

# The Real Australian

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

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## THE BUSH CHURCH AID SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND TASMANIA.

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Rev. R. LANGSHAW. CALDERWOOD.

Rev. N. CHAMBERS. Mr. H. V. McKAY-JONES.

Mr. BRIAN BRAY.

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.

### The Organizing Missioner's Letter

Our paper is a month late in reaching you, for which we offer our apologies. The extra work of the Christmas season and an enforced rest for the O.M. are the causes of the delay.

However, a January issue has one distinct advantage in that we can look back over the year that has gone.

1936 has been a year of great blessing to B.C.A. and its work. God has indeed been with us, and our people have wholeheartedly supported us with their prayers and generous giving.

Two events stand out in the year's activities. They are the Annual Rallies at Melbourne and Sydney. Both of them saw packed gatherings of B.C.A. supporters full of enthusiasm and keenness. The Rallies serve as a great stimulus to field and office workers, and they help us all to realise that behind us there stands a big band of Christian people who are ready to help with their gifts and to uphold with their prayers.

During the year the members of the Women's Auxiliary, the Mail-Bag Workers and the Parochial Representatives in Sydney staged a very successful Fair and Exhibition at St. Philip's Church Hall. In Melbourne the ladies were no less busy, and held a number of very successful functions. At all times these workers have co-operated well, and have given unstinting support to every venture made for the welfare of the Society's work.

In the field definite progress has been made. Two new Mission Stations have been opened at Kyancutta and Menindee, and arrangements have been finalised for the opening of two more in the near future—one in the East Gippsland area, the other being the oversight of the East-West Line in South Australia.

The hospital staffs have been increased by the addition of four new Sisters, the hostels staff by one additional worker, and the charge of the domestic arrangements at Ceduna Hospital has been placed in the hands of a B.C.A. volunteer.

During the year it was found necessary to make better arrangements for the accommodation of the Mail-Bag Sunday School workers, and they are now to be found in their own office at the Bible House.

To-day B.C.A. has ten Mission districts, two Hostels, two Hospitals, a Nursing Home, a Mail-Bag Sunday School of 3250 scholars, and one Mission Van in commission. Twenty-eight men and women comprise the staff of the Society. In looking back over the past year, we can certainly take courage for the future.

There is still much to be done, and we must not rest upon that which has been achieved. The most important task for this year is the completion of the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook. The people who live on that lonely line are looking to us for the fulfilment of this undertaking. We must not fail them. On another page you will find the latest news of this work. Pray earnestly and give generously to this very worthwhile witness.

Yours in His service,

TOM JONES.

## IN THE FAR WEST.

SISTER F. DOWLING, Ceduna.

We must thank our friends from Melbourne and Sydney for the boxes sent out during the last quarter. Good use has been made of all the contents. The clothes especially were very acceptable to many of the folk.

Again there is very little prospect of a harvest, and the longer one stays here the more one appreciates the struggle some of these people have, and the honest ones do appreciate any help that is given them.

Re the wants here: We are greatly in need of large sheets. With the growing work it takes a good deal to make ends meet. We are also thinking of those extra beds in the new Hospital, where we will be in need of a great deal more linen. However, we always feel we can rely on our Auxiliaries and all B.C.A. friends to supply our needs. In passing, we must add how grateful we are to the women of Adelaide who have volunteered to partly furnish the new Nursery for us. A Nursery! How we are going to appreciate having somewhere to put our cots and babies without having to pack them into our dining-room, bedrooms and kitchen!

During the year we welcomed to our staff Miss Andrews, of Sydney. We indeed had much cause to thank Almighty God for fulfilling our need in the domestic side of the work. We felt that someone offering for the work from Sydney would be the solving of our problem, and we prayed very definitely that the Lord would put the desire into someone's heart. Our hearts were indeed very full the morning we received Mr. Jones' letter saying someone had offered for the work.

We were also very pleased to welcome Sister Morris during her visit here. Sister was one of the pioneer nurses who helped to lay the foundation of the work here.

In answer to continued prayer, Dr. Gibson, after three months' absence, was sufficiently restored in health to return to his work. Everyone gladly welcomed him back. During his absence Dr. Freda carried on the practice single-handed, which is no mean feat for a woman in such a large district as this. The staff daily backed her up by much prayer, and one felt, though alone in one sense, she was not alone in that He Whom we asked to be with her to guide, uphold and strengthen her in all things, was indeed very present at all times. Two cases in particular—one a lad of 19 years with a ruptured liver, and another a new-born babe with severe haemorrhage—both of which made a remarkable recovery, and were discharged in good health. There was a consciousness right through these two difficult cases of the Divine leading, and the relatives on both sides were brought to think deeply of the things of God.

When Bishop Kirkby first came to the West Coast to open up B.C.A. work here, the first persons he met were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Watson, of Mudamuckla, and ever since those early days they have been staunch supporters of all B.C.A. work. Many of the Sisters and Ministers have enjoyed the hospitality of those good folk down on their farm. Over four months ago Cliff, aged 19 years, their only child, was admitted here with pleurisy. Within a fortnight he was up again, only for a day or two, and then back to bed again for a long and trying illness. During the early part of his illness, when he was feeling comparatively well, Cliff was led to know Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour and Friend, and from that time he began to know Christ as the source of all his needs. It will ever be remembered the day when he told his Christian mother that he had given his heart to the Lord Jesus, and the joy that filled that mother's heart when she knew that God had answered her prayers for her boy. Shortly after this his condition grew steadily worse, and for two months that lad was drawn very close to his Lord through intense suffering. Not one who, coming into contact with him, could but marvel at his bright Christian witness; he was an inspiration to all. What joy it was to see that little circle of father, mother and son joined together in prayer and Bible reading at his bedside. He often remarked as we had prayer with him, "You don't know what prayer means to me, when the nights are so long and the

pain always there; it helps to keep me going." The secret of his bright spirit was his consciousness of the presence of God with him. On the day of his "Home Call" his daily calendar read: "And so, having patiently endured, he obtained the promise." Surely this was one who had come out of the great tribulation and washed his robes in the Blood of the Lamb!

Our new Hospital opens on February 1st. It is a splendid building, very well equipped for any country hospital, and we are very proud of it. Please pray that the Lord will undertake, in everything concerning our move to this new building, that it will prove to be not only a boon to the patients and the nursing and medical staff in their work, but that it will come to be looked upon as a real power-house for the Lord to work in, and that all the work undertaken there may be to the glory of His holy Name.

SISTER M. MEADES, Penong.

The past six weeks have been busier than usual for Penong Hospital. Most of the time there have been two patients in; for a few days we had four, making us quite busy, but also giving one a sense of satisfaction in being busy. The Sister at Penong usually has the easiest job in the Mission.

