

In his Manx dialect poems Brown has laid upon the grave of the old Manx life the most beautiful tribute it will ever receive. In them he is revealed as "the greatest Manxman living or dead." In his English verse he is the scholar, one of the brilliant company who made Clifton College, Bristol; a scholar rather than thinker, and in the last best period of his life, a scholar whose heart had conquered its perplexities and found

in God the peace of life. It was good to know God here, but now and then there swopt upon him a desire for that more intimate knowledge which will only come when the eager spirit has been stripped of fleshly hindrance. This explains the mystical music of "Land, Ho!" which is not (as many think) a description of the Isle of Man, but a cry for immortality. He has gathered it all up in that hungering verse in "Dreams":

I'd come to Him with one swift arrow-
Aimed at the zenith of th' o'er-
brooding blue;
Straight to the centre of His awful

The flight long-winded and true
Should bear me rapt through all the
spheres that part the sky.
Let me, in this century tribulation, say
that I cannot read this countryman
of mine without being chastened and
uplifted.

METHODIST TABLE TALK.

The Bishop of Birmingham.

The very Rev. H. Elvel Lewis used to live a living a clergyman who will not conform to the Prayer Book may easily prove to be the turning point in the history of the Church of England. The Bishop of Birmingham is the only Anglo-Catholic trustee, who have the gift of the living. He cannot take up his duties until inducted by his Bishop. It is a case of some of the most important of Canterbury and Rome, or perhaps between Birmingham and Truro, for the Bishop of Truro is one of the nominating trustees.

The Temptations of Popularity.

Mr. Hannen Swaffer, the dramatic critic, has been writing in the *Sunday Express* about the death, at 48, of a famous comedian. "Poor Harry," says Mr. Swaffer, "like so many others of our greatest entertainers, was a victim of the very popularity he enjoyed. He drank. I can be frank about it, because I, too, have been a victim of the same thing. I wonder whether anybody ever feels badly about the curse of drink. The more popular a man is the more he suffers."

United Methodists.

There are 399 United Methodists in the Navy and 300 in the Royal Air Force. There are nine officiating chaplains in the Army.

A Popular Welsh Preacher.

It is not easy to put these Welsh preachers in any order of merit, nor is it necessary. I suppose that J. D. Jones is really one of them; Morgan Gibbons another. But the Rev. H. Elvel Lewis, of King's Cross Welsh Tabernacle, is perhaps the most typical of all the men who have hailed from the Principality in this generation. He has been a pioneer over a part of some standing, and a preacher of rare charm, he is now writing a chapter of his autobiography month by month in the magazine he edits. The language, too, is most impressive. It is great achievement for any man to hold a congregation in the heart of North-Central London decade after decade. Elvel Lewis has done that with distinction.

Welsh versus English.

From what little I know about it, I should say that the Church members from over the Welsh border are more enthusiastic and consistent church-goers than the less enlightened English. The language, too, assists church attendance. Speaking English the week round in business, on Sunday they worship in their own native tongue. That in itself must be a help. Welsh thus becomes a sacred tongue.

Lance E. Richards.

I note with pleasure that "The Golden Windows" has run through thirty-seven editions, and I am not surprised. The gifted author knows how to write for boys and girls, and hundreds of preachers and teachers are in her debt. The Bishop of London has read her stories to the choir-boys of the Chapel Royal. That is good, but better far to tell the stories.

The Baptists Following.

I recall what the celebrated Peter Abelard said about the following Romanists, and Methodists following Anglicans, although it did not impress me. What I am pleased to notice is any Church that readily adopts what it finds

good in the others. Here are the Baptists going to Liverpool for their annual Assembly, and their secretary openly saying that this year for the first time they are adopting the Anglican system of meeting in sections simultaneously. Each section takes a subject and gives itself time to thrash it out. That not infrequently means that the Conference falls into grand committees on one day, and this must be all to the good.

Dr. Robert Kilgour.

Dr. Kilgour has just completed his "majority" as translation and editorial superintendent of the British and Foreign Bible Society. He speaks of the wonders of Bible translation. Homer has been done into 20 languages, Shakespeare into 40, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* into 125, whereas the Bible has gone into 680, and parts of it into 280 other tongues.

What Dr. John Short Has Found.

Writing in the monthly magazine of Dr. R. F. Horton's old church at Hampstead, his successor, Dr. John Short, says that he has always dreamt that some day he would find his ideal church, and find himself working under ideal conditions, and he now knows that his dream has come true. There could hardly be a finer tribute to any minister or any church than this.

One of Our Own.

Primitive Methodists are not too swift to express appreciation of their own men. Caution restrains—sometimes until men have broken down in service for the want of the word that is needed. I understand that it is very refreshing to attend the General Committee or the Conference and hear what is said about men who have gone on to do their work down their task. Because of this reserve I welcome the eulogy passed on an article by the Rev. E. B. Storr in the *April Holborn Express*. I have referred to this article already, and with much appreciation. Now a popular weekly speaks of it as "eminently sane," and quotes it repeatedly in its leading column. I heartily wish that every teacher of senior scholars in Sunday and day schools could take this same view. Our teachers and preachers will get far on this perplexing subject until they have gone to the trouble of facing up to facts and doing a bit of solid thinking. They must still do this, and I wonder, for instance, that last week-end scores of Primitive Methodists turned out by motor and by parties in motor-coaches to the Dorset Synod, to hear a sermon on Sunday observance. I wonder what ought to be said, and if any courageous man will say it.

Basil Mathew's New Work.

All who have read "The Clash of Colour," or anything that Mr. Basil Mathew has written, will be glad to know that he has now transferred himself from Geneva to London to join the personal staff of Dr. Mot, at Edinburgh House. He knows how to do it, and happily, he is all aflame for world peace and missions.

Carriage's Benefactions.

"King Solomon's Mines," "Treasure Island," "The Red Rover," and "The American continent no end of scientific and general educational institutions, to say nothing of Peace movements financed from the same source." Dr. Nicholas

I have not yet found out why I am specially interested in maps of every kind, but whenever a map is spread out before me I stand at attention. On opening the Carnegie Endowment Report, I found one wonderful beyond anything I ever met will endure. It is called "The European Traffic Wall Map." It is beautifully designed by Sir Clive Morrison-Bell, who, for many years, represented the Corn Law Committee to the House of Commons. Concerned with the economic maze of Europe, he got out this map of encircling world routes the various countries. I hope that it meets the eagle eye of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I can think of more than thirty friendly lunatics in Downing Street. I can see Sir Philip, despite his lameness, at the head of an army furnished with rams' horns going forth to compass every traffic-walled world seven times. And I fancy them making a long blast and a great shout, and the walls falling down flat.

A Tale of Distemper.

A small boy heard his father ask the attendant at the Battersea Dogs' Home if the newly-acquired dog had had distemper. Next day, the father, who was a builder, was amazed when asked by his son: "Daddy, do all dogs have to be white-washed?"

QUESTOR.

MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION.

The Spring Session of the Hull, Grimsby and Lincoln Districts was held at Cleethorpes. Splendid arrangements had been made by Rev. F. H. Edwards and the Cleethorpes Church. The members met for tea on Tuesday, kindly provided by the Cleethorpes ladies, followed by a social hour. Rev. H. C. Jennings, the sermon was preached by the president, Rev. J. Anison, who gave a most thoughtful and arresting discourse. On the Wednesday morning the afternoon session was conducted by the president and Rev. T. Sowerby. This was followed by an excellent paper on Edgington, "The Nature of the Christian Ministry," by Dr. C. Jennings. The critique, of great merit, was given by Rev. W. S. Terry. The debate that followed was characterized by valuable contributions from members. In the afternoon Rev. W. Fryer gave an inspiring address on "Authority and Religion." The subject arose out of a debate at the last session between Rev. H. C. Jennings and G. King gave a fine lead to an animated discussion. In the evening a good congregation gathered for the public meeting on the subject of "The Ministry of the Church." Most helpful addresses on "John Wesley, the Thinker," and "John Wesley, the Prophet," were given by Revs. T. Hacking and W. Harper.

JUBILEE AT NORTHAMPTON.

Memorial Windows Installed.

"Hard and unproductive" was the description applied to his work in Northampton by the first Primitive Methodist preachers that he met. He was Mr. James Hurd, who had been to Burslem (Cheshire) Circuit to carry the Gospel to "the regions beyond," in 1844. The work of Primitive Methodists continued to be difficult in Northampton a number of years, and John Petty described his two years' ministry in the town as "the most distressful period" of his life. Yet these pioneers were building better than they knew, and to-day the result of their labours is seen in the strong position our Church now occupies in the town. A progressive spirit has characterised the activities of our Church in this industrial centre for years the latest expression of this is seen in the Methodist Homestead, a delightful colony where aged members spend life's evening.

The jubilee service, present church in Kettering-road has just been celebrated in a worthy fashion. A fitting beginning was an early morning Communion on Sunday when a large company, representative of the church, were blessed. Among those taking part was the Rev. Ernest Smith (superintendent of the town), and the Rev. W. S. Terry, special preacher for the day was Rev. G. Meacham, M.A., B.D., D.Ph., of Oldham, whose masterly discourses, in the town, have drawn large congregations. In the afternoon a great service was held, and was attended by scholars from all our schools in the town. In the absence, through illness, of Mr. H. C. Jennings, the chair was taken by Miss M. Gibbs, a daughter of one of the founders of the church. The history of local Primitive Methodism was told by Rev. C. Leonard Tudor.

