

"AUSTRALIA FOR CHRIST."

The Real Australian

Organ of the Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania.

No. 59.

DECEMBER 10, 1935.

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THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.

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Organising Missioner : Rev. T. E. JONES, Th.L.

Victorian Deputation Secretary : Rev. J. HARRINGTON VAUGHAN.

ORGANISING MISSIONER.

The Council of B.C.A. is glad to announce that the Rev. T. E. Jones has been appointed to the office of Organising Missioner.

Mr. Jones came out from England in 1924 as a B.C.A. student. After completing his theological studies at Ridley College, Melbourne, Mr. Jones was appointed priest-in-charge of Boggabilla, N.S.W., which at this time was a B.C.A. charge. After three years at Boggabilla, he became Victorian Secretary in 1932, which office he held until the illness and resignation of Rev. T. Terry, when, at the request of the Council of B.C.A., Mr. Jones came over to New South Wales as Acting Organising Missioner.

We ask for the prayers of all friends of the Society, that Mr. Jones may find much blessing in his work.

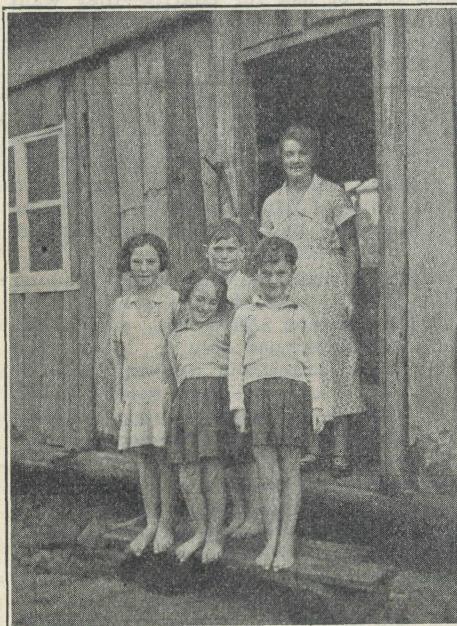
W. L. LANGLEY,
Hon. Clerical Secretary.

To those who wish to hear of a fine Private Hospital or Rest Home, we can confidently recommend "Tuerong," Campbell Street, Eastwood, N.S.W., conducted by Sister Harvey, A.T.N.A. (General and Obstetric).

'Phone : Epping 1034.

They are worth saving

HELP MAKE THEIR NEW YEAR
BRIGHT WITH THE GOSPEL
MESSAGE !



Strong, sturdy children of the bush.

There are thousands more like them.
Let us win them into the Kingdom of God.

Send your Christmas Gift to B.C.A.
NOW !

The Society needs your Prayers and Gifts.

THE ORGANISING MISSIONER,
CHURCH HOUSE,
GEORGE STREET, SYDNEY.
(Tel. : M-3164.)

THE SECRETARY,
CATHEDRAL BUILDINGS,
FLINDERS LANE, MELBOURNE,
VICTORIA.
(Tel. : F-5675.)

BISHOP KIRKBY MEMORIAL SCHEME.

Report on the Medical Needs of the Commonwealth Servants Living on the Great Trans-Australian Railway.

As a result of a journey of over 11,000 miles through the isolated areas of Australia, I am convinced that there is no portion of the country more in need of help—as regards maternity and child welfare, and educational facilities—than the Great East-West Railway Line between Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie.

The need for a medical service on the line is of primary importance.

The children, and people generally, are sturdy and healthy, for the climate in winter, though severe, is very bracing; and in summer, though the heat is intense and burning, with a high northerly wind—the latter invariably veers round to the south during the afternoon—a sea breeze known as "The Doctor" blows up.

There are few flies and mosquitoes across the Nullarbor Plain, but these get very troublesome on either edge of this barren stretch where the scrub begins, causing a considerable amount of eye trouble and impetigo, the latter arising from infection, through scratching, or of cuts received from falls on the rough ground. Discharging ears are also a common complaint along the line, and one feels that a considerable amount of "avoidable" deafness results from neglect of early treatment.

The invasion of infectious diseases, other than influenza, is not common, and usually only occurs when a child develops some complaint after returning with the parents from their long leave. When this does happen, the strictest isolation is self-imposed by the parents until all danger of spreading the disease is past. All realise the seriousness of an outbreak of any infectious disease, with its manifold complications, in such an isolated area. The loyalty and comradeship of these people to one another, in times of trouble and difficulty, is just as great as that found anywhere else in the Australian Out-back.

Dental care is a thing unknown, no dentist ever having been sent along the line by the Government. Children and adults suffer frequently from decayed,

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aching teeth, and abscesses, but can get no relief: their only chance of having their teeth attended to being when they are on holiday and happen to visit a township—which, if there be a large family, they are not all able to afford, quite a number of them just taking the family to camp on the shores of the Bight.

Then there is the ever present—with one or other of them—anxiety and problem of expectant motherhood. There are rarely any single women or grandmothers in the camps to give extra help or to take charge whilst the mother goes away when her "hour" arrives; for only those compelled to do so live in such desolate places. One cannot emphasise the fact too forcibly that these people are all Government servants, sent to live the greater and best part of their lives along this dreary stretch of country for the sole purpose of maintaining the railway line, and being for the most part on the basic wage, with very little prospect of a rise.

There is no possibility whatsoever of professional help, either medical or nursing, when the accidents of pregnancy or normal labour occur, other than telegraphic communication with a doctor at Kalgoorlie or Port Augusta—and no competent person to carry out his instructions when they do come through.

It is a railway regulation that these mothers must not travel by rail later than the seventh month of pregnancy, or return earlier than one month after the birth of the child. This means absence from home for a period of from three to four months each time there is a new baby. The mother, together with the young children she takes with her, is given a free railway pass to Port Augusta or Kalgoorlie, and, if she has no friends to stay with, has to pay board for herself and children during her absence from home—except for herself during her fortnight in hospital, if her husband is a contributor to the Commonwealth Railways Medical and Provident Fund. A mother who has worked hard to leave her home in good order, faced with a journey of anything up to 510 miles with young children, and the care of them single-handed in unaccustomed surroundings, is a very tired woman to undergo the ordeal before her. In addition, she has to face the long journey home with an additional child when she is none too strong, restore the house and clothing—which have been without a woman's care for nearly four months—to their accustomed order, and, at the same time, endeavour to build up her own strength so that she may satisfactorily nurture her infant—for to adopt artificial methods of feeding in such a climate under rough conditions is almost impossible. One marvels that the women come through such strains as well as they do. The standard of living is high, and the homes and children well kept.

The First Aid instruction given to railway employees, and their wives if they care to avail themselves of it, is excellent so far as it goes, and many a life is saved thereby. But no instruction is given

regarding motherhood and child care, and I found the women had very little knowledge of the right methods to adopt in times of emergency in these matters. Parents live in continual dread of some accident or illness occurring in the family with which it is impossible for them to deal, knowing only too well that the strain and delay caused by so long a journey may prove fatal to the patient. I was told of several instances where death had resulted from these causes, amongst both the men and their families which certainly would not have occurred had a doctor and trained nurse been available.

A small cottage hospital established at Cook, staffed by at least two double-certificated women (one with a mothercraft certificate in addition), would be an inestimable boon to the people living in the central 500 miles, and they feel they have a right to such a provision as servants of the Commonwealth. They are self-respecting, hard-working citizens, who do not ask for charity—they want help, their lives made safe, and their children given as good a chance as those in more favoured parts.

* * * * *

In order to meet this great need, B.C.A. has offered to the Federal Government:

- (1) To staff, equip and maintain a Cottage Hospital at Cook, S.A., staffed by two qualified double-certificated nurses.
- (2) To provide the Missioner at Penong (300 miles south of Cook) with an aeroplane. This will enable the Missioner not only to do his own work better, but also to transport the Doctor to Cook when needed, and to bring to Penong patients needing the Doctor's special supervision.

We await Government acceptance of this offer, and meanwhile appeal to our people to send in their gifts for this work in memory of our late beloved President, Bishop Kirkby.

TOM E. JONES,
Organising Missioner.

