

JUNE, 1964

3/- p.a. post free

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Medical Officers: Dr. M. MUELLER
Dr. R. ROBINSON

Matron: Sister M. HOPE

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Sisters M. BELL, M. CUTHBERT, B. SMITH, D. WHYBURN, and Miss D. DUVER.

WUDINNA, S.A.

The Central Eyre Peninsula Hospital—

Matron: Sister J. ZILLMAN.
Sisters N. WILKINS, B. FOX, Misses M. SMEE and M. CHADWICK.

COOK, S.A.

The Bishop Kirkby Memorial Hospital—

Sisters J. GEE, M. ROSS.

TARCOOLA, S.A.

The Tarcoola Hospital—

Sisters V. COCHRANE, J. GRIFFEN.

PENONG, S.A.

The Penong Memorial Hospital—

Sister V. HOLLE, and Miss M. WALLACE.

RAWLINNA, W.A.

The Nursing Hostel—

Sister E. THOMAS.

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Cessna 210 — VH-FMS

Beagle Airedale — VH-UEP

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Mr. W. BEDFORD

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Mr. J. ARGALL.

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Control Officer — Mr. K. ELLIS
Assistant — Mr. D. McDOUGALL

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Miss B. HYETT.

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The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania

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"AUSTRALIA FOR CHRIST"

from the O.M.

Elsewhere in this issue is an account of the Croajingolong Nursing Service and many will be sorry, in a sentimental way, to see it going from the pages of the Society Story.

As I made the journey to Cann River to discuss the future of this work with the local committee my thoughts turned constantly to the trip made by the first O.M. 43 years ago. How times have changed since then. My own medium of transportation alone marked such a contrast. As a victim of the jet age I was able to cover the trip down and back in two days—his was a considerably longer and certainly more arduous task.

In so many other ways the scene has changed too. By late 1920 the field staff consisted of only two clergymen—Rev. F. W. Harvey and Rev. R. Hawkins. As I made this journey our staff stood at a total figure of 60. Clergy number sixteen—twelve of whom are engaged in a pastoral ministry in six dioceses, covering in area one-third of the total area of our Continent, and four in administrative or public

relations; twelve of the 60 staff the three hostels and the Old Folks' Home; 24 are engaged in the extensive and specialized work of the Flying Medical Service, two are working full time in the tuition of our young people through the Mail Bag Sunday School, and six are engaged in office administration in Sydney and Melbourne. Since my journey another four have joined the staff of the F.M.S., bringing us in total at the time of writing to 64.

I cannot determine how many supporters existed with the first issue of this journal, but the third issue went to 600 people. This issue will see 16,000 copies printed. The first Annual Report of the O.M. to the Annual Meeting stated that a sum of £556 had been raised by the supporters. Our Annual Meeting this year will show the sum of £32,500 as coming directly from our supporters, and a Balance Sheet having an excess of Assets over Liabilities of £246,000.

My purpose in writing like this is first of all to express gratitude to Almighty God Who

of His goodness has allowed the work to prosper and expand. Secondly, at a very practical level, a moment of reflection should let us see that many functions within the work have changed. My own position cannot be, no matter how one strives, as intimate in detail and personal relationships as may have once been the case. Thirdly, we must see that such growth has placed different stresses of responsibility on various members of staff and we must shape our efforts to see that the organisational structure of the task is able to cope with the situation. Here might I pause to say that this is the basic reason for the re-development of our Head Office structure which is being made evident by the restriction of the Gift Shop activities and the anticipated development of the property at 133 Bathurst Street. We are confident that we will by next year have the basis set for a far better administration.

Fourthly and of paramount importance is the observation from all this regarding the future. As the Society has through the years matured and developed in line with the vision of those who commenced the work it is required of our day and generation that we each be filled with the same sense of vision and courage. We must never be content with our heritage,

but rather with the same zeal, courage and foresight step out, in faith, to a greater work still. There is scope for expansion in most fields of the present Society endeavour. As a National Society free to move as we are invited to meet a particular need, we can play a vital part in the development of our National Church and way of life. As an Evangelical Society, provided we interpret Evangelical thought and action as it pertains to its day and generation, we have much to give. As a Serving Society we can, in word and deed, accept the challenges as they arise to present the vitality of a Life in Christ to those with whom we come in contact.

All of us who serve or support under the standard of the Society must so give of ourselves, our time and talents, without reserve to make us worthy of the heritage we have, and so, by our corporate efforts, glorify God amongst men.

