

Meeting Of Council Of Secretaries

IT was our privilege, on invitation, to be present at the meeting of the Council of Secretaries in their annual meeting which was held Thursday and Friday of last week at Buck Hill Falls, Pennsylvania.

The Council of Secretaries is composed of the Secretaries of the General Boards, Commissions and church-wide agencies of the church.

To this meeting was invited a district superintendent from each episcopal area of the church. Rev. Ethan Dodgen, district superintendent of the Helena District, represented the Arkansas-Louisiana Area. The editors of the Methodist publications were also invited guests of the Council.

Since practically all of the work of The Methodist Church outside the local church is done through its various Boards and other agencies, it is easy to understand the importance of a meeting of all the Secretaries of the General Boards of our church. These church-wide leaders are interested not only in promoting the special interest represented by their respective Boards but they are anxious that the work of these general agencies of our church be so coordinated that the total program of the church may be promoted without unnecessary duplication of effort and with the object of making the Methodist dollar serve the largest good.

In the meeting of last week much attention was given to the opening phase of the Advance for Christ and His Church program as it is found in the increased askings of thirty-three percent in World Service payments and the promotion of missions specials. In many sections of the church it has become necessary to present this phase of the quadrennial program to the local churches without much advanced preparation. Nevertheless, reports at the meeting of the district superintendents from the many episcopal areas of our church indicated that the response in practically all areas of the church has been unusually encouraging. Various means and methods for promoting World Service giving were discussed.

Friday evening was given primarily to a meeting of the Council of Secretaries with the editors. As a result of this meeting we feel that the papers will be able to render a more effective service in promoting the various interests of the church as represented by the Council of Secretaries.

"He Maketh It To Rain"

DESPITE all of the accumulated knowledge of the centuries, ever and anon we come up suddenly against something that causes us to realize that there is a Power infinitely greater than anything man's learning can produce.

About two years ago we began to hear of man-made rains. It was discovered that, under certain conditions existed, some rain might be produced by dropping dry ice from an airplane on certain clouds.

It appears that experiments have been conducted since that time by the army air force in an effort to find a dependable way to produce rain. Last week it was announced that the Air Force had given up its experiments as of little practical value.

Hence it develops that we are still dependent on a Power greater than man for life-giving, life sustaining rain. "He Maketh it to Rain."

The Kind Of Messiah Israel Wanted

The same motives and physical surroundings that prompted Israel to ask for a king when Saul was made king of Israel, also colored the thinking of the Israelites as they prayed for and formed their conception of the Messiah they believed would come.

There was dissatisfaction among the Israelites under the Judges. They wanted a king to rule them and lead them in battle. All about them were strong groups of people who were ruled by a king and who seemed to be prospering more than they. In their minds their desires seemed to be justified as under Saul and especially under David the Nation of Israel grew in numbers, in territory and in political might.

When the Kingdom of Israel, over which David ruled, began to decline and

Behold . . . a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: Jer. 23:5.

divide there began the long lament for a departed glory. In Israel's mind the hope for the restoration of the Kingdom of David must await a leader who could unite and develop the forces and ultimately lead them in the conquest of the forces about them.

For the Jewish people political growth and spiritual welfare were so nearly one and the same thing that, for the masses, there was no attempt to make such a distinction. For them physical, material and political welfare was evidence of the approval of Jehovah; hence when these conditions existed they were evidence also of a satisfactory spiritual condition.

The Messiah for which Israel had been prepared by training, experience and by its interpretation of the words of the prophets was a Messiah who would restore the national prosperity and the political powers of Israel.

When Jesus came amidst his humble surroundings, disavowing material wealth and physical force as means of conquest; when Jesus declared plainly "My kingdom is not of this World," it is not difficult to understand why the masses of the Jewish people rejected Him as the promised Messiah.

At the time Jesus was born the Scribes and Pharisees had developed a system of religion with which they were altogether satisfied. They did not want or even feel the need for a religious leader to improve or vitalize their religion. They wept and prayed for a leader who could deliver them from the yoke of Roman bondage; even more, they wanted a leader, under Jehovah, who could destroy the Roman Empire and make Jerusalem the political and religious center of the world.

It is not surprising that the twelve asked Him, even after the resurrection, "Wilt Thou not at this time restore Israel?"

An Offering For Our Children

THERE is an old saying that Christmas comes but once a year. With the coming of the Christmas season Methodists in Arkansas naturally think of the Methodist Children's Home in Little Rock, as for several decades Arkansas Methodists have taken an offering at Christmas time for the Children's Home. Owned and managed by the two annual conferences in Arkansas the Methodist Children's Home is largely dependent upon the annual offering for its operating expenses. Since at this particular time the Home is engaged in a program of expansion, the extent to which this program will move forward is dependent upon the degree to which Methodists in Arkansas respond with their gifts in the annual offering for the Home.

The progress of the recent few years in the Children's Home program is a tribute to the Home's Superintendent, Mr. J. S. M. Cannon. His vision and untiring efforts have been an inspiration to all who are interested in the Home. When the present expansion is completed Arkansas will boast one of the finest Homes of its kind to be found anywhere. The Home will then be able to render the quality and quantity of service that a Children's Home should render. The first new building, Feild Memorial Cottage, was recently completed and dedicated, and the second new building, the administration building, will be completed at an early date.