The beauty of the church has now been considerably increased by the insertion of five new and fully-designed windows. Fifteen of these windows were installed to perpetuate the memory of some prominent workers during the past half-century. A service of memory and the unveiling ceremony was held on Tuesday, and was conducted by Rev. C. Leonard Tudor. Prayer was offered by Rev. W. B. Barter, and the Rev. Ernest Dover read the Scripture. A chaste address, reviving memories of the departed, and calling those present to fuller consecration was delivered by Rev. George Bennett, who commenced his ministry in Northampton fifty-five years ago. One of the windows forms the circuit's memorial to the late Rev. J. Saxton, and this was unveiled by Mr. Saxton, who had served in the school hall. The tea had been generously provided by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Faulkner, devoted members of the church.

The celebrations concluded with a fine public meeting. Coun. J. W. Arnold presided, with affectionate graciousness, Prayer was offered by Rev. W. S. Terry (Wesleyan). The eloquent and thoughtful address of Dr. Meacham deeply stirred his hearers. It was a noble plea for a high sense of duty and service for a huge service the Gospel in a way that would arrest attention and bring home to men and women the truth of Christ so much needed in our day. The address was evangelical in the best sense. The Rev. Raymond Taunton, who comes to minister on the circuit next July, was specially welcomed, and his presence contributed to the success of the meeting. Thanks were warmly accorded to all who had helped to make the jubilee such an outstanding event, and the service was made of Mr. Chas. A. Pearce, the indefatigable Trust secretary. At all the gatherings the ministry of music was entrusted to the choir, and the choir under the leadership of Mr. W. F. Marshall, Madame Edith Linnell (organist), and the soloists, Miss Gladys Smith, Miss Eva Andrews, and Miss W. Marshall.

Thursley.—The monthly Auxiliary Meeting was held at Thursley, Mrs. J. Dyson presiding. Mrs. T. Bowran, of Gatehead, gave a very interesting address on "The Work of the Church in the World." Mrs. Richardson, The District Committee report was given by Mrs. Usher, of Wheatley Hill, and the missionary letter was read by Miss Kirk.

lowed. All day the Oldfellows' Hall was utilised to accommodate the crowds who could not get into the Synod Church. Fine outdoor meetings were held, and great processions paraded the town. The Evangelistic Appeal was as highly as of old, though the visible results were not so calculable. The Mass Meeting held in the Congregational Church on Monday was addressed by the Rev. W. H. Curtis and the Rev. W. H. Heap, Wesleyan chairman of East Anglia. Messrs. Savidge and Cragg, candidates for ministry, preached on Saturday and Monday mornings.

Salisbury and Southampton.

The Synod opened at Basingstoke under happy circumstances, a reception being given by the Mayor, supported by members of the Corporation and representatives of the Free Churches. The reception was followed by the Synod sermon, preached by the Rev. A. Bows G.C.D., who, stressing the importance of spiritual values, gave a fine lead to the Synod. A large number remained to the Communion. As business, the Rev. J. Lambert Baggett was elected chairman, Mr. F. Woolley vice-chairman and the Rev. J. Jeffrey Watson secretary, and under the capable leadership of the G.C.D. the various items of business were carefully considered. The state of the Sunday Schools evoked a good discussion. Arrangements for a District Sunday School Conference were considered. Missionary matters were discussed and an increase in missionary income reported. The Orphanage report showed a net increase of over £26. A strongly-worded resolution was passed agreeing with the attitude of the General Committee on the education question. Public questions were considered and resolutions passed regarding temperance, gambling and the League of Nations. Mr. George Youell was a candidate for the ministry, and a very favourable report was given regarding his preached sermon.

The public meetings were of a very high order and will not soon be forgotten. On Saturday evening powerful addresses were given by Revs. J. Jeffrey Watson and J. Lambert Baggett, the chairman being Mr. J. Cleland, and the vice-chairman Mr. W. Myland. An impressive Ordination Service was held on Sunday morning, conducted by Rev. Ezra

E. W. Ramm, and with deep feeling the Rev. R. R. Collier and W. V. Harper related their call to the ministry. The Rev. J. H. K. Ramm, W. R. K. Ramm, and the Rev. A. Sutcliffe the charge to the church on Sunday afternoon. After a procession of witness led by the Tudeley Silver Prize band, an open-air demonstration was held, supported by Mr. A. Sutcliffe, Mr. J. Cleland and W. R. Chapman, M.C., being the speakers. Rev. J. H. K. Ramm conducted the Evangelistic Service on the Sunday evening. The meeting on the Monday night was a grand culmination, and Revs. A. E. Reavley and W. F. Ward served excellently as speakers, under the presidency of Mr. F. Woolley, the vice-president being Mr. W. Burridge. Throughout the Synod Miss Murielle Thorpe served excellently as soloist, and the choir of Basingstoke and brass band ably supported the meetings. Thanks were expressed to Rev. Ezra E. W. Ramm and his officials for the excellent arrangements, and to the hosts and hostesses for their hospitality.

Shrewsbury.

The Synod was held at Wrockwardine Wood. President, Rev. H. Harris; vice-president, Mr. W. T. Howell; secretary, Rev. F. Morgan Ridge; G.C.D., Rev. W. H. Nicholas. Trust estates paid to a satisfactory condition; £782 paid off debts. The work amongst young people is full of hope; increase of scholars and teachers. The application of Rev. J. Miles Johnson for superannuation approved. Glowing tributes testified to the high esteem in which he is held. A resolution on the death of Rev. John Cooper placed on record the value of his noble work. The next Synod goes to Oswestry with Rev. J. P. Price, G.C.D. Resolutions submitted on public questions and approved. The amalgamation of Church Street and Graven Acre Circuits approved. The G.C.D.'s resolution on the work of God led to a profitable conversation. A cordial welcome was given to the delegates at a reception given by Mr. and Mrs. J. Phillips. All the public services were marked by spiritual power. Rev. W. H. Nicholas preached the inaugural sermon, after which a large number stayed for the Sacramental Service. At the Young

People's Service Messrs. R. W. Evans and G. H. Richards presided, when Rev. W. G. Jenkins and Rev. J. W. Wadsworth delivered suitable addresses. Early morning worship was conducted by Messrs. F. E. Thomas and P. Wilcox, candidates. Sunday was a great day. The Ordination Service created impressions that will be abiding. Rev. F. E. Bower related the story of his conversion and call. Rev. J. Holland gave the ordination charge and Rev. W. G. Cripps offered prayer, and Rev. W. J. Jenkinson gave the charge to the church. Rev. H. Ross presided. The large Synod Church was crowded at the afternoon service, when heart-searching addresses were given by Revs. A. Russell Polts and W. R. Price. In the evening delegate conducted services at 18 churches. Rev. H. Ross was the preacher at the Synod Church. At the closing meeting Mr. J. Craddock presided, and Mr. W. T. Howells was vice-chairman. Addresses were given by Revs. F. E. Bower and John Holland. The president voiced the thanks to the Rev. J. Dickinson and the friends.

Devon and Cornwall.

The delegates assembled under ideal conditions in the Market-street Church, Tisbury. The Rev. W. C. Chimes presided over the Friendly Society Meeting. The inaugural sermon was preached by the Rev. Stanley Buckley, whose inspiring message was greatly appreciated. At the close, a very helpful communion service was conducted by the Rev. R. Robinson, and addressed by the Rev. W. T. Howells. The Rev. W. Walter Goldstraw was unanimously voted to the Synod chair, and Mr. H. Baskerville to the vice-chair. The Revs. H. S. Lawton and W. Coleman were appointed secretaries. The application of the Rev. W. J. Goldstraw for superannuation was sympathetically received and approved, and many tributes were paid to his successful and devoted ministry. The application of the Rev. J. L. Stafford for admission to the Approved List was heartily sent forward. The general business of the Synod was handled with such commendable ability by the Rev. S. Buckley. It was noted that a considerable amount of time was available for the conversation on the Work of God. The Synod gave it time to the present-day attitude, and the discussion left all

greatly heartened in spite of difficulties. Miss Bowen and the Rev. W. Cooper were the principal speakers at the Missionary Rally, presided over by Mr. H. Baskerville, and the public meeting was addressed by the Revs. F. Hull and W. A. Brazier, with Mr. W. J. Dyer in the chair, and Mr. W. Bishop as vice-chairman. At the Ordination Service the Rev. W. G. Chimes gave a very beautiful charge to the candidates, the Rev. J. L. Stafford, who related his call to the ministry in a manner that won the hearts of the congregation. The charge to the Church was given in an effective address by the Rev. W. T. Edwards. In the Synod Church on Sunday gracious times were experienced under the ministry of W. Rev. F. Hall and W. Bridge. The Torquay Circuit authorities made admirable arrangements and provided lavish hospitality. A general praise was uttered by the G.C.D., who by ready wit and shrewd business ability, contributed much to a really successful and happy Synod. The G.C.D. for next year is the Rev. W. C. Chimes. The Synod for 1931 will be held at St. Ives.

York and Scarborough.

The Synod was held at Thirsk under the presidency of the Rev. E. Evans, with Mr. F. H. Dodsworth as vice-chairman, and Rev. T. Ladley secretary. The Synod opened with a sermon by the G.C.D., Rev. N. M. Cuthbert, which gave tone to the whole meetings. The business sessions were a fine order, and a gracious spirit pervaded. Public questions were considered and resolutions passed on Sunday observance, drink evil, gambling, housing, raising of the school-leaving age, religious teaching in day schools, unemployment and international relations. On Saturday afternoon "The Hudson Shield" for Scripture examination was presented to Thirsk School. Next year's Synod will be held at Easingwold, and the Rev. T. Ladley G.C.D. A committee was appointed to co-operate with a similar committee of the West-riding Synod to organise evangelistic events in the district. The public meetings and Sunday services were well sustained. In the Young People's Meeting, Rev. J. G. Rolley gave a chaste address, and the Rev. W. F. Fatten appealed to the young people to use the great advantages of

THE MAY MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY

HOLBORN HALL, GRAY'S INN ROAD

Saturday, May 10th, 1930, at 5.30 p.m.