GOD FOR US

Sid Bennetts

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

Let me try to do two things: to exemplify the meaning of St. Paul's words, and to tell you something of the beginning of a great new ministry here at "Urallie" Hostel—Moree.

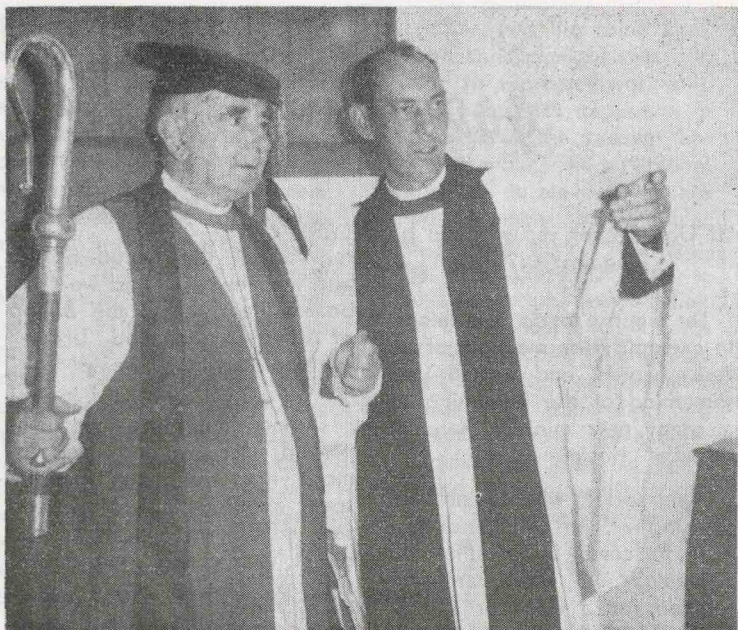
Mae and I, with Glenn and Christopher, left Mungindi last year to come to "Urallie" on September 6. Utter confusion reigned for a week or two in the midst of urgent preparations for a big building and establishment programme. Four weeks later, October 16, while I was demolishing an old shed on the site, our builder started to excavate for foundations.

Notwithstanding the Christmas holiday period, hundreds of points of rain, local floods, and smaller setbacks, 12 boys moved into our new extension on Tuesday, February 4. Fifteen weeks of furious activity during which I thought the builder would finish the 34 squares before I built a 16' by 16' bus port at the front fence! Three weeks later, February 29, the concrete still "green" from yesterday's

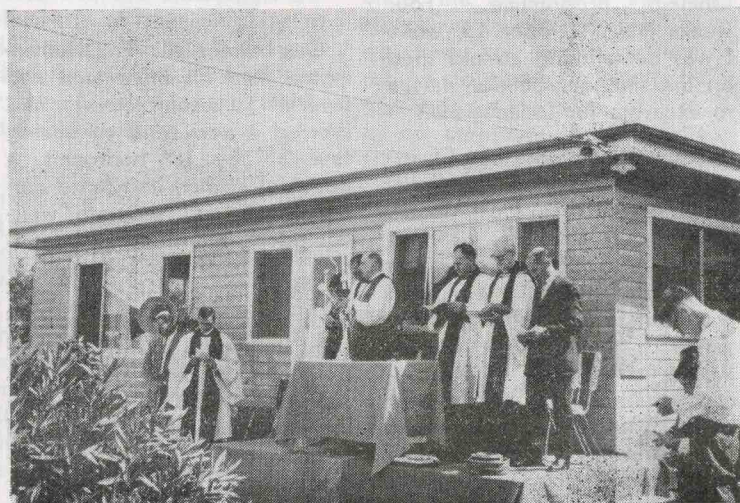
removal of the sacred boards and the newly-painted weatherboards hardly dry, the Bishop of Armidale dedicated "Urallie"—completed in 18 weeks!

During this time we employed, for varying periods, more than a dozen people, spent about £4,000 locally and saw many ways in which the direct hand of God operated to set up "Urallie" at a figure slightly in excess of £21,000 including property, new building, furnishings and our Morris bus.

Our builder, Mr. Eric Hetherington, and his three men and several sub-contractors, had erected a new wing containing four 22' by 18' bedrooms, a beautiful kitchen and large dining room, and separate well-equipped bathroom and laundry. Each of the boys (six to a room) has a polished maple bed with bookends (covered with Dunlopillo mattresses and foam pillows) and a utility wardrobe each. The four rooms are individually colour-schemed and have matching curtains and bedspreads.



"Block by courtesy of North West Champion, Moree"
"It is my privilege to ask you to Dedicate this Hostel."