The people up here are eagerly looking forward to having a Doctor resident in Penong shortly. It is such a long way for people to go to Ceduna to see Doctor. Often it means a trip of 200 miles and more, and most of the people cannot afford the time or the money. It means an equally long trip for Dr. Gibson when he is called up to cases. Twice during the past six weeks Doctor has been called up to Coorabie, and in each case a patient was brought down for immediate operation at Penong. Both operations were at 3 a.m., and were quite an event at Penong, though they have operations at all hours of the day and night at Ceduna.

Penong residents are hopefully looking for a Doctor to arrive about Christmas time, but whenever he (or she) does appear we hope for a person after God's own heart, who will seek to heal souls as well as bodies.

The departure of the Rev. and Mrs. H. R. Smith and Mary for Sydney has left a big blank in the spiritual life of Penong. Their friendship and the fellowship in the Lord meant a great deal to the Hospital staff in particular.

The Kindergarten is meeting at the Hospital. Last Sunday ten children arrived, but just as the story was begun Doctor arrived to perform an operation, so the children sang hymns and choruses under the supervision of the helper.

As far as spiritual results in the work at Penong are concerned, it is hard to estimate what they are. Last month a lad accepted Christ as his Saviour whilst in Hospital, but he goes back to a home where he will get no help whatever.

The last box, sent out by the Women's Auxiliary in Sydney, contained many useful articles of clothing. Letters have been received expressing warmest thanks and appreciation from those to whom parcels were sent. If only those who have given of their time and means to supply these things could see the joy of the recipients they would be more than repaid.

Please continue to pray for our witness here, that in spite of the lack of response we may continue to be faithful in proclaiming Christ.

REV. H. BROADLY, Ceduna.

Since we arrived back in the parish on September 29th we have found plenty to do. One of the first jobs was to see that the dozen or more people who volunteered to help us by writing to children in the parish were given names of those to whom they could send their messages. Already I have heard from one mother that her daughters have been written to, and she is appreciative.

The next matter which occupied our attention was the combined Sunday School Picnic to Laura Bay. It was "combined" inasmuch as we joined with the Methodists. It was quite a success. Costs were cut owing to co-operation, but the great benefit was in the harmony that was apparent between the two denominations.

On Tuesday, November 10th, the Rev. W. A. and Mrs. MacLeod arrived at Ceduna from Sydney. In the time-

honoured way they were met at the "station" by the Matron and the Missioner. Fortunately it was a cool night, and so they were welcomed with a warm fire, as well as a good supper, at the Hospital. They stayed at the "Rectory" the two nights they were in Ceduna. The Rectory, by the way, is like a bicycle "built for two," so it was a slight squeeze. One of these days we are hoping to put up another room of concrete and make room for hospitality a little more. A fund recently begun has in it already £5/5/6—£75 is needed. To continue with Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod: On Wednesday I took them with me to do some necessary visiting. As I was due at a meeting of the local Council in the afternoon to represent B.C.A., it was necessary to get back by 3 p.m. Leaving at 10.30 a.m., we set off on the round. Mr. MacLeod had his first experience of opening "cockies" gates; they range from solid tubular cyclone gates to strands of barbed wire strangely fastened. Here we called to see about someone going to be confirmed shortly, there to see about a baby to be baptised, elsewhere to see how a discharged patient was getting on. By the time we returned we had gone some 80 or 90 miles.

Next morning we were up at 5 a.m., and left about 7 a.m. for Minnipa, some 120 miles distant. Mr. MacLeod has come over to take up work there, recently left by the Rev. B. B. Lousada. Most of the roads were good, though some were awful. The people at Minnipa knew that Mr. MacLeod is married, and had looked out for a suitable house. Two were available, and one was decided upon straight away. It will be a good deal of a change for them after Sydney homes, but I expect they will soon be as cosy as possible. We stayed the night with one of the farmers. As I left them next morning at 8 a.m. to return to Ceduna, I felt something of the loneliness and strangeness that will afflict Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod until they settle in. It would have been nice to stay to see them actually in their home, but it was necessary to get back for a Confirmation class and a men's gathering at Ceduna. One thing made it easier to leave them. Some of the people we met gave the impression that they will do all they can to make Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod feel at home. There is something else you can pray about.

We are still rejoicing at evidences that God is working in our midst to bring others into His Kingdom. It makes the work here wonderfully attractive, and we want you to know that we are happy in this service because it is so worthwhile.

### BISHOP KIRKBY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL.

We are glad to be able to announce to our readers that the tender for the construction of the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital at Cook, South Australia, has been let by the Society.

Messrs. Fricker Bros., of Adelaide, are the builders, and work will be commenced in the course of the next few days. It is expected that the building will be ready for use at the beginning of April.

The accepted tender is for £2586, and at the moment of writing £1800 is in hand towards that cost. We feel that all our friends have splendidly supported us in this venture, and though £786 is still required and must be received before March 31st if the Hospital is to be opened free of debt, we are going forward with the construction work believing that God will put it into the hearts of His people to see that the whole sum is made up.

The sum now in hand represents the loving remembrances of many hundreds of people from many parts of the world. From England there has come from time to time donations from folk who learned to know and love Bishop Kirkby during his visits to the Homeland. From Canada and America also letters have been received telling of happy recollections of meeting him, and enclosing donations that, as one person wrote, "I may be associated with this splendid memorial to a great Christian."

So we feel that such splendid giving represents perhaps the finest tribute ever paid to an Australian churchman.

The work of the Society, so greatly extended during 1936, has been fully maintained, and, over and above that, our

people have given this magnificent sum. Truly God has been good. Let us not falter as the goal appears in sight. God has done great things for us; let us see to it that we do well this great thing for Him in memory of one who gave everything for his Master and the people of the outback. £786 more before March 31st is the need. Earnest prayer and sacrificial giving is the only way that need can be met. Shall we fail?

### SKETCHES BY THE WAYSIDE.

(BY THE LATE BISHOP KIRKBY.)

"That'll be the stone end of it!" Such was our critic's oracular comment on our action as we, with much contortion and futile labours, sought to tighten an almost inaccessible nut underneath the body of the Ford. We continued to perspire and to wrestle with the annoying job.

"Yes, you'll get about fifty miles along the track and she'll cut out the petrol pipe, and that will be the stone end of yer." We thought it time to crawl from under and see who was the author of these most original, yet baleful prophecies.

He proved to be a typical back-country stockman, loose jointed, lean-framed, clad in a suit not of fashion's latest cut, and wearing a pair of elastic-sided "Romeos," finished off with fierce-looking spurs. On his vest there was a display of watch-chain, from which dangled a rather conspicuous silver cross. His face, pleasant withal, bore the look of one whose brief holiday in the lonely little township had not been spent altogether wisely. But he was a real "Aussie," who wanted to be a friend even to strangers whom he deemed to be in need.