"A CHILD IN FLANDERS," A NATIVITY PLAY,

Will be given at the

**Y.W.C.A. HALL, LIVERPOOL STREET,
SYDNEY,**
—on—

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, '35,

at 8 p.m.

Proceeds for the **BISHOP KIRKBY
MEMORIAL**, at St. Philip's.

Tickets, 1/- and 2/-.

PRODUCED BY E. PRESTON-STANLEY.

Organisers:
H. HARVEY, A. MARES.

FOOLS FOR CHRIST'S SAKE.

BY THE LATE BISHOP S. J. KIRKBY.

It has been the fools who have really saved the world! The respective generations to which they belong misunderstood them, laughed at them. Their friends, as well as their enemies, stood up to condemn them and sometimes to destroy them. But time always vindicated them, and later generations realised their worth.

Fools have been the salt of the earth, shaming us out of our worldlywise but carnal policies and saving us from a selfish materialism. Not that they found us easy to teach or willing to respond. Frequently they were compelled to go down to the depths of foolishness—even to death—to convince us of our error. The pity of it is that we let them die and scoffed at them for exhibiting themselves as such fools, while we entertained our notions and hugged our delusions. But the world was saved. Truth was kept free, and love inviolate. The fools have rendered us that service!!

Think of some of them! At once there springs to our mind the Master, even the Lord Jesus. Contemporaries (we write reverently) judged Him the greatest fool of all. Interpreted in the terms of the wisdom of this world, His life was a failure, and His submission to death utter foolishness. Yet in that life, yea, pre-eminently in that death, there was the world's redemption. We had perished, morally, socially, spiritually, if He had not died. And He stands at the head of a wonderful succession, a succession of men and women who live in our affection and undying esteem because they hazarded everything and made themselves fools for His, and, shall we say, for our sake. There is Paul, who abandoned the prospects and pleasures of this life and gave himself to arduous travel, unremitting toil, ceaseless ministry, and, eventually, to a malefactor's death. There is Francis of Assissi, Savonarola of Florence, the ever-glorious martyrs of the Reformation, Cranmer, Ridley and Latimer, who died at the stake, and noble souls like Livingstone and General Gordon. Judged by the standard of this world, they were fools, and doubtless were often stigmatised as such. Yet they live on in a rich and wondrous immortality of true fame; while others, their contemporaries, calculating and designing, are forgotten or despised.

And women also belong to this holy band of whom the world has not always been worthy. Two sisters of the New Testament story will always be remembered for their utter foolishness, and yet for their real value. One is the poor widow of Jerusalem, who, in giving to the work of God, gave "all that she had, even all her living," sacrificing, as it were, not only her income, but even her capital. The other is Mary of Bethany, who incurred the censorious criticism of those of superior wisdom because she made sacrifice to her Lord and Master and counted not the cost. Of course, these were fools; they were all fools, but would to God that we had more like them in these present days!

For Australia stands in sore need of daring souls who are prepared to withstand popular opinion, to risk all that they have and all that they are, to sacrifice worldly prospects, even to be crucified. We need them in the special ministry for the distant bush. Our young clergy are making fine response to the call of sacrifice. From the Church there has gone forth a succession of men, who have left behind the comfort and fellowship of the city, the pleasant prospects of ministry in a city diocese of Australia, in order to give service to the most difficult and depressing areas of our land. Perhaps some of their companions have called them fools, and perhaps such they are; but they are "fools for Christ's sake." These lines are not written to belaud them, but just to state a simple fact. We can only hope that others will follow in their train, that men in the ministry in the capital cities will courageously face the issue and ask themselves, "Does God want us at the outposts and not in the citadels?"

The young women of the Church have a responsibility in this matter. Bush Nurses and Deaconesses have wonderful opportunities for expressing the love of Christ in terms of beautiful winsome service.

Surely if the mothers of men are prepared to go out into pioneering areas and suffer hardship and isolation, their sisters, who have been touched by the Spirit of Christ, will not hesitate to go and minister to them. It means much, we know—madness some call it; but it is always worth while being a "fool for Christ's sake." Moreover, it is only in that way that Australia will be redeemed. Pleasure, materialism, fripperies of modern life, the unreality of things curse us at the present. The only thing that will save us is a spirituality that will count all things but a loss, that will refuse to acknowledge the world's standards, that will keep to the way of the Cross.

To sum up, we want men of vision, venturesomeness and vim, of vision as those who have seen the challenging Christ; of venturesomeness, as those who will hazard their prospects and their lives for His sake; of vim, as those who will rest not day or night to carry out His will. Of course, such will be fools! But what of that?

B.C.A. SUNDAY IN N.S.W.

WHY NOT?

Many Sundays in the Christian Calendar have a special significance. To others we give a significance which is derived from local circumstances or interest. We feel that there is one Sunday in the year which may be regarded as especially suitable for the recognition of the work of the Bush Church Aid Society. That Sunday is the first Sunday in February. On that Sunday in the year of our Lord, 1788, the first Christian Service was held in Australia. The whole continent was, as it were, in the "back-blocks"! The problem of the Church then was to

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minister the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Gospel to a pioneering people. The problem was bravely faced. Our Australian Church history gives us the proof thereof.

Yet the same problem is with us to-day. We have settled our coastline and have built up many cities. The 147 years have not been spent in idleness. But we have a pioneering people with us still. They live on the sun-baked plains of the Far West, in the heart of the Big Scrub, in the noisy activity of mining, construction and timber camps. You can still find men, women and children to whom the mail comes regularly, if only once a month, but to whom the Church (with its call to public worship and instruction in the Faith) comes, perhaps, once a year, if as frequently as that. "How shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" are the direct and urgent questions which we are bound to face. The Bush Church Aid Society is seeking to face them. It stands in succession to that chaplain who, in the second month of 1788, ministered of the things of God to those who were to make Australia great. It is the only Anglican Home Mission Society that takes the whole continent in its view. Its special care is the dwellers in the lonely and distant areas of our land where spiritual needs are great, but where the means of grace are rare.

Thus it is desired that the churches of our cities and towns should join in this big work, and that on Sunday, February 2nd, 1936, effort be made for its support and furtherance. We propose to invite rectors and churchwardens to arrange that a retiring collection be taken up at both services on that day for the Society. We do not ask for the ordinary offertory, though some churches sometimes give them. But we do believe that churchpeople will be glad to take opportunity of giving substantially to the B.C.A. without diminishing their support of parochial objects. We know it, for the method of retiring collections has been tried in several parishes with twofold blessing—to the Church and to the Society.

On the last Sunday in January we shall distribute explanatory leaflets in the churches adopting the suggestion. These will be of educative value, and will create interest. What we ask for is the earnest and favourable consideration of the authorities at each Church.

Our Sunday Schools are being organised for the same purpose, and novel Coin Gift-Cards will be given to the children, to be handed in with their special offering on the Sunday in question.

Everybody can help us, not only by their gifts and by their interest, but by their prayers that "B.C.A." Sunday be one much to be remembered by those who love our land and our Church.

**REMEMBER THE DATE—
FEBRUARY 2nd, 1936.**

PERSONAL.

The Rev. L. H. Broadly has been appointed to fill the vacancy at Ceduna. Mr. and Mrs. Broadly left for their new post on October 15th, and were joyfully received by the people of that far district and by the Sisters in the Hospital. We wish them both God's richest blessing in their work, and ask for the prayers of all our people on their behalf.

* * * * *

Since our last issue, the Rev. T. R. Fleming has taken unto himself a wife. We pray that they may witness together of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God, and extend to them our prayerful wishes for happy future days.

* * * * *

We would welcome back to Sydney the Rev. R. T. Hallahan and his wife and son after a period of witness in Townsville, Queensland. Mr. Hallahan has taken Mr. Broadly's place at St. Philip's, York Street. Mr. Hallahan will be best remembered by our readers as one-time Missioner in the North-West Mallee.