GREAT YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY RALLY

Chairman

HARTINGTON ADAMS, Esq. (Cleethorpes)

Speaker: Rev. S. E. BUCKLEY (Nambala, Central Africa).

The Revs. G. AYRE & G. E. WILES will take part.

Organist: Mr. C. H. BISHOP

Missionary Display entitled "The Triumphs of the Cross," will be given by the Young People of Whitechapel Mission.

Sunday, May 11th

MISSIONARY SERMONS IN ALL METROPOLITAN CHURCHES.

Tuesday, May 13th

METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON BUTTS, S.E.

10 a.m.—Public Prayer Meeting, conducted by Rev. J. W. EVERINGHAM.

10.30—MORNING MEETING.

Chairman: W. W. TURNER, Esq., of Leeds.

SPEAKERS:

Mr. W. H. HAWTHORNE (Vice-President of Conference).

Rev. J. T. LYON, Central Africa.

Rev. E. ALDOME FRENCH.

Rev. G. AYRE will give the Annual Report.

1.0—Public Luncheon in the Lecture Hall.

2.0—LADIES' MEETING.

Presiding: Mrs. E. H. BROOKS (Ealing).

Vice-President: Mrs. E. ROGERS (Gravesend).

Soloist: Miss MARJORIE KNIGHT-BRIDGE.

SPEAKERS:

Mrs. T. J. GRAINGER (Nigeria).

Rev. W. NORCROSS (Nigeria).

Mrs. J. JOHNSON will give the Annual Report.

4.30—Public Tea in the Lecture Hall.

6.0—Song Service, led by Rev. J. MAIN.

7.0—THE GREAT EVENING MEETING.

Chairman: FRANK HARDY, Esq. (Mansfield).

SPEAKERS:

Rev. P. KINGSTON (Nigeria).

Rev. W. Y. FULLERTON, D.D. (Baptist Missionary Secretary).

Rev. A. LOWE (Leeds).

Annual Report by Rev. G. E. WILES.

Organist: Mr. E. HANCHETT (St. George's Hall).

The Luncheon will be given by the Hull District and the Tea by the Missions District.

Tickets for Luncheon and Tea 3/-; Luncheon only 2/6; Tea only 1/-.

Collection for Missionary Funds. DONATIONS may be sent to the Rev. GEO. AYRE or Rev. G. E. WILES, Holborn Hall.

Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

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THE ORPHAN HOMES

At Alresford, Hants, and Harrogate, Yorks

The Forty-first Anniversary will be held at **The Home, ALRESFORD**, on Wednesday, May 14th, 1930.

Luncheon at 12 and 1 o'clock.

2.15—March past of the children, and community singing.

2.30—**GREAT PUBLIC MEETING** (in tent in playing field).

Speaker: W. H. Hawthorne, Esq. (Vice-President of Conference).

Chairman: J. H. Holmes, Esq., of Leicester.

Brief reports of the work will be given by the General Treasurer and Secretary.

4.0—5.0 p.m. TEA (kindly given by the Bristol District).

A fine programme will be rendered by the children, and at 5.15 they will give a gymnastic display.

Tickets for luncheon and tea, 2/6. Tea only, 1/-. May be had on application to the General Secretary, or to the Matron, Orphan Homes, Alresford, Hants.

TRAVELLING ARRANGEMENTS. Motor Charabancs:

From READING—Apply Mr. F. Wise, 30, Cumberland Road, Reading.
From SOUTHAMPTON—Apply Mr. C. W. Bosworth, "Wreatholme," Velmore Road, Chandler's Ford, Hants.
From BOUTHERA—Apply Mr. R. Lillywhite, 47, Oates Road, Bournemouth.
From LONDON—Leave Central Church, Forest Hill, at 8.15 a.m., and Westminster at 9.40 a.m., providing sufficient seats are booked beforehand to justify running.
Return Party, Mr. Bookings to Mr. A. W. Dransfield, 10, Blenheim Road, E.C.4.
Tel.: 4365 Sydenham.

Third class Railway Tickets, at a single fare for the Double Journey, will be issued to Alresford, by any ordinary train on the Southern Railway, from stations within a radius of 60 miles, on presentation of Anniversary Programme at Booking Office. Come and help in this good work—we have now in the Homes fully 130 children; a look at them is sufficient to satisfy you as to their splendid treatment and happy conditions.

DONATIONS WILL BE GLADLY RECEIVED BY THE

General Treasurer, Ald. A. L. WHITTAKER, J.P., Kingston Works, Halifax:

The General Secretary, Rev. G. FEATONBY, 83, Woodroffe Road, Bradford;
or the MATRON, P. M. Orphan Homes, Alresford, Hants.

The Methodist Leader

Incorporating the Primitive Methodist and the Primitive Methodist World.

Thursday, May 1st, 1930.

The Rite of May.

BY REV. A. C. WILLIMAN.

May has come; and what is its message? For in the paganest of the months each has its message to proclaim. Shakespeare, in his "Midsummer Night's Dream," makes Theseus say of the sleepers in the wood—

"They rose up early to observe
"The Rite of May."

"The Rite of May." Can we not find in that suggestive phrase an answer to our question? For surely the message of May is a call to observe the wonder of Nature's Ritual, both in the grandeur and glory of its outward form and vesture, and in the hidden mystery of its symbolism.

Our imagination is stirred by the marvellous procession of these Spring-time days, when every bursting bud, unfolding leaf and opening flower, seem sacramental with mystic meaning, and every bird-song word of the eternal. All around us are glad awakenings and new beginnings. We are moved, unless of course, we are strangely insensible and unimaginative, by the mighty magic, the wondrous artistry, by which the world of Nature is being transformed by the spirit of Spring. On every hand the great Artist is at work, suffusing every bush and bough, every garden and greensward, with the glow and glory of the invisible, and spreading over the expanse, so recently scarred and blighted by wintry blasts, a shining garment of loveliness—a healing mantle of peace and rest. And amidst the meaning and inspiration of it all there is no wonder that we are drawn to admiration, that we are filled with a new sense of rapture; and that

"The heart with gladness fills,
And dances with the daffodils."

Yes, but what has the daffodil to say to us as it swings its golden bell in the wind? What is the May-message to our souls as we listen to these jubilant voices of Spring? What depths are being sounded, other than the depths of the sea, in the murmur of the Spring tides? We need to ask these questions, for the thought of Nature that leads us on beyond the outward delight of its sensuous appeal, to a deeper appreciation of those unseen realities which Nature enshrines; those hints and suggestions of "other things" which we hidden, and of which the outward glory is but the revelation and expression.

It is in the appeal of Nature to read the meaning of its own beauty, that we discover the real message of these May days; the appeal to see behind the beauty of its Ritual, the wonder of its revelation. This is surely the secret of all true mystical reflection, to see "into the life of things," to discover within the outward glory the inner light, and to know with an assurance that rests upon something "deeper than the witness of the senses, that Nature's temple is filled with the glory that belongs to the unseen and eternal. It is not what we see there, but what we feel to be present there, that intuitive sense of a living and eternal Presence, which makes the world of Nature so eloquent with spiritual meaning. "His mystic finger is on the skirts of God," says Dr. Morrison "when he touches the flower in the crannied wall." And to see God in the flower, the crannied wall, to hear His voice in the sigh of the wind, and to feel the thrilling movement of His eternal Spirit in the flowing tides of natural life, is to find in Nature affinities that are full of sacramental significance.

It is recorded of the astronomer, Kepler, that he once said, "My wish is that I may perceive the God Whom I find everywhere in the external world, in like manner within and inside me." This

is the thought we are expressing here, for unless we realise that the revelations of God in the hidden processes of Nature have some counterpart in our own spiritual natures, we shall miss the most essential part of their message. Just as we are conscious of the quickening of God's creative Spirit through all the pulses of the natural world, so we need to realise the reviving and transforming power of His Eternal Spirit within the life of our souls.

When the Romans named the month of April they thought of it as the Opener. "Omnia aperit," they exclaimed, "It opens all things." And to that we may add the thought of May as the Unfolder; it unfolds all things. Nature the Opener—opening the gates of birth, stirring the slumbering sod, until there comes a quickening and an awakening to life of forms long hidden in the grip of winter. Nature the Unfolder—unfolding the new creations into beautiful shapes and lovely colours. These are the realities of which God is speaking to us through every leaf and branch of Nature's throbbing life in these glad Spring days. Through this wonderful analogy of Nature God is urging us to a renewal of life, to an upspringing of the spirit from the chilling grip of sin and selfishness, of cold indifference and wasting despair, into the new and glad awakening and unfolding of a radiant spiritual life. It is the message of the *New Birth* and of the *Abundant Life*. It is the message which the son of God came to declare, Who through His atoning death and glorious resurrection "has abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light."

"Ye must be born again," He said, as He pleaded with a human soul beneath the silent stars and listened to the voice of the whispering wind. "The wind bloweth where it listeth... so is every one that is born of the Spirit." He is a New Creature, born of the quickening breath of God. And by that breath he grows; grows up into the fulness of life, into a glorious unfolding of personality that reflects in every trait the grace and glory of the Invisible God.

"And filled and quickened by Thy breath,

Our souls are strong and free,
To rise o'er sin and fear and death;
O Love of God to Thee."

It is for the realisation of this we plead as we reflect upon the glories of these May-days, and ponder over the meaning of their message. This is the month of May meetings, May conferences and festivals, and if in all these gatherings there is a yearning for the reviving and renewing of the life of the soul, if there will surely come. The deep of the Infinite Spirit will answer to the call of the deep of the human heart, and from the paradox of a sea was provided by men, our despair and dependencies, there will "blossom red, Life that shall endless be."