There was some surprise when he found from the style of our clothes that we were parsons. "Church of England ministers, I suppose? Well, I'm a holy Roman, I am; but that don't make no difference. I like the Church of England. I like them all." He began to be reminiscent. "Why, when I was at the front I followed all the religions—English, Roman, Methodist, Presbyterian." His reminiscences and his manner became confidential. "Why, I used to go to the Salvation Army." Then, with a chuckle of deep satisfaction, "And isn't the Army a bonzer religion?"

Of course, even we loyal Anglicans could not deny this whole-souled claim. It was too sincere. But Bill, for such was his name, showed himself in other ways to be a true "Catholic." Before he left us, and, in spite of our hesitation, he pressed upon us a ten shilling note for the "support of your religion."

Truly faith is justified of her children, even though they have strange ways of expressing themselves.

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Sandy was on his way back from a holiday in Sydney. The last stage was the sun-dried little township on the Far Western Plains. The local "pub" held him for a few days, where lingering farewells were taken with all and sundry who chanced to come along.

Our lantern service was held in the old store alongside the hotel, by kind permission of the publican. Sandy had spent the earlier part of the evening with another bar patron in solemn argument on human destiny. Strange, isn't it, that Scotchmen, when "in their cups," turn to subjects of profound theological and metaphysical nature? Woe betide the Englishman, or the Australian for that matter, who foolishly seeks to follow them into the depths! So Sandy, with native ability, and with a display of maudlin wisdom, utterly confounded his opponent. As the argument was waxing dull, and since there were no fresh worlds to conquer, he betook himself to the old store and numbered himself among the few who leaned on the door-posts, hesitant, and perhaps ashamed to come in. But the pictures were attractive. They told in line and tint the most wonderful story ever heard—the story of the Son of God, Who died to save us all. We noticed that Sandy had dared to take a back seat. The service continued, and the congregation went out into the night. Our preparations for packing up were interrupted. It was Sandy. He had come in. It was hard to say at first what for. His introduction of himself was an extraordinary

combination of affection, piety, and irrelevant argument. But he was human, and when he found out that there was somebody willing to listen patiently he began brokenly to tell a story of disregarded vows and ill-spent years. It was a sordid tale, but it led to the confession that he wanted to pray, but did not know how to. He wanted to pray that one whom he had wronged be brought back to him, and that he might be brought back to God.

How the burden of the ministry pressed upon one's soul at this earnest pleading for guidance! Here was a strong man, with brain still somewhat clouded, asking for a prayer to be written out which he might use day by day. Caution suggested a prudent delay, until soberness would have returned to him. So, after some further talk, it was so arranged. We wondered whether the next morning would find Sandy in the same frame of mind and set of soul. But the next day found him keen upon his quest. He was not to be denied, and so with paper and pen we tried to link together into simple prayer the needs of Sandy and the promises of God in Christ Jesus. We last saw him carefully folding the paper into an inner pocket. The outcome, who can tell? Only the God Who heareth prayer, and to Whom all flesh must come!

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"The vision splendid of the sunlit plains extended" is a fine phrase of one of our own poets. It is all very well for them so to write, but sometimes there are other sights to be seen on those vast spreading plains.

Away ahead of us, as our "Ford" hummed along, we could see a cloud of dust. It suggested a vehicle of some sort. Speculation arose as to who it might be; probably some traveller making for the little township which we had left behind. Within a few minutes we could descry a two-horse waggon; then as we came closer we saw that the driver was a woman, her companions four little children (one a baby), and the waggon—well, it was loaded up with firewood. Of course, we must stop; and then we heard the story. The father was far away with travelling sheep, mother was wholly responsible for the home. Firewood, a real scarcity on the plains, is needed. An axe she has, the waggon outfit is borrowed. The children are too young to be left unguarded all day, so they go with mother as she sets out on her fourteen-mile journey for wood. She wields the axe and loads the waggon, withal tending the young folk, especially the tiny baby. Then back they go across those "sunlit plains extended," and, as we pass a word of courtesy and cheer, we conclude that the "vision splendid" is not that which we have just gazed upon—a homely mother with her cluster of children by her side, two horses plodding along in front, and the stack of wood behind.

Think of it, ye sisters of the cities, when ye sit by your electric radiators, or work over your cleanly gas stoves! For the woman of the West we ask your interest, and for work among them we claim your prayer and support.

#### NEEDS.

The following is a list of urgent requirements for Penong Hospital. We shall be glad to receive any gifts from our friends:—

24  $\frac{1}{2}$ -Bed Sheets.  
24 Draw Sheets.  
12 Marcella Quilts.  
12 Blankets.  
24 Pillow Slips.  
6 Cot Quilts.  
12 Cot Pillow Slips.  
12 Cot Sheets.  
We also need:—  
6 Kitchen Chairs.  
3 Large Tables.  
1 Large Bookcase.

6 Cot Blankets.  
12 Napkins.  
12 Huckaback Towels.  
12 Pillows.  
2 Long Mackintoshes.  
4 Draw Mackintoshes.  
Serviettes.

8 Iron Bedsteads.  
3 Dressers.

Articles in good second-hand condition will be very acceptable.

#### B.C.A. LENTEN APPEAL.

In past years we have endeavoured to make the first Sunday in February B.C.A. Sunday. Many parishes have adopted the scheme, and a fair measure of success has been achieved. Unfortunately this Sunday follows closely upon the holiday period, when many clergy are away from their parishes, and it has been found almost impossible to secure the support of many rectors who have the wellbeing of our work at heart.

This year we are asking rectors to help by devoting one of the Lenten services to B.C.A. interests. We hope that many will adopt this plan, and that the sermon for at least one of the services during Lent will tell of B.C.A. work and needs.

Special literature will be printed, and collecting cards and envelopes printed for the receipt of the gifts of our Church people, old and young.

Please help by your prayers, and interest others in the service in your parish when the date is made known.

#### WITH THE VAN OUT-BACK.

REV. C. BAKER.

The time is 1.30 a.m. The small Western town of Ivanhoe sleeps, we hope peacefully. A mile away at the small railway station a few people await the arrival of the Broken Hill express. Presently it thunders into the platform, and we hasten to find the Bishop, who is among the passengers. In a few moments he steps on to the platform and greets us with his usual cheery smile. We escort him to the waiting Van, and before long the inevitable cup of tea is being enjoyed at the home where the Bishop will stay. About 3.30 a.m. everyone retires for a few brief hours of sleep.

The same night at 8 o'clock the local church building is a scene of interest. About forty persons are present, including girls and young women who are to be confirmed. It is the first service the Bishop has held at this town for some years. The windows and door are open, for the night is hot. Petrol lights attract hundreds of moths; beetles crawl about the floor; myriads of tiny insects creep up the walls and across the ceiling. But despite these the service proceeds. The solemn moment comes of the Laying-on of hands, and each white clad candidate kneels before the Bishop. Four girls live 25 miles out of town, two others have come a distance of 52 miles. All are most earnest, and have carefully prepared themselves in heart and mind for the great occasion. The Missioner has paid monthly visits to their homes beforehand. As this service comes to an end he feels rewarded for his labours.