There is perhaps no cause which is so dear to the heart of Arkansas Methodism as the Children's Home, and many of our people anticipate the opportunity to contribute to its support. May this one offering of the year for the Methodist Children's Home be the largest this year that it has ever been. That will help to insure its future service.

First Approved Advanced Specials Published

THE office of the Arkansas Methodist recently received a copy of the first listing of "Approved Advance Specials" for the Advance for Christ and His Church movement. This list contains approved specials sponsored by the Division of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Board of Missions and Church Extension. Bishop William C. Martin, Chairman of the quadrennial Advance Committee, wrote in connection with the release of this list of approved specials that "these lists are approved, but they are not complete or final. From time to time during the quadrennium other 'duly authorized specials,' suggested by the participating agencies and approved by the Advance Committee, may be presented to you, as special needs are encountered in this country and overseas."

Included in the list of the Church Extension Section are four projects in Arkansas: two in the Little Rock Conference, Mountain View Methodist Church, near Little Rock on Highway 10, \$5,000.00, and the Oak Forest Methodist Church, Little Rock, \$5,000.00; and the two in the North Arkansas Conference, Fisher Street Methodist Church, Jonesboro, \$1,500.00, and the Larger Parish Program of Newton and Madison Counties, \$6,000.00.

The Home Missions section, whose primary responsibility is the furnishing of trained leadership where needed, lists several approved

(Continued on Page 4)



"The Blood Of The Poor"



By H. H. SMITH



JOHN WESLEY resolved to be an "out-and-out" Christian and expressed his desire in these words: "I wish to be, in every point, great and small, a Scriptural, rational Christian." It was his belief that one's life should be thoroughly dedicated to God and that there is no middle ground. "I resolved," he said, "to dedicate all my life to God, and all my thoughts and words and actions—being thoroughly convinced that there was no medium; but that every part of my life (not some only) must either be a sacrifice to God or to myself—that is in effect, to the devil." How impressive his prayer of dedication: "Lo, I come, if this soul and body may be useful to anything, to do thy will, O God. If it please Thee to use the power Thou hast over dust and ashes, here they are to suffer thy good pleasure. If Thou pleasest to visit, either with pain or dishonor, I will humble myself under it, and through thy grace be obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Hereafter no man can take away anything from me, no life, no honor, no estate; since I am ready to lay them down as soon as I perceive Thou requirest them at my hands."

If space permitted it would be interesting to show how he kept this high vow of dedication. Once when accused of laying up treasures on earth he replied: "I have two silver teaspoons at London and two at Bristol. This is all the plate I have at present, and I shall not buy any more while so many around me want bread." The following incident shows his benevolent heart and sensitive conscience: "Many years ago," he said, "when I was at Oxford, on a cold winter's day, a young maiden called upon me. I said: 'You seem to be half-starved. Have you nothing to cover you but that thin linen gown?'"

She said, 'Sir, this is all I have.' I put my hand in my pocket, but found that I had scarce any money left, having just paid away what I had. It immediately struck me: 'Will the Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant?" Thou hast adorned thy walls with the money which might have screened this poor creature from the cold?' O, justice! O, mercy! Are not these pictures the blood of this poor maid?' Everything about thee which cost more than Christian duty required thee to lay out is the blood of the poor."

Did Wesley have a morbid conscience? Was he a little too strict with himself, or over-scrupulous, when he thought that it might be wrong for him to have a few good pictures on his walls, while some around him lacked bread? There is nothing wrong in a man's having a nice home and nicely furnished, if he can afford it. Such a home may contribute to his well-being and enable him the better to serve his fellowmen. One thing is certain, those other words are heart-searching: "Everything around thee which cost more than Christian duty required thee to lay out is the blood of the poor."

Lack of food and clothing will cause countless multitudes to face disease and death the coming winter, and thousands of them could be fed and clothed if those who profess to be Christians should refrain from spending money except for real necessities and contribute the amount thus saved to help those who are in deep distress. Wesley's words may sound severe, but they are absolutely true. Many, when called upon to help save the famine-stricken often reply that they would gladly give if they only had it. But how often it is the case that they haven't it because it has been spent for things that were not a necessity.

What would happen today if all church members should begin to practice Wesley's ideals as to the right use of money? If those who spend so freely for pleasures and amusements—and so niggardly for charity—should experience an awakened conscience, the overseas relief agency might receive many letters along this line: "Since learning of the dire need for overseas relief, I

have been brought face to face with the solemn fact that I have been spending far more for amusements and pleasures than I have for church and charitable purposes. Hereafter I am determined that it shall be less for amusements and more for the relief of the needy. I begin now with the enclosed check—and let it be an evidence of good faith in keeping the pledge I now make."

If conscience should have its perfect work, one can imagine a man's writing the relief agency something like this: "Since reading of the great need for food and clothing for the destitute abroad, I have decided that I can get along very well without a new suit now, and am glad to send the check enclosed—the price of the suit." Another man might write: "I have been thinking of the starving people in other parts of the world and I find that I cannot conscientiously take a pleasure trip I had planned. I am glad to send the enclosed check—about the amount I would have spent." A woman would perhaps write: "I have been stirred and my heart made sad since reading of the awful plight of so many people abroad. Instead of buying a new coat—which I can readily do without—I want to send this check in behalf of those poor women who haven't even a comfortable dress to shield them from the winter's cold." Another woman, moved by what she had read in her church paper, might write: "It gives me very great pleasure to send this check. I ask myself, Can it really be true, that report in my church paper which says that some babies overseas 'did not have even a manger of straw in which to lay their heads; their mothers provided little boxes half-filled with sawdust. There were no swaddling clothes in which to wrap these infant bodies; they were wrapped in rolls of paper.'" When I read those words I felt that it would be wrong for me to buy a new dress now—which I can easily do without—, hence the check enclosed."

