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The Methodist Fundamental.

REV. W. R. WILKINSON'S LECTURE.

In his Hartley Lecture on "Religious Experience—the Methodist Fundamental" in the Conference Church, Southampton, on Wednesday evening, Rev. W. R. Wilkinson came at once to grips with his crowded audience. "Is there a fundamental in religion?" was his first inquiry, and went on to answer that a fundamental of the Church institutions need not necessarily be essential to religion. Thus, as Dr Gore admitted, it was not necessary to flout the Reformation in order to be a Christian. The Friends had a defective Church expression, but who could deny their possession of the vital essential of religion? Evidently a fundamental of religion was not identical with a fundamental of Church organisation. More recently the attempt had been made to declare certain levels of faith to be fundamental, but this so-called Fundamentalism had had some unfortunate developments and results. Instead of uniting it had divided, and a belief that made for division could not be necessary to the Faith. Faith in the verbal or plenary inspiration of the Scriptures was not a fundamental of religion. A man may refuse to accept either the verbal or plenary inspiration of the Scriptures, and yet, avowing himself a Unitarian, may possess the fundamental of religion. It was almost providential that the Methodist Churches had never had a formulated doctrine of the Scriptures. Nobody could contend that any theory of how the Scriptures came to be, or how they were inspired, was of primary importance. Wesley wisely insisted that the essentials only should be emphasised.

What, then, was the fundamental, the essential thing in religion? It was the possession of a religious experience. All other things were secondary and not to be made tests or standards. Two things emphasised the primary importance of experience. The experience meeting had been a characteristic of the Methodist Churches. Religious experience was declared to be the one great necessity. Specific acceptance of a creed statement of belief had never been demanded for acceptance into membership of the Methodist Church. It was arguable that nothing should be insisted on which was not experiential. Those whom the Church called its saints would have difficulty in producing a creed of any length or elaboration, but they could all affirm with delight that they knew Christ as their Saviour and through Him they had found God in the Father. That was all that really mattered. They had enjoyed God rather than explained Him. To possess such experience was the vital thing.

What, then, is this religious experience which is fundamental? Here was a glorious field for investigation. William James in his "Varieties of Religious Experience" had given a startling point from which other inquiries must proceed, but, unfortunately, he had selected the extreme cases, whereas some of them contented that the normal religious experience was the genuine one. Dr. W. B. Paterson suggested that religious experience could be studied in man as man, the convert, the saint, and decided that the prophetic, saintly personality provided the revelation the student of religion needed. It was in the investigation of the experiences of ordinary religious people that the matter should be pursued—the pitman, agricultural labourers and others in higher social position who could show the

community the possibilities of the God-centred life. This experience was a grand fact in the lives of varying people and was not dependent on education, philosophic training, or culture. Seeking a definition, Schleiermacher had said that "religion was a determination of feeling or of immediate self-consciousness, and the common element in all the varied expressions was a consciousness of absolute dependence on God." But though Schleiermacher won for religion its independent rights it may be he won too wrong grounds. Religion was not wholly feeling. It was a form of knowledge.

Then absolute dependence was not the whole of religion. It involved co-operation and alliance. We may help God realise His purposes. More recently there had emerged the theory of values as determining truth. Hoffding declared, "The essence of all religion consists in the conviction that value will be preserved." Religion was not a matter of feeling alone. The lecturer offered his own definition: "Religious experience is an awareness of God, giving assurance as the self seeks harmonious relations with Him." Christian experience would need the addition of "and mediated through Christ." That was the key to the religious experience there is contact with reality. There is some ultimate in every experience. In religious experience it is God. This contact gives assurance. It gives assurance that God is and that He is accessible to those who trust Him. This is the assured confidence of those who possess a religious experience. It gives assurance that God counts them as His. In this lies the essence of the assurance which contact with God gives. Biographies of Methodists abound with such glowing testimonies. It gives assurance that the values of goodness, truth, and beauty are real. In contact with God men find this perfect correlation of mind, feeling and personality. Religious experience is not to be experienced in isolation, but in the experience. There is no special religious faculty. The whole man is in contact with God. The religious experience sees life everywhere in God's creating. All life is God's outstretched hand. It is also progressive. There is nothing static in the world. What height of nothing something is won, something remains always beyond. Continuing, the lecturer said that he who knows knows so that there is so much more to be known. The saint lives in a world of wonder. Every glimpse of God suggests new horizons for the soul of God is wealthier than our dreams. If this be what religious experience means to the ordinary saint it is the richest thing in the world. What height of nothing something is won, something remains always beyond.

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It is claimed that in religious experience a man comes into contact with God. Is this real or is it illusion? Psychology has no right to declare one way or another. Its function is to describe mind processes. If psychology kept itself within its legitimate limits it would not project its theories. Unfortunately it transgresses those limits and then blunders. Some psychologists go so far as to say that God is simply our projected idea of Him and of our desires. It may be true that the idea of God is a mental projection, but reality in the religious life is not in the projection. God is more and other than our idea of God. If there be no reality—God—corresponding to our idea of God, how

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Leeds, £2,400; from the trustees of the late Mr. S. Osman, of Leicester, £371; also £90 from the late Miss M. E. Dods; and £20 from the late Mrs. E. Jones.

Rev. H. Ross (Orphanage Secretary) said that while there were fewer vacancies in the homes, he hoped that would not deter application for admission. They always had their best to admit every worthy case. He regretted that there was lamentable ignorance in some quarters of the noble work done through our Orphan Homes. The report was adopted, and the committees of management elected.

Legislation.

Legislation was proposed to provide that the Ladies' Orphanage Committee shall elect representatives to the District Committee in the proportion of one to every

the presence of God. There was evidence that many thought more of themselves than of the mystical Presence. There was need for self-sacrifice. The secret of the success of Anglo-Catholics was that they placed themselves in the hands of the Church itself and were willing to be ruled by it. We ought to be prepared in the interests of the mystical Body to subordinate ourselves.

Rev. J. Prouton expressed his belief in the personal method of dealing with men and women. The Kingdom would be greatly extended if we had more of the personal touch in our work.

Mr. C. Wass, J.P., spoke of the atmosphere pervading the Conference. The theme of the Christian Endeavour movement was one they should keep in mind.

Rev. H. T. Wigley, B.A., D.D., said the

worship. She might be accused of wishing to ape the Anglicans, but she thought they were quite right in taking as their ideal that was worth while in other Churches and adapting it to their own use. The Church was in existence for the worship of God and fellowship, and not to become a political institution. The Church was built upon Christ as the great Rock foundation.

Mr. Tom Bowran said he had been trying to imagine an ideal report. If their Secretary had had such a report to present, what things would be in and what things would be left out? In any such report some things they were now doing would be seen to be not worth while. One of the most wonderful instances in our Lord's life illustrated the Master's question, "What wilt thou that I should do for thee?" He had tried to put himself in that situation. He would want to ask, not for some physical blessing, but for some great spiritual benediction. Questions of the soul, of eternal life and the establishment of the Kingdom of God were primary. He wanted his minister to give him the great things to do. The mighty truths were the only things that in the long run held the people. What did the minister expect from him? He too had a right to expect the great things from his people. Let the minister ask for the big things, and he for one would work his fingers to the bone to secure them. The people would respond to great leadership, and if that were given next year's report would come nearer the ideal.

Rev. C. Arncliffe (Ex-President) said his faith in the future had been immensely strengthened by his visitations to the churches. His experience led him to believe that the heart of the people was sound. They had had that morning some testimonies from junior ministers. Their message had gladdened his heart, and he believed they were typical of the junior ministry as a whole. He believed that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was the

resolution was submitted to the Conference and carried with deep feeling. By general consent the discussion was one of the best in recent years, and one which augured well for the coming year. The Conference then adjourned.

(Monday afternoon's report on Methodist Union is separately reported in this issue.)



Mr. J. H. Morton, Mr. T. Bowran, Revs. F. Holmes and S. Palmer.

TUESDAY MORNING.

Welcome to Foreign Missionaries.

The session opened at 9.15. "Father, let Thy Kingdom come" was heartily sung. It was Missionary Day. The missionaries and missionaries' wives were called to the platform. The following were present: Rev. and Mrs. C. Crabtree, Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Fell, Rev. F. Green-



Sheffield District.

fifty of its members; the election to take place at the annual meeting of the Ladies' Orphanage Committee. It was adopted without discussion.

Connexional Fund Report.

The Connexional Fund report was presented by the Treasurer, Rev. G. G. Martindale. He regarded the balance-sheet as being very satisfactory. Though working on a reduced levy he was able to report that the debt accumulated during the war had been extinguished. This was at one time a very serious matter. He paid his tribute to the wonderful loyalty of the circuits to the Fund, and to the Insurance Company for its generous contributions, and to the loyalty of the ministers. Some might think the levy ought to be reduced at a quicker rate, but he would assure the Conference that the committee keenly scrutinized every item of expenditure and reduced the levy as quickly as possible. But he did plead that all contributions should be sent promptly, because he paid out "to time-table." The report was adopted.

The "Four Persons."

The following were elected as the "four persons" to attend the next Conference of Tinsall: Rev. Albert Lowe, Rev. J. L. Wilkinson, Ex-Baillie Gray, and Mr. T. J. Grainger.

The Annual "Conversation."

The conversation on the work of God was preceded by a gracious season of devo-

difficulties we had to face constituted a challenge rather than a source of despair. Our difficulties were not equal to those of the early Church. There was need for a personal experience of God in life. We must not be afraid to make appeals for decisions.

Rev. Alf. Jones urged the necessity of doing our work in contact with the Master Himself. As true disciples we must be co-workers with God.

Mrs. H. P. Ellis spoke of the revival in her Church through prayer. They had also found a house to house visitation effective.

Rev. H. Rhead spoke feelingly of how the influence of a good man was the means of winning him to the Kingdom. He had found it advantageous to get into touch with the parents of young people on his circuits. The Gospel of Jesus was not yet played out. It only needed to be applied.

Mr. H. O. Williams spoke highly of the work of his minister, Rev. Phil J. Fisher, amongst the young folk. He had personally prepared them for Church membership, and the result of this personal oversight had been very fruitful.

Rev. W. E. Farndale said the time had come to call a ball in vitriolic criticisms of the Churches. The world took the Church at its own valuation. The greatest moral asset this world had was the Church. We needed to give encouragement to that band of workers who faithfully carry on their duties in season and out of season. We must sound the note of victory everywhere along the line.

only solution of the world's ills. Their young people were waiting for the message, and the message to which they would respond was the evangelical appeal. He stressed the need for Christian fellowship. The most vital spiritual need was important for the health of the Church. Their people had the faith of the fathers in all that was essential. What was most was more of their fervour. He felt that Mr. Kelley had been inspired in preparing the official resolution. He would like to draw attention to all the societies throughout their Church. The

well, Rev. G. H. Hamey, Rev. E. E. Pritchard, Rev. and Mrs. B. Bully, Mrs. Gerrard, Rev. and Mrs. J. Haswell, Rev. and Mrs. J. Nicholls, Mrs. T. J. McKenzie, Mrs. G. T. Hodgson, Mrs. B. F. Skinner, Mrs. P. Bailey, Mr. G. V. Harrison, Miss M. W. G. Love, Miss L. V. Mackey, Miss S. Roberts, Miss E. F. Stead, Miss J. Stringer, Miss L. Lock, Rev. and Mrs. Geo. Bell, Rev. and Mrs. F. W. Dods. It was regretted that Mrs. Pritchard was unable to be present owing to the illness of her child. Rev. J. H. Hime moved the resolution of welcome and thanks, and the President



Liverpool District.

tion. In an atmosphere charged with spiritual power Rev. W. M. Kelley moved the official resolution.

Rev. G. W. Meadley, in opening the conversation, said we must give attention to the place of beauty in our public services. Many services were an offence to those with artistic sensibilities. Our great need was a revival of the sense of the mystical Body of Christ. We were in danger of losing a deep mystical, corporate sense of

Mrs. D. J. Dando said she would like to see more beauty in their buildings and in their worship. As one who had been brought up in Roman Catholicism she appreciated the freedom of Primitive Methodist worship, but she felt that like star-bearers of many of their places of worship was a hindrance to their work. She thought they might well give their people more to do in the services. They might join in responsive prayers as an act of

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added his own words of appreciation. The Rev. G. H. Hanes replied on behalf of the missionaries. He said it cheered their hearts to hear the resolutions of gratitude with which the Conference greeted them. They were proud to belong to the staff of the Missionary Society. The records were glorious: Dr. John Watson, John Smith, R. W. Burnett, Geo. H. Butt, and time failed him to tell of others who followed in their steps. They only prayed that those in the Homeland would ever hold them up in prayer. Their path was not easy. What cheered and helped them was the knowledge that the faithful at home were praying for them.