The next day the Van conveys the Bishop to Wilcannia, 114 miles to the north-west. The Van returns the same night to Menindee, but after Confirmation in Wilcannia the Bishop goes on to Tibooburra, back of beyond. The town is approximately 800 miles from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. The Bishop proceeds to Broken Hill, and finally comes to Menindee. Here eighty are present for the Confirmation Service. There are eight candidates. Archdeacon Chauvel, of Broken Hill, and Canon Thompson, of May, assist in the service. Perhaps Menindee Church has not had so many clergy present at a service before; with the Missioner there are four. A new Bishop's chair, which arrived the same morning, adds atmosphere to the occasion. The gift of a local resident. Will you join with the Missioner in praying that those who have been confirmed will be true and faithful to their solemn promise, and be Christ's steadfast followers? All of them need God's grace, and some of them are the only light that shines for Him in the home.

The Van brings many experiences to the Missioner and his wife. At one lonely out-station, off the beaten road, we met the cook, the only woman on the place, who had not seen another woman for seven months, until we called. Can you imagine all that such isolation means? At a railway camp, in a lonely barren wind-swept spot, we discovered several families. There were nearly twenty children of school age, receiving no school training whatever. The railway employees' families along the line are worthy of special help and care, for their lot is a hard one. Pray for them.

The drovers, too, have much to contend with. One day recently I had a cup of tea with some of them. They were resting in an old hut by a well. The heat was intense, and all around was hot, burning sand. All the morning they had been droving sheep under these conditions. A drover's life may hold somewhat of romance, but it holds much more of hardship. The spiritual needs of these men are great, but not easy to supply. Their necessary way of life is not always conducive to spiritual development, but Christ died for them that they might be His. Pray that they might know Him.

There is an interesting grave at a quiet old homestead on the River Darling. The tombstone bears the simple inscription : "Dot. Died Feb. 23, 1911." A dog's head is cut into the stone, for the tiny plot is the resting place of a faithful dog. The story is told that the dog's master was injured in the bush. The sagacious animal ran to the homestead. Repeatedly barking, he led the way to his master, who was soon cared for by friendly hands.

Amusing difficulties arise from time to time. Recently, on a hot night an open air service was held at Lunatic Bend. The petrol light encouraged an amazing array of insect life to congregate in ever increasing numbers. The congregation spent most of the time swinging their hands and arms in endeavours to keep the "creepies" away. The Missioner at the organ vainly endeavoured to do the same and play as well. To open one's mouth in song was a grave risk. When scorched insects dead on the lantern began to roast the peak of patience was reached. So the sermon was delivered in darkness. The final episode was the slaying of a centipede.

#### B.C.A. RALLY.

Tuesday Night, 13th October, 1936.

It was a beautiful night, and there was a splendid gathering for the tea in the basement of the Chapter House.

The exhibition of Mail-Bag work was this time under the gallery at the far end of the Hall, and it was well worth looking at. The model of Cook Hospital was also on view, together with maps of Australia, showing the centres of B.C.A. work.

During the interval the Rev. Tom Jones showed a number of lantern slides illustrating the work of the B.C.A.; they were most interesting, also his remarks.

The Hall was well filled when the meeting opened, with the Archbishop in the chair. On the platform were Archdeacon Langley, Canon Langford Smith, Mr. Justice Boyce, Revs. T. C. Hammond, R. R. Robinson, T. Gee, L. Gabbott, Mr. T. S. Holt, and others.

Archdeacon Langley gave various greetings, and mentioned that he had received 106 apologies. He spoke of the beginnings of B.C.A. and the progress of the work, and referred to the active interest of the Archbishop.

The Archbishop then rose to speak. "I am very glad we have such a large number for the Rally to-night," he said. "Although Bishop Kirkby has been taken from us, and nearly eighteen months have elapsed since then, this Rally goes to show the splendid foundation that he laid for us to build upon. In fact, it is indicated by the increased support and the increased usefulness of this important work of the Bush Church Aid Society."

"I am sorry the Rev. L. M. Dunstan is not able to be present owing to being in St. Luke's Hospital. He was very much wanted to tell us of the work at Denmark, but he is prevented by sickness. I am sure we will all pray for him, that he may be restored to his usual health. The work has been so very strenuous that, for the time being, it has taken serious toll of Mr. Dunstan's health."

"It is nineteen years since that meeting was held in the Chapter House which brought the B.C.A. into being, and we are delighted that Archdeacon Langley, Mr. T. S. Holt and others still continue their association with B.C.A. I should like to add a tribute to our Organising Missioner, Rev. Tom Jones, who has been so indefatigable during the past year, and who has a very fortunate knack of not only touching the hearts of people, but of touching their pockets! Considerable gifts have been given during this past year after

addresses he has delivered. I would also pay a tribute to those faithful workers of the B.C.A. in other parts of this State, and other parts of Australia, who, in the name of this Society, are seeking to pay the debt which we who live in the cities owe to our fellow-churchmen who live in the country parts of Australia.

"During the Broughton Centenary celebrations our B.C.A. Van was placed where often Bishop Kirkby's car used to stand, and I am sure a number of fresh friends were enlisted by seeing the Van and obtaining the literature. I hope this meeting will be a fresh impetus to us all, and that we will determine to carry on a more vigorous propaganda on behalf of B.C.A.

"We need further funds for the work, which has expanded. There is a fresh expansion in the building of the Hospital at Cook in memory of Bishop Kirkby. Over £1600 has been received, but considerably more is still needed to complete the equipment of the Hospital.

"We are delighted that Mr. Baker is at Menindee, and in the Van working the surrounding country. As we hear of what the situation is in the country districts of this land, all of us who are concerned that Australia should be built on a Christian foundation, and not on a materialistic foundation, do well to support this Society. As Archdeacon Langley reminded us, this Society in a special way is the contribution of our Diocese, and many in the Diocese of Melbourne, to carry the Gospel to fellow-churchmen in country places. I do trust that this Society of ours may have greatly increased support through this Rally, and that we may find in all parts of this Diocese many more who are actively working for B.C.A., so that we may go forward and seize the opportunities as they present themselves to us. As we look back over these nineteen years, we can thank God that, through the B.C.A., more than £86,000 has been given for this purpose, and that the income last year again shows a steady increase."

The Archbishop also referred to the fact told us by Archdeacon Langley that a ward of the Cook Hospital would be in memory of the Rev. Thomas Terry.