"So while we gaze with thoughtful

On all the gifts Thy Love has given,
Help us in Thee to live and die,
By Thee to rise from earth to heaven."

Winchester.—A most successful men's effort has been held at Alresford. The Sunday services were conducted by Mr. C. W. Bosworth, of Southampton. On Thursday a tea was provided by men, over 100 being present. A concert was given in the Congregational Church (kindly loaned for the occasion) by the Winchester P. M. Choir. The Rev. J. T. Ridley, president, supported by Rev. J. T. Ridley. Proceeds for church funds, £8 15s.

General Missionary Committee.

REMARKABLE EXPANSIONS IN AFRICA.

BY REV. ARTHUR BALDWIN.

The Quarterly Meeting was held in Fourstreet Church, Coventry, on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. The chair was occupied by the Rev. J. Swinden, whilst the Rev. W. H. Campbell served as secretary. There was a long list of absentees, including Mrs. E. H. Brown, who was absent through illness, and a letter of sympathy was sent to her. The outstanding feature of the April meeting always is that it is the occasion for reviewing our activities, for reviewing the year and reporting on the work. Figures are much in evidence, and they have their importance, but the full missionary results cannot be tabulated. For example, the number of members can be given, but figures do not indicate the character of the membership. It is incidents such as that narrated by the Rev. H. Wakefield of the poor man who said what he had to pay his class money, that reveal the loyalty and devotion of the native Christian.

Home Missions.

The two Departments alternately take precedence in the introduction of their business, and this time Home Affairs appeared first on the agenda.

There—There—there—twenty of these reports, apart from those of the individual Home Stations, and these indicate the many and varied forms of service in which they engage. They dealt with the Liverpool Commission, New Areas, Village Methodist, Seaside Campaigns, Off-the-Beaten Track Campaigns, the London Forward Movement, the General Missioners, Navy, Army and Air Force work, Home Missions membership, and Brudenell-road (Leeds) Boys' Home—only to mention half of them.

All the arrangements are complete for passing through Synod and Conference, the scheme for the re-construction of the Liverpool Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Circuits, making them into two new circuits, each with two married ministers. Six extension schemes in new areas, made possible by the generous grants of the Missionary Committee, were carried through last year, and assistance has been promised to other four schemes to be undertaken this year. The report of the Special Commission on Village Methodism, with important and far-reaching proposals, was adopted, and is being forwarded to Conference. The Rev. J. T. Barclay spoke on the work of the London Forward Movement, and impressed us anew with the greatest value of the fund he has raised. Worcester Park building project is to go ahead. The Wesleyans and United Methodists are co-operating in our schemes at Orpington, Seven Kings and Bush Hill Park, and we are co-operating with the Wesleyans in their schemes at Rainham and Dagenham. Both the Seaside and Off-the-Beaten Track Campaigns are to be extended this summer.

An innovation was the provision of a separate report on every Home Mission Station, and these revealed that, whilst in some places we are not holding our own, in others magnificent aggressive work is being done. The report on the "Advance" Magazine showed that the total of the Missionary Committee for the year had been £242, or £48 less than in the preceding year, and under the new arrangement it is anticipated that this result will be considerably reduced. The Rev. E. W. Smith bore striking testimony to its excellence. He said that most missionary magazines came into his hands, and he declared that there was no more interesting magazine on the market than "Advance." It ought certainly to have a much wider circulation.

Foreign Missions.

Dr. and Mrs. H. S. Gerrard are sailing for South Africa on May 23rd, and a resolution of farewell was passed, to which the Doctor replied, acknowledging the kindnesses he had received whilst on furlough, and his sense of the great honour it was to be a missionary. The Rev. H. Wakefield was welcomed, and spoke of the joy and success in service.

Reports were received from all the stations, and we were gratified to learn

of the wonderful success that continues to be realised. The largest increase in membership in our history was recorded, namely, 3,402, bringing the membership up to 24,370. When we compare these figures with those of ten years ago, when the total membership was 6,197, we see the marvellous growth of our African work. Besides the members, there are 20,088 Catechumens, an increase of 5,756, and 17,778 day scholars, an increase of 1,477, whilst double that number are in the Sunday Schools. The institutions generally are crowded, and there are now six native candidates for the ministry. The local income has reached £28,916, an increase of 47,219.

The delegates to Conference appointed by the Revs. A. J. Hocking and J. T. Lyon, Mr. F. Hardy, Mrs. T. J. McKenzie, Ald. T. L. Gerrard and Mrs. J. E. Leuty. Our representatives to the Conference of Missionary Societies are the Rev. G. Ayre, Mr. F. Hardy and Mrs. J. G. Southby. Our representatives on the Young People's Missionary Department are the Revs. G. Ayre, G. E. Wiles, A. Baldwin, J. Swinden, W. J. Ward, and Mr. F. Hardy. The meetings of the committee for next year are to be held in the new City Hall, Nottingham in October, Sheffield in January, and Liverpool in April.

Departmental Reports.—Miss Bowes reported that the Missionary Federation report, showing their unbroken history of progress has been maintained. Their total membership is now 38,581, an increase of 715, and they raised last year £13,718, an increase of 247. Messrs. R. Fletcher and F. Hardy were appointed the G.M.C. representatives on their Executive. The Rev. C. P. Groves gave his final report of the Young People's Department; 140 medals and 223 bars had been won during the year, and 1,389 new certificates had been issued. There are now 1,867 Sunday School secretaries and 413 circuit secretaries, an increase of over 400. Mr. Groves was warmly thanked for his efficient services and the Rev. J. B. Hardy, M.A., nominated as his successor. Mr. F. Hardy was again appointed president. In the Lantern Department, the Rev. J. S. W. Starwell reported a busy season. About 150 sets of slides have been issued.

Balance Sheets.—These were all taken together. In the Home Department the income from all sources was £22,615, a decrease of £1,236, whilst the expenditure was £24,685, an increase of £844, so that we finished the year with a debit balance of £2,744, or £2,080 more than last year. This was not surprising, in view of the industrial conditions that have prevailed. The Sustentation Fund turned out well. The levy on the circuits was actually a little less than the amount they contributed. Four circuits failed to send the contributions, though one had promised to send it. It is hoped the other three will fall into line.

The African balance sheet revealed the pleasing fact that the income, amounting to £245,498, is an increase on last year, and the debit balance is reduced by £1,775. It now stands at £1,895. The secretary, in his closing up of it, said he had got nearly half-way, and we hope that this year he will achieve his purpose. The Rev. S. E. Buckley has been necessitated, for domestic reasons, to retire from the field, and will take a home station at Conference.

Rhodesian Deputation Report.

This is a volume of sixty printed pages, and contains a mass of invaluable information and a series of recommendations which have received the careful consideration of the Executive. Many of these were adopted, and it is believed will ensure greater efficiency in the work. Perhaps the most important of these proposals is the appointment of a general superintendent. The reasons given for this step are the isolated character of our Rhodesian stations, the few opportunities of consultation for the staff, with the consequent lack of conscious unity, the need of a unified policy and programme and of an experienced teacher who shall anticipate and meet the needs as they arise.

BRITISH & FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 7th, at 11 a.m.

QUEEN'S HALL

(By Mrs. CHAPPELL & CO., Ltd., Sole Lessees)

CHAIRMAN:

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, K.G.

SPEAKERS:

The Right Hon. LORD FORSTER OF LEPE

Rev. JOHN WILSON, D.D.

(of Woolwich)

Rev. W. J. NOBLE

(of the W.M.M.S.)

ADMISSION FREE. Reserved seat tickets on application to the Bible House.

Friends from a distance should apply to the Secretaries, 146, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4, for vouchers for return tickets at a single fare and a third.

In ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, the Annual Service on behalf of the Society will be held on Tuesday, May 6th, at 4 p.m.

Preacher: THE RIGHT REV. E. J. PALMER, D.D., late Bishop of Bombay.

CLAPTON MISSION

SOUTHWOLD ROAD (near Clapton Station).

MAY MEETINGS.

Saturday, May 10th.

4.15 Musical Programme.

7.15 Rev. TOM SYKES, Lecture—"The Genius of Methodism."

Sunday, May 11th.

11.30 and 8.30. Rev. TOM SYKES.

Monday, May 12th.

3 p.m. UNBROKEN "WOMEN'S OWN." Speaker: Rev. J. T. LYON.

5.30 Public Tea.

7.30 OPEN PUBLIC MEETING (Inventory of Social Agencies).

FRANK HARDY, Esq. (Mansfield). Speakers: Rev. TOM SYKES, Rev. W. J. NOBLE, and Rev. E. J. PALMER, D.D.

Rev. W. J. NOBLE, Supporting: Rev. David Pugh, Gen. F. S. Goulson, B. Selby, J. T. Lyon, Joseph Watson, John Mainwaring, and others.

REPORT OF YEARS' WORK BY REV. J. K. ELLWOOD.

2.150 URGENTLY NEEDED FOR HOLIDAYS AND OUTINGS FOR CRIPPLE CHILDREN AND POOR WOMEN.

With grateful thanks to Rev. J. K. ELLWOOD, 65 Elderfield Road, Clapton, London, E.8.

THE WORKING LADS' INSTITUTE AND HOME, 27B, Whitechapel Road, London, E.1.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Of Parents of Members and Supporters of the Home will be held in the ALEXANDRA HALL of the Institute, on Monday, May 12th, 1930, at 3 p.m.

THE MAYOR OF STEPNEY (Alderman H. Lazarus, J.P.) will preside

Supported by

THE RIGHT HON. GEORGE LANSBURY, M.P., Alderman W. C. Johnson, L.C.C., J.P.; J. D. Kiley, Esq., J.P.; J. D. Somers, Esq., J.P.; H. Kosky, Esq., J.P.; The Mayor of Whitechapel (Rev. J. A. Mayo), Rev. J. T. Barclay (Ex-Member of Conference), Rev. W. Potter, J. E. Thorp, and others

THE REV. THOMAS JACKSON will present the Report.