Mrs. F. W. Dodds was heartily cheered as she responded on behalf of the women. She banteringly said that it was not easy

done by the Laymen's Missionary League. At 10.45 Conference adjourned to hear Rev. T. Rhonda Williams preach the missionary sermon.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

The session opened a little late owing to the missionary luncheon. After devotions, Rev. J. J. Parlow raised the question of missionary income. He asked if the Committee had budgeted for next year for less money than they budgeted for last year?

Rev. J. H. Hirst: "We have budgeted for £4,000 less than last year."

Rev. J. J. Parlow: "Does that mean then that the committee contemplate retirement from some parts of the field?"

shown in the balance-sheet were the minimum to which expenses could be reduced. He thought we should best meet the missionary need if we raised the whole matter into a spiritual realm. He told how he gave systematically; he urged that others should do likewise, and he calculated that if that were done about £200,000 could be raised in our Church for missions.

Rev. J. E. Thorp said that he had often wondered if it was really necessary for their Missionary Committee to meet four times a year. He had been told that it was largely a recording Committee. He complained that there was no one elected to the Committee because of his special knowledge of and intimacy with home mission work.

Rev. W. J. Ward gave information as to

Western Command, worthily represented our Church. During the year Rev. Owen Roebuck had received an appointment as United Board Chaplain to the Mediterranean Fleet, and was already making his influence felt for good.

Rev. W. J. Ward moved the resolution on Home Missions, which was approved.

Rev. W. Turner, in seconding, referred to the zeal shown by the Roman Catholics in the propagation of their beliefs. He thought the time would soon come for a new building movement in the villages. There was need for more beautiful buildings in village districts.

Rev. R. Ferguson urged the necessity of evangelising the country. Our Church had a splendid opportunity, and as a prelude to Methodist Union we should seize the occasion presented for evangelism.

Mr. J. W. Wilson spoke appreciatively of the decade campaigns arranged by the Home Missions Office. The visit of Rev. A. Parkin had been a blessing to Bridlington as well as to visitors. The same would be true of other places if similarly missioned.

Rev. T. P. Mayhew said the ministers could give a lead to the people in missionary enterprises.

Mr. E. A. Turner said there was need to keep Methodism alive in the villages. We should hesitate before closing any clove in rural areas.

Church Extension.

Rev. W. J. Ward moved the resolution on Church Extension. A challenge was addressed to the Churches by the new situation caused by the migration of large numbers of people from city and urban areas to new industrial and rural districts in the neighbourhood of this new town and city churches had suffered losses. This could not be lightly set aside. Moreover, the new and generally unchurched populations presented an entrancing opportunity to enlarge the Kingdom of God. To neglect the opportunity would mean the menace large communities becoming pagan. Realising the seriousness of such a peril, the Home Missionary Committee, hampered though it was with altogether inadequate resources, had sought partly to meet the need. Much more, however, remained to be done.

Rev. W. Hutton seconded the resolution, and spoke of the glorious prospects in his area.

South Wales Circuit Boundaries.

Rev. W. J. Ward moved that a commission be appointed to prepare the readjustment of circuit boundaries in the South Wales District. On this being carried without dissent the following were appointed:—Rev. W. M. Kelly, G. Ayre, J. T. Barkly, Councillor J. Sivil, J. P. W. J. Ward, together with Revs. F. R. Brunskill and Mr. Noah Bowles, with the Missionary Secretary as Convenor.



Foreign Missionaries and Conference Officers.

for a woman to speak—on a platform! But these were not days for oratory. In these days truth was better presented in deeds than in words. The ladies who were represented preferred to do their work without talking about it. They knew what it was to toil in the heat of the day. But it was a great joy to breathe the life giving air of the Homeland, and to see once more the smile on the faces of friends.

Rev. J. H. Hirst moved the resolution of greetings to the missionary designates—Rev. D. Topliss Foster, Mr. J. A. K. Brown, D.Sc., Mr. F. Foulds, Mr. C. W. Moore, and Mr. R. S. D. Williams. In acknowledging the greetings Mr. J. A. K. Brown expressed appreciation of the greetings. They had done nothing yet to deserve it, but they hoped to serve and be worthy of it.

Rev. John Hornabrook.

The President intimated to the Conference that he had learned of the illness of the Rev. John Hornabrook, a devoted Methodist Churchman, and he proposed that the Conference should send its greetings and sympathy. This was agreed to cordially.

Rev. J. H. Hirst said that the year closed with a large measure of gratitude to all our folk. Though the £12,500 appeal had not yet been realised because of the economic conditions, the gain of £3,800 for Africa and £1,100 for the Home Fund was cheering. The fund withdrawal from the Jubilee Fund for the current African Fund has enabled all our work to be maintained. The new days would have to be faced without the old reserves, and it was imperative for further advances to secure an increase of £7,500 for Africa £3,000 and for the Home Fund £2,500. The Women's Missionary Federation had eclipsed all its records and surpassed itself with a membership of 36,555, an increase of 2,029, and an increase of £1,837 18s. 11d. during the year.

Mr. Richard Fletcher expressed thanks to all who had helped on the work; to Rev. J. T. Barkly for editing "Advance," to Rev. J. C. Mantrip who had constantly aided the work in the denominational magazines, and to the Rev. J. Swinden, the Book Steward.

Thanks to "Methodist Leader."

Mr. Fletcher spoke of the fine work done by the Methodist Leader during the year, and of its editor, Rev. George Bennett, through the medium of the Leader missionary work and its claims had been constantly kept before the denomination. Excellent propaganda work had also been

Rev. J. H. Hirst: "No, we are not proposing to retire from any part of the field."

Mr. Parlow, continuing, said he was concerned about the finance. Our people were doing their utmost. If the committee had any suggestions to make for raising more money he would be glad to hear of it.

Mr. F. A. G. Gilrow presented the other side and said of a parish circuit which had raised fourteen shillings per member, yet this last year that circuit had raised an extra £40! It was a matter of missionary enthusiasm. Where a minister was enthusiastic the people would follow his lead.

Mr. J. F. Pickup said he was a West African trader. After paying a high tribute to Rev. W. Norcross, he continued

administrative expenditure. He said the holding of the Committee was excellent propaganda work in the Districts.

Rev. J. H. Hirst said the time was rapidly approaching when they would need separate departments for their home and foreign work. The work had grown and was growing rapidly. He spoke agreed with Mr. Pickup with regard to understaffing, but knew that if another Secretary were proposed Conference would turn it down. Whilst it was desirable to have men with practical knowledge in office, it was not desirable that men should be switched straight away from the foreign fields into the intricacies of home administration. The Committee was representative of every District, and was the price they had to pay for democratic government. It was possibly true that in



Grimsby and Lincoln District.

with emphasis: "I am not a rabid, sentimental missionary enthusiast, but as one who knows the work of our missions in Nigeria I say that you simply must carry on your work in Nigeria! You cannot sanction any modification of your work. Any retirement from Nigeria would open the door for the Church of Mohammedanism. I would rather see the African natives turn to Mecca than to Rome, but I would rather see them turn to Calvary."

Mr. Pickup then criticised the organisation of the Missionary Committee because men were in it who did not know Africa. The office staff also was inadequate for the work. He proposed that a sub-committee be appointed to examine the whole facts and to report.

Rev. S. G. Copley asked if the expenses

some circuits the limit of missionary income had been reached, but it was not true of most. His experience was that the minister was the pivotal point, and where the minister was keen on missions, invariably circuits responded and missionary income went up splendidly. The balance-sheet was adopted.

Home Missions Report.

Rev. W. J. Ward presented the report of the Home Missions. The Conventional Evangelist had had another very successful season. The Committee had arranged for Rev. Tom Sykes to be used for special missions, and a full programme of work had been formulated. Rev. J. Firth, at the Air Force Camp, and Rev. G. Standing, as Assistant Chaplain-General to the



Home Missions District.

Missionary Treasurer.

Mr. B. Fletcher, J.P., whom Mr. Ward described as a Yorkshireman "sun-drenched, windswept and rain-washed," was unanimously appointed Missionary Treasurer.

Women's Missionary Federation.

The report of the Federation was received and approved. It repeated in the year's success and the new records made. The total membership is 31,595, an increase of 2,185; and the total income is £12,806 10s. 3d., an increase of £1,557 9s. 11d.

Mrs. J. G. Soudsby, speaking to the report, gave further figures illustrating the advance made. She regretted that time did not allow her to tell a story of

advance that would enthrust those who were not already enthused. There were still 188 circuits without branches of the Federation. The ministers of those circuits would realise if they had had a branch of the W.M.F. they would create a wider fellowship. The Federation had grown to such dimensions that they had had to reduce their representation to the annual meeting at Conference.

Young People's Missionary Department.

The report of the Young People's Missionary Department was received and adopted. And the following committee appointed: G. Ayre, W. J. Ward, A. Baldwin, J. H. Hirst, J. Swinden, F. Hardy, J. W. Clifton, M. A. S. Palmer, G. Hunt, G. Bennett, W. R. Wilkinson, B. Warhurst, President, F. Hardy, Secretary, C. P. Groves, B. A., R.D. The session closed at 5 o'clock.

Rev. J. B. Hardy, M.A., in seconding, said we should be extremely grateful for the magnificent report. The Nigerian work was really a romance, and should kneed. We should be grateful for the increased educational facilities for the women and girls of Africa. The Orou Institute was doing important work. If Africa was to be won it must be by native ministers. The school at Uzuakoli had received the highest assistance possible from any Government, which was evidence of the high standard achieved. The new report was excellent, and should fire our people with missionary zeal and bring increased finance to the Missionary Fund.

Rev. C. Crabtree said the work being done at Alwal North was of paramount importance. No work being done was more decisive. The social work going on

has a better method than the present haphazard system would be the co-opting by the Missionary Committee of expert members. The resolution was carried.

Missionary Legislation.

Legislation was submitted giving the Missionary Committee power to co-opt a number of representatives having expert knowledge of missions or special experience of missionary administration. Such co-opted members not to exceed six. Rev. G. Arncliffe said he opposed the legislation as unrepresentative in character and as likely to interfere with the prerogative of Conference.

Mr. A. B. Hillis, speaking as a layman, appealed that the committee should be given power to avail itself of such expert knowledge as was available. Ald. J. V. Mainprize said co-optation was an accepted

said the committee consisted of people who were deeply interested in missionary affairs in their own circuits. Rev. J. H. Hirst said he agreed that the co-optation should be only for the current (Constitution) year. He was prepared to accept the reduction from six to four. The Conference decided that four be co-opted, the voting to be open and free as between ministers and laymen.

Legislation.

Rev. J. H. Hirst moved the legislation as printed in the agenda for the training of foreign missionaries. He said that it was one of the most important pieces of legislation. It was the outcome of long and careful consideration on the part of the Missionary Committee. Its aim was to give the fullest equipment possible. Kingsmead had been chosen because it was known to the committee as one of



Members of the Deed Pail.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Conference opened with the usual devotions.

Copec and Youth.

Rev. W. H. Harrison, B.A., moved the resolution on Copec and Youth. It was a matter of grave concern that a large number of young people between the ages of fourteen and sixteen who had left elementary schools had neither been absorbed into regular industry nor been placed under suitable supervision or training. The Government should be urged to institute some form of continued educational training and supervision in accordance with the terms of the reports on the Education of the Adolescent (the "Hadow Report"), and on Education and Industry (the "Macdonald Report"). Mr.



Salisbury and Southampton District.

Harrison pleaded for personal interest in young folk. He thought the greatest good would be done by the formation of classes of our young people. Mr. J. B. Hillis seconded the resolution. Mr. J. Crompton, M.A., in supporting, said the Government should be urged to take steps in formulating a system of day continuation schools. Rev. A. Macdonald spoke of the amount of literature distributed by the Copec Committee.

Foreign Missions.

With unbounding gratitude to God the Rev. J. H. Hirst moved the resolution on foreign missions.