The Rev. T. Gee, of Werrimull, was the next speaker; and said : "I think it would be better if I tell you of Millewa, in Victoria, where I have been working. It is a small centre of B.C.A.—5000 square miles; that is small for B.C.A.! This section was originally light sheep country—one sheep to ten acres of ground, but it was good, sweet country. Into this country a party of politicians came looking for land for closer settlement. They later settled returned soldiers for wheat-growing. Unfortunately for the district, and unfortunately for the men who went up, they started in a good year. They were returned Imperial and Australian men, who were settled on 640-acre blocks. The Englishmen were settled together in one section—it was thought that it would be a help to them and their wives. However, the farming methods were somewhat different in Australia to those of England. The English women came out to make homes, and to live in humpies or tin shacks, which sheltered them from rain but not from the dust storms. Some of those women (as well as Australian women) had never baked bread. Their first endeavours produced lumps like bricks. One woman threw her first attempt into the bush, and her husband found it when clearing the land some time later. The women kept battling on, and some are still there. The women are standing up to awful conditions with the men they love, and, though disappointed, they are sticking it out."

"The Church followed up these people. The first minister was not of the B.C.A. He had no protection from a temperature of 115 degrees. Things did not go too well with the people. The Government, however, did recognise their obligations. They were given a generous dole—these people who had the vision of turning mallee scrub into farms, growing crops, and making a good living. They could not have gone on but for the Church, which has just kept bearing them up. How many of you would be prepared to come in in a jinker fifteen miles to Church, and not get back until lunch time? One woman travels to Church each Sunday like that. One man could not walk to Church, so he had

the engine taken out of his car, and with two poles attached to horses came to church in that manner.

"As I had the opportunity last November of telling you something about this work, you will realise the difficulties that confront the B.C.A. men. They very often do not have a proper Church with its surroundings conducive to worship. Let me take you to Pine Tank, which is a strong Anglican settlement. Services are held in the school. There are wonderful charts on the walls—a picture of a skeleton, "safety first" rules, charts of teeth in varying states of decay. The seats are not restful, as those who cannot sit in the desks sit on them. There is no musical instrument, and they have to depend on the parson pitching the right note. When the pitch is too high, the people punish the parson by letting him take the top notes on his own! But those services mean so much. They are the anchor of the people.

"Then there is Carawina. The service was held in a cold, dull hall. Now there is an improvement. There is a prayer desk and a lectern, a table with a cloth on it, and a few flowers (artificial). The table was a converted kerosene case, and the lectern—well, there is a story to that. One of the men had fixed that up. His wife had been searching for a clothes-horse, and had not discovered it until she came to Church! It formed the framework of the lectern. It is a courageous man who stands up to his wife!

"Millewa.—Services are held at sheep stations. We go through there about once a quarter visiting the people. We hold services in sheep sheds. The lanterns which light the people to Church are hung up in various parts of the shed, and we suggest we have hymns that they all know—"God our help in ages past" or "Lead, Kindly Light." But they do not know them. There is a need for B.C.A. to go out and teach. We are able to go quite frequently along the Murray and hold services.

"Every man who goes out for B.C.A. practically lives in his car, visiting houses, looking people up. When people get depressed they do not come to Church, and they lose faith, so we go round and visit them. We have a prayer and Bible reading with them. This is the chief work of the B.C.A. Missioner. Then there is the work in the schools, which is a big one. The Government in Victoria is to be congratulated upon the schools they have erected throughout the Mallee. No children have to travel more than ten miles to school. We appreciate the opening in schools. We visit eight and nine schools in a fortnight. Services are held in the school buildings. We tell the love of God to the children, and so they take the message home to the parents.

"Then again another work that falls to us is that of taking the people from their homes to the hospital or doctor. The people look upon the B.C.A. as the ambulance. We have calls coming day and night for the use of the car to take people to hospital. You might wonder and think that it is not our work, but it is a means of contact with them, and God uses it to lead them to a knowledge of Himself.

"Mr. Halahan started a Troop of Scouts at Werrimull. The boys in the district were terrors. The people said, 'You won't be able to hold the boys a fortnight!' Unfortunately the elder ones were beyond it, but the youngsters were kept together. At a meeting to form another Troop great praise was given for the change in the lads.

"Karl Luders has gone out for B.C.A. He is a man who is true to the Sydney traditions, and to the Gospel of Christ, which is the one message which will strengthen them at this time. By his life and his teaching he is leading men—working with men, that they might be reconciled to God's Son. You are doing your part by prayer. You might think, 'Is it worth while to battle on?' We have told these people that our friends are supporting us—do not let them down."

The Archbishop welcomed Rev. T. C. Hammond, Principal of Moore Theological College, and asked him to speak.

Mr. Hammond said: "It is a very great pleasure for me to be able to say something at a B.C.A. gathering, for two reasons. One is that Bishop Kirkby was one of my oldest Australian friends. I met him, and corresponded with him for some years before I met him. When I was out here ten years ago I persuaded him to take me into the back country

so that I could see Australia, and he yielded to my entreaty. We went out into the lonely places, and came to a lonely shack. After signalling with no success, we went up to the door and knocked. A woman came to the door, and as we talked to her she leaned against the side of the door with tears streaming down her face, and said, 'I have not seen a white face for months.' Her husband was away at the gypsum mines, and there she was alone in that place. I thought as we spoke to her of the Word of Life, and she listened so eagerly; it was a work that our Lord would signify bless. We think of Christ being physically weary and, as He sat on the well and talked to the woman of Samaria, He uttered profound truths: 'God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.'

"I was right through the Nullarbor Plain, but I went by train—I recommend that way of transit! I got some idea of the wild, unpopulated lands. I realised what a tremendous necessity there was for the work of the B.C.A. I was present when your Vans were dedicated ten years ago. I had a journey in one of them, so I had a great sense of the courage and fortitude of the young ladies who went out in the Van, and who are thus able to carry books that tell the story of the Saviour's love in child language to the children, who are so frightened that they hide behind mother's skirts, as in Ireland.

"If any work is demanded of those who are favoured in this land of Australia, it is to spread the Word of God. I would consider no privilege greater than the training of men, if God permitted me, to send them out as pioneers to minister to the people in the wide spaces of this land. I am sure He is calling some young people for that enterprise. It is a great thing to minister in crowded slum areas, and it requires courage and infinite patience at times, but it is also a great thing to go forth to feed Christ's sheep, to visit the sick who are thirsting for the Word of Life. I pray that God's richest blessing may rest on this work. I trust Moore College may raise up courageous men to carry on the noble tradition of those whose memory we reverence this evening."

Rev. Tom Jones then addressed the gathering, and said: "The B.C.A., and especially the members of the Council and the officers of the Society, feel that B.C.A. is distinctly fortunate to have as its President the Archbishop of Sydney. It needs no word of mine to tell you what his presidency stands for. It is not by any means a nominal presidency. The Archbishop's interest in B.C.A. is best illustrated by a recent action of his. Amidst a very busy life he made a special trip to Melbourne for the sole purpose of being present at the Victorian Rally.