May those heart-searching words—"Everything about thee which cost more than Christian duty required thee to lay out is the blood of the poor"—arouse our drowsy consciences.

DES MOINES AREA MOVES TO NEW HEADQUARTERS

DES MOINES, Iowa—Headquarters for the Des Moines Area was moved Dec. 1, from "Wesley Acres," 3520 Grand avenue, to the recently-purchased and remodeled building, 615 Tenth street. Included in the shift are the offices of Bishop Charles W. Brashares, resident in the Des Moines Area; the Rev. C. Orville Strohl, executive secretary of Christian education in the Area; and two executives of the Iowa-Des Moines Conference—the Rev. Walter C. Plank, executive secretary of the Pension Fund and conference treasurer, and the Rev. Raoul C. Calkins, superintendent of the Des Moines District.

The building, conveniently located in the downtown section of the city and within a block of the First Methodist Church, is owned by the Permanent Fund of the Iowa-Des Moines Conference. Dr. Plank personally supervised the remodeling process.

On the ground floor, in addition to the offices of Bishop Brashares, Dr. Strohl and Dr. Plank and their secretaries, are a book display room, reception hall, and conference room. On the second floor are the offices of Dr. Calkins; Miss Mae Boorman, children's work director; and the Rev. Lawrence Carlton, youth work director. A cabinet room for the Area is also included on this floor.

"Wesley Acres," former Area headquarters, will now be used as a home for retired persons, with the Rev. Owen Young as superintendent.

A BEAUTIFUL TAPESTRY

Christmas is a happy time, a time of joy and giving. It is a time for heartfelt renewal of old friendships and the creation of new ones. It is a time when family ties are strengthened and memories of past Christmases are kindled by

THIS MISSIONARY NEEDS YOUR OLD EYEGLASSES

If you have old eyeglasses hidden away in some bureau drawer, will you not think of sending them to India where they can be used to good advantage by literate Christians who have not opportunity to secure eyesight aid otherwise?

The Rev. Halsey E. Dewey, missionary in Pakaur, Bihar State, India, can use 200 pair or more in his territory alone and several hundred others in nearby communities. Mr. Dewey is in touch with a good eye specialist who has been treating Indian Christians but has no glasses to give them. The few that Mr. Dewey took to India with him last year—purchased for 70 cents a pair in a ten cent store—are now in use and enabling Christians to read. Those purchased were numbers 20, 22, 26, but Dr. Edmonds can classify and use all strengths.

Will you not now gather up all the glasses that you can spare and send them, cases and all, to Mr. Dewey?

the blazing hearth. It is a time for kindness and brotherhood towards all our fellow creatures. It is a time when the innate goodness of man breaks thru his worries and sorrows with a festive greeting of cheer. Christmas is like a beautiful tapestry woven in the image of God. There is nothing more divine than Christmas, nothing more human.—Trumbull Cheer.

Beware of dissipating your powers; strive constantly to concentrate them. Genius thinks it can do whatever it sees others doing, but it is sure to repent of every ill-judged outlay.—Goethe.

PRESIDENT RHEE, OF KOREA, WANTS MISSIONARIES

"Korea needs and wants all her former missionaries back," President Syngman Rhee of the new republic, recently wrote to the Rev. Dr. Lloyd H. Snyder, a veteran Methodist missionary to that land.

"The missionaries have proven to be staunch friends and our people love them," he continued. They have done excellent work in the past notwithstanding the difficulties with which they were confronted. Now this work can be carried on with greater freedom."

AMSTERDAM HYMN IN STUDENT MAGAZINE

Nashville, Tenn.—A revised version of the Ecumenical Hymn composed by Dr. Edwin McNeill Poteat appears for the first time in the December issue of Motive, the magazine of the Methodist Student Movement. Dr. Poteat, formerly president of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School and former missionary to China, composed this hymn for use at the recent Amsterdam Conference of the World Council of Churches. A well-known poet and writer, he has written both the words and the music.

The hymn is entitled "Eternal God Whose Searching Eye." It was sung at the World Council meeting and it has also been used at several leading conferences of the Methodist Student Movement. This unique hymn is destined to become one of the well-known hymns of the church.

What a curious phenomenon it is that you can get men to die for the liberty of the world who will not make the little sacrifice that is needed to free themselves from their own individual bondage.—Bruce Barton.

THE DEVOTIONAL PAGE

REV. H. O. BOLIN, Editor

BUSINESS MEN MEET CHRIST

By R. F. Goff
Pastor, Worland, Wyoming

There have been astounding results in our cell group among the business men of our city. Some of these men were already church members but they never knew Christ in His saving power.

This is how it started: Two men asked me if I would meet with them and let them ask questions on religion. Within two months both gave their lives to Christ, and now the group has about 16 members who meet every week seeking to know Christ in a vital way. We do not encourage men to come—we want them to come, but they must be interested and willing to put it first on their list of importance and be present every week.