Collection for Home Fund.

PUBLIC TEA in BRUNSWICK HALL at 5 p.m. Tickets 6d. each.

PUBLIC MEETING in the INSTITUTE at 8 p.m.

Chairman—A. T. DAVIES, Esq., J.P., O.B.E.

Speakers—W. Clarke Hall, Esq., J. F. Bryan, Esq., J.P. Demonstrations and Concert Items by members of the Brigades, Ever-Ready Band Solo by "BILLY BUCKLAND" (8 years old Boy Entertainer).

Collection for Camp Fund.

He will live at the Kufus Station. The Rev. J. B. Hardy, M.A., is to be invited to fill this position. Another important decision is the establishment of a girls' school at Nautilia. For years we have had the Kufus Institute for boys, but no complementary school for girls. Now that defect is to be remedied, and the Government, alive to its importance, has promised us a grant of £250 a year. The Rev. J. W. Price is to be invited to undertake the training of the candidates for Government. Some of the best and ablest teachers are to be sent to the Government Jeans School at Mazuku for a two years' course of training, and on their return to work on the Government. Government paying two-thirds of their salary.

In conjunction with our Wesleyan friends, we are to embark on an extension into the Copper Field area, where great developments are taking place.

Churches and People.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S ENGAGEMENTS.—May 3rd and 4th, Wembley.

The arrangements for the Metropolitan Missionary Anniversary, as announced in the Leader to-day, for Saturday, May 10th, and Tuesday, May 13th, afford the strongest expectancy not only of great audiences, but of unusually excellent meetings. The missionary spirit was never so prevalent in the Churches as now, and the week-end included in the programme even with the help of the Metropolitan area and all who come from the provinces an opportunity to manifest the ardour that has abounded throughout Africa. At Saturday evening, always a popular event, the young people of Whitechapel Mission will present a Missionary Play. Those who have thought of Whitechapel Mission only in terms of social derelicts of old and needy people will witness another phase of the work carried on by Thomas Jackson and his colleagues, the Rev. J. E. Thorpe, Mr. Harrington Adams, of Cleethorpes, will preside, and Africa will be represented by the Rev. Stanley E. Buckley. The customary crowd of young people and their friends, with delight in mingling with youth, will be there this year in even larger numbers. The gathering will give an impetus for the week-end.

Tuesday will be everybody's day at the Metropolitan Tabernacle. Mr. W. W. Turner, of Leeds, will preside at the evening meeting. Mr. Turner is among the most devoted workers and officials in the city of Leeds. A great and long record of service is his commendation to the London audience, and this will be sufficient for a most cordial welcome. The Vice-President of Conference will ably represent his lamented and greatly beloved colleague, Mr. late Rev. J. H. Saxton. The Rev. E. Aldon French, Wesleyan Methodist though he be, is now almost as widely known in our own country as in his native land. He has been in our Church during the last year in the interests of Methodist Union. For his own sake and for his bold leadership in the interests of Union, he will be accorded a warm greeting. The Rev. J. T. Lyon, just home from Central Africa, will worthily represent and sustain the interests of the foreign field.

The afternoon meeting on Tuesday, when the women take charge, will possess characteristics of the same organisation, unabated enthusiasm and cohesion of effort the women are altogether admirable. They deservedly merit all the praise which is accorded to Mrs. Brooks, of Ealing, and Mrs. Rogers, of Gravesend, will serve admirably as president and vice. Miss Marjorie Knightbridge, who has been throughout our London Churches, will be the soloist. Then there will be the return of an old friend, known to everybody as Miss Leggett, but who is now known as Mrs. George, of Garshead, to whom will be accorded a worthy reception for the distinguished service she initiated and rendered in Nigeria. The Rev. A. J. Hockin, has a remarkable story to tell of service in Africa.

The evening meeting should surpass all previous years. The arrangements

Already some thousands of white men are there; towns are springing up, and there is no religious provision for the people. The proposal is that we shall be responsible for supplying the staff, and they for providing the buildings. The report is to be published at 1s., and we urge our people to secure this most interesting and important work.

There was a public meeting on the Tuesday night, well supported, under the chairmanship of Ald. T. L. Gerrard, and reported for by the Rev. J. C. Mantrippe gave the charge to the candidate and the Rev. J. W. Clifford, M.A., the charge to the church. The Rev. G. Press and his officials were heartily thanked for their generous entertainment of the committee.

suggest it. Mr. Frank Hardy, who has toured South Africa as a member of the Missionary Deputation, will preside. His knowledge of our African work is immediately at hand, and his enthusiasm for the expansion of the Church, both in the homeland and in Africa, is not of recent days. His occupancy of the chair is most appropriate. Dr. W. Y. Fullerton, the eminent Baptist, whose life has been spent in the forefront of missionary enterprise, will represent the other side of the coin. His story will be a quickening message. Albert Lowe (we usually forget the appellation when we talk of him), one of the most lovable of men, and with whom we can only speak in terms of affection, will give us a message from his heart's deep core. Our Churches in London will be introduced to one who is at present a conspicuous strategy and the first fruits of prospective Methodist Union will be evidenced by the presence as a speaker of the Rev. Paul Kingston, of Nigeria, who will tell us how the Union has eventuated it is in operation on the Nigerian field. The differing phases of missionary work have rarely been so admirably brought before the eyes of all at the evening meeting. The old enthusiasm surely should abound all day on Tuesday.

Amongst the many exhibitors at the Preston Art Exhibition, Mrs. L. V. E. Colbourn, A.B.W.S., was a well distinguished place. Her work is represented in the "Dalehouse Village," Yorkshire. This is another of the many successes Mrs. Colbourn has gained. She and her work are referred to in "Who's Who" and "Who's Had for some years an association with the British Water Colour Society, and has exhibited at Cheltenham, Northampton, Leeds, and other towns. Mrs. Colbourn is the wife of Mr. R. S. Colbourn, circuit steward of Bury Second Circuit, and a daughter of the Rev. A. Frozter, of Bury. Mrs. Colbourn is now at our church at Radcliffe with great and helpful work.

In our report of Dr. Streeter's address in Hereford Cathedral last week the sentence, "Rich in formulas and phrases," should have read, "Sick of formulas and phrases."

The Young Men's Missionary Movement is vigorously pursuing its purpose, and is destined to become a strong force in the Methodist Churches, and will be mightier still when the Churches form one Methodist. During the week-end of May 1st and 2nd, "High Leigh" is an attractive centre. The enthusiastic secretary of our Church, Mr. F. W. East, 10, Chesley-gardens, E.6, will be glad to receive young men of our Churches who contemplate spending the week-end at "High Leigh." Mr. East is quite hopeful of a representative group of our church being in attendance. It will be an African and Home Missionary Conference, representative of Nigeria, Rhodesia and London. Full information as to terms, trains, etc., will be readily supplied by Mr. East at the address named.

The jubilee celebrations of Kettering-road Church, Northampton, were preceded by a Romney Fair, which proved to be one of the happiest events the church has had for years. As a result of the two-days' sale £253 were raised. Some 250 workers were entertained to supper by the esteemed circuit stewards—Rev. W. Arnold and Rev. C. J. Pearce. Words of appreciation to the workers were offered by Rev. Ernest Dover and Rev. C. Leonard Tudor. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Many friends will learn with deep sorrow that Mrs. Finlay, wife of Rev. C. Finlay, is at present in the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne. She underwent a serious operation on Thursday last. The latest report is that she is progressing satisfactorily. This is the third operation Mrs. Finlay has faced during the last few years, and that same courage which characterised her service for Africa in company with her husband is manifest in her facing of this recent ordeal.

The Rev. W. S. C. Leach desires to point out that the returns for the Teacher Training Department are really better than the last year. Actually there were 632 entrants, 439 of whom sat for the examination, of which 106 gained honours, 175 first class, 129 pass. So that 410 altogether passed the examination. The figures in last week's issue covered the first section only. The Sunderland and Newcastle District must have suffered from the industrial situation.

Rev. J. T. Ridley desires to warn our people against a new sect, calling themselves "Cooneytes" or, Go Preschters. They travel about the country and seek the loan of our chapels, especially in the villages, and the co-operation of those who have been associated with them. They are simple and sincere, but do not hesitate to sow discord wherever they go. If the chapel is refused or having been lent for a service of worship, is decided empty, they seek to hold cottage meetings, by which they deceive even the elect. Mr. Ridley has suffered from their invasion, and desires to warn others of their insidious ways. It is the first time that friends, especially in small places, have had to guard their heritage against unwelcome intruders. We hope our people will be on their guard again.

A unique event occurred in the recent election of members for the Oldbury Urban District Council, when two local preachers were elected, the persons being Mr. H. Griffiths, of Langley (Blackheath), and Mr. G. H. Price, of Rounds Green Church (Oldbury Circuit). Mr. Griffiths headed the poll. For several years he was well known in different parts of the Connexion as a successful evangelist, but settled at Langley nearly thirty years ago, and throughout the period he has rendered a constant service to his own and sister Free Churches. Mr. Price has been deeply interested in the young life of his church. Some time ago he resigned the teaching profession to become the Liberal agent for the Stourbridge Parliamentary Division.

During Holy Week services for the deepening of spiritual life were held at the Wesleyan Church, Northampton. Among the ministers taking part were Rev. Harold Bickley, B.D. (Doddridge Memorial Church), Rev. Geo. H. Russell (Congregational Church), and Rev. C. Smith, M.A., B.D., chairman of the Bedford Wesleyan District. On Good Friday evening the Story of Jesus was told by a special group of class leaders, and the activities. It was a most impressive service and was largely attended. Suitable music was arranged by Mr. Harold Nash.