"The name of Bishop Kirkby has and will always be inseparable from that of B.C.A. I well remember soon after he became Coadjutor-Bishop one of his friends saying to him, 'What will B.C.A. do now? It will die!' There were others, too, who echoed those words. They knew not how well he had built. Such work could not but endure and expand. It is of the expansion of this work that I would tell you to-night. Eighteen months ago the opportunity came to add to our activities in South Australia. The Bishop of Willochra invited us to undertake a ministry at Kirton Point. The Rev. Karl Luders was given this task. Since then I have seen his work, met his people, and realised that Karl Luders and his wife were doing splendid work.

"At the beginning of 1936 the necessity for subdividing that huge area which we call the West Darling Mission occupied our attention. With the consent of Bishop Halse it was decided to cut off the Menindee-Ivanhoe end of the Mission and to place the Rev. Cliff. Baker in charge. We trusted that God would put it into your hearts to finance this venture. Mr. and Mrs. Baker commenced work in the Van, and the people of the district responded by improving their Church and helping them in many ways. Those of you who know Cliff. Baker realise his deep earnestness in his work, and it will occasion you no surprise when I tell you that he is doing a work there that will tell in the winning of men into the Kingdom of God.

"Towards the end of last year a request came from the Bishop of St. Arnaud, asking if we could help the district of Nyah West over a difficult period. We were glad to be able to say 'Yes.'"

Mr. Jones then referred to the work at Ceduna, and how splendidly the nursing and spiritual work was being carried on. He said: "It has been very difficult to keep a good domestic staff at the Hospital. They never seemed to 'stick.' Well, we thought, 'Why should not the domestic staff be B.C.A., too?' After all, you can wash dishes and cook to the glory of God, as well as look after the sick. Miss Ida Andrews, of Beecroft, volunteered for this work, and is giving splendid service.

"During the course of the next few days the Rev. Wm. McLeod will leave Sydney to take over a new district (as far as B.C.A. is concerned) called Kyancutta. Mr. McLeod will have no easy task. Give him the assurance of your prayers.

"Cann River is a district which has twenty-eight service centres, and we realise that it is an impossible task for one man. Towards the end of the year we hope that it will be possible to place a second missioner in this district, and so give a more adequate ministry.

**"Mail-Bag Sunday School."**—It is one of the most important pieces of work the B.C.A. does. In the last twelve months it has grown by about 400 children. There are 3250 children (approximately) who receive religious instruction in this way, and there are sixty splendid people in Sydney who give their time. The lessons are read by the father and mothers and all relations.

"We realise that it is a privilege to travel along the East-West Railway Line, and to visit the tiny units of people who live in that barren waste of the Nullarbor Plain. Recently I suggested to the Bishop of Willochra that something should be done for these people. The Bishop has now given the Society the oversight of the line. Now we need the man."

Mr. Jones then showed a very interesting reel of moving pictures of some of the Society's work, after which His Grace closed the gathering with his blessing.

#### VICTORIAN NOTES.

The annual Garden Party for B.C.A. at Heidelberg was held on Thursday, 19th November, and proved a most successful and delightful function. We are deeply indebted to our friends at Heidelberg for their consistent generosity, and particular mention must be made of the Secretary and Organiser, Miss R. Douglass, also Mrs. H. E. Guy, at whose home the party was held this year.

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Although many Sunday Schools in the Diocese helped us by sending Christmas gifts of toys, we should like to record our particular thanks to the St. Barnabas' Church, Montague, All Saints' Church, Kooyong, and All Saints' Church, Preston, Sunday Schools for their excellent gifts.

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During the month of November "A Friend" came to the Melbourne Office to give £1 for the Christmas Gifts Fund, but on learning more about our work submitted a further £1 before she left, and took with her some copies of "The Real Australian" and other publications. She returned a little more than a week later and gave a bank note for £100, which was devoted to the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital Fund. We feel that all our readers will rejoice with us concerning this act of real charity.

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#### Sale of Work.

A most successful Sale of Work was held on Saturday, 5th December, at "Stonecroft," East Malvern, the home of Miss Baillie, who is a parishioner of St. James' Church in that suburb. Miss Baillie entertained a large number of guests at afternoon tea, and a magnificent array of articles

were soon purchased. It was a big surprise to the Victorian Secretary to learn that all the hand-made articles were the result of months of patient effort on the part of the hostess. We are deeply grateful for this most excellent indication of new interest, and record our warm thanks to Miss Baillie and her friends. I hope that many readers of "The Real Australian" will endeavour to follow this excellent example.

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#### Personal.

It is with great reluctance that I must intimate my withdrawal from the work of the B.C.A.S. in Melbourne. Mrs. Vaughan and I have had a most happy time amongst the supporters of the Society in and about this great and beautiful city, and have received much encouragement. I should have liked to have spent a much longer period in the work, but medical advice has revealed a clear duty towards my parents, and we shall soon be returning to New South Wales, where His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney has appointed me missioner in a new district to be opened up along the Hawkesbury River. It will be pioneering work of a rather unusual character, involving the use of a motor launch, and we would value your prayers for an effective piece of service. With every good wish to those who seek to extend the Kingdom of our Lord in this great country through the channels of the B.C.A.S., I am, etc., J. HARRINGTON VAUGHAN.

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#### Central Women's Auxiliary, Melbourne.

We held an "Our-back Fair" in the C.M.S. Fellowship Room on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, November 24th and 25th. The Fair was opened by the Lady Mayoress of Melbourne, Mrs. G. J. Wales, who was introduced by Dr. A. Law, Victorian Chairman of B.C.A. Various stalls were well stocked by members and their friends, and all were kept busy, so much so that we have £20/10/- to help in the upkeep of the Hospitals out-back. We are grateful to those friends who so graciously entertained us with musical items, especially thanking Dr. A. Lloyd and his choir boys, also those many friends who came along and supported us in our first big effort.

We hope next year to be able to hold our Fair in a larger place. It only needs a bigger membership and a little more support from our Church people, and we will be enabled to accomplish better things and so alleviate still more the needs of our people in the lonely parts of Australia.

Our last meeting was held on December 2nd in the Chapter House, at which we bade farewell to the Rev. and Mrs. Harrington Vaughan. We appreciate very much what Mr. Vaughan has done to help the Auxiliary, and a presentation was made expressing, though in a small way, our gratitude, and tendering our best wishes for their health and prosperity in their new sphere of work.

We held a very enjoyable Tea Party in the Fitzroy Gardens on Wednesday, December 16th, when members came together for social intercourse before going into recess till March.

We will gladly welcome new members on Tuesday, 16th March, in the Chapter House, at 2.30 p.m.

I. A. W.

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#### St. Thomas', Moonee Ponds, Auxiliary.

We have had our usual meetings and several successful functions during the year, the latter two efforts being a Social Evening on September 8th and the "Cake and Apron Fair" in conjunction with the G.F.S. on December 8th. These will help materially with our work.

The amount of sewing accomplished is very pleasing. We have several very energetic members, and we are grateful to the G.F.S. members who assist us.

