quayle gave addresses on Feb. 8 appropriate for national day of prayer.

Gardiner.—At K.S.P. 2nd Degree on Feb. 10 R. J. Storey related experiences among wild Indians in Brazil. Church officers conducted midweek prayer meeting on Feb. 11, and final cottage prayer meeting was held on 13th. Good attendances on Feb. 15 for commencement of a special series of meetings on "The Lord of Glory"; 208 members broke bread for the day. At morning meeting W. S. Embery, of China Inland Mission, gave a splendid address, and at gospel service T. Hagger preached and Mrs. A. Thomas and Mrs. A. Fergus sang a duet. Offering for aborigines was £10/5/-. Miss A. Hammer has been received into membership from West Preston. Sympathy is extended to Mrs. Barkla and family in the loss of her husband.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Wollongong.—At close of Mr. Stirling's evening message on Feb. 8 a girl from the Sunday school confessed Christ. This confession represented the "first fruits" of the Sunday school work. Evacuations are making school progress difficult.

Greystanes.—P. J. Pond, B.A., preached on Jan. 18, and addressed church and young worshippers, Lord's day morning, Feb. 8. Messages have been received from brethren Leask (3) and K. Burkhead, on service. Miss Peggy Sage is now assisting Mr. and Mrs. Adams in the Bible school.

Georgetown.—On Feb. 15 Mr. Marjoribanks gave the morning address. The evening session was conducted by Mr. Amos, at which two young men confessed Christ.

Pendle Hill.—Lord's day morning meetings continue in chapel of Ashwood House. Recent speakers, P. J. Pond, B.A., W. Roberts, W. J. Smith, G. Morton and J. H. Adams. W. Smith, sen., of Cronulla, recently presided. Afternoon Bible school continues with W. J. Smith as superintendent.

Wagga.—Excellent services were held on Feb. 15. Mr. Rigg addressed the church. At night Mr. Stow preached powerfully, and one man made the good confession. The church is planning for a fortnight's mission, with G. E. Burns as missionary. Fellowship with visitors has been enjoyed. Ladies' Church Aid commenced the new year with good attendances.

Bankstown.—Services on Feb. 15 were well attended. Mr. Thomson spoke morning and night. Words of farewell were spoken to Mr. Davis, who is over 90, and has served faithfully as doorkeeper at Bankstown church for the past 20 years, never missing a service. A source of inspiration to all who knew him, our brother is taking up residence at the Lidcombe Aged Men's Home.

Granville.—Amongst recent visitors was Mrs. Worseldine, from Victoria. There have been good attendances at gospel meetings this month. Helen Jenkins and John Hibbard, loyal church workers, were married on Jan. 31, P. J. Pond, B.A., officiating. There are several new scholars in Bible school. Recent speakers on Lord's day mornings have been W. Roberts, R. Kenyon and S. B. Hibbard.

Loftus Park.—Despite numbers away on holidays, there have been large attendances at all services, and during last few weeks there have been seven decisions. All auxiliaries are working well, and each week there is an increase at midweek meeting. Plans are well in hand for erection of the new building, urgently needed. Sunday school anniversary was held on Feb. 15, the building being crowded afternoon and evening by 180 people. Mr. Retchford spoke to the children in afternoon, and at night Lloyd Jones gave a stirring address.

Kingsford.—Meetings have been good during past three weeks. E. Hart, from the College, spoke at prayer meeting, also on morning of Jan. 25. Mr. Baker concludes his ministry at end of February. Annual meeting was held on Feb. 10. Mr. McIlroy and Mr. Robinson were added to board of officers; H. McLane, treasurer. E. Smith was appointed secretary for 25th year. £676/8/3 was raised during year by direct giving, £72/10/10 for brotherhood work; total, £748/19/1. At morning meeting on Feb. 15 the deacons and deaconesses were dedicated to office. The church is seeking for a preacher to take up the work.