* * * * *

During November the Society had an intensive campaign in the metropolitan parishes. Twenty-five parishes were visited, and lectures were given. The Revs. Tom Gee, L. Lambert, A. H. Edwards, C. Kenderdine, N. Haviland, H. E. Felton, and W. R. Brown each took a share in the services. The following parishes were visited:

Nov. 3rd—St. Michael's, Vaucluse, 10.15 a.m.; St. Columb's, West Ryde, 7.15 p.m.

Nov. 4th—Vaucluse: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 5th—Strathfield, Methodist: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 6th—Smithfield: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 7th—Rockdale M.U., 3 p.m.; Fairfield, Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 10th—St. Luke's, Mosman, 11 a.m.; St. Peter's, Hornsby, 7.15 p.m.; St. Peter's, Richmond, 3 and 7.15 p.m.; St. Luke's, Concord, 7.15 p.m.; St. Paul's, Riverstone, 3 and 7.15 p.m.; Christ Church, Guildford, 7.15 p.m.

Nov. 11th—Guildford: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 12th—Concord: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 13th—Hornsby: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 17th—St. Cuthbert's, South Kogarah, 11 a.m.; St. Matthew's, Ashbury, 7.15 p.m.; St. Peter's, Neutral Bay, 11 a.m.; St. Nicolas', Coogee, 7.15 p.m.; St. Chad's, Cremorne, 11 a.m.; St. Barnabas', Chatswood, 7.15 p.m.

Nov. 18th—St. Barnabas', Chatswood: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 19th—St. Nicolas', Coogee: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m. Cathedral Church House: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 20th—St. Peter's, Neutral Bay: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m. St. Cuthbert's, South Kogarah: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m. St. Matthew's, Ashbury: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 21st—St. Chad's, Cremorne: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 24th—Beecroft, 11 a.m.; St. Stephen's, Lidcombe, 7.15 p.m.; St. James', Turramurra, 11 a.m.; Penrith, 7.15 p.m.; Liverpool, 11 a.m.; St. Stephen's, Newtown, 7.15 p.m.

Nov. 25th—Liverpool: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 26th—Turramurra: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m. Newtown: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 27th—Beecroft: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

Nov. 8th—Lidcombe: Lantern Talk, 8 p.m.

CEDUNA HOSPITAL.

SISTER DOWLING.

As we draw near to the close of another year our hearts are full of gratitude when we realise how the Lord has led us each step of the way. Truly we have proved that "He is our sufficiency in all things"; and what a blessed experience it is to the believer when he lives that text in his daily life.

As time goes on, the work in the Hospital seems to grow more and more, until at last the District Council are beginning to think seriously of building a new hospital for us. It means a big thing for the farmers to have a hospital of their own here, not only in saving the extra expense of having to go to Adelaide for treatment, but also in cases of emergency, when every minute of their time counts. Were it not for the B.C.A. it would be impossible for the district to maintain and manage a hospital on these lines. Therefore one feels the work is supplying a real need for the people.

But we do not only stand for meeting the physical needs of the people, but first and foremost the B.C.A. stands in this place as a witness for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And oh! dear readers, we do want you to realise the great share you can have in the work with us by making it a matter of definite prayer. A hospital such as this is a wonderful opening to get at the souls of men and women, and we need to be kept fully awake to this fact. There is always the danger of being kept too busy tending to the physical needs and leaving the soul uncared for. Great praise is often given both to physicians and nurses for cases which almost seem to have been dragged from the jaws of death—restored to health and strength again. But to what avail is this if they go from here as such restored in health, and yet their souls have been untouched?

During the hot summer months our tank water is always warm, but owing to the kindness of a Christian friend who lives close by we have water brought to us from an underground well, which is delightfully refreshing. And we bring to mind our Lord's words in John 4, 13-14. And here we are placed among people with parched souls who are not even conscious of their need of the living water; and who is going to tell them, if those who share of the water of life do not do so? Therefore we plead for your prayers, that we may be faithful witnesses for Him.

We cannot close without saying a big "Thank you" to the women of the different Auxiliaries in Melbourne and Sydney, who have done such splendid work for us during the past year. It is a big encouragement to us all to know the home folk are so much with us in the work for the Lord out here. In spite of many difficulties and discouragements definite conversions have taken place, and we go forth in His strength, ever remembering that "the battle is not ours, but God's."

ST. MARK 12, v. 44.

A little time ago there came into the Office of B.C.A. a mother of two children. Her husband is "on the wallaby" in the North-West seeking work, that he may support his family. Meanwhile the mother keeps her home together by selling home-made cakes and going out to work. For a long time she has wanted to share in the ministry of the Out-back, but, having no money to give, her prayers have been her portion. On this day she brought into the Office a small black box with the direction that the contents be sold and used in the work of God in the lonely places.

The box contained a diamond brooch, valued at £20. It was her only jewellery.
"She cast in all her living!"

ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1934.

Though the year 1934 was by no means without its difficulties and anxieties, we of the B.C.A. have great cause to thank Almighty God for the blessings granted to our work. All existing work has been maintained, and no worker has had to be withdrawn.

Organising Missioner.

During the year the Society suffered the loss of its Organising Missioner, Mr. Terry, who, through illness, was compelled to withdraw from the work to which he had given much labour. Mr. Terry's illness and resignation disorganised the propaganda work, and, without doubt, had its effect upon the Society's income.

Far West Mission.

In the early part of the year, Rev. A. H. Edwards returned from his post at Penong after three years' excellent service. During his time in the Mission, Mr. Edwards consolidated the work and built up a healthy evangelical church life, which is being fully continued by the Rev. H. R. Smith, who succeeded him.

The Rev. G. C. Woolf entered into his third year of service at Ceduna. His service in the Mission has been a difficult time because of continued drought and low wheat prices. Nevertheless the work has been maintained at this centre.

The Hospitals of Penong and Ceduna continue to be a fine witness for the Kingdom of God.

At Ceduna 208 surgical and medical and 104 out-patients received attention, and 35 babies were born in the Hospital. Penong has continued to be without a

doctor, and this has caused many patients to go on to Ceduna. While we praise God for the self-sacrificing service of our Far West nursing staff—Sisters F. Dowling, Hitchcock, and Sowter—we need to pray that He will raise up a medical man who will give service to the Kingdom in this difficult area of Penong.

N.W. Mallee Mission.

Rev. T. Gee and his wife continue on here. They have won the love and esteem of the people in this difficult place by their happy outlook and readiness to share in the lives and problems of their people. Another year's drought, and the removal of many families from unsuitable blocks, has depleted the population and hardened the financial position.

We rejoice to know that the ministry in this field is deeply appreciated by the people and the Diocesan authorities. Cann River.

The Rev. S. Viney completed his term of service in East Gippsland, and was succeeded by the Rev. T. R. Fleming, of Melbourne. Mr. Fleming has a big job to do, for the many floods of 1934 have made the lot of these settlers far from easy.

This area has 21 service centres, and, although congregations are small in numbers, the people are eager for the Gospel message.

Sister K. Grainger and Miss C. Begbie, after twelve months' service, returned to Sydney—Sister Grainger to undertake a course in mothercraft training, and Miss Begbie for family reasons.

During the stay of these two ladies, much definite Christian work was done. The presence of two women enabled them to do a good deal of visiting. This experiment emphasised the importance of having two women workers at Cann River. At the moment Sister H. Gason is working lone handed at this post.

West Darling Mission.

The Rev. L. Lambert and his wife continue at Wilcannia. Mr. Lambert is a keen worker, and does a tremendous amount of travelling and visiting in a year.

If this work is to progress without undue demands being made upon the Missioner, a second missioner for this area demands earnest consideration. Hostels.

The Hostel at Mungindi has twelve children in residence, and, under the care of Miss Cheers, has proved its usefulness. It is now almost self-supporting. That at Wilcannia is not in so fortunate a position. The age and rambling nature of the buildings make heavy demands upon funds for maintenance. Mrs. Mann, who has looked after the children for twelve years, has given outstanding service. Towards the end of the year she was granted leave of absence in order to visit the Homeland.

Miss C. Ross and Deaconess D. Harris undertook the care of the Hostel and its children during Mrs. Mann's absence. Mission Van.

During the year the Van itinerated in the Diocese of Armidale and Gippsland. This is a ministry of untold value.