Apart from our General Fund, we have £5 for the upkeep of our Cot in the Penong Hospital and personal donations amounting to £5 for the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital.

We resume meetings on March 9th, and new members will be very welcome.

## THE FUN OF RECEIVING APPEALS.

(BY WINIFRED RHOADES.)

Our millionaires, every now and then, treat us to stories of the fun they have giving away their money. Those of us who have only dollars to give, instead of half-millions and millions, can have that fun also. And if the dollars are few, and we can scatter them but sparsely, even that sparse bestowal will bring to us the pleasure of having the appeals roll in.

Once get your name on a mailing list as a person who may perhaps respond, and you will not be left unenlightened. To-day it is the China Famine Relief, with its pitiful tale of children crying, "Bread—bread—bread," in ceaseless monotone, that gives you a chance to be a friend to man in far-flung places. Yesterday it was the Near East College Association, with its six colleges at strategic points, that made you aware of its doings, and afforded you the opportunity of having some share in building the world that is to be.

If you have once given a dollar, you are not forgotten. When another year comes round, your dollar is wanted again; and long before the twelvemonth is gone you are likely to receive bulletins of exciting information, with hints that another dollar could be put to good use, and that your bit of active influence is needed. The Family Welfare Society in a great city tells you seductively about how it brings comfort to forgotten old ladies and health to afflicted little children, and how it builds up into self-supporting, self-respecting citizens whole families that had been sinking into the depths of despair and the slough of dependence. And then there are the special endeavours of the Church. The American Board sends its monthly report of world-wide activities, and the Home Societies tell of the things that are being done for many needs in our own country. American negroes—tuberculosis victims in France—Indians of the prairie—the myriad children orphaned by ruthless massacre in the Near East; all blend into one hugh picture of the world need.

Some people resent the incoming multifarious appeals. The appeals are not a bore, and they are not an imposition. They are a favour and a privilege. They are a needed offset to the tales of horror that glut the morning paper. They bring enlargement to the mind, and most of us need to have our interests and our point of view enlarged.

## WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.

It is cheering to be able to close our report for the last time in 1936 with words of cheer and of good hope for the future. Our Auxiliary has continued to expand; the members have shown a real willingness to undertake anything needed, and their Hon. Secretary wonders if other organisations have such pleasant times. A great call was made upon their energies when the Christmas gifts had to be packed. Our two last splendid organisers and packers, Mrs. Lee Smith and Miss D. Hayley, were unable to undertake it this year, and at first the task seemed insuperable. Then order came out of chaos; Mrs. Bode came forward and shouldered the responsibility, and the Auxiliary is deeply indebted to her for her days of toil in Room 17 at No. 1, Bathurst Street. In all twenty-eight cases have been packed and filled with suitable gifts. Miss Paton again sent in her beautifully made animals, and "Ascham" contributed dolls, ever a delight to their recipients.

The Auxiliary has also helped to make the tiny two-roomed "Rectory" at Menindee more habitable, responding to a S.O.S. for a copper and washing troughs, and, later, a most welcome "drip safe"—ice not being procurable. It is a real joy to help our agents, who are really our representatives, in their self-sacrificing lives.

**Branches.**—Our branches show a real increase both in numbers and in interest, and also in contributions. St. Peter's Auxiliary, Burwood, in addition to former contributions, carried out a most successful American Tea, at which Miss Ashe was present, and sent in £1/10/- as a result. This branch should take courage, as in proportion to its size and possibilities it has done very well. Mrs. Kershaw is the

Hon. Secretary. The Rev. T. Kellett has always given the B.C.A. a warm welcome. We shall miss him when he goes on furlough.

**Christmas Packing.**—We are most grateful to the Commonwealth Bank for kindly allowing the use of Room 19 in No. 1, Bathurst Street, at a nominal rent, and to Messrs. Bain & Horne for interesting themselves in the matter. The Auxiliary could not have coped with the work in the only available room at Church House, so our thanks are very sincere.

Miss Ashe had the pleasure of speaking to the members of the Chatswood G.F.S. She found a splendid band of girls already interested.

Miss Leplastrier is "Box Hut" Secretary, and a successful one at that, as she has twenty-seven in circulation. The Hon. Secretary would appreciate similar opportunities, as it is not always possible to form a separate organisation; and as B.C.A. is a work amongst our own folk, every parish would be the better and happier for coming to its aid.

The next meeting of the Auxiliary will take place, we hope, on the third Wednesday in February. Will all members realise that, if a meeting is to take place, they will receive the customary post card.

Miss Ashe had an opportunity of visiting Cann River, and also, through the kindness of the Rev. J. H. Vaughan, seeing something of the work in Victoria. She is deeply impressed with the needs, also of the responsibility of the Society in finding its agents. Everywhere she found real interest in the work, and realises that if the workers were available much more could be done, especially in the way of deputations to small centres.

## PERSONAL.

Since our last issue the Rev. Wm. McLeod and his wife have commenced their work at Kyancutta, South Australia. Mr. and Mrs. McLeod will have no easy task, for bad seasons have made conditions difficult in this part of South Australia. We are sure that all our friends will support them with earnest prayer.

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We ask that our friends will specially remember Sister Bossley in their prayers. Sister has been unwell for some time, having injured her back. An operation was necessary, and we are glad to be able to record that Sister's condition is satisfactory.

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The Rev. H. R. Smith and his wife have returned from Penong after two and a half years' service. After a short rest Mr. and Mrs. Smith will proceed to the Croajingalong Mission.

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The Rev. T. R. Fleming, of Cann River, Croajingalong, has returned to duty after a severe breakdown in health. The work at this centre has long been too much for one man. Mr. Smith's advent will afford easier working.

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The Rev. Eric Constable, at present Curate at St. Stephen's, Richmond, Victoria, and a trainee of B.C.A., is to take over the work at Penong at the beginning of February. We are looking forward to Mr. Constable's ministry with the certainty that it will be one of much blessing.

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It is with deep regret that we announce the departure of the Rev. J. H. Vaughan from the Melbourne Office. We had hoped, with Mr. Vaughan, that a long period of useful service would have followed his appointment. Unfortunately his father's health has caused deep concern, and Mr. Vaughan feels it necessary that he be nearer to his father. His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney has appointed Mr. Vaughan as River Missioner on the Hawkesbury River, and we feel sure that, bringing to his new position the zeal and enthusiasm he has displayed in Victoria on behalf of B.C.A., a rich ministry will follow. We assure Mr. Vaughan of our earnest prayers that both he and his wife will find much blessing in his new work.

We welcome into the ranks of B.C.A. two new students for training—**Mr. Brian Bray**, of Ridley College, Melbourne, and **Mr. McKay-Jones**, who will enter Moore College next year. We ask your prayers for them, that Almighty God will help them to a successful College course.