Hurstville.—There were good meetings on Feb. 15; 85 at Lord's table for day. Mr. Burns, of Mosman, gave an appreciated address to church. Mr. Alcorn preached to a good meeting at night. Annual meeting was held on Feb. 11. All reports showed good work for year, which proved a record in giving and additions. The following were elected deacons: Messrs. Button, Dodd, French, Pryor, Reitz and Walton, all re-elected, and Mr. Gordon. Mr. Button and Mr. Pryor were re-elected secretary and treasurer respectively. The church regrets the removal of E. J. Cowan to Cowra, he having enlisted. He was a faithful member, and a deacon for many years, besides being a capable speaker.

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"The Driving Power of Popular Opinion"

Philip Noel Baker, president of the World Brotherhood Federation, urges, in a presidential message, that righteousness become the basis of international affairs in the future.

IN August 1941, on a battleship at sea, Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt drew up the Atlantic Charter. They laid down in that charter the basic principles on which the peace treaty will be made. In September, 1941, those principles were endorsed in the allied council by the governments of fourteen other nations which are fighting for the freedom of the world.

There is very little about territorial problems in the charter. The word "frontier" is never mentioned; it is shortly said that no territorial changes will be made which do not accord with the wishes of the peoples—of all the peoples—concerned. It is plain, therefore, that the leaders of mankind are now agreed that what matters most is not the drawing of dividing lines across the map, but the solution of problems which are common to all our suffering humanity to-day; lawless aggression, competitive and inflated national armaments, the cruel and needless poverty of the hundreds of millions of the poor.

And they have declared in the charter that these problems must and shall be solved; that "for realistic as well as spiritual reasons," nations must abandon force and organise the rule of law in international affairs; that they must give up trying to grow richer by cheating or starving each other and must work together to promote the common prosperity of their peoples; that they must turn the genius of their scientists from the task of mutual destruction to a common campaign against our real enemies, hunger, cold, fatigue, ignorance and disease.

None of these things can ever be attempted, let alone be accomplished, without a strong, permanent international organisation. In other words, our leaders have pledged themselves to the world that we shall take up again the unfinished work of the League of Nations. When they come to examine the history of the league, they will find that its failure was not due to the inadequacy of its law, or to the fact that its machinery would not work when it was used; it was due to the fact that the governments of its more powerful members refused to carry out the plain obligations by which they knew that they were bound. This is the fatal error which we must now correct. We must remember that no laws, no machinery, however perfect, will by themselves suffice; it is the driving-power of popular opinion which alone can bring us peace.

The creation of that driving power has now become the first of all the tasks which the churches and the brotherhood movement must carry out. When governments talk of the problems of aggression and poverty, they use such phrases as "security," "social justice" and the like. But these phrases disguise the real issue that is now at stake. The true choice which these problems offer to all mankind is the simplest, the oldest and the most vital choice in history: the choice between righteousness and wrong. This time our nations will have to face that choice, knowing clearly what it is they will decide; whether righteousness shall triumph, or Christian civilisation crash in ruins before our eyes. That is the post-war task of the brotherhood movement and of the church of Christ. We must recognise that the success of the new League of Nations which we shall create will be the most important issue of our age; we must exert all our strength to give that league, not only laws and institutions, but a living soul; we must put behind it the burning Christian faith by which alone the monstrous evils of war, oppression and poverty will be ended forever more.

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BIRTHS

NEULING (nee Manning).—On Feb. 1, to Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Neuling, Altrincham, Cheshire, England—a daughter (Sandra). Grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. E. Ross Manning, of Adelaide.

SCOTT (nee Bessie Wilcox).—On Feb. 8, at District Hospital, Dunolly, to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Scott—a daughter (Jennifer Mary).

IN MEMORIAM

AUSTIN.—In loving memory of Albert Austin, who passed away suddenly on Feb. 24, 1927, at Nicholson-st., East Brunswick. Beautiful memories treasured.

—Inserted by his loving wife, M. Austin, East Brunswick, and only son, Bonny (Lieut. Austin, abroad).

LOTT, Ellen (Nell).—In memory of our darling Nell, who fell asleep in Jesus, Feb. 13, 1941.

"A beautiful nature, loving and kind.