Services were held by the Van Sisters in places that had received no ministry for years, and many children were linked up with the Mail-Bag Sunday School.

Mail-Bag Sunday School.

This department of our work has grown to such an extent that it now demands more provision. Three thousand children are now served, and sixty teachers give their services.

If the M.B.S.S. is to continue to grow, we need to consider the advisability of providing a permanent paid worker to supervise it. Miss Huntley, Miss Foster, Miss Schofield, and Miss Campbell have given a tremendous lot of their time to this work in preparation of lessons and necessary correspondence. We are grateful to them and their many helpers for the splendid way they have built up this work.

Denmark, W.A.

This Mission district of the Colonial and Continental Church Society is now under the direct supervision of B.C.A. The Rev. L. M. Dunstan is in charge, and is giving himself unstintingly to this work.

Women's Auxiliaries.

The various branches continue to render very helpful service. A great quantity of valuable goods are sent to the Hostels and Hospitals by these organisations, and thus relieve our funds of much expenditure.

Our thanks are specially due to the headquarters branches in N.S.W. and Victoria for their efforts in organising district auxiliaries.

Home Staffs.

We cannot forget the splendid service of the staffs in Melbourne and Sydney. Miss Manning, who has been with us so long, has proved a staunch support in times of difficulty, and Miss Halpin has ably assisted her. Miss B. Luxmore has kept the work going in a very wonderful way during the time that Victoria has been without a secretary. The various voluntary workers who come in to the Office from time to time also deserve our grateful thanks.

The B.C.A. looks forward to greater opportunities of service, and prays for greater grace and faith to grasp them when they come.

Australia needs the Gospel, the Church of England needs the Evangelical witness. This Society stands to give both, and, by God's help, we will not fail.

TOM JONES,
Organising Missioner.

CANN RIVER.

SISTER GASON.

The winter has been very severe, and there are very few homes which have not been visited by the influenza germ. In some cases it was acute and developed into pneumonia, or the patient suffered from a relapse which was worse than the first stage. The warm Spring days have given us all fresh vigour, and now the farmers are busy ploughing.

There is a man here, over eighty years old, and one of the most interesting one

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could meet anywhere. He is well educated, and at times has been wealthy; but he spends money easily, and now has very little to live on. His independence is remarkable. He lives in a tiny little hut, miles away in the bush. His nearest neighbour lives two miles away, and, so long as this man can get to his neighbour's place for supplies twice a week, he refuses to have any assistance. He suffers very badly from bronchial asthma, but he is patient and says he is lucky to have the use of his arms and legs! He is a keen supporter of the Church, and a great and intelligent reader.

One Saturday afternoon while playing tennis, I was hurriedly called away. A man had fallen from a truck and was picked up unconscious. He was being brought to the Dispensary, but they thought I had better go to meet him in case he was worse. I am glad to say that, after a good night's rest at Cann River, he was able to continue his journey with all bones intact.

Last week a man came to me with a broken nose, two black eyes, and his face badly cut, but under the bandages he was able to smile. He must have guessed what he looked like, and he asked me if I could recognise him. A horse had thrown him into a fallen tree. His chief concern was whether I could improve his looks so that he could play the violin at an entertainment four days later. He did play, but he kept his back to the audience!

I took some of the children for a "paper chase" a few weeks ago. We took a "billy" and our refreshments with us. The twenty-six children were very excited—it was their first "paper chase," and the leaders were full of original ideas. And now they are anxious for another.

The children gave Mrs. Fleming a small party on her arrival at Cann River, to welcome her to the Sunday School. If noise and dust are any indication of a good time, then I am sure they all enjoyed themselves. The children's party was followed by a welcome to Mrs. Fleming by the adults, and in each case Mr. and Mrs. Fleming received a presentation.

The Dispensary is proving its usefulness to the bush folk here every day. There are often patients treated or advised by 'phone, but usually I see the patient either at his home or in my surgery, and I advise them how to go about the treatment at home. Sometimes they are sent to the nearest doctor at Orbost, or I get in touch with him by 'phone and carry out his instructions in the patient's own home, and together we are able to relieve very many who would otherwise have been put to great inconvenience, and probably extra suffering. We are grateful that B.C.A. is doing so much to help the people of Croajingalong.

WILCANNIA HOSTEL.

DEACONESS D. HARRIS.

The Christmas festivities are nearly over, although it is only the 5th of December. One boy has already gone

home, and another goes to-morrow. They have seventy or eighty miles to go, and have to be ready whenever parents can arrange for their transport.

The boys have done well at school and Sunday School. Two won first places in their class, and two others third places. At Sunday School, three out of four prizes in the upper school were won by Hostel boys.

On Tuesday we had our Sunday School Prize-giving and Thanksgiving Service, with Christmas music sung by the children. Some verses of the carols were nicely sung by the boys as solos, and the Kindergarten sang well.

The following evening we had our Hostel Breaking-up Party and Christmas Tree. The boys have been very busy for some time preparing Christmas presents, some for each other and some to take home to their people. When all the presents were hung, the Tree presented a very attractive appearance, and there was much speculation as to the contents of the various parcels. All curiosity was satisfied in due course, and a great deal of pleasure given as the various articles appeared and were examined and admired. Two boys received very nice Bibles from the Rector as prizes for Hostel Bible study, and another received a prize for being the most willing and considerate boy.

School breaks up next week, and the Hostel will close until next February. We have had a very busy and unsettled year, and have much for which to thank God. He has been an ever-present help in trouble. We are very thankful and overjoyed that the gifts of friends have made it possible for all accounts to be settled. Ever since we came, except in the absence of one or the other, we have had nightly intercessions for this matter, and are confident that it is a real answer to prayer.

We are also praying that there may be increased activity in the Hostel next year. There are many factors affecting the prosperity of the Hostel as regards numbers. The first is the condition of the country. In bad seasons people are unable to afford even the low charge which is made, and sometimes there are many bad seasons in succession.

Our numbers are also affected by the opening or closing of schools in the surrounding districts. It so happens sometimes that a school is closed through poor attendance, and some of the children come to us. Of course, this may also work the other way. Some children would have come here had they lost their teacher, but a sufficient number of scholars were obtained to justify his being retained.

It also happens in such a scattered area as this, that whereas there may be several families of young children in 100 square miles at one period, when they have finished school there may not be any children from that area for another ten years.

We know that a very real work for God has been, and is being, done by the maintenance of these Hostels. It is

your work for Him. Will you please keep it in mind and pray that the children may remember the truths they have learnt, and that their lives may count for Jesus Christ in years to come? One boy said the other day that he was going on Jesus' side. He had been making close enquiries as to what would happen at the second coming of our Lord. It is hard for an experienced Christian to grow in the Christian life when right away from all fellowship and Church attendance; and how much harder for a young and inexperienced one? Yet we know that all things work together for good to them that love God. He is faithful. Let us do our part faithfully and take rest in him.

KOOKABURRA BIRTHDAY BAND.

DEAR KOOKABURRAS,

I wonder how many of you were disappointed when there was no Kookaburra letter in the last *Real Australian*? I hope you all missed it! It was written, and it was even in the proof, but when the printer went to put it into the *Real Australian* he found it wouldn't fit. We must have made it the wrong shape, because, try as he would, it just simply wouldn't fit, so he had to leave it out—which was a very sad fate for a Kookaburra letter to meet, wasn't it?

Now, since we're talking about letters, there's another letter I want to write about. A Kookaburra from Bathurst has written to ask if she can have some pen-friends among the Kookaburras. But she forgot to say in her letter how old she was! And we have never asked our Kookaburras their ages; so if any of you want pen-friends, please let us know how old you are, and we'll try to give you friends of your own age. And we'll give our Bathurst Kookaburra some just as soon as ever we receive the names of others to whom she could write.

Christmas is almost here now. I do hope you all are going to have a very happy time then. I'm sure you all will. We've been trying in at the B.C.A. to make this Christmas a really, truly Christmassy one for the people out-back. We've sent such a lot of nice things away for all the little boys and girls in our far out-back parishes—dolls and balls and trains and boats and books and sweets, and all sorts of things. Some of you Kookaburras have sent them to us to send, so when Christmas Day comes you'll know that you've helped to make other people very happy, too.