These men may start attending out of curiosity, the desire to see what is happening to others, but they stay to seek Christ for themselves. All but one in the group has now had a vital experience with Christ. Three of the men were already professing Christians, but living on a low level of Christianity. Nine men who did not profess Christ have had definite experiences in recent months.

These are leading business men in the city: our county attorney, a very noted surgeon, etc. Among them have been alcoholics, drug addicts, vile minds, etc. Truly they are now living miracles. Such changes have come over them that people hardly believe the transformation. God is giving us victories. People hardly want to believe it, such a change has come about, far beyond what we had faith to ask for.

The cell group (even two or three to begin with) is the most powerful way to reach men in this day of ours. I wish something could be done, Churchwide in Methodism, in this cell idea. Something must be done for this type of evangelism just as it has been done for visitation evangelism. First-hand help in starting and setting up cells will mean much to churches and pastors. —In Shepherds.

THE SUNRISE PRAYER

I will put my trust in Jesus Christ.
I will find in Him the answer to my needs.

I will bring to Him the cares that perplex my heart and the worries that overwhelm my mind.

I will learn of Christ.

Grant me, O God, the wisdom of His meekness, the depth of His lasting love, the valor of His faith, the contagion of His courage.

Save me from the folly of anger, the despair of depression, and the darkness of unbelief. Amen.—Theodore G. Lilley, D. L., First Presbyterian Church, Sioux City, Iowa.

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

By Ella P. Allen

Dear God in heaven . . .
Let not our souls be busy inns
That have no room for thee and thine—
But quiet homes of praise and prayer
Where thou canst come to rest and dine.
Amen . . .

THE THREE WISE MEN

*The wonderful, mystical Wise Men three,
Crossed the deserts and skirted the sea,
Led by a Star where a Babe would be!*

*The heralding Star of a King new born!
Swiftly they follow, though weary and worn,
Called to witness the first Christmas morn.*

*Knowing not God, yet they follow His Star;
Alien in race, they His witnesses are;
Owning His message sent from afar.*

*Bethlehem manger and Christ-child Divine!
The Star stands above as the heavenly Sign;
They offer their gifts at the lowly shrine.*

*O mystical, wonderful Wise Men three!
The Christmas-tide glory was thine to see
Following the Star where the Babe should be.*

—Selected—S. B. Tetterington.

THE MEANING OF CHRIST'S COMING

The world has had some outstanding events; some red letter days, but probably the greatest of all was when Jesus came. All history is dated from his birth—so many years B. C. and so many A. D. No infidel can date a letter without either consciously or unconsciously acknowledging this great event.

There are two questions that might well be raised with regards to the coming of our Lord: What does his coming stand for? How ought his birthday be celebrated.

For one thing his coming stands for peace—both collective and individual. This is the number one need of the world. The shooting war, at least on a world-wide basis, has ceased, but the cold war, the war of nerves is still with us. There is a world-wide feeling of insecurity and uneasiness that is preying upon the health of people. Thousands are breaking under the strain. Many are finding their way into the hospitals for nervous disorders. Some through their love for and interest in the welfare of others are carrying burdens that are too much for them. Christlike souls will continue to struggle under these burdens until some solution is found for the world's confusion.

We must never forget that peace is an individual as well as a collective matter. There is the possibility of an individual being at peace in his own heart though he may live in a confused world. Christ was about to leave his disciples in visible form. He knew they would face an unfriendly world. He reminded them that the time would come when men who killed them would feel they were doing God service. Yet in the midst of it all he said: "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you." Better than anyone else he knew "The world can never give the peace for which men sigh." He went on to tell them that in that world they would have tribulation. "But," said he, "be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

As we meditate upon the peace for which the coming of Christ stands, each one might profitably raise the following question with

himself: "Am I at peace with God? I truthfully say, 'There is nothing between my soul and the Saviour'?" Have I laid my time, my talents, my physical strength, my mental training, and my material possessions on the altar to be used of God for the good of others? Am I seeking the good of others rather than my own self interest? Am I at peace with and do I have a feeling of active goodwill toward all mankind regardless of race creed or color? Am I trying hard to be a peacemaker by attempting to bring about peace between individuals, classes, races, capital and labor, and where opportunity presents itself, between nations?" If these questions can sincerely be answered in the affirmative by any individual, he at least has peace in his own heart and is doing what he can to bring about peace in the world. There is a sense in which the Kingdom of God is in the heart of the individual and in the same sense and to the same extent the peace of the world is in the heart of the individual also.

Again, the coming of Christ into the world stands for sacrifice. In the great battle of right against wrong, God gave his Son. Emblematic of this sacrifice a Gold Star was hung in the window of heaven. The Wise Men followed it to the Babe of Bethlehem. Before Christ's coming the prophet spoke of it as the Morning Star; mind you, not the evening, for it spoke of a new day that was dawning. A time when the world would experience peace; when implements of destruction would be transformed into tools of production.