On Good Friday Mr. and Mrs. John Roberts, of Black Park, Ryehead, celebrated their diamond wedding. They received many warm congratulations. "John Roberts, the Singer," is well known to all the churches, and has a wide area. For sixty-six years he has served as preacher in the Black Park Church, where, for a considerable period he has also filled the office of class leader. Mrs. Roberts, in less public ways, has also

manifested great devotion. Though advancing years necessarily limit their activities, they are still keenly interested in the well-being of the Church.

The spirit of Christian unity was strongly manifested in the parish of West Bowling, Bradford, on Good Friday, when a service was held in St. Stephen's Church, the ministers of the Free Churches taking part with the local clergy. The Revs. F. J. Lambert and J. W. Smallwood read lessons, and by invitation of the vicar the Rev. G. Featworthy was the preacher.

The only surviving trustee of the original Kettering-road Church, Northampton, is Mr. Thomas W. Britten. He was one of three present at the consecration of the site, which was conducted by the sainted Rev. Jesse Ashworth. For over half a century Mr. Britten has been a zealous worker for the Church, especially in the temperance cause. Unfortunately, he has been ill for many weeks, but, happily, was able to be present at the jubilee service held in connection with the jubilee celebrations.

Officials of the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist Churches of Whitby and neighbourhood met at a tea-table conference held in the Brunswick Hall on Wednesday, April 29th. After tea the Rev. A. E. Guile, of the Wesleyan District, presided, and the Rev. A. E. Guile delivered a lecture in the Brunswick Hall on the Hymns of the Methodists under the title "The Methodists under the Cross," and was supported by the united choirs of the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist churches. The meetings were marked by great cordiality, and the view was expressed that in Whitby and district serious difficulties need arise when Union comes.

Primitive Methodists in London will be interested to know that the Rev. Tom Brown is paying a visit to Quick's-road Church, Wimbledon, this week-end, May 3rd-5th. Commencing on Saturday evening, a series of meetings have been arranged for the week-end. The meetings feature being a mass meeting for men at 8 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, and a similar meeting for ladies on Monday afternoon. We heartily invite all friends who care to come to any of the meetings.

A Young People's Rally will be again held this year, and the Earlsford Hall in connection with the Methodist Society. This meeting, and the earliest returns indicate increasing interest. A central London School is sending a hundred scholars and a Middlesex Church reports a considerable contingent. Church and school authorities in Outer London will be able to get reduced fares for parties. Young people under sixteen can be booked to return at half the single fare, and parties of adults and elder scholars and teachers be booked to return at the same rate. All the ways for the single fare will be carried by the group numbers at least eight. Inquiry should be made at the railway station. The numbers of young people are increasing year by year, and this time places will be reserved and a special response given to the young people, and all kinds of non-uniformed weekly day organisations.

In Lymm and Camb. District Synod held on Wednesday evening, May 1st, J. B. Coggie, a candidate for the ministry, who, after preaching his trial sermon, had to be informed that his brother had passed away during the Synod.

Councillor Harry Robinson, local preacher, for the third time has succeeded in being returned to the Horsnae Urban District Council, and was elected by Councillor A. E. Stiffing, has been elected to serve as the Guardians' Assistance Committee for the district.

Mr. Arnold H. Mason, son of the Rev. W. H. Mason, has been successful in getting two pictures hung in the forthcoming Royal Academy in very good positions.

Much gratification has been caused on

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What Our Readers Say.

THE NIGERIAN SYNOD REPORT.

Sir.—The report of the Nigerian Synod in the *Leader* of April 24th fills us with joy and gratitude. It is a magnificent story of the reward of work well done. But I am writing to correct an historical error. Your correspondent says, speaking of twenty years ago: "A chief who had been one of the leaders (hostile readers) at that time, came out into this Synod Sunday and welcomed with a prayer that very missionary who had been the first to bring the Gospel to Uzuakoli Town." In one sense this may be true, as the Rev. F. W. Dodds has laboured practically all his career among the Ibos, but when I was in the Ibo country, before Mr. Dodds, or any other missionary of Church had worked among the Ibos, I sent the following report to the G.M.C., on December 1st, 1910: "In the Bende district we have built two churches, and are building a third. The first is at Udoro and the second is at Bende Town. There are three school-masters. Two are with me at Bende and the third is connected with a school at Uzuakoli, a town eight miles from Bende, where a third church is in the course of erection by the people. I chose the site for the church; the land was given over by the chiefs. I saw the site cleared of bush, and the building was started before I returned home. The congregation slept at Uzuakoli occasionally. Thus the usual initial difficulties, but we got a footing in the town at that time, and at Onitsha, the town lying between them and the sea." It is only fair to say that nothing worth mentioning was done until Mr. Dodds, through persistent endeavour, pressed forward the work. Still, I think I can claim precedence in the Ibo field, as I was the first to enter the country and to open it for our Church. The matter may be argued, but the forthcoming 21st birthday celebrations the facts should be accurate. We will take our hats off to the men who since those first days of the cleared and planted land have served, and to none more than the esteemed superintendent, Rev. F. W. Dodds.—Yours, etc., W. CHRISTIE.

Wednesday.

THE DENOMINATIONAL MAGAZINE.

Sir.—Recently I listened to a first-class speech by a member of the Book Committee concerning the present state of the magazines. No man could have stated the case better. Unfortunately, I have heard periodically similar appeals, and the total effect has been small. These appeals for larger sales are generally made by ministers, and many of us are wondering whether there is no other way out of a critical situation. If the figures stated approach accuracy, then it seems as if something drastic needs to be done effectively to deal with it, for certainly we cannot afford the serious loss the present situation incurs. I do not at any time blame the Book Committee for the situation. I think it is impossible for any committee to do better on the present limited resources than the Book Committee is to be held responsible in the slightest degree. The editor is certainly one of the ablest and most highly-equipped ministers our Church has, and nothing is more very high sense of his office. He is an asset to any Church from any standpoint. I think the position is entirely out of his hands for the reasons stated, and as they now exist are not required. If they were required they would sell. Why, then, continue them at a loss we can ill afford? There is no need for them. The *Aldersgate* of over £200, and the *Messenger*, *Springtime* and *Morning*. I gather, do not flourish. In fact, none of them are in a satisfactory position.

Now, is there no way out than these continual appeals, that meet with such little response? Surely there is no loss of prestige in dealing drastically with a situation that is in a position to fall into this state through no fault either of the Book Steward or Editor. I think that there is a place for one magazine to replace the three present ones, and that place is *Christian Messenger* and *Springtime*—but I am quite certain that there is not room for more than one. There may also be a place for a good children's

magazine, and concerning that, I do not think it would be a question of whether the price was a penny or twopenny; what does matter is a really good thing. The *Sunday School Magazine*, and the *Prayer* have their special fields of appeal.

What is the remedy for dealing with the present situation to save the serious drain on our resources of hundreds of pounds a year? I venture to suggest one. (1) That we unite the office of Book Steward and Editor. Make the latter office, as I believe the United Methodists do. This would save approximately £400 a year. (2) Because this might increase the work underfoot, I suggest that someone specially fitted for the task be appointed to edit the Children's Magazine. Surely in our Church there is some man or woman who, while not being a second edition of Arthur Mee, has special gifts for editing such a magazine. I suggest, too, that the Teachers' Magazine could fittingly be placed in the hands of the Sunday School Committee, and the Preachers' Magazine in the hands of the Local Preachers' Training Committee. These are specialised magazines, and could be best done by individuals specially qualified. This course would reduce the work of the joint office of Book Steward and Editor. And as we should have to remunerate their doing the work, the amount saved by the union of offices would be reduced, but even then a substantial saving would be saved. At least £300. In addition, there would be saved the present serious loss on the *Aldersgate*. I estimate the amount that would be saved by the union of the two offices above would be at least from £500 to £600 per annum.

Now, Sir, I venture to say that in the present state of our finances, with the Connexional levy at its present figure, there is no justification for the continuance of a condition of things that in the long run would be a serious loss. We cannot afford it, either for prestige or for any other reason that I know. I am certain that the Book Committee and all connected with it, are fully aware of the present outlook. These are merely suggestions resulting from thinking about the position as stated at our District Committee.—Yours, etc., SAMUEL PARLOW.

Haslingden.

LINKING UP THE YOUNG.

Sir.—I am indeed sorry that "A Minister's Son" has such an unfortunate and discouraging experience, and such cold receptions in his attempts to enter the fellowship of the young of the Methodist churches; sorry also to read of the experience of the young lady to whom he refers, in her relation to Congregationalism. On the face of it, it would certainly give anyone a very bad impression of the hospitality of the Free Churches. As an offset, I beg to give my own experience when a young man of the same age and position from my native place to another, into the midst of entirely strange people. On the evening of my arrival, looking up our friends, I found a very warm and friendly fellowship, at a week-evening, with the good folk there. I had a fair reception; they did not neglect my arrival, nor did they make any kind of fuss about my being a young man of the same age and position. I wanted new friends. I have always been pleased that I carried out my duty and common sense, for ultimately I found them to be a really good company, and make bold to say that I owed my future career very much to the help and friendship of them. Since then I have had opportunities of observation from other angles, from the ministry itself in particular, and my own little patience that if a young man or woman is strongly inclined to Christian fellowship and service, there are few churches where they cannot find a home. The work of churches is often commented upon, but often the real fault is on the other side. I should say the churches referred to by the Minister's Son are in a position to do no more. The churches to-day are much the same as in the days I refer to, ready to welcome the enthusiast, but I cannot understand why they should be particularly a minister's son, finding "other ways of spending Sunday."