There was great. Alwal North was ready for Methodist Union. A word of praise to his colleagues Revs. H. Briggs and W. Hilsley was followed by an appeal for the magnitude of the task to be remembered. Mr. A. Hamilton wanted to know if it was worth while continuing at Fernando Poo.

Rev. J. H. Hirst replied that the standard of moral life on the island had been determined by our missionaries. The work there was highly important.

Rev. Jabez Bell concurred with all Mr. Hirst said.

Additions to the Missionary Committee.

In addition to the district and other representatives, the following were elected by Conference:—Rev. E. W. Smith, Mr. T. L. Gerard, Revs. S. Howley, N. Hancock, R. A. Barber, and J. E. Gilhert, Mr. T. J. Grainger, Revs. C. F. Gill, P. J. Fisher, and W. R. Wilkinson. Arising out of the foregoing election, Rev. W. M. Kelley moved that the Conference send to the Synods proposals that in future the Conference shall elect five ministers and five laymen to the committee.

Rev. J. W. Jenkinson thought that per-

principle in national government, and he saw nothing to object to if it was not abused. Rev. E. Barrett, M.A., asked that the co-optation should be only for one year. Rev. W. Turner (3) thought that any increase in the committee should be by district representation. Mr. J. H. Morton supported Mr. Barrett's suggestion that co-optation should be for the year only. Mr. A. Varley thought the number should be reduced to two. Six were too many. Rev. F. S. Collier spoke of the prerogatives of Conference, and said it ought not to be possible for anyone to secure co-optation who had failed to secure election by Conference. Mr. Frank Hirds proposed that the number co-opted should be four only, two to be ministers and two laymen. Ald. Ward Green seconded, and said the limitation of numbers would allay any fears as to the proposal being abused.

Mr. Richard Fletcher, J.P. (Missionary Treasurer), supported, and gave concrete instances of men with expert knowledge because they were not sufficiently well known in their Church. Rev. J. E. Thorp said the committee already had the power to call in and consult men with special knowledge. Rev. R. A. Barber

the best, and our own Rev. C. P. Groves would be able to give intelligent oversight to our men.

Rev. C. Crabtree raised the question of the relation of this legislation to men who went on foreign service for only a short term. It drew from Mr. Hirst the statement that when men offered or were called to foreign missionary work now they were asked to pledge themselves to a life's work abroad. The legislation was adopted.

Mr. H. Campbell asked that a book should be written on Personal Evangelism for our people to read. Note was taken of this by the Publicity Department.

The President read a letter from Rev. John Hornabrook, of the Wesleyan Church, replying to the greetings sent to him last week. Mr. Hornabrook said he looked forward to the union of the Churches. It would be "a mighty bond."

Rev. F. H. Pittswood moved that the resolution already passed on unemployment should be submitted to the Minister of Labour by deputation, and that the deputation should consist of President and Vice-President of Conference, General



Manchester District.

DR. BARNARDO'S HOMES

ANNUAL COLLECTION
OF

400,000 HALF-CROWNS

FOR THE CHILDREN'S FOOD.

WILL YOU HELP THE CHILD UP THE LADDER?

Dr. Barnardo's Homes are making their Annual Appeal for Half-Crowns as Birthday Gifts in memory of the Founder, the late Dr. Barnardo, to feed their family of 7,799 boys and girls—the largest family in the world. It equals a town. Think of supporting a town. You always send to the Half-Crown Appeal.

400,000 HALF-CROWNS REQUIRED.

Cheques and Orders payable "Dr. Barnardo's Homes Founder's Day Fund" and crossed may be sent to Dr. Barnardo's Homes, 28, Barnardo House, Stepney Causeway, London, E.1.



Please help the little child up the ladder.

Secretary, Sydney Walton, T. D. Finley, W. Lunn. The Conference approved. The General Chapel Fund Report and the Chapel Loan Fund Report were approved, with Rev. W. J. Ward secretary and Rev. A. Baldwin treasurer. The following four persons were added to the Committee on Finance: W. E. Moore, T. J. Buckley, W. H. Hawthorne, and T. L. Gerrard.

Whitechapel Institute and Homes of Rest.

The report was presented by Rev. J. E. Thorp in the regretted absence of Rev. Thos. Jackson. Mr. Thorp said that no other institute or Church did more than they did with respect to derelict men. Mr. F. A. B. Gilroy said that if the work and sacrifice of Rev. T. Jackson were known by our people he would receive even greater support.

Rev. W. M. Kelley moved that the Con-

Election of Students' Committee.

The Election of Students' Committee reported that they recommended that six probationers on circuits are due to enter college this year. Twenty-five candidates were recommended for acceptance to enter college.

Hartley Lecture.

The report of the Hartley Lecture Committee stated that the following arrangements had been made:—1929: Rev. E. McElzian, "The Contribution of Christ to Social Reform." 1930: Rev. H. Ferguson, "The Evangelism for To-day." 1931: Rev. J. C. Mantripp (Connexional Editor).

Conference of 1930.

The General Secretary reported that the Bradford circuits had unanimously agreed to entertain the Conference of 1930. A record was made of their invitation.

and said he had been much encouraged by the public utterances during Conference. He felt that the prejudice which once existed against the Union was disappearing. Its aim was to plead for the application of the Christian spirit to problems of industry and all human relationships on the basis of Gospel. Rev. John Morrison said it was a source of satisfaction that we had a movement making for a wider application of the Gospel. It would considerably strengthen the Union if an increased membership could be secured. The resolution was carried.

Rev. Sam Hoxley read the good wishes of the Conference for the success of the Million Pledge Campaign recently launched by the Band of Hope Union.

Conference Address.

The ex-President of Conference was requested to write the Conference Address.

Thanks to Donors.

Conference expressed its hearty thanks to a long list of donors who had made generous contributions to Trusts and other Connexional Funds.

Another Supersuperation.

The Conference learnt with deep regret of the enforced supersuperation, through illness, of Rev. D. T. Radfield.

Military Distinctions.

The question of the recognition of military distinctions was raised by Rev. Jaber Bell, with the result that the subject was referred to the General Committee with instructions to submit its recommendations to the Synods, the Synods to report to next Conference.

The Conference, having completed the agenda, commenced the final draft of sta-

Thanks to Local Committee.

Miss Hartley replied in happy terms to the vote of thanks to the Local Arrangements Committee: "We were glad to see you come, we are glad to see you go." (Laughter.) Thanks finally to the hosts and hostesses.

Rev. F. Holson moved a resolution of thanks to Rev. W. M. Kelley. It was well deserved. Mr. Kelley had shown untiring wisdom, tact and strength throughout the Conference, and it was due largely to him that the sessions had been so happy and business had proceeded so smoothly. Rev. J. H. Birist said: "We have never had a man in this office to do better." The resolution was received with standing applause.

Signing the Journal.

Business being completed, the President announced the hymn, "Thou Shepherd of Israel and mine." It was sung with great fervor. Delegates raised their hands to be counted 118, a record number. While the delegates stood the Journal was signed by the President and Vice-President at 11.15.

The President led in prayer, and closed a Conference that will be remembered for its charming spirit of friendship, its brotherly deliberations, and for its abiding inspiration.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS.

Shrewsbury.

The Committees met at Shrewsbury on Friday. Mr. W. A. Williams presided in the morning, when matters relating to Temperance, Endeavour and Sunday



Tunstall District.

school work were expeditiously dealt with. In the afternoon Rev. W. J. Hemp presided. Mr. J. B. Baylis, of Woolley Circuit, ministerial candidate, was congratulated on his success in his recent examination. Good wishes were expressed to the ministers who are leaving the District, and appreciative words were spoken of their work. A Sub-Committee consisting of Revs. W. J. Hemp, W. H. Greening, J. Axson, Messrs. J. R. Williams, G. R. Coghlan, and R. C. May, J.P. (Treasurer), and Rev. F. Morgan Ridge (Secretary) was appointed to administer the Connexional Fund for Relief of the Miners. Satisfactory reports were submitted from the aided stations. Rev. J. Holland gave a most encouraging account of stimulating and inspiring services conducted by Rev. J. Tucker and Manwaring in the "Off the Beaten Track Campaign" recently held at several places in the District. Rev. H. Kynaston introduced the business belonging to the Building Committee.

Bristol. The District Committees met at Stones Cross, Midsomer Norton. Chairman, Mr. J. B. Baylis, presided. Early in the afternoon of the day the first day of Committees after the Quarterly Meeting, a number of reports from aided stations were not to hand. The report of lay agent at Salem (Bristol Fourth) indicated that open-air work prior to Sunday evening service was being appreciated. Bristol Second reported a balance in hand on circuit fund. Despite breakdown of its minister, Frome Circuit is carrying on with vigour and the prospect is bright. The matter of Connexional Relief Fund for the Miners was discussed. The appeal is commended to the circuits, and a sub-committee appointed to deal with the question of relief in this area. Rev. R. Bolton is secretary, and Mr. H. E. Hunt, of Bath, treasurer. Hearty thanks were tendered to the friends at Midsomer Norton for splendid hospitality.



Missionary Treasurer and Home Mission Workers.

ference regretted the absence of Rev. Thos. Jackson through indisposition, and assured him of the confidence and love of the whole church, and hoped he would soon be restored to health.

New Chapel Fund Treasurer.

Mr. J. W. Arnold was appointed treasurer of the General Chapel Fund.

Orphanage Committee.

The following were elected by Conference in the Committee:—Mrs. T. Storey, Mr. J. A. Broughton, Mrs. Holroyd, Mrs. A. Matthews, J.P., Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Beswick, Mr. J. A. Naylor, Mrs. W. King.

Sustentation Fund.

The report was received and approved. It was recorded that £11,200 would be required this year to meet the claims on the Fund; £6,000 was granted from the

Choirs and Choirmasters.

The legislation forwarded by the General Committee providing for the appointment of choirmasters was considered. Conference approved the provision by which the nomination of choir-master, organist and officials of the choir shall be made by the Trustees' Meeting, subject to appointment by the Leaders' Meeting and Quarterly Meeting.

Choir Representation.

The further legislation provides for the representation of choirs in Leaders' Meeting and the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, such representation being confined to those who are already members of the Church. Rev. G. E. Rudrauf, in opposing, said we were in danger of cheapening representation. He appreciated the invaluable service of choirs, but in practice this

session, the session being closed at 5 o'clock.

THURSDAY MORNING.

The final morning session of Conference was opened in prayer by Rev. J. E. Thorp. Rev. W. E. Farndale moved a resolution urging that we should do all that was possible to propagate Protestant principles. Rev. A. W. Bagnall seconded. The Conference agreed.

Rev. W. M. Kelley referred to the tragic occurrence at Westminster Hall, and moved the following resolution:—"That the Primitive Methodist Church expresses its sympathy with all those who have suffered in the tragedy at Westminster Hall."

Closing Resolutions.

Mr. Kelley also moved the following resolution:—"That we express to Mr. Robert Watchorn our warmest appreciation of his munificent gift of the Watchorn Memorial Church at Alfreton." It was unanimously agreed that the resolution on the work of God should be printed and sent down to the churches.

The Conference then resumed consideration of the final draft of stations, the confirmation of which was moved at eleven o'clock.

Rev. W. M. Kelley (General Secretary) called attention to the unusually large number of delegates in attendance at the close of Conference. He then moved thanks to the President, the Vice-President, Revs. F. Holson and J. Hall (Conference Secretaries), and the other Conference officers.

Thanks to the Press.

Rev. W. M. Kelley expressed cordial thanks to the Press, in which the local Press had served the Conference; also the Press Association; and, finally, the Leader, "which always served with efficiency."



Darlington and Stockton District.

Home Missionary Fund, and £4,600 was the assessment made by the Allocation Committee under the Districts. November 4th was fixed as Sustentation Fund Sunday, and the circuits were urged to observe this day and to remit their allocations to the District Missionary Treasurer without delay.

Greetings to Methodist Conferences.

Professor Humphries read the text of the letters which Rev. S. Horton, and he had prepared at the request of the Conference to be addressed in greeting to the Conferences of the Wesleyan Methodist and United Methodist Churches. The Conference expressed its approval, and ordered that the letters be signed and forwarded.

SEVENTH DAY.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

After devotions, the President called upon Rev. A. McDonald to move a resolution calling upon the Church to support the Christian Social Union. Mr. McDon-

AMENDMENT REJECTED: OVERWHELMING VOTE FOR UNION.