What a sacrifice God made that peace might come to the individual heart and to the world. Little wonder John 3:16 is spoken of as the highwater mark of Scripture. It tells of a love that led to the world's greatest sacrifice. God made such a sacrifice that the angels wondered at it and broke forth into song: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and goodwill toward men." Sacrifice is the acid test of love. Words are cheap but deeds are sometimes expensive. Tell me how much you have given up in order that you might be more Christlike in character and how

TRUE PRAYER

True prayer that is really in faith must include the idea of leaving it to God to give or to withhold the thing desired as He knows best. The more deeply there is an intimacy between God and the heart, the more readily does this necessary condition for acceptable prayer come spontaneously to the heart. Whether or not it ought always to be a part of the spoken prayer is a matter of indifference so long as the feeling is in the heart.—Presbyterian.

much you have sacrificed in the way of time, talent and material possessions for the good of others and I will know what your standing is before God and what your value is in helping to bring about the type of world for which Christ died.

Is it not true that when we measure our religion by the sacrifice we make we have to hang our heads in shame? God gave so much, we give so little! Even the Jews, under the law, carefully paid the tithe and did so at a time when the Roman Government was taking nearly half of their income in taxes. We say—and truly—that we have much more under grace than they did under the law and yet they put us to shame by the greater sacrifice they made. If love is really and truly the foundation of our religion and sacrifice is the acid test of love, then a lot of professed Christians are flunking out; they are failing at the point where failure hurts most.

We ought to celebrate Christmas by doing something about this matter of sacrifice. This is not a time to get; it is a time to give. Giving to those who will in turn give to you is not sacrifice; it is a matter of exchange. You might even be lucky and get a little more expensive present than the one you give.

Whose birthday are we celebrating anyway, our friends and loved ones or Christ's? It is a fine thing to exchange gifts at Christmas time. There is no harm in it unless we stop there. The chief recipient of our bounty and sacrifice should be Christ. How are we to sacrifice for him? By giving until it hurts to bring about the type of world he came to establish and for which he died. It was he who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." This is the meaning of his coming into the world. This is the true Christmas spirit.—H. O. B.

"SKELETON IN THE AMERICAN CLOSET"

The American Indian is the "skeleton in the American closet," according to Dr. Mark A. Dawber, executive of the Home Mission Council of North America, who charges the government with neglect of this portion of America's population. They receive, he says, less consideration than other minority groups from social security, the Veterans Administration, the FHA and other agencies named to administer public welfare. "We can hear the American Indians' bones rattle whenever our statesmen sit down with Europeans and others and discuss the sanctity of treaties," says Dr. Dawber. "We must do better by the Indians if we are to live up to our high national ideals."

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A WEEKLY MESSAGE

By FORNEY HUTCHINSON

A SAD PICTURE

When I was a lad, a picture was painted on my mind that can never be blotted out.

I went with my father to visit a neighbor who had just lost his wife by death. The husband was in a state of absolute helplessness. He was dressed in tattered clothing and everything about him indicated the direst poverty. In one corner of the bare and dreary room sat four little motherless children. They were miserably clad, also in every way betraying their state of destitution.

My father was deeply interested in his neighbor and asked him what he was going to do. He said, "I shall have to break up my home, of course, and scatter the children amongst the relatives." In that way they were provided for and grew up in separate homes, located in different sections of the country. They separated amid tears and cries that were most pathetic.

Many years went by and I found some of them again. Later on, they had married and established homes of their own, but they never knew, in growing up, the tender ties that bind together brothers and sisters in a related household.

"What caused this tragedy," you ask. It is easily answered. The father was a drunkard and visited upon his children the effects of his weakness and sin. As I look back on the day of which I speak, the saddest thing I know of is a drunken home.

DR. CLINE RETURNING FROM CHINA

Twenty-two missionaries of the Methodist Church, evacuated from North China and nearby areas threatened or occupied by advancing communist forces, are now en route to the United States, according to advices received by the Board of Missions and Church Extension from Bishop Ralph A. Ward, and the U. S. Department of State.

The following are reported to have sailed for the United States from Shanghai on November 29: the Rev. William A. Schubert and family of Wuhu; Dr. Roy E. Teele and family of Nanking; the Rev. John Cline of Shanghai; Mrs. Fred P. Manget of Huchow; Miss Laura Mitchell of Huchow; Miss Frances Culley of Wuhu; Miss Edith Youtsey of Wuhu; Miss Edith Barnes of Huchow; and Mrs. Hattie M. Thoroughman of Soochow. They are on the transport "Republic".

On the transport "Butner" from Tsingtao,

NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT FACTS AND FOLKS

REV. CURTIS WILLIAMS, district evangelist of the Monticello District, has the following address: 1825 Rice Street, Little Rock.

THE SOUTHWESTERN ADVOCATE reports that Dr. Paul Quillian will return to his pulpit at First Church, Houston, Texas, on December 12.

BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN will lay the cornerstone for the new Methodist Church plant at Tuckerman on Sunday, December 12. Rev. Alfred Knox is pastor.

BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN, who was elected chairman of the Editorial Division of the General Board of Education at its recent meeting in Chicago was also named as a member of the Curriculum Committee of the Board which committee approves outlines and descriptions of all Methodist Church School lesson materials. These two offices will make him an important factor in the development of the program of Church School publications which now have a circulation of almost five and one half million copies each quarter.

DR. ANTOINE NOPITSCH, one of the leading Lutheran church women of Germany and director of Mutterdienst, a service agency for mothers in Germany, is now visiting churches in the United States as the guest of the National Lutheran Council and of the United Council of Church Women. Dr. Nopitsch is chairman of the Lutheran women's work in Bavaria, a member of the Council of Church Work for the American Zone, editor of a monthly periodical of helps to mothers, and also has responsibility for editing and publishing a wide range of Christian literature in Germany. During the war she published more than three million copies of devotional booklets.