"To the Glory of God and the Service of His Church."
THE REAL AUSTRALIAN, JUNE, 1964

Although we have only twelve boys at present, the capacity of 24 is divided into four groups known as Shearers, Jackaroos, Stockmen and Drovers. They eat, sleep, work and play together as a gang—following a small board near the dining room which tells, in a colourful style, the routine for the week. It's the only notice board at "Urallie"—and it doesn't carry a single "don't" or "you must not"!!!

Our family comes from varying distances—some only thirty odd miles, some near to eighty miles. For some, it is the first experience of communal school life, others had boarded privately or were at hostels farther away from home. Here at "Urallie" they are receiving the education they might have been denied, as well as learning to live with one another. Coupled with this they are hearing the gospel declared daily.

At the dedication the Bishop pointed out to his congregation of more than 200 the importance of school, home and church—the very basis of our mission in BCA students' hostel work.

The boys range from 5th Form to primary school and their life here consists of study periods, barbecues, Sunday School,

Church, swimming trips, school socials, tennis, football, gardening and helping in the kitchen and general housework. They are kept busy, happy and disciplined.

Mae and I have seen plainly that the Lord has a great work to do here. We've seen His mercy in supplying our needs, both physically and spiritually; indeed many times He has been gracious in helping us to retain a sense of humour and a right perspective. We are following His will in planning more facilities for the lads to enjoy life here, the better to equip them for what waits beyond the school gate. A tennis court, basket ball pitch, a vegetable patch and supplies of other sporting and hobbyist equipment lie among this list of improvements.

Thank you for your prayers in the past five months; I know that many of you will have been blessed to hear of what's happened here as the direct answer to your faithfulness. But most of all, will you continue to uphold us before God as we continue to see more and more that "all things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose."

● Bibles and Prayer Books (with A/M hymns) can be placed amongst the children of the Mail Bag Sunday School. Miss Campbell, our Director, would be pleased to hear from those who have books or Bibles which would be suitable for distribution and would care to share in this vital work undertaken amongst the children of the outback.

● Supporters who are active members of Church groups or Service organisations should remember that the Society deputation staff would always be glad to have invitations to speak at these gatherings. A group in your home to meet the staff and learn first-hand of the work is another way in which we can promote interest in the Society task.



● The women of the Melbourne and Sydney Fairs are hard at work again for their respective efforts for this year. We have elected to turn the proceeds of the Fairs to the installing of air coolers in the Rectories where they are needed. You are reminded that suitable items for each Fair can be left at the Melbourne or Sydney offices.

● The last issue of Post and Rails omitted to mention the arrival of Kimberly Anne Hart and Christopher James O'Grady. We wish them well in their venture into Rectory life and congratulate their parents.

● Extensive repairs and renovations are in hand for the Girls'

Hostel at Port Lincoln. Much of the work has been made possible through the bequest of several paintings by the late Miss Amy Bishop. A public showing of these paintings in Port Lincoln last year has resulted in £500 being available for this work. We trust it will stand as testimony to the interest of the Bishop family in the whole work of the Society on the West Coast of South Australia.

● Both Council and the Women's Auxiliary will miss Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Bragg, due to a six months' tour overseas. We wish them well in their journey and look forward to their return.

● The Parish Church of St. Andrew, Sans Souci (Sydney) through the personal efforts of our energetic Box Secretary, Mr. Geoffrey Kneeshaw, has managed a very fine effort indeed. Individual box collections for 12 months to 31/3/64 have totalled £204/12/-. We express our gratitude to the box holders and appreciation to Mr. Kneeshaw.

● The above paragraph draws attention to the vital part played by our Box Secretaries. We believe that the tangible results of their endeavours reflects a prayerful interest as well as ensuring the welfare of our work. Should you have a box which has not been opened for some time do contact your Rector and ascertain if there is a Box Secretary for the Parish. He or she would welcome an opportunity to contact you regularly. Should there be no Box Secretary then open the box and send the amount to us either directly or through the Parish Treasurer.

● Urallie Boys' Hostel played an unusual role during 1st school term. Due to unexpected staff shortages the local C.W.A. Girls' Hostel was unable to reopen after Easter. Eight young women were temporarily housed at the Hostel under the care of Mr. and Mrs. Bennetts till the Girls' Hostel could function again. Mr. Bennetts reports that the families concerned were grateful, but that the boys had their reservations about the idea!

● The people of Coober Pedy, South Australia, have been able to proceed with the establishment of the projected Medical Centre. Soon the Society will be called upon to staff this work within the network of the Flying Medical Service. In spite of the "Staff movements" reported elsewhere in this issue, we will need more nurses than we have to meet this new challenge. Do continue to pray for the raising up of more trained staff for the work.