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B.C.A. extends congratulations to **Archdeacon Wade** and **Canon Bader** on their recent preferment. Both these gentlemen have given every encouragement to the interests of this Society in their parishes.

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We offer our very real sympathy to **Mrs. Mann**, of Wilcannia Hostel, in the loss of her brother in England. During her recent visit to the Homeland, Mrs. Mann nursed her brother through a serious illness, and returned to Australia feeling that he had recovered. Unfortunately soon after her return advice was received of his "Home Call." Mrs. Mann is known to a great many of our friends as the oldest field worker of the Society. Her association with Wilcannia Hostel goes back to its early beginnings.

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**Sister Sowter**, who served with B.C.A. at Cann River and Penong for four and a half years, has been appointed as Matron to the Home of Peace for the Dying at Marrickville. We feel sure that Sister will prove a success in her new position. During her years with this Society she proved herself not only an excellent nurse, but also one fully consecrated to her Master's service.

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We have to welcome still more new workers in the persons of **Sisters Page** and **Pritchard**, of Melbourne. The Sisters have taken up their work at Ceduna under Sister Dowling. The staff at Ceduna is now up to the strength required for the new conditions, and we are confident that a rich ministry will follow in the new building.

#### POST AND RAILS.

In the last issue of our paper we appealed for a five-valve radio set for Wilcannia Hostel. We are very grateful to **Mr. Alban Kirkby**, the son of our late President, and his friends for their promise to supply this need. Such a gift will give much pleasure to the staff and children of the Hostel.

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Our friends have been so overwhelming in their gifts for our out-back children's Christmas Trees that it is quite impossible to acknowledge their gifts in this wee paper. Such generosity in giving gives us tremendous encouragement in our work, and the gifts give great pleasure to many hundreds of our children. During the past few weeks twenty-eight cases of gifts have been sent out from the Sydney Office, and a similar number from Victoria. The Organising Missioner is very grateful to the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary for taking the packing of the cases out of his hands. It involved a tremendous lot of work, but it was faithfully done.

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We would remind our friends of B.C.A.'s new booklet, "**The Gospel Out-back**." Copies can still be obtained at the Sydney and Melbourne Offices at 6d. each (7d. if posted).

#### PRIMARY GRADE TEACHERS AND WORKERS OF THE MAIL-BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The first Conference of the year was held in the Mail-Bag Office, and was indeed a busy one. There was quite a goodly gathering, and consequently we disposed of a huge amount of work.

Miss Foster in the chair quickly disposed of routine business, to leave the greater part of the afternoon free for manual work. Miss Campbell addressed the meeting on the importance of sincerity and conscientiousness in our work, and advised an occasional re-reading of our teaching contract as a means of counteracting any slackness that might creep in.

The main business of the afternoon was the preparation of the material for the children's Christmas gifts to their parents.

A cup of tea and much cheerful chatter lightened our labours, and made the afternoon an unforgettable enjoyable one.

N. M. DIXON, Secretary.

#### DO IT NOW!

When you're buying little gifts for the family around, And you try to see how many you can purchase for a pound, Let some extra little trifles in your shopping list be found For the Folks . . . of B.C.A.

If you want to post a parcel to Ceduna or Penong, And you don't know how to send it, and you fear it may go wrong,

Come and call upon the Padre as you pass the street along : He's the Man . . . of B.C.A.

You have heard about a Hospital they're going to build at Cook,

And you've read about it somewhere in a paper or a book; It will cost a bit of money, so just "come and have a look" In the Rooms . . . of B.C.A.

You will spend a happier year, and enjoy a well-earned rest, If you help to make things brighter for the people of the West;

Do not wait until you die to make a suitable bequest— Do it Now . . . for B.C.A.

[One of the members of our Ladies' Auxiliary offers the above lines for your attention. We cannot refrain from publishing them. Adopt one of the suggestions.—EDITOR.]

#### "REAL AUSTRALIAN" SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED SINCE LAST PUBLICATION OF SAME.

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#### ANONYMOUS GIFTS RECEIVED SINCE LAST ISSUE OF "THE REAL AUSTRALIAN."

**For General Funds.**—Anonymous, 10/-; A.Y.Z., 5/-.  
"W."—Anonymous, 3/- p.n.

**For Memorial Fund.**—A.Y.Z., 10/- p.n., also additional amounts of 5/-, £2 and 10/- from same; E.C., 15/-.

**For Menindee Tank.**—Anonymous, Summer Hill, £3.

**For Christmas Appeal.**—A.Y.Z., 10/-.

We are specially grateful to Mrs. F. J. Marshall for £26/10/-, plus £2/10/- for the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Fund, collected from Bexley-Rockdale friends.

We say "Thank you" also to Mrs. Howard Gill and friends for £1/8/6 received for Christmas cheer.

#### THE PLACE OF PRAYER.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."—Luke 11 : 13.

#### 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 in 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.

#### Sunday—Pray for the Missions.

##### MORNING.

The Far West Missions at Penong, Ceduna and Kyancutta; and the Missioners, Revs. L. Broadly, E. Constable and Wm. McLeod.

##### EVENING.

The West Darling Mission at Wilcannia, Menindee, and the N.-W. Mallee; and the Missioners, the Revs. L. Lambert, C. Baker and F. Bayly.

#### Monday.

##### MORNING.

The Cann River Mission, the Bonang Mission; and the Missioners, the Revs. T. R. Fleming and H. R. Smith.

##### EVENING.

The Denmark Settlement, the Kirton Point Mission; and the Missioners, the Revs. K. Luders and B. Lousada.

#### Tuesday.—For the Hospital Work.

##### MORNING.

For Sisters Dowling, Meades, Hitchcock, Bossley, Page, Pritchard, and Miss Ida Andrews at Ceduna.

##### EVENING.

For the Cann River Dispensary, Sister Todd and her patients.

#### Wednesday.—For the Hostels.

##### MORNING.

For the children at Mungindi and Matron Cheers as she seeks to win them into the Kingdom.

##### EVENING.

For Wilcannia and Mrs. Mann and Miss Taylor, that they may be blessed in their witness.

#### Thursday.

##### MORNING.

For the Sunday School by Post, with its Gospel message for the children. For the teachers and helpers, that they may find encouragement in their work.

##### EVENING.

For the Organising Missioner, that he may be strengthened and guided in all his endeavours for the good of the work and in his relationships with his fellow-workers.

#### Friday.

##### MORNING.

For the Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital, that it may be opened free of debt.

##### EVENING.

For students and all in training for this work of God.

#### Saturday.

##### MORNING.

For the President and Council of the Society, that they may be guided by His wisdom.

##### EVENING.

For the Home Base Staffs, Auxiliaries, and Parochial Workers.

#### Give Thanks—

For progress made in the Field during the past year. For kindly givers who have helped us with their self-denials. For the progress made with the Memorial Hospital Appeal. For the joy of service.