A beautiful memory to leave behind:

A cheerful smile, heart of gold,

The dearest sister the world could hold."

—Muriel and George Stokie, Jess and Wilbur Robbins.

LYALL.—In ever loving memory of Clifford, who passed away on Feb. 16, 1932; the dearly loved younger son of Nellie and the late Alex. R. Lyall, and brother of Sidney. "Till the day breaks, and shadows flee away."

McCLEAN, Frank.—In tender and grateful remembrance of our saintly father, who went "to be with Christ which is far better," Feb. 23, 1933. "Jesus hath conquered death and all its powers."

—Inserted by the members of his family.

MEYER.—In loving memory of my dear wife, Sarah, who fell asleep Feb. 19, 1935. Memories live longer than dreams.

—Inserted by her loving husband, E. J., and family.

SHARPE.—In loving memory of William A. Sharpe, who was called home on Feb. 17, 1940, at his residence, 18 Medway-st., Box Hill. We walk with you daily in the garden of memories.

—Inserted by his loving wife and family.

WALLACE.—A tribute of respect and love to our fellow-mate Randall F. Wallace, who died of wounds, Jan. 6, 1942.

—Inserted by Gardiner Chapter K.S.P.

BEREAVEMENT NOTICE

CONNOR.—Mrs. A. W. Connor and family desire to thank all kind friends and relatives for floral tributes, telegrams, cards, letters and personal expressions of sympathy in their recent bereavement. Will all accept this as a personal acknowledgment of sincere gratitude?

—65 Barton-st., Surrey Hills, E.10.

COMING EVENTS

(16 words, 6d.; additional 12 words, 6d. Displayed, 2/- inch.)

FEBRUARY 22.—Newmarket Church of Christ 59th anniversary, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. All old members and friends welcome.

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Safety of Island Workers

THE situation in the New Hebrides has probably undergone little change since the Japanese war commenced, but the immediate future might change things very quickly. The nearest islands that have been subject to enemy bombing are the Solomons. Were the Solomons to be occupied by the Japanese, all adjacent islands would be much nearer the danger zone. As British subjects in the New Hebrides are under the direct control of the British Resident Commissioner in Vila, it would be his duty to see to the safety of nationals under his control. In event of an emergency, Nurse Clipstone has cabled for advice regarding possible evacuation. At a special meeting of the Board, it was decided to cable the Commissioner and request that he take any necessary action for the safety of our workers, and, if he considered it advisable, that they be brought immediately to Vila. They would then be at the place where evacuees would embark for Australia. A further cable was sent Miss Clipstone advising her that we have cabled the Commissioner. It is doubtful whether the cable to Miss Clipstone will be delivered quickly, as the message could only be forwarded to Aoba per first available boat. As little can be done from the Australian end, we feel that direct word to the Islands was the best approach to the problem, though we are certain that, whether word were sent the Commissioner or not, he would act promptly if deemed advisable.

NEW HEBRIDES NOTES

THE Board held a special meeting with Mr. D. Hammer and discussed matters of future policy. Among the things discussed was future accommodation for our workers (present bungalow just completed out of old Pentecost timbers is sufficient only for missionary couple or two single workers), proper facilities for medical work being carried out by nurses, and possibility of a hospital in the near future. The present scheme of teacher training was discussed, and the hope was expressed that these men would be valuable for village work when trained.

Miss M. L. Clipstone writes: Sister and I have started a Bible class on Saturday afternoons. Owing to the testimony meetings on Sundays, and to the fact that we are often late when visiting villages some distance away, it was impossible to hold the class on Sundays. Each week we have more scholars. We hope the enthusiasm lasts, and that the class will be a help and blessing to the young folk. The boys appear contented and happy, and are making rapid progress with their work—Bible study and secular subjects. The cement floor in the new school house is completed, and school, devotional and Christian Endeavor meetings are held in this house, which is larger and much more convenient than the old one. Christian Endeavor meetings are keeping up well. The tone of the meetings is good, and the people are certainly making progress with public speaking, etc. We have had an average attendance of 40-45. The weekly sing sing held on Friday evenings is well attended. Lately we have had from 70 to 90 folk packed on to our verandah for this service. There has been a considerable amount of village work to do, but dispensary dressings, etc., have fallen off slightly, due, I think, to the fact of the increasing number coming for injections. Another native baby has been born at the mission. Both mother and babe did splendidly. An independent woman wants to come to the mission too. It seems that gradually we are gaining their confidence. A new house has been built for women's meetings and sewing class. The general mission work appears to be progressing satisfactorily. There is a marked enthusiasm and services are well attended. Sunday afternoon testimony or "open" meetings have been