DATES TO REMEMBER

THE ANNUAL RALLIES

MELBOURNE — 15th September, 1964
SYDNEY — 11th September, 1964

THE ANNUAL FAIRS

SYDNEY — 24th July, 1964
MELBOURNE — 23rd October, 1964

INTERLUDE

One of the joys of being an Editor is that at times the most unlikely material comes from the most unlikely sources. One of the joys of being an Organising Missioner is that one never knows what will come next.

To give Sister Holle a well-deserved break away from Penong, Sister Mavis Bell spent some days at Penong and wrote the two verses which follow as part of a "Saga" describing her Penong Interlude.

"A cat called Radish, a handsome male—

He doesn't like me—I stood on his tail.

NOT deliberately—I will say that,

But he wouldn't know—He's only a cat!

One little canary for me to feed—

Give him water and choice bird seed.

Waiting for the mid who doesn't come.

'Twould keep things from being too hum drum.

But altogether—it's rather nice

With the change of scenery and a different life.

Yet it sorta felt queer when Deanna went home,

And left Yours Truly all alone—

For this living alone, it isn't all 'ham',

Think I'll turn **Traitor** and find me a **man**!!

Yes—things would seem black in my shack back home—

If down on the Gunbower I dwelt all alone

With only the tall gums and wind at night—

And other queer noises to give you a fright.

Of course there'd be knitting of plain and purl,

And new Photo Techniques by Alex Spoerl!!!

But a gal needs **SOME** company, or she'd go Berserk

'Cos living alone—guess it just wouldn't work."

In view of these sentiments we were somewhat relieved to have Sister Bell back in Ceduna. However, in case this should give Sister Holle some similar reaction we are glad, at long last, to know that by the time this is read we expect to have Miss Wallace sharing in the work at Penong!

The Place of Prayer



The following pages represent a daily prayer calendar which will be revised with each issue. We earnestly seek your prayers for the individual members of our staff. We suggest you remove these centre pages from the magazine and keep them for your regular devotional use.

"Let us ask God that they may receive from Him all wisdom and spiritual understanding for full insight into His will, so that their manner of life may be worthy of the Lord and entirely pleasing to Him. Pray that they may bear fruit in active goodness of every kind and grow in the knowledge of God. May He strengthen them, in His glorious might, with ample power to meet whatever comes with fortitude, patience and joy; and to give thanks to the Father who has made them fit to share the heritage of God's people in the realm of light."

(Adapted from Colossians 1 N.E.B.)

- 1st** The Rev. and Mrs. Ray Neve and the Wilcannia Mission, N.S.W.
- 2nd** The Rev. and Mrs. Brian Viney and the Menindee Mission, N.S.W.
- 3rd** The Rev. and Mrs. Brian O'Grady and the Tarraleah Mission, Tasmania.
- 4th** Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kerr, Miss Barbara Hyett and the boys at the Broken Hill Hostel, N.S.W.
- 5th** The Rev. Alan Baker and the Timboon Mission, Victoria.
- 6th** The Rev. Alan McMahon and the Quorn Mission, S.A.
- 7th** The Rev. and Mrs. Ron Keynes and the Leigh Creek Mission, S.A.
- 8th** Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wiggins, Miss Myra Attwood and the girls at the Port Lincoln Hostel, S.A.
- 9th** Miss Rose Campbell and all her helpers and scholars in the Mail Bag Sunday School.
- 10th** Mr. and Mrs. Allan Chadwick, Mr. and Mrs. John Lindridge and the flying within the Medical Service.
- 11th** Mr. and Mrs. Stan Hummerston and the administrative work within the Flying Medical Service.
- 12th** The Rev. and Mrs. John Wyndham and the North-West Line Mission, Tarcoola, S.A.
- 13th** The Rev. and Mrs. Noel Hart and the Derby Mission, W.A.
- 14th** Mr. and Mrs. John Argall and the work at the Ceduna Pharmacy, S.A.