Before Christmas Day comes, though, I want you all to pray very hard that there won't be a single unhappy and lonely person in the whole wide world that day. If we Kookaburras all pray very hard that the Christmas spirit, which is the spirit of peace and of understanding, may enter into every heart, I'm sure our prayers will be answered, and the lonely people will find that someone quite unexpected will want to spend the day with them, and the sorry and sad people will find some joy and gladness that they hadn't expected at all, and the unhappy people will find quite suddenly

a new happiness in their lives. And after a Christmas Day like that they won't ever again feel quite so lonely, nor so sad and sorry nor so unhappy, as they had been before. And we Kookaburras will really have filled all the world with laughter, even if it is for "just one day"! Because, you know, Kookaburras, it must be dreadful to have to dread Christmas, mustn't it? And there are some people who do, you know—not just those selfish, silly people who say they don't like Christmas because it "makes so much work." If they really had the Christmas spirit, if they really saw the Star shining over all the way that leads to the Baby's Manger, they'd see the beauty and the gladness of Christmas time.

And now, Kookaburras, good-bye for this letter.

Much love to you all.

KOOKABURRA FRANCIS JOHN BRERLY.

ANNUAL RALLY.

The Rally Tea was very well attended. About 200 folk came along and enjoyed a happy time together, as well as the many good things provided for the inner man (and woman).

The interval between tea and the commencement of the meeting was spent listening to the fine voices of some of the choir boys from All Saints', Woolahra. Mr. Massey brought the boys along, and himself officiated at the piano.

The Chapter House was well filled when His Grace the Archbishop took the chair.

On the platform were Miss A. M. Ashe, Mrs. Langley, Deaconess Harris, Archdeacons Langley and Begbie, Mr. Justice Boyce, Mr. T. S. Holt, and Rev. Tom Jones.

It was good to see Mrs. Kirkby present at the gathering.

The Archbishop expressed his pleasure at so many being present—more even than last year. There were at least two other such gatherings in the city, and Mrs. Mowle was unable to be present, because she was attending one of the other meetings. The uppermost thought in all our minds, the Archbishop continued, was that for the first time we were attending a B.C.A. Rally at which our beloved Bishop Kirkby was not present.

The B.C.A. stands as a monument to the untiring efforts of the Bishop, and while he trusted that the Society was bigger than any man connected with it, the home call of the Bishop had left a great blank in all our hearts.

The Bishop enabled the Society to have a good start; now it remains for us to do something more, that this Society may go forward and meet the many demands made upon it.

His Grace mentioned the informal gathering of workers held in the Basement of the Chapter House, and expressed his delight to see so many present. He thought that it showed that the foundations had been well and truly laid.

Archdeacon Langley spoke of the beginnings of the Society, and drew a picture of the work that has been done, under

God, over the years, and expressed the hope that the Society would not stand still, but continue to progress in the days to come. "I know of no more important piece of work for churchmen," he concluded, "than that they should enable B.C.A. to go forward and meet the great needs of Australians out-back."

Miss A. M. Ashe then told us of the work of the Women's Auxiliary and of the needs of our womenfolk in the lonely places, and urged the women present to join up with the Auxiliary and enable this side of the work to continue its healthy progress.

Deaconess D. Harris then told us of the Hostel work, and stressed its importance in the lives of so many children. The year at the Hostel had not been easy; sickness had been responsible for much broken time. Nevertheless it was good to feel that one had the joy of directing young lives to the Master.

The Rev. Tom Jones then gave an interesting talk with lantern slides of the various spheres of work.

The gathering closed with the Benediction.

The collection for the evening amounted to £75.

* * * * *

Our thanks are due to Mrs. Bragg's fine workers, who, although Mrs. Bragg was not present owing to illness, undertook the job of feeding hungry B.C.A.-ites. Each year they have undertaken this strenuous job, and, so well do they do it, that Rally Teas are now known as "one of the best." Thank you, indeed!

To Mr. V. Massey and his boys we would say "Thank you" also. The fine singing was really worth coming to hear. Many demands of a similar nature are made upon them. We are therefore very grateful for their help.

THE LATE REV. J. P. OWEN.

It is not generally known that our late Rector, the Rev. J. P. Owen, gave the best years of his life (between the ages of 32 and 44 years) to the cause of the Church in the Mission Field.

He served in the Peigan Indian Mission in Canada for several years, his allowance whilst there, although he was married, being £1 per week, plus quarters. After leaving Canada, he studied in England for one year, and then came to Australia, where he served in the Eyre Peninsular, under the direction of the Bush Church Aid Society, who recently informed us that he was sent there without any provision being made—"no home, no church, no means of conveyance," is how they put it.

After several years' service, he was appointed to St. John's, Parramatta, and thereafter to Picton, coming finally to Annandale a few months ago. At St. Aidan's, Annandale, when he might reasonably have expected to spend a few years in the comfort of a suburban parish, he was called away after being Rector only four months.

We are sure that his untimely death was due, in great measure, to the strenuous work he had performed for the

Church in Canada, South Australia, and Picton. Unfortunately for Mr. Owen's family, the years served by our late Rector in the Mission Field prevented his making almost any provision for their future. From the Church Superannuation Fund all that is payable is a pension amounting to £1/0/8 per week, whilst the value of his estate is very small.

Sydney Diocese has generously arranged to provide for the education of Mr. Owen's only child, but we feel that the Church as a whole is morally bound to shoulder the responsibility of providing for the future subsistence of his family.

It is the intention of the Wardens of St. Aidan's to appeal to parishioners, and also to church people in other dioceses where Mr. Owen laboured, to assist in this matter, and we therefore invite subscriptions from parishioners to a fund to be opened for that purpose.

We would point out that the most desirable way of subscribing would be by promising a small amount payable each half-year, thus enabling those administering the fund to make a regular monthly payment to Mrs. Owen.

Those who prefer may, of course, make straight-out donations, and care will be taken to see that each donation is acknowledged.

We have been advised by the Registrar of the Diocese, Ven. Archdeacon S. M. Johnstone, that His Grace the Archbishop is entirely in accord with our making an appeal in the Parish of Annandale.

Yours sincerely,

R. M. GOUD
H. A. MARSHALL } Wardens.
C. B. SEGETIN

[We commend this appeal to our readers, and will be glad to forward any donations received.—EDITOR.]

LUNATIC BEND.

REV. L. LAMBERT.

About three miles down the river from Menindie is a settlement bearing the strange title of "Lunatic Bend."

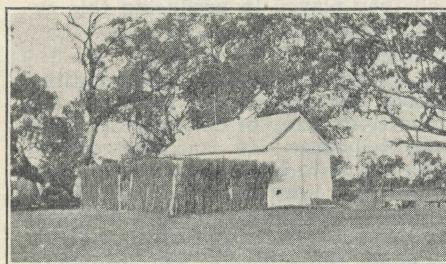
When the depression hit Broken Hill, and men were put off in hundreds from the mines there, a number of them, after exhausting their resources, came to Menindie and settled along the banks of the Darling. There was no rent to pay, no burdensome rates, plenty of water at the front door, good fish in the river—if they are willing to be caught—and a healthy climate.

They built themselves houses of kinds out of any material available—mainly bags and flattened kerosine tins—and thus were formed the settlements known as Box Flat and Lunatic Bend.

Numbers of the enterprising settlers cultivated and irrigated their land, and some have now well kept gardens, and are trying to make a living and get off the dole by selling vegetables in Broken Hill.

But it is a hard struggle, with many setbacks. Young tomato plants are doing nicely when the savings of months are lost in one night's frost. Disease attacks young plants, and there is nothing to do but to dig them in and re-plant.

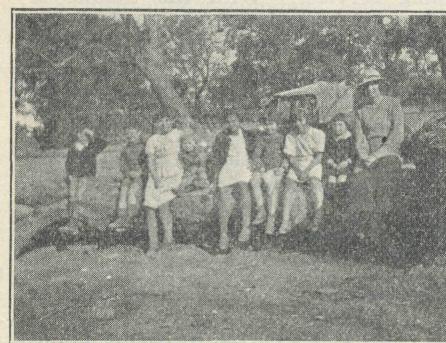
Yet in spite of many and varied difficulties they still struggle gamely on.