Please help us with a Gift
for this Christ-like work.

Send at once to
Rev. JOSEPH E. GILBERT,
ST. GEORGE'S HALL,
OLD KENT ROAD, S.E. 1.

**ST. GEORGE'S HALL,
OLD KENT ROAD, S.E. 1.**

[illegible]

CONFERENCE DAY BY DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 23RD, Morning.—After a night of continuous rain the sun shone with brilliancy as the delegates gathered for worship. The singing had a sonorous quality in it. The preacher is coming into his own, and is evidently enjoying the opportunity of wedding the Conference into a harmonious and jubilant choir. The first business was a resolution on the Revised Prayer Book, introduced by Professor Humphries. He gave a reasoned statement of the grounds on which our Church had a right to give expression to its convictions, going out of his way to assure the Prime and the Anglican Church of our great regard for him and this much loved institution. There was not much discussion, but an urgent desire that publicity should be given to the resolution. One delegate said that publicity in the Press was not adequate—a charge often made, but which is difficult to sustain.

The affairs of the Young People's Department came next before the Conference. Rev. J. W. Clifford, M.A., held the attention of both delegates and visitors. He paid a great tribute to the work of his predecessor, and

some churches were dropping Christian Endeavour. There was, however, less anxiety displayed, for some reason, to speak on this topic.

The new deed pool member had arrived and was called on by Mr. Rowley. He reveals himself a hale and vigorous, stalwart and upright youthful veteran—all in a flutter, he said, because of the honour which had come to him. His speech was brief, and ended with a story which convulsed the Conference. An old lady was mending stockings and grumbling. Her husband said, "Least said, soonest mended." With this he descended to the seats of the front.

The honour of the deed pool member was a well-attended introduction to the Temperance and Social Welfare Secretary, Rev. S. Rowley. He had a story of declining interest in Band of Hope work in our churches if statistics could be trusted, and had got in some pungent thrusts against those who left this necessary work to languish when the whole matter was adjourned, and we proceeded to the memorial service.

was one reference to the great fight of last year, and finally all adjourned satisfied by what had been done. Mr. Rowley carried his legislation for subsidising the circuit contributions to the Temperance exchequer. He suggested that if any circuit found any difficulty in providing the levy the Circuit Secretary would pay it. The motion for an early adjournment the question of giving more time for debating public questions was raised. The General Secretary was sympathetic, and suggested that aggrieved members should be added to the committee, so that agreed resolutions should be prepared. His business, he said, was to get the whole of the business through, and it was necessary to keep a sense of proportion. Soon after three o'clock the Conference was up, thus giving the delegates opportunity to attend the Young People's meeting. Probably some took advantage of this.

MONDAY, JUNE 11TH, Morning.—At the outset of the Conference the President expressed gratification to God for the inspiring services of the Sunday. The weather had been threatening but on the day of the Conference it cleared up, and its up reputation for being sunny. It has been asserted, however, that there was much sunshine before the delegates arrived, and

Constitutional finance was the next topic. The veteran and much-esteemed Secretary, G. G. Martindale, greeted the delegates on the way, assuring them that he was hard at work. His careful and punctual work has brought forth another of those generous tributes by which the General Secretary has secured his helpers. As a forward-looking financier, he urged the attention of all the circuits to prompt payment of levies. One delegate, with a gluttonous appetite for figures, wanted a lengthier balance-sheet and was informed that there was no serious objection to this. The Constitutional levies are to remain as at year. This was accepted without comment.

Nominations for the four persons to attend next Conference proved to be one of the most popular items of procedure so far. For there was no serious objection to this. Names were put forward. In the day gone by this position was regarded almost as the prerogative of those who had just missed the Presidency, or for those in connexional office who had no other opportunity of election. But the tendency now is, if an instant expression used more than once in the Conference may be borrowed, to slip over. Nominations seemed to be prompted by a local or personal preference. The name of the minister of the Conference Church was put forward first of all. Mr. Love is deservedly popular with the delegates. His urbanity and breezy delight in fellowship and service are contagious. For the two laymen fifteen nominations were received—an unprecedented number (this must surely be).

Praise and prayer in which the heights of spiritual power were reached preceded the conversation on the Work of God. In introducing this Mr. Kelly said that a delegate looking through the agenda had said it was strange that only an hour was devoted to this central topic, but was a mistake. The whole ten days were devoted to the work of God, and now we brought all that occupied those days to a focus. His resolution was phrased with wonderful beauty; words were commended in such manner that they not only held, but revealed, spiritual vision and passion. Mr. Kelly spoke a word which expressed in its latter clause the feeling of the Conference: "It is my resolution, and it is more, it is my personal confession." The convention brought out such encouraging testimonies; yet somehow the purpose intended by providing a leader was frustrated. As it grew, however, on such occasions the testimonies were personal and suburban. Rev. G. W. Meadley had pressed the fact right through that the Church as a mystical body should commend the sacrificial service of all its ministers and members. There were speeches, but the heart was missing. Really the work of God will prosper, most proper, when we care more for what we do than what becomes of us does not matter.

Conference Arrangements Committee.

said that he could have wished to give evidence of the results of that work by reporting increases of scholars. But the decreases had continued. However, there are bright spots in the work among the young, and Mr. Clifford revealed his sagacity by dwelling on this. Light chased the shadows until only the light seemed to matter. There was just as large an attendance of scholars in our schools; the younger teachers were seeking for adequate equipment; and these were gaining distinction in various ways. The discussion gave opportunity for many personal testimonies concerning what was being done and what had been preached in days past, but it became evident that the greatest necessity was that which had become intelligent as well as enthusiastic. Mrs. Jones Hayes made an appeal that all workers should be given a secure instruction for young people in Biblical questions, an ethics—a wise and weighty contribution. Many delegates clamoured to speak, but Mr. Clifford pawkily suggested that they should make their speeches at home where the work awaited them.

The legislation for making the General Sunday School Committee more effective awakened the Conference thoroughly. There was some amusing play between the President and Rev. John Hall. Of course, the President seconded—everybody got all they wanted; he declared; but the President Secretary of the Conference secured also. He told the President that the president and the delegates could vote it out. They did—the only vote was carried by an overwhelming majority. Mr. Clifford has made an excellent Conference debut.

After the President had spoken on the Miners' Relief Fund, to which the Conference had given its sanction and commendation, and had insisted that all who could come to Southport as delegates or visitors were able to contribute to this fund. Rev. T. Bullock came to the platform to present the Education Endeavour Fund. He told a story of far-reaching activities—dreams and deeds which anticipate international peace and the fellowship. The president was reinvigorated the world was vigorously asserted. The note of optimism was almost banished. Concern was expressed that

A solemn hush came over the Conference as those who had emerged through death into life were remembered. The names of seventeen ministers were read while the delegates sat in silence. To these Rev. J. Holmes added the names of nine widows of deceased ministers, and Mr. J. H. Morton a company without names for record who had died in faith—local preachers, class leaders, Sunday-school workers and members, and at the close we stood again in silent remembrance of the dead. The quiet, intense and reverent way in which Rev. F. S. Boulough led the Conference to realise the presence of God prepared the way for the simple and unadorned but sure and adequate addresses which followed. There was no eulogy, only an appraisal of values which brought us up against inspiring facts. Ministers entered yet influence endure, and the Conference was fortified by being reminded that this is so. The singing was as a breath from the heavenly place.

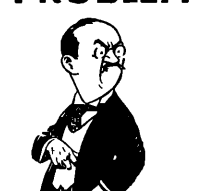
Afternoon.—The Conference assembled early in order to complete the Young People's Department business broken off at the morning session. But before we were able to get a word of detail business was dealt with and quickly dispatched. Our people have been diligent in their prayers and congratulations. The debts now are largely on the part of the proper committee. The Education report was introduced by Rev. W. A. Hammond, one of the most able and successful of the more virile of our leaders. This led to a useful conversation on the use of an agreed religious syllabus and scheme. Mr. Ward Green told his experience in Shropshire, and uttered a warning against any attempt to go beyond the syllabus, as this was a safeguard against the introduction of denominational teaching.

Rev. S. Rowley then took up the business of his department. The pledge card for pacifists was the centre of a very hot general and favourable conversation, and was accepted. Fears were expressed that our League of Nations might not be the League of Nations Union. The war veteran who stands for absolute peace—Rev. James Hall—pleaded that there should be a lead from the Conference platform, and was assured that the platform stood firmly by the declared policy of the Church. There

probably the weather has greatly helped to swell the attendance at the public services. The Conference journal was again accepted as correct without being read. The Secretary is being kept at his task without the disturbance of publicity. Thanks to the speakers at the memorial service came next, and then thanks to the Constitutional Committee. The words of appreciation were commendably brief, but hearty. Mr. H. H. Bowyer was cordially received as a reply for himself and his firm. Then the Conference received news of a new benefaction of the ex-Vice-President, Mr. J. W. Arnold. He wished to celebrate his year of office by some permanent memorial. It was suggested that he had left many memories of his service during his many pilgrimages. Now, however, he had decided to give a house at Everton, to be the home of the Conference, and of superannuated ministers. In the furnishing, also, Mr. G. J. Pearce and Mrs. T. Arnold, both of Northampton had promised £200 each. More would be needed, but this, the General Secretary expressed with assurance, would come. He is waiting to hear from those who feel that they have a duty which is also a delight to help in the furnishing. He thoughtfulness and generosity of Mr. Arnold was warmly appreciated.

The Orphanages Report was introduced by the Mayor of Halifax. We heard something about the beneficent work that is carried on in the orphanages, and the work was continued generally of our people. The Treasurer advised the delegates and visitors to remember the orphanages in their wills and to send him something on account. Much of his time was devoted to telling some anecdotes with untimely variations. There were received with acclamation and delight. The Secretary added some details of the work that was being done; the various committees and officers were elected; legislation giving place to representatives of the Ladies' Committees in the District Committees accepted; and the report adopted—all without discussion. This was the concluding Conference. Then the next business happening, the President in his genial way said: "Dear friends, we will say 'The Morning person appearing' added: "He is here, but, dear friends, we will sing all the same." The President is taking the Conference as if he was enjoying a holiday. The Precentor also is having a great time. He claps his hands in his endeavour to keep his choir together.

HUSBANDS ARE A PROBLEM



"Self Important"

but it's always safe to start their day with

Hardley's MARMALADE

SAJ

At the close of the conversation we were brought back to Mr. Meadley's place for the centrality of the Church as the house of God and the home of beauty. Personality must be used, if needs be, for the purpose of being fraternal with the grace of holiness. Worship must become a corporate act if it is to be real. We know much about God, or do not know God enough. This was a challenging contribution, and Mrs. Dando knew this, but her words were appreciated, and the difficult task she outlined will need to be taken up. There must be something of the beauty of holiness in our Churches if they are to serve their purpose for the future that are coming. The Conference chairs the statement of Mr. T. Bowran that the great things should wait us, but the great things are that the great things are being waited. When we shall delight in the knowledge of God as much as a good story brings delight, there will be more graciousness and less self-attractiveness in our ministry. The ex-President spoke a good word for our younger ministers, and asked that the Secretary's resolution should be sent to all our churches.

Afternoon.—The volume of vocal praise with which we prepared for the discussion of the resolution on Methodist Union was a great testimony of desire to enter upon this stage of the Conference business anxiously. There was interviewed the declaration of the will of the Four Persons. The elect were the Revs. A. Jones and W. B. Wilkinson, ex-Baillie Gray and Mr. T. J. Grainger. A singing quartette, and the President, if they should be called upon to sing. The President then outlined the procedure. The motions would be presented on a vital matter, an amendment would be moved, and speakers were asked to send up their names, and whether they supported or spoke in support or in opposition, and he would deal with these in the manner that they deserved. After the report was presented, our Departmental Secretary, Rev. S. Horton, gave the history of what had happened during the period since last Conference. This story will be told elsewhere. It is sufficient now to say that this was a clear, concise and witty, not to say witty statement. He dealt with the great things—the greater Church for the sake of a more effective Christianity. Its presence was evidence of inflexible interest in this great question, if not of design, that it should go a stage further towards consummation. Mr. Horton, speaking for himself, while hoping to enter the larger Church, said deliberately that there were limits to willingness to wait, and this scheme marked those limits. It was an excellent introduction.