- 15th** The Rev. Theo Hayman, Mr. Alban Kirkby and the South Australian Representation.
- 16th** Mr. and Mrs. Sid Bennetts and the boys at Urallie Hostel, Moree, N.S.W.
- 17th** Mr. Kevin Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. David McDougall at the Radio Control Station, the Radio School teacher and children.
- 18th** The Rev. and Mrs. Stewart Thorne and the Orroroo Mission, S.A.
- 19th** Sisters Marion Hope, Mavis Bell, Meryl Cuthbert, Beverly Smith, Dorothy Whyburn and Miss Dorothy Duver at Ceduna Hospital and Sister Vera Holle and Miss Marjorie Wallace at Penong Hospital, S.A.
- 20th** Dr. Merna Mueller, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Robinson and the patients within the Medical practice.
- 21st** Sisters Joan Gee and Maude Ross at Cook Hospital and Sisters Vaisey Cochrane and Jean Griffen at Tarcoola Hospital, S.A.
- 22nd** Sister Edna Thomas at the Rawlinna Nursing Home, W.A.
- 23rd** Sisters Julia Zillman, Nancy Wilkins, Barbara Fox, Misses Margaret Smee, Margaret Chadwick at Wudinna Hospital, S.A., Mr. Bill Bedford and the patients carried by air.
- 24th** The Rev. and Mrs. Bernard Buckland and the Murchison Mission, W.A.
- 25th** The Rev. and Mrs. Barry Huggett and the Port Hedland Mission, W.A.

26th The Rev. and Mrs. Harry Goodhew and the Ceduna Mission, S.A.

27th Mr. and Mrs. Roy Avery, Misses Marjorie Farr and Brenda Moore, Staff and Residents at the Old Folk's Home, Port Lincoln, S.A.

28th All students in training for outback ministries, a continued supply of replacement personnel, our Box Secretaries, the evergrowing number of supporters and their ready response.

29th The Rev. and Mrs. John Stockdale, the Victorian Committee and Office Staff.

30th The Rev. and Mrs. Bill Rich, the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur Williams, the Rev. Les Wiggins, the Office Staff at Headquarters and the Council of the Society.

O Lord God of our nation, Who hast commanded men to subdue and replenish the earth: Look in Thy love upon all who in 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 all members of the staff. Cheer and comfort them in discouragement and loneliness, 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.

O God, we remember before Thee those whom Thou hast called to Thy service. Bless them this day, we beseech Thee, as we pray for Call forth others to stand with them in their task. Grant to them, as to us, the joy of service, the ability to achieve and the serenity of Thy peace, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

● **David and Anne McDougall** have joined the staff of the Flying Medical Service from 1st June. A heavy programme of installation and modification of equipment for the next months together with the resignation of Mrs. Irving, who has maintained most of the sessions, has made assistance for our Base Operator essential. Mr. McDougall is awaiting ordination at a later date and has the technical knowledge to be of great value. The fact that Mrs. McDougall is a trained nursing sister adds another member to the F.M.S. network in a part-time capacity.

● We are most grateful, under God, for the offer of a month's service from Sisters **Marjorie Wallace** and **Elaine Edwards**, who stepped into the breach when Wudinna Hospital was in need following Sister Wilkins' operation.

● Two more familiar faces have gone from the Ceduna scene—Sister **Betty Tierney** after sixteen years and Sister **Jean Miller** after nineteen years. Both plan to spend a little time with their families before going on to other

spheres of service. It is impossible to convey in a few words the measure of appreciation felt for these two and their contribution to the very existence of the work of the F.M.S. We place on record our sincere gratitude to them and would assure them of our prayerful concern for the future.

● Sisters **Jean Griffen** from the Parish of St. John's, Toorak, **Beverley Smith** from St. Saviour's, Punchbowl, and **Dorothy Whyburn** from Methodist missionary work in Africa have all recently joined our nursing staff. Sister Griffen will exercise her ministry at Tarcoola and the other two have joined the staff of the hospital at Ceduna. We thank God for His provision in answer to our prayers.

● The Old Folk's Home at Port Lincoln is the sphere of ministry for Miss **Brenda Moore**, who has come to us after considerable experience both with Dr. Barnardo's Homes and the Church of England Homes. We commend her to God as she fulfils an important role in this particular aspect of the work.

Croajingalong

Within the first year of the Society's existence the then Bishop of Gippsland invited the Organising Missioner to survey the needs of the Eastern portion of his Diocese. The journey undertaken late in 1920 by the O.M. has passed into legend in the story of the Society. It was this trip which gave rise to the phrase "Swag and Surplice" which became a popular medium of reference in the early days of Society publicity.

Although unable to proceed with assistance immediately, the Society utilized the information gained and in 1922 appointed Sister Dorothy Allmond to the Croajingalong Nursing Service. Later help was also to be given, at the request of the Bishop, which resulted in Clergy being maintained in the area.

In the years which followed a most worthwhile Service was given to the people of this remote area by a succession of devoted women. Both in the material and spiritual realms much was attempted and much accomplished. The people of the area responded to their responsibility and eight years after the work began a Nurses' Home and Dispensary was built.