A home at Lunatic Bend.

These folk are blessed with a goodly number of children, and the spiritual training of these children is causing considerable anxiety to the Rector and others. It is too far for them to attend the Menindie Sunday School, and consequently the only spiritual training the majority of them have been getting has been the short period of religious instruction in the school which the Rector takes when in Menindie on his monthly visit.

It is only possible to visit there one Sunday a month, owing to the heavy calls on the Rector's time, and if those children are to be brought up as Christians more help is imperative. The population of Menindie is approximately 500, and a visit of a clergyman one Sunday a month is pitifully inadequate to do the spiritual work which is vitally necessary.



Sunday School at Lunatic Bend.

What is needed is someone stationed at Menindie. A good Catechist or a Deaconess would be suitable, although, of course, the real need is for an ordained man.

Among the children at Lunatic Bend a Sunday School is now being held once a month, when the Rector is in town. The first gathering was held on a log under the shade of the river gums. Now it is held on the sandy bank of the river, and attended by about fifteen children of all denominations. Some of the adults sit in the background listening to the singing and the lesson; and who can measure the extent of the work done for God by that simple Sunday School lesson?

But there should be a Sunday School there every Sunday, and to do that help

is needed. Let us open our hearts and our purses, lest "one of these little ones should perish."

MELBOURNE NOTES.

Central Women's Auxiliary.

(Meets 3rd Tuesday in each month, at 2.30 p.m., in the Chapter House.)

This is in the nature of a brief report, as we have not had an account of our doings published since March.

First of all, we desire to say how the Central Auxiliary and the Moonee Ponds Auxiliary join in expressing profound regret at the passing of our late President, Bishop S. J. Kirkby. Those whom he inspired by his love and zeal for B.C.A. will ever remember what he gave in service to the Church "out-back." We extend our sincere sympathy to Mrs. Kirkby and family.

We are very pleased to have our new Deputation Secretary, Rev. J. Harrington Vaughan, and Mrs. Vaughan, with us. We extended a welcome to them at an "afternoon" in the Chapter House on 27th August. The Rev. Dr. A. Law presided, and our President, Mrs. A. Langley, expressed our pleasure at having them with us, and extended our best wishes for their sojourn in Melbourne. Since then we have proved how very helpful and pleasant it is to once again have a representative in our midst.

We have had two "Australian Teas" during the last six months, the first being held in the Chapter House on May 21st. This was quite a successful effort financially, as well as socially. We are grateful to the Rev. E. L. R. Panelli for his helpful address, and also to the artists who so graciously entertained us.

The second "afternoon" was held in the Fellowship Room, C.M.S., on October 15th. This was arranged by Mrs. Goodwin and Miss K. Oatley, two of our members, and we appreciate very much their generosity. We enjoyed a splendid musical programme, together with two short talks on the work of the Society by Mrs. C. Patterson and Rev. J. Harrington Vaughan.

Through these two efforts and the various donations from kind friends, we have been enabled to alleviate a little the needs of the Hospitals out-back, some of the wants supplied including £10 worth of blankets and sheets, hundreds of babies' clothes, groceries, and many miscellaneous articles that were requested from time to time. It is such a joy to be able to supply the needs as they arrive, and just here we would like to extend our grateful thanks to those many friends of B.C.A. who always give the Auxiliary of their patronage and support.

We regret that during the latter part of the year our President, Mrs. Arthur Langley, has been ill, and was granted leave of absence. We were thankful to hear of her recovery, and to welcome her back at our November meeting.

The Auxiliary hope to resume their meetings on the third Tuesday in March. St. Thomas' Women's Auxiliary.

During the year we have had several functions, apart from our monthly meetings, which are always full of interest. Our attending members, though few in number, are very keen, and we have many good friends who remember the work we are engaged in, and to them we would accord our grateful thanks; also to the Girls' Friendly Society, who assist in the making up of material, and in donating us a share of the proceeds of their annual Sale of Work.

One of our first efforts was an Australian Tea held in the Vicarage, through the courtesy of Mrs. C. H. Raymond. A musical programme was rendered by several of our own members, after which Mrs. C. Patterson, of the Central Auxiliary, gave us an interesting and helpful talk on the work of the Auxiliaries.

At the Combined Missionary Sale on October 5th we had charge of two stalls, and greatly enjoyed sharing in the effort.

We took charge of the Cake and Sweets Stall at the G.F.S. Sale on November 12th. The Rev. and Mrs. J. Harrington Vaughan were present. We were pleased to welcome them to our parish, and appreciated very much the address given by Mr. Vaughan.

Our members have worked splendidly during the year, collecting endless supplies of garments, books, etc. We have sent in about 200 articles of clothing and many other gifts; and we were pleased to be able to supply £7 worth of blankets, sheets, and clothing for the family appealed for by the Rev. K. Luders, of Kirton Point. Miss M. Penrose deserves special mention for organising a very successful Grocery Evening.

We still keep an interest in our Cot in Penong Hospital, and look forward to letters from the Sisters at Penong and Ceduna. We hope to send a much needed dinner set to Ceduna for Christmas.

The season's greetings to all!

Mr. J. Carter.

Since our last issue we have lost a staunch friend, by the passing onward of Mr. J. Carter. He was a member of our Victorian Committee. His deep interest in the work, his helpful advice, and his kindly giving to the cause will ever be remembered. We offer our very real sympathy to his relatives, and the assurance of our prayerful remembrance of them.

Heidelberg Garden Party.

The annual Heidelberg Garden Party was held on Thursday, 24th October, at "Montaire," the beautiful home of Mrs. C. P. Smart. Various stalls were set up in the grounds, and a pleasant variety of competitive games were carried on amidst the ideal surroundings of gardens, lawns, and trees. Afternoon tea was served on the spacious sun verandah, and, as a charming evidence of thoughtfulness on the part of our hostess, it was discovered that the tastefully arranged flowers on each table came from the garden of the late Mrs. H. Price, who was responsible for the institution of this annual event. Next morning a cheque for £31 was received at the Victorian

Office from the Heidelberg Auxiliary, and we are especially grateful to Mrs. Smart and Miss R. Douglass for the fine part which they played in producing this excellent result.

Our Helpers.

We are grateful for the large quantities of goods sent in during the past few months from many of our friends in and about Melbourne. A special word of thanks is due to Miss I. Woods, the zealous Hon. Secretary of the Moonee Ponds and Central Women's Auxiliaries, Miss King, Miss Cross, Miss Dodgshun, Miss M. Parson, Mrs. Bick, "The Stitchers' Club," the Misses Hindson, Mrs. Brown, Miss Dicker, and a host of others.

St. Barnabas', South Melbourne.—The annual presentation of Christmas gifts from the children of St. Barnabas' Sunday School was made on the afternoon of Sunday, 17th November. An address on the work of B.C.A.S. was given during the service, and thereafter the Holy Table was literally stacked with the offerings of the children. Considering the desperate condition of most of the folk of this parish, the offering of Christmas gifts and an annual gift of £5 from the Vestrymen, Women's Guild and G.F.S. shows a magnificent spirit of charity and self-sacrifice which would appear to be almost without parallel in B.C.A.S. circles in Melbourne. It was an inspiration to observe the joyful expressions of the little ones as they made their offerings, and to experience the atmosphere of intense interest on the part of young and old, during the lantern lecture given at the evening service. With the thanks of B.C.A. must be included our good wishes and prayers for rich blessing upon these real friends.

St. Paul's, Canterbury.—Members of the G.F.S. and Ladies' Guild have given very generously in response to the Christmas appeal. Large parcels of toys, clothing, and medical supplies have been received as a result of their sympathy and activity. We are deeply grateful for their help.

Since the last issue of the *Real Australian* went to print, four large cases of goods have been forwarded to Ceduna, three cases and a carton to Kirton Point, and a large supply of books and medical stores to Cann River from the Melbourne Office. The goods were presented by many thoughtful ones, and they will be glad to know that very appreciative letters have been received from the centres named.