Yours, etc.,

A MINISTER.

LAY PREACHER'S JUBILEE.

On April 17th a presentation was made to Mr. W. G. Bowles, an aged and honourable layman of the Mountain Ash Circuit. To recognise the fifty years' service, a rally of the churches was summoned, and two comfortable chairs and an illuminated address were handed to Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bowles by the circuit steward, Mr. A. J. Hamblin.

REV. BERT COULBECK.

Mission at Barlestone.

Barlestone is a mining village on the Hinkley Circuit, and our Church has been in existence there for many years. The society has ebbed and flowed, but a special feature of the life of the church has been the energy and fervour of evangelistic fervour. It is one of the few places where an annual camp meeting is held, and where a Love Feast has survived. For a second time the church has been favoured with a visit from the Rev. Bert Coulbeck, and the whole neighbourhood has been stirred by his story and song. The energy and fervour of the missionary are wonderful. It was announced that the mission would open with a Faith Tea on the Saturday, and a strong contingent of supporters arrived by bus from Leicester, and in the afternoon the streets of Barlestone resounded with praise and prayer and testimony. The mission was a great success, and after which another open-air mission was held. In the evening the chapel was full, when the congregation was moved with the story of modern miracles in the realm of character and spirit, and with Gospel song from Mr. Coulbeck.

Sunday was a busy day. In addition to the usual school sessions and services, a special musical service was held in the afternoon, when the choir assisted the missionary. The two evenings following an outdoor mission programme was served, and on the final evening Mr. Coulbeck addressed himself specially to the Barlestone men. All the services were well attended, and the mission was a great success, and after which another open-air mission was held. Best of all, upwards of twenty young people dedicated themselves to the service of Christ during the week. The Rev. A. W. Baillie, M.A., B.D., presided. Rev. R. J. Fenwick and Rev. T. W. Brown spoke of their personal convictions of his work, and Mr. Britten, Mr. T. Parfitt, Mr. A. Evans, Mr. C. Hanks, Coun. Seymour, Mr. S. Nicholls, Coun. N. Bowles also gave expression to the feelings at this recognition of Mr. Bowles, both as a preacher and as a friend. Mr. W. G. Bowles has been connected with South Wales for his life. Four times he has been appointed to the Synod, and once from the Synod to Conference. He has always been held in the greatest respect even by those unconnected with our churches. The gathering was crowned by the presence of Mrs. Bowles, who has shared his life throughout the whole period of his work. May they long be spared to strengthen the hands of younger workers at the church at Miskin, where they now regularly attend. Rev. R. J. Fenwick, Mr. J. T. Williams, and Mr. J. T. Williams, both sent letters of regret at their inability to be present.

MR. W. G. BOWLES.

Friends assembled from far and near in token of their affection and to pay their tribute to the quietude and success of his preaching. Rev. A. W. Baillie, M.A., B.D., presided. Rev. R. J. Fenwick and Rev. T. W. Brown spoke of their personal convictions of his work, and Mr. Britten, Mr. T. Parfitt, Mr. A. Evans, Mr. C. Hanks, Coun. Seymour, Mr. S. Nicholls, Coun. N. Bowles also gave expression to the feelings at this recognition of Mr. Bowles, both as a preacher and as a friend. Mr. W. G. Bowles has been connected with South Wales for his life. Four times he has been appointed to the Synod, and once from the Synod to Conference. He has always been held in the greatest respect even by those unconnected with our churches. The gathering was crowned by the presence of Mrs. Bowles, who has shared his life throughout the whole period of his work. May they long be spared to strengthen the hands of younger workers at the church at Miskin, where they now regularly attend. Rev. R. J. Fenwick, Mr. J. T. Williams, and Mr. J. T. Williams, both sent letters of regret at their inability to be present.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

The relations between our "little church on Briery Hill," Ebbw Vale, and the Baptist Church have been of a cordial nature, and very recently substantial evidence of the feeling existing was seen in the gift of an organ to our Briery Hill friends, whose organ was sadly out of repair. The friends at Nebo, having installed a pipe organ, immediately offered their organ, which they had previously used, to our trustees here. Needless to say the offer was gratefully accepted, and our friends at Briery Hill are delighted with an instrument of considerable value. This has enabled them to repair their old instrument for use in the Sunday-school. All feel this to be a truly Christian act, deserving of the highest praise. Our Baptist friends know our need and were moved to supply it. They did not merely compliment us on our work, but helped considerably in its execution. The organ will be a constant reminder of the old-day goodwill of a sister church.

Stward, Glas.—A successful Circuit Rally was held at Scrubbs on Good Friday. After tea, a most enjoyable meeting was held, presided over by Mr. G. R. Rees, circuit steward. Others taking part were Revs. A. J. Gough, C. Dunham, Messrs. T. Eldridge, R. Fern, G. N. Hawkes, Miss W. H. Hunt. This church having closed for some time, it is hoped that during the summer months some services may be held. The Rev. A. J. Gough is sparing no effort to make his term a success.

ORDINATION OF

LAY PREACHER.

The ordination service of Mr. John Blythin, of the Bryn-y-dderwen Circuit (Chester Second). Much interest was shown in the candidate, and a good congregation was present to hear the story of his life. The Rev. J. W. Brunsell conducted the service and gave an address. Mr. W. H. Mealing presented Mr. Blythin with a copy of "The Life of the Children," and spoke on the need of diligent preparation and prayer in the responsibilities of the pulpit. Appropriate music was rendered by the choir, led by Mr. J. W. Brunsell, with Mr. W. H. Harcourt organist.

Marriage.

Mrs. S. C. Powell and Miss F. Hunt. On Saturday, April 19th, a pretty wedding took place at Bethel Church, Dudley-road, Wolverhampton, between Mr. Stanley C. Powell, son of the circuit steward, and Miss F. Hunt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hunt. Both the bride and bridegroom are active workers in church and society. The bride is a talented choirleader, and the former a leading member of the choir. A large number of friends were present at the service, conducted by Rev. J. Kishish, with Mr. Stanley Male at the organ. The bride looked charming in white georgette, with veil and tulle train, and her young cousin, Miss F. Hunt, was also charming in white georgette, with veil and tulle train. The bride and groom were both in the mediaeval style, and carried handbags and shower bouquets of Mrs. J. Kishish. Mr. Leslie Hunt was an efficient best man. The groomsmen were Messrs. R. and C. Stevens. A reception and breakfast followed at Ray's Hotel. The bride and groom were sumptuously entertained by the bride's parents. The popularity enjoyed by the wedding couple was reflected in the many valuable presents received.

"South Indian Schemes," by W. J. S. Simpson, D.D., &c.; "Preaching by Parable," by J. W. W. Moeran, M.A., 2s. 6d. (S.P.C.K.)

Chandwriting. Send few lines and signature is and postage.—MISS SYKES, 25, Mow Lane, Southport. Mention this paper.

over 50. Our church, which had been closed several years, was re-opened five years ago without a member, and the conditions were rather hopeless, and persistent efforts had been rewarded. The Rev. A. Bell thanked the little band of workers and friends of the Established Church, who encouraged with generous help.

Manchester Fifth.—The School Anniversary Services at Streatham were a complete success. On Saturday the public tea was followed by a delightful pageant, "The Growth and Progress of the Sunday School Movement," given by the teachers and scholars. Mrs. Saunders (of Lytham) presiding. Rev. H. L. Herod was the prize of excellence. Mr. W. Rostron reported an increase of scholars, and every department in a healthy condition. Rev. W. Swales (of Hull) gave an address, and was also the special preacher for the Sunday. The scholars rendered a musical programme in the afternoon. Miss Gladys Holden in the choir. Special music was given by the choir at all the services, with Mr. J. Taylor at the organ and Mr. W. D. Snape conducting. The proceeds were in advance of last year.

North Walsham.—A circuit effort was held on Easter Monday on behalf of the New Manse Fund. Rev. C. H. Pitt, B.A., preached in the afternoon, and after Mr. A. Arundell presided over the evening meeting, when Rev. C. H. Pitt gave a splendid address. A Treasure Casket containing gifts for the Manse Fund was opened by Mrs. J. Hardingham. Rev. W. J. Hemp stated that the day's effort realised £33 12s. 10d., making £44 14s. 10d. raised for the new manse since last Easter.

Norwich.—The annual effort on behalf of the Trust funds, held at Cowgate-street on Good Friday, proved a great success. By the generosity of Miss Gladys Holden a large party was entertained to tea. This was followed by a sacred concert by the choir, conducted by Mr. E. Hansell, which included selections from "The Messiah." Mr. I. Moore presided, Mr. H. Hansell being the pianist. The proceeds were in advance of last year.

Nottingham. The Women's Own Anniversary at Ruddington commenced with a tea and meeting, the president being in the chair, Mr. Shears being the speaker, and Miss G. Harpool soloist. The services of Mrs. Savage on Sunday were greatly appreciated. Anthems were sung by the W.O. choir, conducted by Mrs. E. H. Jones, Mrs. S. Cross presiding at the organ. On Monday a concert was given by friends from Radcliffe-street and West Bridgford Churches, Mr. Felton presiding. The work of Mrs. Jones at Ruddington is meeting with much success.

Peterborough Second.—The Cobden-street Church enjoyed a special week-end at Easter. The proceedings began with a public tea on Good Friday, followed by an organ recital by Mr. L. Hibbins, B.A. In the evening the choir, under the direction of Mr. W. Hibbins, rendered the cantata, "Light out of Darkness." All the soloists were in excellent voice, and the evening was enjoyed by those present. Mr. H. E. Frostman presided. On Sunday Rev. A. Goodacre preached to good concert, the soloist at night being Mrs. Bullock. In the afternoon the "Women's Own" gave a service of song entitled "The Scarlet Geranium." Mrs. Hubbard occupied the choir; Mrs. Goodacre gave the connective readings, and Mrs. George presided at the organ. On Monday the "Women's Own" repeated the service of song at H. Holston to a full congregation, the readings being given by Miss Sharpe, of Hull. Finances very good.