PERHAPS the most cosmopolitan small school in the world is the famed Woodstock School, near Mussoorie, North India, where American and British missionary and government children receive their education. The school, which has alumni in many parts and posts of the world, also admits children of other nationalities and races, and of divergent religions. The most recent graduating class was composed of 7 Hindus, 7 Americans, 4 English, 3 Indian Christians, 2 Scots, and one each of the following: Corsican, Canadian, Muslim, Australian, Burmese, Chinese, Dutch, Sikh. Says the missionary-principal, Robert Fleming, "One world will come when a group of young people like ours grow up in a Christian atmosphere."

PLANS outlined by the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, representing the major Protestant denominations of the continent, for "advance" during the next four years include: strengthening the existing work of preaching, teaching and healing with such modifications as the changing world conditions demand; laying emphasis on the interdenominational efforts in all lands, such as the National Christian Councils, and the educational and medical associations; intensified efforts to prepare larger numbers of well-trained native Christians, both in the schools and in-service training; preparation and distribution of more and better literature of Christian character for the growing body of literate Christians; use of newer techniques of mass education and evangelism, such as radio movies, film strips and drama.

due in San Francisco on December 15, are: Miss Mary Elizabeth Bedell of Tientsin; Miss Elizabeth Carlyle of Peiping; Rev. and Mrs. Arthur B. Coole and daughter of Peiping; Miss Ida Fern Frantz of Tientsin; Miss Henrietta Rossiter of Peiping; Miss Myra Anna Jacquet of Tientsin; Mrs. Ruth L. Leitzel of Peiping; and the Rev. and Mrs. Edward J. Winans of Peiping.

Miss Harriet Whitmer of Nanking, and Miss Edith Fredericks of Shanghai, are sailing from Shanghai to Europe.

DEATH OF REV. THOMAS D. SPRUCE

Rev. Thomas D. Spruce, aged 64, passed to his reward at his home in Bearden, Thursday, December 2. At the recent session of the Little Rock Conference he took the retired relation because of ill health. He suffered a fatal heart attack Friday morning while a friend was visiting him at his home. He had served 34 years in the ministry of the Methodist Church.

Besides his widow, he is survived by three children; a daughter, Fay, of El Dorado; and two sons, Loy, of Little Rock, and T. D. Jr., of the Armed Forces in Japan; his mother, Mrs. Molly Dryden of Mulberry, Ark.; two brothers, W. E. Spruce of Mulberry and George Spruce of Conway; two sisters, Mrs. Nora Heard of Memphis, Tenn., and Mrs. Lizzie Grisom of San Gabriel, California.

Funeral services were held Saturday morning at the Bearden Methodist Church, where Brother Spruce served his last pastorate. Rev. Fred R. Harrison, district superintendent of the Camden District, was assisted in the service by Dr. Connor Morehead, pastor of First Methodist Church, El Dorado, and Rev. Robert Core, pastor of the Bearden Methodist Church.

Active pallbearers were: Lee Burleson, Cleo Beard, Bob Launius, O. B. Livingston, H. O. Bryant, R. R. Mahan.

Interment was in Oakland cemetery at Holland, Arkansas.

FIRST APPROVED ADVANCED SPECIALS PUBLISHED

(Continued from Page 1)

projects in Arkansas. In the Little Rock Conference the Shady Grove Methodist Church near Mena is listed as needing \$2,100.00 over a period of the next three years, while the East Batesville Methodist Church, \$2,400.00, the Newton County Parish, \$15,000.00, and the Mountain Home Parish, \$7,800.00, are those listed from the North Arkansas Conference as needing assistance for the next three years.

Any church desiring to assume one or any part of these approved Advance Specials as "its" Advance Special should immediately contact its district superintendent who will in turn clear the matter through the Conference Advance Committee and the participating agency. It should again be stated that the list herein given is not a complete or final list. Further, Advance Specials are yet to be announced by the Division of Foreign Missions and the Committee on Overseas Relief.

The projects here listed and located in Arkansas are all worthy projects and have been well chosen. However, there are other areas of need, equally challenging and worthy, which will be presented to the quadrennial Advance Committee for approval and announcement at a later date.

DR. FISHER ASKS AID FOR REFUGEES

LONDON—(RNS)—Continued aid for refugees and displaced persons was urged by Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, in a pre-Christmas message published in the Canterbury diocesan bulletin.

"The approach of Christmas," Dr. Fisher wrote, "reminds us again of the stark contrast between the peace and good will which Christmas stands for and the world bedeviled by fears, suspicions and violence, with the millions of refugees and dispossessed, among whom the half million of Arab refugees most especially claim our pity and our help."

"These Arabs," the archbishop added, "are refugees from the very land in which the birth of the Prince of Peace took place."

"The Bishop's Mantle"

By BISHOP EDWIN HOLT HUGHES, in The Voice

THE quoted title will be recognized as the name of a current "best seller." The figure of speech does not relate to a second-hand clothing store, but rather to a first class work of fiction. Probably the phrase was origin-suggested by the incident of succession among the Old Testament prophets. There Elisha sits beneath the ascending chariot of Elijah, as the flaming vehicle takes its upward flight, and the young man catches the mantle of the older prophet in the hope that he may be clad in its vital inspiration.