With the passing of 40 years the character of the area has changed considerably. Modern methods of transportation, communication and better roads have combined with a changed national economy to remove many of the earlier problems. Hospital facilities within a reasonable distance and the extension of the medical practice from Orbost have also changed the picture. The institution of a resident Priest-in-Charge has changed the spiritual circumstances from those which prevailed for many years.

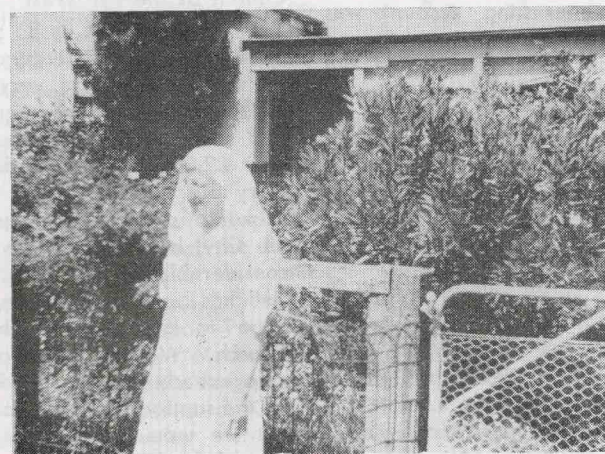
In view of these changing circumstances and the grave nursing shortage throughout the network of the Flying Medical Service the Council of the Society considered the position for some time and recently concluded that it should no longer maintain this responsibility. There is a nostalgic sense of memories associated with this work which will be cherished by so many. The realistic appreciation of the situation expressed by the representatives of the Cann River district will be echoed by the supporters of the Society.

By way of interest and record we have traced the various women who have served this work and they are as follows:—

- 1922-25 Sister Allmond
1925-29 Sister Agnes Head
1929-31 Sister Agnes Lundie
1931-34 Sister Sowter
1934-35 Sister Kathleen Granger, Miss C. Begbie
1935-36 Sister H. Gason
1936 Sister Sowter (relieving)
1936-37 Sister Todd
1937-38 Sister Hutchinson
1938-40 Sister Isobel Harris
1940-62 Sister I. Gwynne
1945: Sister E. Firmin (relieving)
1950: Sister Pritchard (relieving)
1962-63 Sister J. Roberts

We also place on record our gratitude to Almighty God for the opportunities He has allowed His servants in the course of their ministry in this area, knowing there will be many who thank God in turn for the work and witness of those who have given of themselves without reserve in this task.

So the task is put aside in one area, and almost immediately the Society is faced with expansion in its Flying Medical Service. We trust that as this record stands to bear witness of faith and action in the past, other nurses will be inspired to come forward to offer themselves in the spheres where they can be used to-day, to glorify God in service.



Sister Ivy Gwynne, 1940-1962.

This year Wilcannia celebrates its Centenary. Letters of Commissioner J. C. Moore, published in the Royal Australian Historical Society's Journal, reveal that he selected the site for Wilcannia in 1864. The late sixties saw tremendous strides in the development of the sheep industry in the far north-west of N.S.W. and Wilcannia grew and prospered, so that it became the best business town, in proportion to its population, in the State.

Many circumstances have combined to rob Wilcannia of the prosperity and wealth which it, in spite of isolation, so richly enjoyed. If visiting Wilcannia to-day one would find little evidence to show that it was at one time the "Queen City of the West."

An interesting account was given by the late Archdeacon Boyce, Church pioneer of the "Far West", of a long journey he made on horseback from Molong to Wilcannia in 1874 when he found about 500 people living there. He was the first clergyman to arrive, but a permanent Rector was appointed in 1875 in the person of the Rev. W. Wright. He held services in the Court House until the present Church was completed in 1882.

Samuel Edward Marsden, first Bishop of Bathurst, and grand-

Far West

Rev. R. Neve

son of the famous colonial chaplain, consecrated the new Church of St. James on Easter Day, April 3rd, 1883.

The original contract for the building, built of local white freestone, not including furniture or windows, was about £3,000. The interior furnishings and stained glass windows testify to the unselfish love and generous devotion of worshippers through the years. It stands to-day the pioneer Church of the Far West.

In the course of its 81 years, apart from some emergency repairs some years ago, very little maintenance work has been carried out on the Church. At least £2,000 will be needed to carry out full restoration work. It would not cost this sum in the City, but the isolation adds considerably to the cost. The Hall has been paid for and we hope to go ahead with the Church. We are aware of the help already given to this Parish by the supporters of the Society, but we would seek your support of this local effort.