Rhosymedre.—Special services held at Black Park during the week-end have been very successful. A splendid congregation assembled on Good Friday morning, when the superintendent minister (Rev. J. W. Jenkins) preached a seasonsable sermon. After a public tea in the afternoon, a concert was given by a party of juveniles, conducted by Mr. Edward Roberts. Mr. N. E. Parrish presided. The Chapel Anniversary took place on Easter Sunday. The Rev. E. W. Challenger (Wern) preached at the morning and evening services, Mr. C. C. Roberts (Froston) in the afternoon. All the discourses were much appreciated by excellent companies.

Seacombe.—Easter-day has been an inspiring season; the nightly services conducted by various ministers during the week proved most helpful, and were well attended. A United Service for the Free Churches of the district was held in Sea-

combe Wesleyan Church on Good Friday. In the evening our choir gave an impressive rendering of the cantata, "From Oliver to Calvary." The services of Easter Day marked the culminating point, when Rev. R. M. Rutter and Rev. D. Cook conducted inspiring services. **Seaham Harbour.**—A grand orchestral concert, accompanied by the Crotchet Vocal Quartette Party, was given in the temple of the sea on Good Friday night. The church was crowded in every part. Mr. Robert Hush made an excellent chairman. Mr. Robert Young was the solo conductor. John Cund A. G. Bennett (U.M.); and the pianist was Miss Mary Young. Mr. Young had succeeded in organising a large and efficient choir, and the organ, which had recently been rendered, whilst the quartette party delighted the audience with their songs. The Rev. B. Haddon expressed appreciation of the services of the chairman, the Crotchet Party, the band, and especially of the conductor.

Sheffield (Petre-street).—A Methodist Union Communion Service was held at Petre-street on Thursday, April 17, when seven ministers took part—Revs. S. O. Tattersall, W. A. Jones, and R. W. Hull (U.M.); Rev. V. G. Godfrey, C. G. Bennett (U.M.); and J. McGain and E. Goldthorpe (P.M.). The preacher was Rev. D. V. Godfrey, of Fifth Park U.M. Church, and the service was conducted by the minister of the church, Rev. E. Goldthorpe. Twelve societies from the northern part of the city were represented, and a fine tone pervaded the service.

St. Ives (Hunts).—A Sale of Work has been held for the purpose of reducing the large debit balances on the Trust and Circuit Funds. There has been a splendid rally of the members. Mrs. F. M. Warren (Congregationalist) opened the sale, and Rev. J. J. Harrison presided. The friends were greatly rejoiced when it was found that the total proceeds had realised £40. The Doxology was sung at the close of the evening's concert.

Staithe.—The Rally of the Circuit Churches was held on Good Friday, the Rev. A. Thornton presiding. A fine address was given by Mr. F. J. Horne, of Sheffield, a native of the circuit. The roll call of the societies was conducted by Rev. J. Toyn. A solo by Miss Pearce, Concord, and a selection by the Staithe Fishermen were greatly appreciated. After tea an inspiring open-air service was conducted by Mr. W. Gittins. At the evening meeting Rev. R. Laidler, of Hatfield, gave a powerful lecture, "The Church and Modern Life." Councillor James Turnbull, circuit steward, presided. Miss Pearce stated the Fishermen greatly added to the enjoyment of the meeting by their singing. Mr. D. Manship was organist. Rev. J. Toyn paid a great tribute to Rev. A. Thornton, who leaves for Grimsby in July, having spent a most successful four years' probation on the circuit.

Swindon First.—The Easter services conducted at Wroughton by Rev. W. H. Lawson were followed by a sale of work on Monday. Mrs. Yates declaring the sale open. In the evening a splendid concert was given, the feature was the items rendered by the Sunshine Band. Mr. P. Warren, of Chisleton, presided. Thanks were accorded by Mr. W. Robinson (Congregationalist). Proceeds £20.

Thornton Heath.—On Palm Sunday the choir of our Thornton Heath Church rendered "From Oliver to Calvary" at the close of the evening service. A good company enjoyed the rendering. The soloists were Madame Rachel Bristow, Mrs. Joseph Walker, Mr. A. Couchman, Mr. N. Backshall. The choir was conducted by Madame Rachel Bristow (Mrs. Skene), and Mr. F. G. Paul was at the organ.

Wedgesfield.—Ladies' Day proved an unequalled success. Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Jeavons, and Marion Charter served admirably as speakers, whilst the ladies' choir, conducted by Mrs. A. S. Leyland, rendered items in pleasing style. The financial result is easily a record, and reflects great enthusiasm and sacrifice.

Women's Missionary Work.

Ashtington.—A special united meeting of the branches was held in Pegwood Church. Mrs. Moore, of Marple, presided. Mrs. Wonders sang a sweet solo, and Mrs. Baldry read the missionary letter. Miss Hall, late of the Bolivian mission field, thrilled her audience with a talk on "Missionary Work Abroad."

Cleethorpes.—The monthly Auxiliary "At-Home" was presided over by Mrs. F. H. Edwards. Mrs. T. W. Broughton gave a very breezy résumé of the interesting time the delegates had at Kingmead. Solicitation was given by Miss Marjorie Horne. Tea was generously provided by Mesdames Rouston and Horne.

Barnsley First and Second.—Very good Auxiliary meetings have been held in our borough church. In the afternoon Mrs. W. Morris presided, and Miss Hilda Porter gave an interesting address. Mrs. Machin was the soloist. A generous tea was provided by the ladies of the church. The evening meeting was presided over by Mrs. J. M. Craddock. Mrs. H. Shaw (United Methodist) gave a splendid address. Soloist, Mrs. Birles. Mr. T. Smith was the accompanist. Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Fifth returned thanks. Proceeds for African Fund, £2 10s. 10d.

Bournemouth.—The April Auxiliary Meeting was held in the Winton Church, under the presidency of Mrs. A. E. Reavley, accompanied by Rev. A. E. Reavley. Miss Davies read the scripture, and Mrs. J. Medley rendered two delightful solos. Mrs. Sullivan gave seven very vivid and telling word-pictures of life in India as it specially affects the women. Tea was served by the Winton ladies, who were thanked by Mrs. W. Ward. Proceeds, £25 14s.

Chester.—The Auxiliary meeting was held at Tarvin-road, Chester, on Thursday evening, April 11th, under the presidency of Mrs. Henry Spivey. The missionary letter was read by Mrs. Wright, and Miss Mabel Thomas rendered the solo. A very interesting address was given by Miss Griffiths (Chester).

Chippenham.—A meeting of the Auxiliary was held at Causeway Church on Tuesday, when Mrs. Daniels presided over a good audience. A thoroughly interesting address was given by Mrs. Parsons, of Bath. Miss Phillips was the soloist. Mrs. Chequer read the missionary letter, and gave a good address.

Leeds City.—The April branch meeting was held at Rothwell, under the presidency of Mrs. Spencer. Miss Smith ably rendered two solos, and a very fine ad-

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Books Received.

"The New View of Christianity," by Prof. Bethune-Baker and the Enquiring Layman. (George Newnes, 2s. 6d.)

"If I had only one Sermon to Preach on Judgment Day," edited by L. L. Sidge. (Allen and Unwin, 7s. 6d.)

"The Accuracy of the Old Testament." By J. Garrard Duncan, B.D. (S.P.C.K., 6s.)

dress on our work in Central Africa was given by Rev. W. Spencer. Report of the annual district meeting was given. Tea was provided by the ladies of the Rothwell Church. Mrs. Bankham made sales from her missionary basket, and these, together with proceeds from the tea and collection, realised £4 17s. 9d.

Marham.—The monthly branch meeting was held at Hickling, Mrs. Pigg presiding. Mrs. E. Balls led the devotions. The missionary letter was read by Mrs. P. Hickman. Address by Mrs. P. Playford. Soloist, Mrs. Fletcher. Mrs. Mann

presided at the organ. Tea was provided by the Hickling friends. Collection for missionary fund, 14s.

Norton Canes.—Mrs. Booth presided over the Auxiliary Meeting. Rev. J. Dean Turner leading the devotions. Mrs. Turner was the soloist, accompanied by Mr. W. J. Street. Mrs. Stones gave a very interesting address, and Rev. Alfred thanked all who had made the meeting so enjoyable. The Norton Canes ladies presided at the organ. The collection realised £5 8s.

Tarporley.—A branch of the Women's

Missionary Federation has been formed at Alraham, Tarporley, after the visit of Miss L. V. Mackay. The officers elected are: President, Mrs. Jos. Wright; secretary, Mrs. J. W. Mackay; treasurer, Rev. G. Jackson. Twenty members have been enrolled. The first meeting was held at Alraham on Tuesday, under the presidency of Mrs. Wright. Mrs. Dolton, of Crewe, gave a helpful address. The soloist was Mrs. Cornes. Uttoxeter.—The annual branch meeting, under the form of Mrs. W. H. Uttoxeter ladies being branches. An ap-

propriate address was given by Miss Wood. Soloist, Mrs. Astle. Officers appointed: President, Mrs. G. W. Meachin; vice-president, Mrs. Forrester; treasurer, Miss C. M. Leeson. The monthly meeting was held at Bridge Farm, Stramshall, by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. W. Walker. Mrs. G. W. Meachin presided. Soloist, Mrs. Stanley. Mrs. Forrester read the missionary letter. Mrs. Warburton, president of the Wesleyan Women's Meeting, read very interesting letters from missionaries at the Bahamas. Proceeds, £2 18s. 6d.

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