The critical stage was reached when the resolution accepting the declaration of the Wesleyan Conference that union was now the declared policy of the Church as a whole was guaranteed that union will be consummated was introduced by the ex-President. He made no speech. The second, Mr. L. E. Gerard, gave a speech redolent with reminiscences of the past fifteen years. Most of all, he showed that this was the policy of the Churches everywhere, and was the need of the Churches if the cause of Christ was to prosper. Then Dr. Peake rose and was given a wonderful reception. The atmosphere was becoming electric, as it seemed, as he came to wait, and this scheme marked those limits. The question of union was not matter for debate, this had been decided. His was a plea to the impatient, under the new circumstances that had arisen. Union could not be if a mere minority insisted in active opposition. The right view-point was presented in the statement that he endeavoured to look on it as if it would cost our people the lives of five years ahead. A few years in the life of a Church did not count for much in a matter of five dimensions. The young people to-day who would know nothing in the years to come of Sectarian Methodism ought to have large in the vision of the Conference. This idea that they are the guardians of the future seemingly gripped the Conference. It is to be hoped that the impatient will be converted.

When Rev. J. E. Thorpe came to the platform to move his amendment that the new suggestions should be sent down to the Church Courts for consideration, his welcome was hearty, and his speech, which revealed more than the amendment stated, was appreciated, though some portions of it were greeted with dissent. He questioned the authority of the Conference to accept a mandate from the Churches the new proposals. It was an excellent speech for the purpose of strengthening the will to oppose, with much wit; indeed, more wit than argument in support of its contention. He was also to counsel, the will was supported by those who were opposed to Union, and by those who had supported Union, but who were mainly were irritated by its proposal to refer the whole question again to the Wesleyan Synods. But, as the debate proceeded, it became evident that whatever the result of the amendment intended, its acceptance would be interpreted by other Churches as a vote against Union.

The discussion brought up some new speeches, and some old arguments. It is strange that some delegates to the Conference

should distrust the capacity of the Conference for doing the business for which it is called. But there are signs of a larger vision. Conference is not only the executive of the Primitive Methodist Church, but the instigating for contributing something towards the problems of society and the world, and for establishing the Kingdom of God. This view found utterance. The conference of Rev. C. B. Holley, S. G. Colley and S. Palmer, of Mr. J. H. Morton, the General Conference Secretary, and the ex-President were thought on the magnificent scale the vision of the world's need and then the vote for the amendment, accepting the new order of procedure, showed that there had been a long back to the determination of our Church to do this thing through. There was no need for fear that the applause of opponents meant the conversion to opposition. The main vote in favour of Union was nearly 90 per cent. of the delegates voting. Mr. Alderson expressed his pleasure at the result, and Mr. Rattenbury's appearance as a convert to Union was hailed clamorously. His declaration that he saw no reason why all Wesley's children should not worship together evoked hearty assent. So a great success of our part in a difficult task was once more well and truly done.

TUESDAY, JUNE 12TH, Morning.—The Conference assembled in brilliant sunshine and in expectation of the greatest day. The service in the Shaking Bunk on the previous evening and addressed by Viscount Cecil, of Chelwood, had been a splendid success. Indeed, the public meetings of this Conference and the Conference itself have been magnificently attended. The interest of our people in the affairs of our Church augurs well for a revival of purpose to use it more and more as God's instrument to evangelize the world. The declaration of Viscount Cecil that we must be better, a scheme of adoration substituted for, and ornaments restricted, will reach round the world and hearten all lovers of peace. The singing was magnificent.

There was a lull in the singing which preceded the welcome given to the missionaries on furlough and missionaries designate. There was a notable array, and it must have been something of an ordeal for them to answer their names and face the great assembly of delegates and visitors, and their appearance was warmly welcomed, and it was a joy and will be a cherished memory for many who had no hitherto known them personally to have seen these pioneers of our Church. The welcome given by Mr. Rival was warmly responded to by the President, the presence of an upstanding Conference. This great response to what represents the adventure of the Church on the frontiers of the Kingdom reveals that at the heart of the Church there is the missionary passion; and the enthusiasm at the beginning of this day augurs for the success of the great missionary day of the Conference. The duty of replying to the welcome of the Conference was entrusted to Rev. G. H. Hannay, Mrs. F. W. Dodds and Mr. J. A. K. Thorne, and was well sustained. After this exhilarating period we passed for a few moments into another atmosphere, that of the hymn-singing, when Mr. J. Hornbrook, of the Wesleyan Church, and his family—news had come to the Conference that Mr. Hornbrook was ill. His absence from the Union debate was matter for regret.

Nominations for the General Missionary Committee followed. There were ten other nominees, and for the first time since the seven names had been sent forward by the Districts and the Conference added ten more names to the list. The Committee desire there is to find a place on this Committee, by many regarded as the most important of the Departmental Committees. The voting on these names cannot take place until this afternoon. The financial position of both the Home and the African Funds was taken before the Conference broke up for the missionary sermon. The increase in income had not been great as desired, but with economies and the use of the balance of the Jubilee Fund all our work has been maintained. The treasurer, Mr. H. Fletcher, made a telling appeal for an increased income for both funds. There was a note in the "Advance" recognised as the splendid work done by Revs. E. W. Smith and Phil J. Foster in preparing the new style of report in the "Palladium" and in for commendation. If knowledge of what is being done in the world, and in our home and in Africa can be broadcast, this will do much to arouse our people to new endeavours.

The Conference adjourned early for the morning service, which was held at first. The preacher was Rev. T. Rhoads Williams, of Brighton. There was an immense audience. The place was filled, and at first it seemed that the theatrical surroundings would make against worship. But such fears vanished as the service proceeded. A more worshipful atmosphere was realised than that

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Conference Missionary Meeting.

CROWDS AT THE SKATING RINK.

Southport's huge Skating Rink rapidly filled up for the Conference missionary prelude on Tuesday night. The musical prelude by the United Church provided an additional attraction. The concert was well attended, assembled in an expectant mood and the realization fulfilled the highest anticipations. The missionary spirit was "in the air." The Rhodney Church had secured a ringing note in the morning sermon. The women had left their great meeting in the evening, and the girls again had met and created a new record, with a total income of over £1,850! And now the climax awaits the audience in a storm of stirring missionary oratory! The opening chorus by the choir, "O Clasp Your Hands" (Stainer), easily provoked loud applause. It was thrilling to hear the great multitude sing with fervour, "Praise my soul, the King of Heaven," Rev. J. W. Clifford subsequently leading in the ministry of prayer.

The Chairman.

Mr. T. L. Gerrard, who presided, is beloved of all who know him, and is a great missionary advocate and supporter. He said that he had a great deal to say at the Conference, great and small, but he would not say more than this was "the day of days." It was a day when we thought not of ourselves but of the world, our thoughts were of those in large towns and cities where life was hard, where life was dark. We were thinking also of the millions of people who were suffering, and fell on the gathering as he referred in tender tones to those of our staff who had made the journey from the far East. He then turned to J. McKean. And in that lush he asked: "Are you doing your part in this great work?" He then turned to the spot in every heart. Madame Katie Peters has served the Conference in such great and noble service. Her long and noble work is known. What was the most charming and most self-sacrificing effort she had made. Together with her mother, her spiritual mother, "Where you there," it produced that trembling, sensitive feeling on which speakers may rise and be able to power. The so noble things yet higher by singing "A Hymn to Music" with exquisite interpretation and a beautiful voice. Her mother, a great leader, Mr. Peter Whitehead, for their untold service of song. Mr. J. H. Morton, the Vice-Chairman, the president in association work, being secretary of the Laymen's Missionary League. He said it was a hopeful and significant thing that the great meetings of the Conference were missionary meetings. There was a small band of men and that upper and long ago, and from them came a revolutionary power. What might not come from the thousands gathered in that Skating Rink the power will be there!

Rev. Charles Crabtree.

The first speaker was Rev. Charles Crabtree, of Alwal North, South Africa. Mr. Crabtree is a well-balanced, well-informed and indefatigable toiler on our foreign field, one who toils and asks not the praise of man. He set out to transport his hearers to the centre of the world in South Africa. He said that he had a great deal to say to do. Of all the tasks God had ever given him Alwal North was by far the greatest. He said that world was Crabtree's to be given their utmost. Some thought we might see £2,000 if we withdrew from Alwal North. "Why," said Mr. Crabtree, "I withdrew from all our missions we could save £50,000." That was sufficient answer. But he had other answers to follow. He breast thrilled at the stories of evangelism with his black-skinned converts. It was more than an answer; it was an appeal. From that he went on to sketch the social problems of South Africa. What a reflection that these answers to the social and governing races! Some said Mr. Crabtree, "would suppress the native even further." But he would not do that. "The native is the son of God," he said. "If there is to be real peace in Africa it can only be as both races have the crown rights of manhood!" With his parable of the eagle that, when it was taken to the church and faced forward, the sun rose upwards and upward, Mr. Crabtree thrilled his hearers with the ringing claim that the African soul had seen the light through the medium of Jesus Christ, and that soul would yet soar towards the glory of the hereafter. It was a very impressive and inspiring appeal.

A Voice from Whitechapel.

As so often happens, a tense spiritual atmosphere was somewhat dissipated by the "friendly" happy Mr. May, who, in his singing, "Jesus shall reign" to "Rising to the top, which did most to restore the tone of the service," Mr. J. Thorp, of Whitechapel, represented another phase of our missionary work. From

the skirting haunts of the East End of London he had come to call the soul to sympathetic imagination concerning the submerged masses of London, and where, in the last 100 years, the people had any association with the Church. From that area churches had been built, but the people had remained. It was with a chastened optimism that he lived and laboured in Whitechapel. He said that he had a great deal to say to do. He needed more effort in England without giving to Africa. His references to James Plangin and Thomas Jackson called forth great applause. These men took the flag into the north of London. Sketching the work of the South Wales Wesleyan Mission, he showed how men and women were brought to Jesus Christ by that agency. All the romance was not in books but in fact proved that we could preach the Gospel, and that Gospel had been effective. Mr. Thorp's stories of redeemed manhood were the right kind of concrete appeal to make for our missionary work in the homeland. He showed how our home missionaries take both men and give them a guiding hand, and start them on the highway to a greater life. And what results! Healed and broken men and women healed and renewed—glorious advertisements for Christ and home missions. We could do more for the world if we had more of the kind of men and women who had passed unaided. He had travelled so far, and seen so much, and he had seen the need of the most challenging. If we have the spirit of our fathers, and having our own work to do, and having the social and spiritual uplift of our fellow men. The speech deserved the great applause which it received.

A Fell of Kafue.

"A Fell of Kafue," Mr. J. H. Fell, of Central Africa, stood forth. It was 9.30. But the audience was ready to listen to yet more of the previous quality. Mr. Fell's description of the foreign mission work was humorous, but it was not. I have had a Central Africa twenty-one years, and I am going to leave it to the future. It was a contrasting "now" with twenty-one years ago in Central Africa. Telling the story of his work, he said that he had seen the pass without a prayer, of the awe-inspiring effect of the new moon, of the falling of rain, of the rising of the sun, of the people were, through these things, aware of the Unknown. To those people they went. They made the Unknown known. And "we have been on the winning side." It was a remarkable tale that Mr. Fell told. Our own work in the night of the people was a member of the Christian Church (though many of these were Roman Catholics). Kafue had done the share. They did preach the gospel of the plough, the gospel of the anvil, the gospel of the home and school, but they had preached the gospel of redemption. Mr. Fell's singing of a native tune and the Gospel words which he had put to that tone, thrilled the audience. He then concluded: "an old tune, a new message," that is what we are giving to Africa. If only needed the choir in their grand style to thunder forth "Worthy is the Lamb," to bring one of the finest missionary meetings that we have known, to a grand conclusion.

Rev. Albert Lowe announced the financial results—Evening collection, £73 2s. 6d., including £22 from the vice-chairman; men's meeting collection, £1,356 15s. 4d., including the proceeds of the tea, £44 2s. 6d.; the service, £50; the luncheon proceeds, £100; total, £1,589 17s. 10d. This announcement was greeted with great applause, and all stood to sing the Doxology in thanks to Almighty God.