I.

In this modern work of fiction, however, the immediate generation is not present. The father and mother of Hilary, the youthful preacher, are barely visible. The dying grandfather, who the Bishop referred to, becomes one of the three chief characters of the story. The inheritance denoted by the mantle, represents a series of bequests given in post mortem fashion by the ecclesiastic. Many of these are shrewd and witty, and worthy of being a part of a last will and testament. No "Daddy" comes into the picture. The significant ancestor is "Grandy," whose bequests leap over a full generation. One initiated by his successors of the second generation declared that, if he had it to do over again, he could have only grandchildren. In this case, though a bright and cynical and even scornful, the other comes occasionally into Hilary's life, the preacher is almost the sole heir to the episcopal mantle and to any other portions of the grandfather's influence.

But these sketches are not meant to be book reviews. We leave that to others. Our chief interest is in the hints that works of fiction may give us concerning the kaleidoscopic changes in the temperance situation. Many of the current fictions of fiction are on a literary spree in sympathy with the fashionable and prevailing mood of a national spree. Almost unconsciously they act as liquor venders.

II.

The grandfather leaves a legacy, not only of the mantle, but of the wine-cup. When the younger-grandson meets the problem of his insistence on a cocktail party, he confers with the ancestral document, Grandy's diary, and this statement from the Bishop: "I have often felt myself quite worthy to sit in judgment upon the actions and behavior of my Master. He used wine Himself and sanctioned it by His ministry. I do the same." Of course the gentleman would have found it difficult to justify the assertion about Christ's conduct. The evident reference is to the miracle at Cana. Leaving out the fact that if Jesus could miraculously make wine, He could also undoubtedly make a beverage that stopped short of poisonous fermentation, we may still halt long enough to make Him an ally of the present drink-faddists. Nor do we need to be so carefully guarded in our use of the Scripture. We should heed to the words "Wine is a mocker," or to

St. Paul's edict that no drunkard "shall inherit the Kingdom of God." The Bishop affirms that "the clergy should set an unflinching example of abstinence," so far as liquor was concerned. The sparkling glass is allowed; the bottle condemned. One very true thing he does say, that "cocktails are a cheap invention of the devil, and I'm not sure it wasn't a she-devil."

Hilary's wife, Lexa, comes into the picture. A daughter of wealth and a pet of society, she



BISHOP E. H. HUGHES

bullies her husband and others with her sex and her beauty. She gives an early initiation for herself into the rectory life by having a cocktail party, which her consort, of course, feels that he cannot attend, but whose disadvantages he bears with an affectionate patience.

Writers of novels often try to make us love an imaginary character by covering folly and faults with garments of attraction more comely than a mantle. The truth is that Lexa was a good deal of a spoiled baby, and it required considerable education to bring her to the edge of adulthood. All this is more or less conceded by her intermittent consideration for her handsome preacher husband, and by a love for him that was real but did not go to the length of any heavy sacrifice.

At last she becomes the victim of her own heedlessness. Hilary comes upon her one day "huddled on the couch behind a low table on which stood a glass and an almost empty cocktail shaker." Her speech was hesitating, stammering, maudlin; her behavior idiotic. She had taken "some Manhattans" for the cure of "a black mood," and had only dived into more blackness. She had also broken the heart of a good but rather uncouth woman whose grammar was defective, but whose heart was gold—the wife of Hilary's associate, who herself had ex-

perienced through the loyal years the terror and horror of her husband's liquor excesses.

When Lexa returns to sanity and knows the shame of her imbecile conduct, and learns, too, that her drunken revelations will probably hasten the death of her friend, already smitten with a mortal disease, she meets the pains of an advance hell. Yet, at last, she moves slowly toward her own paradise, to fall into her husband's arms and to cry out, "I want a child now, terribly. I've been selfish . . . I've grown up at last."

All this is a lesson for our day. So many of the cocktail habitués have not grown up yet. They are among the spiritual infants of this period, and one feels like apologizing to the calendar babies for making the comparison.

IV.

There is another character in this somewhat bibulous novel—Adams, who was deliberately chosen as associate rector, though Hilary knew of his occasional lapses into secret drunkenness. This kindly man handles the cup of the sacrament reverently, and then sometimes goes to the Devil's feast for wrong stimulation and stupid forgetfulness. When his faithful, uneducated wife dies, wondering painfully whether her social and intellectual limitations had not been one of the causes of her beloved Sammy's "spells," he slips away from her funeral to the false comfort of alcohol. Hilary, who feels that he himself should have foreseen this temptation and safeguarded his partner, finds himself repeating, "Ye that do truly and earnestly repent of your sins" and is compelled to add the cry, "The remembrance of them is grievous unto us."

Such a clerical downfall is not an unknown thing in these recent years. One able minister, fighting against the habit fastened upon him in a Christian college, illustrated the doctrine of the perseverance of sinners. Another, becoming addicted to drink at the tables of his fashionable parishioners, was at length ejected from the ministry by his thoughtless entertainers. Still another, in the early days of what might have been a great pastorate, became the victim of the reeling curses, and staggered out of the sacred work that he had genuinely loved.

V.