The Victorian Committee of the B.C.A.S. extend hearty Christmas greetings to the many supporters and workers who have enabled us to carry on with our work for the extension of the Kingdom of God in the "out-back" during 1935.

MAIL-BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL.

(By E. C. HUNTER.)

When speaking a few days ago to a Missionary to our Aborigines on furlough in Sydney, the writer was much impressed by the remarks she volunteered concerning our Mail-Bag Sunday School.

"No one," she said, "but those out work-

ing amongst the people as I am, can realise what a boon the Mail-Bag Sunday School is." She was not referring to the aboriginal people—although our Sunday School lesson papers do go to some Aborigines' Stations—but to the white people, many of whom, she said, were just hungry for the Gospel. She spoke of how, on occasional visits she made to homes in the district where she was stationed, she found the families usually eager to have her turn the conversation to spiritual things, for which in many cases they seemed to be starving.

Our Sunday School papers, she considers, fill a tremendous need, not only to those in isolated places, but to many who, though closer in, and even in the townships, get very little opportunity of spiritual intercourse or teaching.

And so there comes, in this, just another urge to us to push on with this branch of our work, which we feel has been, and is being, so blessed of God in the part it is doing in extending His Kingdom in this vast land of ours.

Many parents, while possessing deep spiritual convictions, and having an earnest desire to impart those convictions to their children, find difficulty in doing so, either because of limited Biblical knowledge or having no adaptability for teaching. Here our Sunday School lesson papers are a great help, and we are repeatedly receiving letters of appreciation, telling how the difficulties with little home Sunday Schools have been solved by having our lesson papers to follow, giving, as they do, a fairly complete Sunday School session for every Sunday.

We find, too, that the parents often avail themselves of the advice of our workers over questions that bother them, such as, for instance, on the question of Sunday sport, about which one mother quite recently wrote. Her reply to the answer that was sent to her letter was quite touching in its overwhelming gratitude for the trouble that had been taken to write at such length and so helpfully to her. Anxious to give of her best in the training of her little daughter in the things that matter, she found the conflicting opinions very difficult to combat, and so she sought the help of our Sunday School (Superintendent), and, judging by her letter, was more than satisfied and helped as she had never before been helped, to go on believing and teaching her child that Sunday is meant to be a Holy Day—not a hol-i-day.

And so we could go on multiplying cases where our Mail-Bag Sunday School has been, directly and indirectly, a boon to both parent and child.

There are, too, the small Sunday Schools that have grown out of our large Sunday School—started, in many instances, by those who have been taught by our "Mail-Bag." Out of that teaching has grown the desire to serve, and in that service our lesson papers again play their part in being used in those small Sunday Schools.

And now, with the end of our Church and Sunday School year, our helpers are

faced with the happy, if arduous task of selecting and allotting prizes to the children who have worked well during the year in answering the questions and doing the handwork set on the lesson papers.

In our Primary Department no marks are given, but each child is remembered by the teachers at Christmas time with a suitable little gift. But in the higher grades, where marks are given all through the year for work sent in, prizes are awarded. During the year the teachers have had these prizes in mind, and in various ways, such as selling needlework, collecting donations, etc., have been able to lay a good foundation to the Prize Fund (for which last year they raised some £11). Also some of our Mail-Bag parents have already sent in their Christmas gifts. One mother in Fiji never fails to express in this practical way her appreciation of the help our papers have been to her in teaching her little son—the only white child for miles around.

Another mother on the Southern Line has again sent in her usual cheque for £1, accompanied by a letter full of gratitude for what the Mail-Bag Sunday School has been for her children, the eldest of whom is now at school in Sydney, finding, as she told her mother, no difficulty with her Scripture lessons, thanks to her earlier teaching through our Mail-Bag Sunday School.

Still another mother has sent in her 11/-, under cover of a letter with a newspaper cutting telling of the winning by one of her sons of first prize in an essay competition, thus demonstrating the tie that exists between our Mail-Bag families and its helpers, that a mother knows we are sufficiently interested in the doings of her children to be glad to be told of them.

But we have lots of scholars, and we would like to be able to send out lots of prizes. Would any of our readers like to have a share in our Prize Fund by making a donation of either money or new books? We encourage our scholars to have their own Bible and Prayer and Hymn Book, and it is very pleasing the number who, given their choice, choose one of these as a prize before a story book.

But all are needed—Bibles, Prayer and Hymn Books (mostly A. & M.), and story books.

It has been suggested that the idea of giving up their Sunday School prizes this year to their out-back Sunday School sisters and brothers might appeal to some of our young readers, as their Christmas gift; or that some of our city or suburban Sunday Schools might find the idea of giving a Christmas gift expressly to the B.C.A. Mail-Bag Sunday School an appealing one. The idea greatly appeals to us.

But whether you are or are not able to share in the Prize Fund, you can all share in the prayer work for our Sunday School, appealing for us to God for His help and guidance, without which we can do nothing.

THE REAL AUSTRALIAN.

B.C.A. MAIL-BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL PRIMARY GRADE. QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

According to a pre-arranged plan which ordains that at least two meetings during the year shall be held in the open air, we met once again amid the beautiful surroundings of Bradley's Head.

Miss Foster, in the chair, illustrated her opening remarks on the special significance of the Christmas lesson with a beautiful little Christmas story. She also stressed the danger of allowing Christmas to become just a convention, instead of so vital a part of our difficult task of putting our little Out-back children in touch with their Saviour.

Business was brief, and concerned mainly the forthcoming promotions and the re-naming of the grades. The leader expressed the wish that teachers would, if possible, keep in touch with their promoted pupils.

Miss Campbell then displayed samples of gifts to be sent to the children; and also had a number of suggested gifts, if teachers desired to add personal ones.

The major part of the afternoon was devoted to the making up of specimen gifts for the children's parents—materials for which and directions for making are enclosed with the December lesson papers.

A special vote of thanks was passed to the sorters who had arranged the aforesaid materials and lessons so carefully.

A competition asking teachers to make gifts from such material as would be at the bush child's command caused much merriment, and much hunting for suitable leaves, bark or berries, and the result was quite a miniature exhibition of unsuspected talent.

An unexpected pleasure was the visit, during the afternoon, of the Organising Missioner, Rev. Tom Jones. He addressed the meeting on the question as to whether the Mail-Bag Sunday School should be made self-supporting. He explained the urgent need for such a step, and made some suggestions as to ways and means, leaving us to discuss the matter among ourselves and make known our decision at a later date.

A happy picnic tea in the cool evening brought to an end another happy meeting, which was in every sense of the word a conference.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY NOTES.

Our Women's Auxiliary has gone on its usual quiet way. We are very grateful that the interest has been maintained, and we have proved that our meetings are appreciated, as when we thought of holding one in December the unanimous vote was in its favour, and consequently we are meeting on December 4th in the afternoon.

We have had a very pleasant gathering, when Mrs. Richmond, of Hurstville, invited Mrs. Langley and the Hon. Secretary, Miss Ashe, to her Mothers' Union. The result was quickened interest and a good response in groceries, besides 13/-

in money. We are always grateful for such opportunities, and for the kindly co-operation of the friends interested in B.C.A. Would there were a few more!

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Our Central members are full of interest and enthusiasm. Already they can report progress, having some 30 members. They extend a hearty welcome to every woman who would like to join them, and who is not connected with any other branch. All particulars can be ascertained from the Office, Church House. Miss K. Jones is president, Mrs. Osborne hon. secretary, and Miss Kirkby hon. treasurer.

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St. Alban's, Leura, has proved itself a tower of strength. When any emergency arises, the hon. secretary can always turn to its members sure of a quick and generous response.

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All Saints', Woollahra, is full of enthusiasm, and keeps well up in supplying Hospital needs. Sister Dowling writes most gratefully of all the goods received from them. Their gift of an obstetric bed is indeed a boon to the crowded Ceduna Hospital. Cases of goods have been sent throughout the year to the Hostels at Mungindi and Wilcannia.