A successful bazaar was held on June 6th in the Miners' Institute, Rhon (Rhymney Circuit). The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. C. P. Williams, wife of the M.P. for the Division. Rev. W. H. Remp presided, supported by Rev. W. H. Groomer. During the evening Mrs. W. J. Broadbent and Mr. J. W. Broadbent, the Treasurer, the result of her own effort on behalf of Rhon Church. The gift came as a great surprise and gave much encouragement to our people. Mrs. Remp was warmly thanked by Mr. K. Wynne, Mr. J. L. Broadbent and Mr. J. W. Broadbent. Since the opening of their new church our friends at Rhon have passed through a trying time owing to depression in the mining industry, making it difficult to meet their heavy liabilities. They are facing their problems, however, with great courage and devotion. The General Chapel Loan Fund Committee has recently rendered generous help by a loan of £700 at 1 per cent. The total raised by the bazaar was £103, which with the amount raised by some very successful singing, our friends will enable the Trustees to meet their liabilities for this year. Arrangements are already being made for another bazaar next year.

John Bunyan and Whitechapel.

Sir,—In reading the "Life of John Bunyan," by Dr. Brown Brown, the following extract was specially interesting to me:—"The forty miles' journey to London (from Reading) turned out to be a dreary ride through driving rain, at the end of which he found himself, drenched and weary, at the house of one whom Charles Doe described as Bunyan's very loving friend, John Stradwile. This loving friend, under whose roof the Dreamer had come to die, lived at a house on Snow Hill, and carried on business there under the sign of 'The Star.' He saw the plight in which his guest had arrived, but the full mischief brought by that long ride through driving rain did not show itself at first. Bunyan himself has as yet no misgiving, for on the Sunday he undertook to preach at *Whitechapel* what proved to be his last sermon. This sermon, founded on John 15, contained passages which might well close up the ministry on earth of one so catholic and large-hearted." I scarcely need to inform you, Mr. Editor, that my discovery has considerably enhanced the honour I esteem it to render and toil in Whitechapel—Yours, etc., THOMAS JACKSON.

Musical Memories of Southport.

One of the abiding memories of the South Conference will be the fine and praiseworthy service rendered by the Conference Choir. They attended in strength at all the big meetings and by the excellence of their contributions brought pleasure to the audience and great credit to their own trainer and conductor, Mr. Peter Whitehead, a member of a well-known family at Hesketh Banks. It was a happy inspiration on the part of the Arrangement Committee to engage Madame Katie Peters, the gifted contralto. She is a great favourite in North Wales and the North of England, by one of the chairmen as "God's gift to Primitive Methodism," she gave of her best. (From invariably) "emersonian" music we ignore the efficient service of Mr. Percy Banister as organist of the Conference Church, and the excellent music which he has at the President's mid-session devotional interludes, he was at his post, and gave an excellent lead to the singing. If the choir should be given where honour is due "our friends are entitled to their need of praise."

Dowla's Opening Services.

On Saturday the church in Dowla's entered into their new home. Some time after the chapel in Wind-street was destroyed by fire there came into the market property belonging to the International Bible Students' Association, part of which was a hall capable of seating 200-250 people. Practically the whole site was secured. Alterations were made to the hall, and paintings were donated liberally by the members. The site is freehold, and the premises are debt free; the money received when the old lease was surrendered, and from the fire insurance being sufficient for this purpose. The opening ceremony was conducted by Rev. R. T. Wagstaffe, the opening being Canon. Tudor Davies, M.E.J. (deputy Mayor of Merthyr). In declaring the building open, he hoped that great success would attend the new venture. Following the ceremony a service was held, conducted by Rev. R. J. Fenwick (Mountain Ash). His message was inspiring and challenging, and will long be remembered. At the evening meeting the chairman was Mr. Jenkins, and the speakers Rev. T. W. Brown (Aldersley), R. J. Fenwick, and R. T. Wagstaffe. On Monday Mr. Wagstaffe delivered his popular lecture, "The Dominion of Hygiene," the chairman being Mrs. H. J. H. J. The lecture showed the immense debt that Methodist owe to all ages and sects for their sacred song, and was well received by an appreciative audience. The week-end was a great success, and the services were well attended, the Sunday-school re-started, and the prospects, once very dim, are now bright and hopeful as we work with fresh enthusiasm and energy.

Conn. W. Hunter Rowe and Mrs. L. Russell, of Upwell, Downham Market Circuit, have received serious injury in a motor accident. Both Mr. Rowe and Mrs. Russell are well, but Mrs. Russell's ankle was broken. They were conveyed to a private nursing home in Lynn, where they are likely to remain for some time. Both Mr. Rowe and his mother-in-law, Mrs. Russell, are greatly respected members of our Church, and are earnest workers in the Downham Market Circuit. Great sympathy has been expressed with them and the family in this serious accident.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

Rejected!

It was said that the first verdict given by the House of Commons on the subject of the new Prayer Book was given hastily and was largely the result of ignorance and misunderstanding. That cannot be said now. There has been time for reflection; there has been much disputation throughout the country and among all classes; there has been a second great debate in the House of Commons, engaging for the defence of the measure the strongest forces that could be mustered; and the first verdict has been repeated and emphasised. When it is remembered that the present House of Commons is overwhelmingly Conservative in politics, and as such may be regarded as specially interested in all that concerns the State Church, it will be seen that the latest verdict on the measure must be accepted as final. It is not likely that in our time there can ever be a combination so favourable. An aged Archbishop pleading that twenty years' hard and strenuous work should be crowned; a bench of bishops ranged strongly behind him; the courts of his Church supporting him by substantial majorities; a Parliament of a complexion such as is not likely to be repeated for many years, make a situation that might have been regarded for the purposes of this measure as absolutely safe. It has proved otherwise, and it is of profound importance that we should discover why.

A New Book.

It is generally admitted that there is need for a new Book of Common Prayer. The world is not as it was 250 years ago, and its need of religious expression is different. To say that that which was shaped then is adequate for to-day is to assert that life in the Church has been stagnant, which would be untrue. The new Book made provision for that, and had it not sought to carry with it what the country believes to be a Romanist conception of the Eucharist, there should have been no opposition to its passing. England is not as militantly averse to a State Church as it was, but it insists now that it has been put to the test, that it shall remain a Protestant Church. And the test was thrust upon it. The country neither sought nor invited it. The result is that any attempt to introduce even a semblance of Romanism into the legalised structure of the Church of England must be abandoned. But that does not mean that the changes which are acknowledged to be sound and necessary should be abandoned. The policy of "all or nothing," especially when the "all" included such a highly controversial subject as the Eucharist, is a policy to be deprecated. It would suggest that the only thing that really mattered in the measure was the acceptance of an interpretation of a sacrament which has been rejected twice. It is true that to accept that in the measure about which there is general agreement would leave the whole question of discipline untouched, but that could be dealt with afterwards. It is safe to predict that it could be dealt with more effectively by a Church liberated in so many ways from the dead hand of the past.

Discipline.

It has been suggested in many quarters that the bishops should flout the power of Parliament by authorising the use of the rejected Book and suffering the consequences. That there would be consequences is beyond doubt, but it is incredible that the bishops should force them in that way. They are as aware as any Free Churchman that the spiritual should be independent of the secular power, but they are just as aware that a policy of alliance with the State is that the State Church must be a Protestant Church. Within that limitation there is room for a freedom so wide and elastic that so long as the Church remains Protestant the obtrusion of any secular power is negligible. If, however, the Anglican Church wishes for a freedom which will include Romanism, then it must seek liberation in the only way open to it. If it does that it will soon cease to be a unity, and that is an alternative which the con-

ditions of Anglicanism desire least of all. There remain the acceptance of a revised Book, and the exercise of a discipline which will restore order within a range of freedom which should satisfy every believer in the eternal truth of the former could easily be produced, and the latter, difficult as it is, is not beyond achievement. It is either a purge or a revolution, and wisdom born of experience would suggest that the former is the lesser of the two perils.

Hoover for President.

It is at last certain that Mr. Coolidge, the present President of the United States of America, will not be a candidate for re-election. There has been great uncertainty about that, largely due to the ambiguity of Mr. Coolidge's own statements. There has been a fear, too, that no agreement with any other candidate could be reached in the Republican Caucus, and in that event it was thought that Mr. Coolidge might be stamped into changing his mind. The nomination of Mr. Hoover has settled the matter finally. Mr. Hoover is to be congratulated on his nomination, and it has not been easily won, and will be regarded as a great personal triumph. In the first place Mr. Hoover is not viewed with too much favour by the old type of party politicians. He "does not speak that language," and he is obsessed by the idea that efficiency for a job is a better qualification than purely party service. This is laudable doctrine, but the political boss whose creed consists of one article—that the spoils should go to the victors. Then the farmers of the Middle West have been in active revolt against Mr. Hoover's nomination. They desire a highly expensive Relief Bill, which he has strenuously opposed, and they will not vote for him to oppose. It is, of course, true that a principal plank in the Republican platform is the maintenance of the tariff, and that is regarded as election window dressing, and there is a general expectation that within the next two or three years tariffs will be lowered. The tariff is a protection, can foreign trade. Another objection that has been urged against Mr. Hoover is that he has lived too long abroad, and is not much of a cosmopolitan, and has been too infected by prejudice in favour of things European to have remained a one-hundred-per-cent. American. But none of these objections have prevailed, and it is highly probable that Mr. Hoover will succeed Mr. Coolidge as the Presidential Chair. In the eyes of Mr. Al. Smith being nominated as the Democratic candidate, as seems sure, the contest will be a more than usually interesting one. Mr. Smith is a Roman Catholic and a "wet," and in his own State he is powerful and popular, but America is Protestantism and Prohibition, and, despite bootleggers and rum-runners, intends to remain so.

The Government of Germany.

The problem of Germany at the moment is not who shall govern Germany but how shall it be governed. The Socialist victors gave the governing party the right to head the new Government, and Herr Hermann Mueller, the Socialist leader who signed the Treaty of Versailles, has accepted the task of forming a new Cabinet. At the best the Coalition that must result will be a precarious one, for it involves partnership with the Democrats, the Centrists, and the people's party, a not too happy combination on any ground. The situation in Germany is such, however, that an agreed programme will be sought and probably found, and in that event the Coalition, supported by some of the smaller groups, will have a big majority over the Nationalists and Communists. Much will depend on the Vice-Presidential election, which will create unity of action. It is considered probable that Dr. Stresemann will resign the office of Foreign Affairs, and there is more than a hint of trouble in the claim that the Communists may present to one of the Vice-Presidential candidates, Reichstag. There is food for reflection that within so short a space of time from the debasement of the All Highest there should sit the same old and weakly in Germany men of such lowly origin.

THE RENUNCIATION OF WAR.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S PROPOSALS.

LORD CECIL AT SOUTHPORT.

Recent Conferences have been noteworthy for many topics of outstanding denominational interest—still more so for the holding of an Annual Demonstration on Public Questions. Each successive year witnesses the visit of some distinguished publicist. Southport this year had been fortunate in securing a visit from Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, who, as the President of the "Apostle of Peace," is regarded with esteem by all the Churches. The meeting was held in the spacious Skating Rink, and it quickly filled up, a big audience enjoying meanwhile the rousing music of the Conference Choir. Madame Katie Peters again sang, to the evident delight of the huge audience. Mr. John S. Bigham, J.P. (son-in-law of the late Sir William P. Hartley), presided, being supported by the Mayors of Southport, and Preston, and a notable array of Connexional leaders. Prayer was offered by the President of Conference (Rev. J. G. Bownan).

The Chairman said there was a commercial nation, and we had been taught the value of a slogan for business purposes. But business must live up to the slogan that it adopts. Two thousand years ago a great slogan was given to the Christian community: "Peace on Earth, goodwill towards men." He feared that we paid much lip-service to this slogan, with too little fidelity. It was necessary for us to get this idea of Peace into every mind, especially the children. We educated children because they were born ignorant. They were also born fighters; we must teach them the ways of peace. After the choir had rendered two anthems the Chairman called on Viscount Cecil of Chelwood to speak.