From Victoria

The Church of St. Jude was packed for the Institution of the Reverend Alan Baker as Priest in Charge of Timboon. The Service was conducted by Archdeacon Porter, assisted by Canon Mutton (Rural Dean), and the Occasional Preacher was the Victorian Secretary. Almost all the Clergy of the Rural Deanery were present, members of Allan's family, as well as many friends from Melbourne, including Canon Hudson, Chairman of the Victorian Committee, and the Reverend E. Constable, a Member of the Council.

Sister Meryl Cuthbert, now on the Staff of the Flying Medical Service, was farewelled by the Congregation of the Box Hill Church of Christ on March 4th, 1964.

Mr. and Mrs. Stockdale were able to attend the Farewell of Kevin Ellis, now our F.M.S. Radio Control Officer, at Christ Church, Melton (Parish of Bacchus Marsh), on Wednesday, 25th March, when a large number of friends gathered. Kevin's parents and brother were also present.

Still another member of Staff to leave from Victoria was Sister Dorothy Whyburn, recently returned from service with the Methodist Overseas Mission in South Africa. She left Melbourne for Ceduna on the 16th April.

The Central Women's Auxiliary opened their activities for 1964 with a Service of Holy Communion at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on the 17th March at 10 a.m. The celebrant was the Reverend J. Stockdale, and the Reverend Dr. Leon Morris was the preacher.

We welcome to the the Staff as Victorian Office Secretary, Mrs. W. Hughes, who commenced duties on April 1st, 1964. Mrs. Stockdale is now able to resume home duties after seven months in the Office.

On June 3rd, 1964, at the Church of St. John, Toorak, a Valedictory Communion for Sister Jean Griffen and Sister Marjorie Wallace will be held at 7.45 p.m. It is hoped that a large number of B.C.A. friends will be able to attend.

ALONG THE TRANS

Rev. J. WYNDHAM

It was 9.30 p.m. as I opened the catch on a square wooden box on the wall in front of me. A humming sound met my ears as I pressed down a switch and said, "Wynbring". Almost immediately, a metallic voice echoed, "Wynbring". This was the Train Controller at Port Augusta. "Rev'd. Wyndham here; I'm just wondering how the westbound express is running."

"About 20 early," came the reply. "It'll reach you about 2.50."

Having said, "thank you," and closed the box, I changed and got into my sleeping bag to get a few hours sleep before my transport arrived.

Wynbring is a fettlers' camp of five houses situated 64 miles west of Tarcoola on the edge of the red sand hills which form the eastern boundary of the Nullarbor. There are four married couples at Wynbring, one of the 46 camps now forming part of the North West Line Mission. I had spent a day here having arrived at 3.30 in the morning.

Four couples! The husbands form the gang maintaining a section of the Trans Line. The wives do their housework as

wives the world over do. These folk live in the same way as any family might—except, there is no electricity in these smaller camps, no shops. The Provisions and Butcher's Shops come as part of the "Tea and Sugar" once a week. Some of the camps are school camps, others are for single men only.

Four couples! Eight souls for whom Christ died. It was a joy to meet old acquaintances from Ceduna days. But more than this, it was a greater joy to tell them of the Lord Jesus Christ and His saving grace.

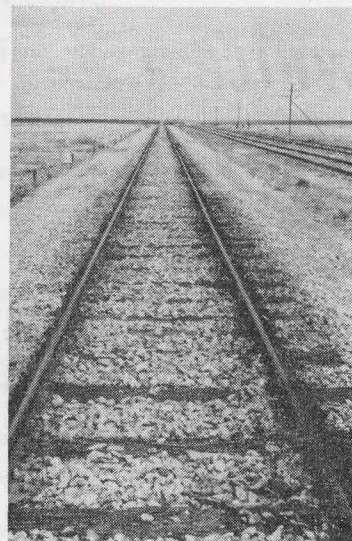
After tea, which I had with the ganger and his wife, the whole camp came along to the empty house, where the slide projector had been set up—powered by a 12 v. battery. Everyone brought their own chair and I was able to share a time of fellowship with these folk who miss out on much of that which is regarded as essential elsewhere. We were able to look at slides depicting the glories of God's creation and the evening closed with prayers, Bible reading and a short talk about the things of God. Some of these folk will leave the Line before my next visit and this may be their only con-

tact with the Gospel. How important it is then that this presentation is faithful. Your prayers and His grace will ensure this. I do hope that we may soon have a movie projector so as to screen Christian films to these folk. This is a medium which can reach them most effectively.