Mrs. Lee Smith and Miss D. Hayley deserved the very hearty vote of thanks passed by the Executive for their splendid and strenuous work throughout the year. They have packed steadily as goods came in, allowing no accumulations, and have, unaided up to date, despatched 25 cases for Christmas. We very much regret that they have had to accept leave of absence for some months owing to the projected departure of Mrs. Lee Smith for England, but we are cheered by the fact that they will consider returning to it. The agents have appreciated our change of plan.

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Mention must be made of the work of the Christian Service Band, Turramurra. Their contribution, per Mrs. McEnally, is always a fine one. We do hope many more will join up.

The Misses Paton have again rejoiced our hearts with their gift of lifelike animals—a joy to the hearts of all kiddies and a sight much appreciated by the older people.

We only wish we could enumerate all who have sent gifts. Even this morning a telephone call told the Secretary of a lovely gift from a Girls' Guild, to reach one of the Hospitals in time for Christmas.

Our President, Mrs. D'Arcy Irvine, in conjunction with Mrs. Harris, have made a special effort and raised £10 to reduce the debt on Wilcannia Hostel.

In conclusion, we feel we must look right on and realise that our work, even if dealing in small things, may result in great things for Him Who ordained that a gift offered to Him should be held in everlasting remembrance, even if only a cup of cold water, and will hold our efforts in remembrance and allow us the joy of fruition in the life of the world to come.

December 10, 1935.

THANKS.

We offer our sincere thanks to the following good friends:—**Mrs. Worskett**, of Chatswood, for a very fine gramophone for use out-back; **Mrs. Tovey**, of Chatswood, for a gramophone and cabinet, also for an out-back home; the **Sunday School Scholars of St. Andrew's**, Roseville, for a very fine collection of Christmas gifts for out-back kiddies; **St. Andrew's Choir**, Summer Hill, for a very fine collection of gifts, the result of their Annual B.C.A. Gift Evening; **Miss Lackenstein**, of Ryde, and her good friends, for a wonderful collection of dressed dolls and other useful Christmas gifts; **Miss Mackie**, of Petersham, for scrap-books and other gifts; **Mrs. Killenger**, of Liverpool, for a wonderful assortment of toys; **Miss Hilda Kirby**, for some nice hand-made d'oyles; **Mrs. Hibble**, Bellevue Hill, for one dozen hand-knitted singlets; **Mrs. Bellingham**, of Gordon, for Christmas gifts; **Mrs. Lahiff**, of Homebush, for a contribution of toys; **Mrs. Armitage**, The Rectory, Belmore, for books and magazines; **Mrs. Terry**, The Rectory, Seven Hills, for a box of books and toys; **Miss Robson**, for some good reading material; **Mrs. Ashcroft**, The Rectory, Austinmer, for a parcel of clothing; **Rev. G. S. Richmond**, Hurstville, for two boxes of useful goods; **Mrs. Walter Brown**, Sydney, for a large parcel of second-hand clothing; **Mrs. J. W. Spain**, Neutral Bay, for a box of dressed dolls; **Mrs. Doak**, Mosman, for scrap-books and Christmas cards; **F. Smith**, Bowral, for a box of useful gifts; **Mrs. J. Scanlon**, for a box of Christmas gifts; **Mrs. Gerrard**, for a number of Christmas stockings; **Miss Scott**, Taree, for scrap-books; **Mrs. Veness**, Petersham, for a box of gifts; “**Barcum**,” Eastwood (per Holdern), for a parcel of books; **Mrs. Marshall**, Drummoyne, for two parcels of books; **Miss E. Jacobs**, for seven dressed dolls; **Miss Cook**, for a collection of nice gifts; **Nurse Cook**, Thornleigh, for a very nice collection of Christmas toys; **Miss Moore**, Neutral Bay, for gifts for Wilcannia Christmas Tree; **Miss Clark**, Gladesville, for a box of Christmas gifts; **Miss Broadbent**, Rockdale, for some children's books; **Mrs. Broadbent**, Rockdale, for the result of an evening in her home; **Miss Dykes**, Roseville, for a parcel of gifts; **Mrs. Gates**, Sydney, for some boy's and men's clothing; **Mrs. W. Jackson**, for a collection of toys; **Miss Fry**, Manly, for a box of small gifts; “**Anonymous**,” for some dressed dolls; **St. Alban's**, Leura, Women's Auxiliary, for their usual wonderful collection of gifts; **St. Stephen's**, Lidcombe, Mothers' Union, for a box of Christmas gifts; **Christian Service Band**, Roseville, for a parcel of Christmas gifts; **Miss Aston**, Banksia, for some tea sets; **Mrs. Leigh**, The Rectory, Hunter's Hill, for a parcel of children's clothing; and to the scores of other good friends who, by their kindly giving, enabled us to supply all the Christmas needs of our Mission districts.

May we be permitted to say a special “Thank you” to **Mr. Johnson**, of Messrs. Morley, Johnson, for the gift of a very fine wireless set. This is now located in the North-West Mallee.

WANTED!

Double Certificated Nurses for Service in the Out-back.

Our waiting list is exhausted, and soon there will be vacancies on our staff. We shall be glad to receive offers of service from qualified nurses. Write to:

The Organising Missioner,
The Bush Church Aid Society,
Church House, George Street, Sydney,

A PRAYER FOR USE WITH OUR PRAYER LIST.

O Lord God of our nation, Who has commanded men to subdue and replenish the earth: Look in Thy love upon all those who is the distant parts of our land are striving against many difficulties, and are deprived the access of the means of grace. Strengthen and guide the Bush Church Aid Society and its Clergy, Nurses, Deaconesses, and Students. Cheer and encourage them in discouragements and loneliness, and bless their ministrations to the good of those they serve, and grant that the message of redeeming love may thus be rooted and grounded in our national life, to the glory of Thy Great Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

“REAL AUSTRALIAN” SUBSCRIBERS.

To the following we give thanks for subscriptions received during the past three months:—

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THE PLACE OF PRAYER.

All B.C.A. friends are invited earnestly to use in daily prayer the suggestions made in the following list of subjects:—

SUNDAY—pray for :

The Missions of the B.C.A. in various parts of Australia; the Missionaries of B.C.A. as they minister of the Word and Sacraments, Rev. H. Broadly, at Ceduna; Rev. H. Smith, at Penong; Rev. L. T. Lambert, at Wilcannia; Rev. L. Dunstan, at Denmark; Rev. T. Gee, at Werrimull; Rev. K. Luders, at Kirton Point, S.A.; and Rev. T. R. Fleming, at Cann River.

MONDAY—Pray for :

B.C.A. Hospital work in the Far West country, where patients must be received in spite of their inability to make any return for service. Pray that God's good cheer may be with Sisters Dowling and Hitchcock at Ceduna, Sister Sowter at Penong, Sister Gason, at Cann River.

TUESDAY—Pray for :

The B.C.A. Children's Hostels at Wilcannia and Mungindi, that the work be increased of God, and that we persevere knowing that such ministry to little ones cannot be in vain in the Lord. Remember by name Deaconess Harris and Miss C. Ross, Wilcannia, and Matron Cheers, at Mungindi.

WEDNESDAY—Pray for :

The Sunday School by Post with its Gospel message for little children; also for the teachers of this department.

THURSDAY—Pray for :

All Students, Deaconesses, and Nurses in training and preparing for B.C.A. work in the Bush, that they may be equipped with power, wisdom, and zeal, and become “able ministers of the New Covenant.” Also remember the Council, Committees, Women's Auxiliary, and workers on the Home Base Staff.

FRIDAY—Pray for :

The Organising Missioner, that he find encouraging welcome as he undertakes his work.

SATURDAY—Pray for :

A spirit of thankful giving to be upon all B.C.A. friends, that the Society be kept out of all God-dishonouring debt.

AT ALL TIMES—Forget not to give thanks: for kindly givers who have helped us with their self-denials.

For friends, known and unknown, who have rallied at our call to keep our ministries going.

For cheering reports from fields that God's Word is still with power.

For offers of service for the filling of pending vacancies in our work.