Lord Cecil received a standing ovation. He began by saying that he desired to persuade those present, if they needed persuasion, to join with all their strength in the struggle for peace, and to take the opportunity given to this generation to carry through the greatest world-reform it was possible to imagine. What exactly was the League of Nations Union? What did it do and what was the use of it? The League of Nations was founded in order to promote the objects of the League of Nations and to keep them before the world. It was composed of people of all persuasions, of all political and religious. It had been of the greatest possible value at home and abroad. The representatives at Geneva knew they had behind them the organised public opinion which would see them through as long as their objects were true to the spirit of the League. He urged all present to make the Union more powerful by getting an increased membership. But he was not speaking for the League of Nations Union that night, but for himself. He therefore asked the question: Was the League itself doing well? Was it prospering and advancing in authority and reputation? In answering, too short a view must not be taken. Taking a period of five years he had no hesitation in saying the League had made a very substantial advance in authority. Its debates were closely watched by all interested in international relations. The progress of the League had not been absolutely smooth. There was the League had never a greater degree of authority than in 1924, the year the Protocol was adopted. The progress of the League has been constant almost by year. At the present moment its authority was so immense that it was almost worth while to be the originators of the general countries to attend the meetings of the League whenever they met. The other nations, however, the League had its failings and dangers. Two dangers especially of the League were those of doing too much and the danger of doing too little. It was possible to outrun public opinion and thereby lose public confidence and cease to have the authority of the League. The danger of doing too little was that of being unable to catch up the progress made throughout the world. We could not afford to allow any one to get the better of the individual or of the nation.

In the beginning and for several of the earlier years of the League, the British were the recognised leaders in progress. Practically everything of importance came from the British delegation. At that time the French delegates were not very active or suggestive. A few years ago there was a change. The French ceased to be mere critics; they became constructive. Limitation of armaments was a French proposal. All credit to the French, but he could not but regret that the British were not more in the forefront of the work of the League. Foreigners would tell you that the attitude of the British was more to criticise than to make definite proposals. That might be inevitable, but it was regrettable. He hoped it was only a passing phase, which would soon disappear. The covenant of the League was an almost un-

likely Anglo-Saxon document. Other nations co-operated, but as a matter of fact the actual text in almost every phrase came either from America or Britain. It was not symmetrical, not very logical, but it was a practical document. It laid down principles which were beginning and could subsequently be developed.

Proceeding, Lord Cecil raised the inquiry—What was the relation between the League of Nations and the Peace Pact which the American Government had recently proposed? Both aimed at the same object, the establishment of peace in the world. In his judgment the Pact would help the League, and vice versa. Yet the two must not be fitted together so that they overlap. He believed that it was quite unnecessary to propose any qualification or reservation in the Pact. He found himself in hearty agreement with both the British and the German replies to America. Yet he was bound to say it would have been better if our reply had been sent rather more quickly and had been more cordial in its tone. True it was that they had to be cautious and to speak with a due sense of responsibility in these matters. "Safety first" was an admirable rule, but it was well to remember safety was not always protected by hesitation. Hesitation might give the impression that we were not wholeheartedly in favour of the proposals. He would have preferred a perfect, frank, and unqualified acceptance, and that emphasis should have been laid on the words that which should be recognised as an instrument of national policy. War was a device by which one nation sought to impose its will upon another nation, to impose its law, its violence, hardship and misfortune upon the other nation submit. That was what the American proposals condemned. No doubt there would have to be some further development and some reference to the question of self-defence. The Americans admitted the inviolable right of self-defence. Yet he was sure that the Americans would not make an immense difference to the outlook of the world.

But renunciation of war did not dispense with the necessity for international arbitration and disarmament. Renunciation of war was an admirable foundation, but they must get on that foundation some real system of arbitration. The American proposals recognised that the Permanent Court of International Justice now established at the Hague provided the necessary machinery for that work. "We thought it a great pity that our Government had not signed the Optional Clause. They could well trust the trained body of legal experts to be competent and impartial. International disarmament must go along with arbitration. He was quite certain it could be done. They could get the old nations if they really wished it. It was not a matter for the experts to determine. It was for the whole people and their leaders, whether political or religious to say to their Governments: "What is it we want and we will have it carried out." There was an immense opportunity given to them. He wanted this country to lead in the matter. There were hindrances in the way, old traditions and prejudices that delayed progress. But if they would conquer the difficulties, and he was sure that was what their religion required of them.

The Mayor of Southport proposed thanks to Viscount Cecil. He thought it very fitting that the Mayor of the city in which the conference should be crowned with such an utterance. Ald. R. Durham, Mayor of Preston, seconded the Mayor's motion. He asked the question—What are we doing as individuals? The proposal received a very hearty acclamation. Viscount Cecil, in reply, said he hoped that that meeting would be the beginning of a great movement for the peace of the world. Lord Cecil's utterance was specially valuable because he spoke for himself, and spoke his own mind—a mind which on this question was remarkably in tune with the mind and purpose of the Church. The meeting finished with these words of faith, "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun."

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C. W. TOWLESON, M.A. (Oxon.), B.A. (Lond.)

A Social Gathering and a Revelation

LAYMEN AT A CONFERENCE DINNER.

"If it is thus how our laymen dine," whispered the brother sitting next to me, "they may often be invited to dine with me!" One hour afterwards, on our return to the Temple, we found a note of silence: "It was top-hole, from the soup to the benediction." It came about in this wise: some of our laymen who gathered at the Temple were the object of interest of missionary work conceived the idea of a laymen's dinner at Conference. Flew and blood, and the laymen of the Temple, was an inspiration from higher sources. Consequently a few of them, favoured of worldly substance and blessed with a liberal spirit, were invited to dine generously provided the dinner at Woodhead's Café, Southport. I was privileged and honoured to accompany my chief as guest of honour, the president of the parlour of the rich and delicious fare. It was a fact that provoked thought and stimulated vision. Seventy-eight laymen, chosen from all of our churches, were present. The practical Christian living is as the pillars of the Temple, pillars crowned with lilies.

Were they thus gathered merely "at eat and drink and be merry"? Not so. With the sanity of true religion they knew that man cannot live without bread, but that he may live by bread alone. The food of the table was but an earnest, a prophesy, a parable of the richer fare for the spirit that was to follow. It was the Laymen's Fellowship, the fellowship of men who kept hard every day on the battleground of the world, who were hungry for the bread without have seen the glorious vision of a wider world of humanity—and that the humanity redeemed through our Lord and our Church. The speaker, Mr. J. H. Morton, speeches began. No, I had forgotten, there was a delightful prelude to the symphony of speech. Mr. J. H. Morton, the General Missionary Treasurer, drew a cheque for fifteen guineas to Mr. Richard Fletcher, the General Missionary Treasurer—the proceeds of the dinner! Mr. Morton closed his eyes and said, "My friends, my funds were hungering for it."

And now how can I reproduce the glowing and exalted experiences which have been mine since I have been spreading the warmth of his charming personality like summer sunshine over the Dr. Pease altar. I will not begin with love-laden applause. He entered straight into the holy place of every man's life, and straight to the heart of every enduring passion to be a foreign missionary. Then as he explained how it had been with him, we were struck with the truth that he was truly a foreign missionary in that he did work which enabled him to do so to the glory of God, and how we also could play our part. He was, however, not content to touch us. He was bent on making us his own people, and uncovered the ugly wounds of humanity; we heard the groans and felt the pain of the millions who were crying the voice of Jesus in the cries of the race. To use his own words of appeal, he created in us a new desire, a new vision, a new and the right spirit, breaking down the barriers that lie between man and man, and between man and God. He was something luminous in Dr. Pease. The effect of his gracious and soul-stirring words was like the effect of the sun on the lighted faces of his hearers; but its deepest significance lies too deep for words.

After the saintly scholar came the "man from the field." Rev. E. E. Pritchard chose his message with the wisdom of matured experience. Our thoughts were turned to the African who has been called African had a capacious appetite! But once again our thoughts flew higher—our appetite for the great things and the best things of life. How can we, who are doing to feed the African in his hungerings? We offered him better government, better moral and spiritual education, we offered him material education, we offered him money. But we have not been able to do it. It is that our motive was at bottom a selfish one. That would be unchristian. We have been selfish. We have been thinking of our own life. Not business, not education. It was the love of God. If we give African the love of God, the "long life" will be his. We shall not stand at last condemned.

By this time the spiritual thermometer had risen to summer heat. And Mr. Isaac

Holden, Secretary of the Wesleyan Laymen's Missionary Movement, was yet to come. With calm, deliberate, calculating tread he came along the highways and byways of the earth. Our hearts ached. Our brains reeled. Visions grew before our eyes. Our souls were melting. We saw Him of the wounded feet walking among the sick and outcast of humanity, healing their wounds and sowing the harvest of eternity in their hearts. And within us was the bulging desire to follow in His steps. "Whisper in the ear of the brother who is asleep," he concluded, "the cry and appeal of Christ and humanity."

It only required now to speak our thanks. So far as that could be done in words it was done. Mr. T. L. Gerrard told of how he had begun, when the call of the world reached his heart, to give

Conference Temperance Meeting.

CHANGES IN MODERN SOCIAL LIFE.

The Terrenceau and Social Welfare meeting attracted a very large company to Church-street Church. The singing of hymns, the reading of the Bible and a capital beginning of a great meeting. Rev. T. A. Thompson, B.Sc., led in prayer and the choir gave a pleasing rendering of the hymns. The singing of "The Holy, J.P." made an admirable chairman. His speech was a model of what a chairman should do. He was very much interested in the work with pride to the part played by our Church in temperance work. Primitive Methodism had not been behind in questions of temperance. He said that the Wastewater affects the workers affects our Church, which, he believed, was nearer the workers than any other denomination. He said that the Miners' Appeal Fund to the sympathy of the Church. We could not be content when any of our people, especially the children,

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It was good to hear the congregation sing, "Breathe on me, Breath of God," Mr. J. A. Broughton, Vice-Chairman, spoke effectively. He recalled memories of the previous Southport Conference. He told how giants like

rankly in himself, tribute of spirit; man of the world, but child of God—he confessed the moving power of the moment testified to the great power of Dr. Peake in his own life, witnessed his determination to be "all in" for this work, and suggested that every man who wrote his cheque or sent his contribution to the Master's great work should remember the words: "Ye are not redeemed with silver and gold."

We sang the Doxology, and we felt what we sang. Rev. George Bennett led us still nearer to the throne of God in a prayer that was burdened with emotion and power. What possibilities lie in this event! A laymen's brotherhood, a laymen's fellowship, a fellowship for Christ and for those whom He died to redeem. If this is how our laymen dine, may I often have the joy of dining in their holy fellowship!

Rev. Dodd Jackson, Dr. A. T. Guttery, and Rev. J. Day Thompson impressed that assembly.

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“Off the Beaten Track.”

In connection with "Of the Beaten Track," "Gangway," circuit gathering has been held at South Elmston, Hensworth, the visiting minister being Rev. W. Swinden, Connexional Book Steward, who served splendidly. In the afternoon he delivered a fine sermon showing how the natural is the supernatural in personal experience. At the close of the service a public tea was provided. In the evening Mr. W. Proctor, of Sheffield, Vice-President of the Sheffield Synod, presided at a public meeting in an excellent address, pleading for a more personal effort. Rev. J. Swinden, in an admirable speech, urged the Church to rise to its great opportunity. Rev. W. Fidoe and Mr. W. H. Dykes thanked all who had helped. The services, which were enthusiastically enjoyed, were of an inspiring character.

Kiveton.—Sunday, June 10th, will be a day long remembered by our church at Dinnington, Kiveton Park Circuit. At the evening service the minister, Rev. N. Brown, gave a stirring appeal for more energetic service in the cause of Christ, and then there followed the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Nineteen young people received the right hand of fellowship and solemnly consecrated themselves, along with our members, at the Lord's Table. Upwards of eighty people took part, and we realised that the Church of our Master is meeting the needs of our day.

A Memorable Hour.

CONFERENCE MEMORIAL SERVICE.

The sincerity with which Conference approaches the memorial service was indicated by the promptness with which the President adjourned the ordinary proceedings. Immediately the "atmosphere" was burdened with solemn awe. "O God, Our Help

in Ages Past" was fervently sung, after which Rev. F. S. Bullough offered a prayer of thankfulness for those who had passed on. While the delegates stood in deep silence Rev. W. M. Kelley read the names of seventeen ministers who, during the year, had gone to the homeland, twelve of whom were superannuated and five in active work.

Rev. Frank Holmes then gave the address. He counted it a privilege to voice the gratitude of the Church for the labours of those who had finished their course. He read the names of nine "mothers in Israel"; Mrs.