When I awoke at about 2 o'clock, there was a glow in the east that heralded the approach of the Express. It was still 25 miles away and this time I was able to pack in comfort. It had made up another 20 minutes and so was earlier than I had been told. This is one of the traps of the Trans Line where the printed timetable need not be the actual timetable. An hour and a half later the train deposited me at Barton which nestles in the sand hills. There was a bed here for me in the Crew's Rest House, of which I made use. The lullaby was from a dingo howling out in the hills.

Barton is much the same size as Wynbring with six families in camp. In the old steam days it was a coaling station and a changeover stop for crews. The diesels have altered this, although a number of the slow goods trains stop overnight and the Rest House is still used.

I spent part of the morning talking to one of the more senior railway men. His job is



The Track.

to check the track to see that it is safe. We discussed the claims of Christ and every person's need of the Saviour. He left on his 'quad'—a sort of railway motor bike—with a couple of small Christian books. Do pray for his conversion. The rest of the day was spent visiting the folk and talking to a train crew before heading to another camp on the Fast Goods.

The above pattern will be the same in the future when I do the trip by Landrover, except that I will be able to talk to the men on the track whom I might otherwise not see for six or more months.

WHILE I CONVALESCENCE

Sister Nancy Wilkins

Throughout a couple of reasonably quiet days at the hospital I had been trying to waylay a persistent pain in my right side. With Matron away on sick leave I was reluctant to think it might be anything serious.

Doctor's morning round brought what I am sure we all expected—a very short examination and the comment, "It has to come out, Sister."

Then followed a search for a second doctor to give the anaesthetic as Dr. Brooks, our usual second man, was away for a week. He comes over, when we need him, from Kimba, which is 65 miles away. The next nearest doctor was also away, and Doctor Mueller was not available for some hours.

We now realized that the burden of taking over the anaesthetic would rest on the nursing staff. This isn't something to look forward to at the best of times, and with both Sisters who usually take over on the sick list, it was left to the other two to work out who

would scrub to assist the doctor and who would be anaesthetist.

It was at this stage that the Lord became a very real presence, and the answer clear and practical as always. Phil. 4:6: "Be careful for NOTHING". My fears vanished literally giving way to the quietness of mind and peace I know were His and His alone.

It is never easy to prepare a patient for surgery when she is a personal friend, and it is even worse when it is a trained nurse and your superior at that.

No! long after this I was in the familiar Ether Disinfectant mixture which is always present in theatre, and a few deep breaths later was in the land of oblivion. Although I know nothing about it, I have been told that a very shaky hand took over the bottle and kept me in the land of nod until the operation was completed. Anyone requiring an anaesthetist—I can recommend this one!

Through our experiences on this day three of us have been on the mountaintops of experience of God and His enabling. It was, and still is, a very precious time when we each grew another step nearer to our Lord and Master. Do pray that each of us may be willing to use our experience to God's glory and that we may be strengthened by it in future trials.

The Bush Church Aid Society for Australia and Tasmania

FIELD STAFF:

DIOCESE OF ADELAIDE, S.A.

Ceduna-Penong, S.A.—Rev. R. H. Goodhew, Th.L.

Tarcoola, S.A.—Rev. J. Wyndham, Th.L.

DIOCESE OF WILLOCHRA, S.A.

Leigh Creek, S.A.—Rev. R. Keynes, Th.L. Ororoo, S.A.—Rev. G. S. Thorne, B.E.

Quorn, S.A.—Rev. A. McMahon, Th.L. Gladstone, S.A. (Grant in Aid).

DIOCESE OF BALLARAT, VIC.

Heytesbury Mission, Vic.—Rev. A. Baker, Th.L.

DIOCESE OF RIVERINA, N.S.W.

Wilcannia, N.S.W.—Rev. R. Neve, Th.L. Menindee.—Rev. B. Viney, Th.L.

DIOCESE OF GIPPSLAND, VIC.

Croajalingalong, Vic.—(Grant).

DIOCESE OF TASMANIA

Tarraleah, Tas.—Rev. B. J. O'Grady, Th.L.

DIOCESE OF NORTH-WEST AUSTRALIA

Derby Mission.—Rev. N. E. Hart, Th.L., Derby, W.A.

Port Hedland Mission.—Rev. B. Huggett, Th.L., Port Hedland, W.A.

Murchison Mission.—Rev. B. R. Buckland, Th.L., Mount Magnet, W.A.

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MAIL BAG SUNDAY SCHOOL

Director: Miss R. Campbell.

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OLD FOLK'S HOME (Port Lincoln, S.A.)

Mr. and Mrs. R. Avery.
Miss M. Farr.
Miss B. Moore.