commenced and are held at alternate villages. These meetings appear to create a greater interest in the work and are certainly well attended. Sister and I visit the various villages on Sundays. At present this means those within walking distance.

CHINA MAILS

FEW mails are reaching China by ordinary channels. Mails sent by the Board to the Chinese Home Missionary Society in Shanghai and for Hueili were returned to Australia after a delay of several weeks. It is some time since any word has been received. A draft was sent to Shanghai early in December, early enough to be received before Japan entirely occupied Shanghai. We anticipate that the Chinese Home Missionary Society received the money, and were able to send same forward to Hueili. Whether our friends in Shanghai were able to evacuate we are not in a position to know. As far as is known, the Hueili work is still outside the war zone and thus normal work will continue.

JANUARY FINANCES

GIVING for general purposes again showed a slight upward tendency, bringing the income for December-January nearer average. The income for the past five months is still about £270 behind previous years. We are encouraged by the current figures for February (9/2/42), as more than £300 is already to hand, the figures for December-January being £514. We feel there is a response to our SOS, and record our gratitude. It is hardly necessary to remind our brethren that we might have to face a sudden emergency owing to the Pacific crisis, and our treasury supplies must be maintained. A cheque for £500 has just been received from the estate of the late William Welsford, of Victoria, for endowment fund. We are deeply appreciative for the way many of our loyal supporters have made provision for continuing their gifts after their earthly labours have ceased. It is anticipated that further amounts will be received for the above endowment.

This department is conducted by A. Anderson, secretary of our Overseas Mission Board, 261 Magill-st., Tranmere, South Australia.

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SCRIPTURAL NAMES

THE use of varied and, in most cases, unscriptural notices appearing on the notice boards outside the meeting places of the churches has come to my notice. Generally they give the name of the town or suburb and then "Church of Christ," creating the impression, I think, that the building is the church.

Sometimes we hear the remark, "Oh, doesn't the church need painting," or perhaps we are directing someone and we say, "Take the first turn past the church." I ask, "Why should we utter such statements when we know that the building is not the church, but rather should be called, chapel, house of worship, or perhaps meeting place."

As the church has been called to the task of pleading for the unity of God's people, why couldn't there be presented a uniform and scriptural opinion by the brotherhood? So I humbly stress the need for calling the church buildings by some appropriate name; and thus the church would remain and retain its original identity, the "called out."—W. E. Fisher.

Obituary

Robert George Arnold

THE church at Bruce Rock, W.A., has suffered the loss of one of its fine young men, Flight Lieutenant Robert George Arnold, of the R.A.A.F., who was reported killed in action in the Far East, on Jan. 18 last. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Arnold, of Bruce Rock, and was killed two days before his 23rd birthday. Deceased was baptised at Bunbury by Mr. Wilkie Thomson, while on holidays there in 1932. He was a fine Christian character, and the church extends its sincere consolations to the parents and family, who are old and respected members, originally of South Australia. "Greater love."—C.H.H.

Tasmanian Sisters' Auxiliary

AT the meeting on Feb. 2 at Collins-st., Mrs. Madel-Cole presided and devotions were led by Mrs. Watkins. Prayer was made for the nation. A vocal item was contributed by Mrs. Madel-Cole. A welcome was extended to the former isolation superintendent, Mrs. Bradshaw, who is on a visit to Hobart. Mr. Bowes gave a very helpful talk. Pleasing Dorcas reports were received from Invermay, Margaret-st. and Collins-st. A fellowship day was held at Collins-st. on Dec. 18, speakers being Mrs. Madel-Cole, Mrs. Dine and Mrs. Bowes. Gifts of Christmas cheer were distributed by the Prayer-Meeting Committee, after the monthly meeting, at the New Town Sanitorium, in December. Matron Lucky expressed appreciation on behalf of the patients. One meeting was held at the Sanitorium in January; speaker, Mr. Tate.