Dutt, Mrs. Marjorie, Mrs. Bainbridge, Mrs. Clemenson, Mrs. F. Hanley, Mrs. Telleys, Mrs. W. H. Jones, Mrs. J. L. Jones; John Wardle, widows of ministers called to join their husbands in the Homeland. Then with felicitous description he named the ministers present: James M. Smith; John Hancock—a quiet, conscientious spirit; George C. Cook, of gracious influence in the congregation; John A. Dyer, who was needing not to be ashamed; John Bradley, a gifted preacher; Wm. Huntington, a trusted guide; Wm. Kiteon, a friend of farmers; John B. Smith, a man of prayer; Castle Ross, an earnest evangelist; Edward King, an unsparing minister; Philip G. Smith, a man of words; Bernard D. Postnell, a strong and unique personality; Wm. I. Wright, of instructed mind and tender heart; Tyler Tyers, a man of words; John S. Jones, a man of words; Maland, strong in affliction; Jas. W. Scott, the children's big brother; Thos. J. Jones, a man of words; John S. Jones, a man of words; James W. Williams, of Australia.

Some had laboured till the evening. Some had been called in the afternoon or sometime during their work. One or two had been called home in the morning of their ministry; but the majority of them had been called in the afternoon. Some were of the rank and file of the ministry. The demonstration rests upon the quality of its circuit life; they were called to the work because of the quality of their life's work? All men have the right to direct access to God. But all have not the same case of access. Some with sublime spirituality and a high degree of sanctification was given to lead or stimulate others to the experience in the Holy Place. These men lead souls to God. They were faithful, diligent; they ministered to the needs of the church. They made the fellow-servants in Christ. They made the fellow-servants of God. Death to these was but an incident in life. Our highest joys are prophecies of the highest life beyond. Those who have been called to the work of the bride have gone to dwell in the Eternal Kingdom.

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The Manchester University Press has recently published four booklets which will appeal to different sections of students—"William Blake," by Dr. C. H. Herford; "Recent Developments in Old Testament Criticism," by Dr. A. S. Peake; "John Bunyan and his Contemporaries," by Dr. C. H. Herford; and "The Art of 'Topography,'" the latter two by Dr. Henry Guy (Longmans, Green and Co. Ltd. each). The recent revival of interest in Blake will attract many readers to Dr. Herford's study of the poet. Dr. Peake's judgment of Bunyan's religious thought is not only sound but also to be warmly recommended to be allowed to pass by by those who are versed in its critical study, for there is no higher authority; the study of Dr. Guy's brochure on "The Life, Times and Writings of Bunyan" will repay all students of the Immortal Poet.

"The Leader" is an exceptionally good medium for Holiday Announcements. Advertisements should reach the Advertisement Office, 21, Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus, E.C. 4, by Monday morning each week.

G. C. Main (Wesleyan) gave an interesting description of his experience in West Africa. Tea was provided by the Salsop-street ladies.

Blaydon-on-Tyne.—The Auxiliary meeting was held at Rowlands Gill, presided over by Mrs. Beckwith. Rev. D. J. Dando led the devotions. Mrs. Livingstone read the missionary letter, and solos were rendered by Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Luntley being accompanist. Mrs. Strachen, from Heston, gave a very interesting account of the life of Mary Bird in Persia. The Rowlands Gill ladies provided tea. Collection for African ladies, £1 17s. 4d.

Buxley Hill.—Auxiliary meeting held at Lye under the presidency of Mrs. F. J. Chandler. Rev. Amos Ryder gave an address on the "Financial Aspect of Missionary Work." Miss Knowles read the Scripture, and Mrs. Wallers the missionary letter. The soloist was Miss Toulton. After tea an American sale was held. Proceeds, £4.

Bristol.—The monthly meeting was held at our Mangotsfield Church (Bristol Fildes). There was a good attendance in spite of the distance from the city. Mrs. B. Bolton presided, and Rev. Picton Jones spoke of his experiences in Africa. Solos were rendered by Mrs. Daniels, and the missionary letter was read by Miss Barr. A good collection was taken.

Buracross.—A well-attended drawing-room meeting was held at Buracross, under the auspices of the Shield Women's Auxiliary, presided over by Mrs. Warburton and Miss Ibbotson. A most interesting address was given by Mrs. W. Shephard in connection with the work of Dr. Albert Schweitzer. Solos were rendered by Miss Womersley; accompanist, Mrs. C. Hutton. Mrs. W. E. Robson also took part. Afternoon tea was provided by the Buracross ladies. The collection amounted to £3 14s. 2d.

Caslie.—The monthly meeting was held at Cecil-street, Rev. G. T. Scott giving the address. Expressing appreciation of the services rendered to the Auxiliary by Rev. G. T. Scott during his ten years' ministry were expressed by Messdames Foster, Stubbs and Potts. Tea was provided by Mrs. M. Stewart. Miss J. McLean presided. The collection, £2 12s. 6d., was for the collection in aid of the Southport Missionary Day realised £1 1s.

Chippingham.—The Auxiliary meeting was held at Chippingham, presided over by Mrs. W. Turner. The letter was read by Mrs. Keene. Miss Phillips served as soloist. An excellent tea was provided by the ladies. Collection for June, £1 6s. 6d.

Cray Cross.—The June meeting of the Auxiliary was held at Hephernelane, Rev. P. W. B. Oliver presiding. Mrs. Dunkley, of Grassano, gave a very interesting address on medical missions. The missionary letter was read by Mrs. Banks. The tea was kindly given by the Hephernelane ladies. Proceeds, £1 12s. for missionary funds.

Colchester.—The Colchester branch held their annual meeting on Thursday at Grinsham Church. Rev. W. E. Lead presided at both meetings. The address in the afternoon was given by Mrs. Walsham, of Bowledge. Solos were beautifully rendered by Mrs. Clambrarian and Miss D. Webb. Mrs. Lead gave a most suitable introduction. Tea that followed was given by the Grinsham friends. The evening service proved most encouraging. Mrs. Lead recited and also read the missionary letter. Mrs. Lock, late of the South-East London Mission, gave some of her experiences while working among the cripple children in the slums. Rev. W. E. Lead and the secretary, Miss D. Worth gave cordial thanks to the Grinsham friends. The proceeds, amounting to £3 13s., were divided between the W.M.A. and the Grinsham church fund.

Dartford.—A most successful garden meeting has been held. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Brentside, kindly lent their garden for the purpose. Mrs. Evans presided, and Mrs. Butt, of Gravesend, gave an excellent address. Mrs. Shilton Garrett, of Forest Hill, sang two beautiful solos. Afternoon tea was provided. Collection and donations £10 6s. 4d.

Fulham.—Rev. F. H. Lodge presided at the auxiliary meeting at Wandsworth Bridge-road, supported by Revs. T. H. Bickerton and A. Price. Mrs. Evans read the missionary letter. Mrs. Bishop gave appropriate solos, and an excellent address was given by Rev. A. B. Swan, M.A., vicar of Christ Church. The topic was "India." A fine address was closed with an appeal for prayer and gifts for all missionary enterprises.

Goole.—The meeting of the Auxiliary was held at Swineston on Tuesday, when an interesting address was given by Rev. W. Swales. Rev. Mrs. Paulson presided and Rev. A. Paulson was the soloist. Mrs. W. W. Hall read the Scripture and Miss Clarke the missionary letter. Mrs. Starling was the accompanist.

Leigh-on-Sea.—The Auxiliary meeting was held at Leigh-on-Sea on Thursday, presided over by Mrs. J. Fortes. The address was given by Rev. J. Fortes (Farmers), and the missionary letter was read by Mrs. Fyche. Mrs. Stenlake also took part. Mrs. C. Stenlake presided at the previous meeting, the speaker being Rev. J. Fickles (Wesleyan).

Lowestoft.—The annual meeting of the Federation was held in St. Paul's Schoolroom. Rev. Mr. Wade presided and Mrs. Wade read the monthly letter. The reports given by the secretary and treasurer were very satisfactory. A "faith" tea realised £1 5s.

Northampton.—The circuit branch of the Auxiliary met at Stretchhouse Church, J. Dusdale, of Alloties, presided. The special speaker was Rev. J. Hutchinson, of Wakefield. A solo was rendered by Mrs. W. Seymour and the missionary letter read by Mrs. J. Seymour. An excellent tea was given by Stretchhouse members.

Northwich Second.—Circuit branch met at Develand road on Tuesday, when Mrs. Wiggins the district secretary gave an inspiring address. Mrs. Taylor presided and Mrs. Hansell rendered two pleasing solos, with Mrs. Burrows as accompanist. Mrs. Coe read the missionary letter. A tea followed. The proceeds amounted to £2 17s. 6d.

Northwich Third.—Meeting held at Scott Memorial Church on Tuesday. Mrs. Gardin presided, supported by Miss Hansell. Rev. P. S. Gardin gave an excellent address. Mrs. Truman was the soloist, and Mrs. Murrell read the monthly letter. Refreshments were kindly given by Messdames Barrett and Lambert.

Reading.—The meeting was held at Pangbourne, presided over by Mrs. H. Smith, of Bradfield. An interesting address was given by Rev. H. Ogden. The solo by Miss Clifford was much appreciated. Also the verification by Miss Davies. The president, Mrs. Sage, who is shortly leaving, read the missionary letter, and was afterwards presented with a token of love and good wishes of the members of the branch. The Pangbourne ladies kindly provided refreshments.

South Kirkby.—At the monthly meeting the speaker was Miss Neck, formerly of Nigeria. Mrs. Turner read the missionary letter. Miss Dickinson read the Scripture. Mrs. Nuttall was the soloist and Mrs. Dykes presided. Tea was served by Messdames Mills and Neck. Mrs. Dykes, on behalf of the auxiliary, presented to Mrs. Fidoe a handsome set of fish knives, forks and carvers and a cheese knife as a token of esteem for her services in connection with the auxiliary and in view of the retirement in July of Rev. and Mrs. Fidoe in consequence of Mrs. Fidoe's superannuation.

Sewsbury Bridge.—Meeting held at Sewsbury, presided over by Mrs. Robinson, presiding over an excellent company. A splendid address on "Greenfield" was given by Commander Mrs. P. J. Carter, and Mrs. Healdell all present with her solos. The letter was read by the secretary. Tea was provided by the New-road ladies.

Wakenfield Second.—There was a very good attendance at Neesmillham, when Mrs. B. Bantam gave a most interesting address on the early days of her missionary work. Mrs. J. E. Butler presided and the soloist was Mrs. Austin. The missionary letter was read by the secretary.

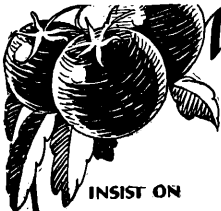
Walsall.—The meeting of the auxiliary was held at the Pick Church, presided over by Mrs. Hickman. The address was given by Mrs. M. Featherstone, on "Medical Missions." Mrs. Kelly and Mr. Robertson rendered solos. Mrs. Savage read the missionary letter.

Willington.—The auxiliary met at Byers Green on Monday. Capt. Dauldry, of Spenny Moor, gave a very interesting address on "St. Paul, the Greatest Missionary." Miss W. H. Hickman read the missionary letter, and Miss Waters rendered the Scripture. Tea was made to Mrs. Charlton, also Rev. J. W. Charlton, who is leaving for the continent. Mrs. Colman, in a most pleasing presentation, Mrs. Charlton with a case of fish and forks and carvers, and a fountain pen for himself. Mrs. Charlton is unfortunately in a nursing home, undergoing the treatment of Mrs. Sawyer, of Willington, was accompanist.

York.—The Auxiliary meeting was held at the Layerthorpe Church, Mrs. Baldwin presiding. Mrs. Alderson lastfully rendered a solo, and a most inspiring address was given by Mrs. J. B. Brown. Tea was served and a collection of £1 15s. 6d. taken.

Jesus and Paul.

"Paul's Life of Christ." By Gwilym O. Griffith (Hodder and Stoughton, 2s. 6d. net) is a volume after three editions. It attempts to show how Paul was prepared to receive his knowledge of Christ, how it was written on his heart, and what was written there. There is no theology as such in the book, but much spiritual penetration expressed in glowing and charming language. Paul's "life of Christ" rests upon Paul's mystical experience of Christ, but that experience is not the subjective reality of Christ—in His earthly history and His heavenly exaltation. So this book deals with life and experience and not with problems. No lover of Jesus, or admirer of Paul, or indeed, any who can appreciate a beautiful and wise book, should miss it. It is suggestive and stimulating, at its price a marvel of cheapness, and yet full to secure it do themselves a sorry ill turn.



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