Hospital visitation.—Mrs. Bowes, 10; Mrs. Boxhall, 6; Mrs. Ashlin, 20.

Mission Band reports were received from Devonport, Launceston, Kellevie, Collins-st. and Geveeston.

Obituary.—Letters of condolence were sent to Mrs. Jarvis, Miss Speakman and Mrs. Mason.

Result of gift afternoon at the home of Mrs. L. Madel-Cole in aid of home mission and church furnishing was £17. Home Mission

special fund receipts: Proceeds of concert held West Hobart in December, £4/10/-; allotted share proceeds Mrs. Cole's afternoon, £6/12/-; donation northern sisters, 11/6; total, £11/13/6.

Mrs. Gibson, northern vice-president, reports very fine meetings held in November and December. Collection at November meeting, £1/3/7, was donated to mission bands.

Gratefully acknowledged by Prayer Meeting Committee, £1 from West Hobart church for Sanitorium gifts.

Next executive meeting, March 2.—Mrs. M. F. Taylor, secretary, 20 Kendall-st., Moonah, Tas.

N.S.W. Sisters' Auxiliary

THE first meeting for 1942 was held at City Temple on Friday, Feb. 6. There was a good attendance.

The devotional session was taken by Lane Cove sisters, Mrs. Armstrong leading. Mrs. Rush brought a helpful message from Joshua 3: 5, "Sanctify yourselves"; she suggested there were three things we needed to sanctify—minds, words and actions. Miss Myra Lambert was soloist.

Mrs. McCallum presided over the business session. Welcome was extended to Mrs. G. Verco, Newcastle; Mrs. E. Taylor and Mrs. F. Taylor, Ilford, and Mrs. Stanhope, West Maitland.

Mrs. McCallum gave the latest news regarding the missionaries in the New Hebrides, and asked for continued prayer for them. Mrs. Main led in prayer for the nation.

Mrs. McLane reported on the last meeting of the Women's Inter-Church Council. At that meeting it had been decided to try to do something for evacuees arriving in Sydney and needing somewhere to stay for a few days until they could be transferred to permanent homes.

Mrs. Crockett, of the Congregational Church, was speaker for the afternoon. She gave a bright and interesting talk on her experiences while working among the children evacuated from London to Bedford.

Next monthly meeting will be held at City Temple on March 6.—Miss D. Verco.

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"Salt Is Good"

(Mark 9: 50)

"SALT is good! I'll say it is," remarked
Malcolm, as father concluded the Bible
reading. So the family discussion began. "Salt
keeps things from going rotten," continued
Malcolm. "I've watched men curing bacon and
preserving fish." "Salt brings out the flavor of
things that would be insipid," said Elaine.
"Who'd care for eggs or porridge without salt?"
"Salt will neutralise hurtful acids," said mother.
"We washed our eyes with salt water when
they were smarting from tear gas, at the A.R.P.
class."

Father suggested that such uses were interest-
ing in view of Christ's words to disciples, "Ye
are the salt of the earth." "However," he ex-
plained, "that is not quite the lesson here. This
saying about being salted with fire stands alone
in the Gospels. The key to its meaning seems
to be the Mosaic rule that salt should be used
to keep sacrifices of animal flesh quite whole-
some; salt being also a sign of preserved cov-
enants and friendships, in the East. Jesus had
been talking of manly self-discipline, and went
on to declare its necessity if our lives are to
be true sacrifices to God, and if life's harmon-
ies and friendships are to be preserved."

"I see," exclaimed Malcolm, "Salt is good, and
self-discipline is good!"—G. J. Andrews.

THOUGHT

*The secret of happiness is not to do
what one likes, but to like what one
has to do.*

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