The story is an old one. Isaiah tells it concerning the priests who went wrong and erred in judgment because of drink, and who defiled the altar of God with the filth of their debauchery. If you would read the tale, find the dreadful word "vomit" in the concordance of your Bible. The proverb, "Like priest, like people," may now be occasionally reversed, "Like people, like priest." Alcohol invaded the altars of the Corinthian church until Paul declares that the Holy Supper became an unholy feast, so that some members were sick and some were dead. If rum can thus invade the Holy of Holies, let us put against the alcoholic demon a strong sentinel at a sturdy door—a guard who will give the warning: "Look not upon the wine when it is red. . . At the last it biteth and stingeth."

THE PRESIDENT IS A CHRISTIAN

The Rev. and Mrs. F. E. C. Williams, veteran national missionaries of the Methodist Church in Seoul, Korea, were recently entertained at the home of President and Mrs. Syng Man Rhee of the new republic. Speaking of the President's Christian faith and his moral convictions, Mr. Williams reports:

Dr. Rhee told us that he wishes to be known as a Christian, but just a Christian. He and his wife use a book of worship morning and evening and gain much help for their daily problems. Though at most diplomatic appearances, he is freely carried, in the first one, by the new President gave, only coffee with cakes was available. About the coffee, Mr. Rhee remarked, "We Koreans don't drink."

At the President's inaugural address at the White House, he gave glory to Almighty God for all the blessings he had bestowed upon Korea and the world.

A BELL FOR GIKUKI?

Watches and clocks are not as common in Central Africa as they are in America. That is why a good bell that peals over a village is a great help in promoting church attendance and regular hours for services.

The Methodist mission station at Gikuki, Portuguese East Africa, is in dire need of a bell that will call the people to church. Do you or your church or your school have a used good-conditioned bell that you would be willing to give to Gikuki for this purpose? Or would you be willing to contribute the cost of a new bell or a used one?

Miss Victoria Lang, a missionary in Gikuki, is now taking graduate studies at Scripps College, Escondido, Calif., before returning to her home in the United States. Asked to look for materializing God in such a connection he replied "We Koreans have always believed in God."

MILKMEN GO BACK TO CHURCH

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — (RNS) — Now that Indianapolis has eliminated the Sunday morning delivery of milk, milkmen are finding their way back to the churches.

Many churches have reported that they've issued special invitations to the milkmen to spend their Sunday mornings at religious services and at Bible school and other classes.

No definite figures are available, but church officials say their Sunday attendance has increased since the start of the "no-Sunday-delivery" system.

Gikuki. She would like to have a bell sent her at the close of her trip. If you are interested, will you please write to the Rev. William L. Archer, associate secretary for Africa of the Board of Missions and Church Extension, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N. Y.



THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ANNIE WINBURNE, Editor



IN STORYLAND

THE SNOWMAN'S HAT

By Verna Hills

There was snow on the window-sill. There was snow on the steps. There was snow on the garage roof. There was snow everywhere out of doors!

Tom saw it first, because he had jumped out of bed first.

"It snowed in the night," shouted Tom. Fred jumped out of bed too. "Whoo-ee," said Fred. "Let's tell Bob."

They ran to the room where Bob, their older brother, slept all alone. They opened the door wide. Bob was still asleep.

"It snowed in the night," shouted Tom and Fred together. Bob opened his eyes and blinked at them. Then he jumped out of bed, too.

"Whoo-ee," said Bob. He began to get dressed. Tom and Fred ran back to their own room. They pulled on their clothes as fast as they could. They were ready almost as soon as Bob. Mother and daddy were not even downstairs yet. Tom and Fred and Bob put on their jackets and boots and mittens and caps and went out into the yard. The snow was deep. It stuck to their boots and stockings. It was snow-ball snow.

"Come on," said Bob. "Let's make a snowman."

"Yes, let's make a snowman," said Tom and Fred together. They began to roll their snowballs. They rolled and rolled. The balls grew bigger and bigger. Tom and Fred and Bob had to lift all at once to put one ball on top of another. Now the snowman had two legs and a body.

"Here is his head," said Bob. He put the head on top of the body. He found two pieces of coal for eyes. He broke off two twigs for a nose and mouth.

"Here are his arms," said Tom and Fred together. They worked hard to make the arms stay on.

"Let's get him a hat," said Bob. "There's one in the shed."

The boys ran to the shed. In the corner there was an old black hat. Bob could just reach it, because he was the tallest. He took it down and carried it out of doors.

"Here is your hat, old man," said Bob. He put it on the snowman's head. There were seeds and pieces of straw on the hat. It made the snowman look very funny. The boys laughed to see him.

Just then they heard their mother calling. "Breakfast is ready, boys," she said. "That is a fine snowman you have made, but he needs to brush his hat. Come now, and do some brushing yourselves. You must not bring in all that snow on your boots."

The boys brushed each other as quickly as they could. They were hungry. They could smell toast and bacon. They left the snowman all alone.

When Bob went out again after breakfast the snowman was not alone any more. On his hat-brim sat one, two, three birds. They were busily eating seeds.

Bob ran to tell his father and mother and the other boys.

"Well, well," said their father,



THE FAIRY ARTIST

By Nellie M. Garabrant

O, there is a little artist,
Who paints in the cold night hours;
Pictures for wee, wee children
Of wondrous trees and flowers.

Pictures of snow-white mountains,
Touching the snow white sky;
Pictures of distant oceans,
Where pigmy ships sail by.

The moon is the lamp he paints by,
His canvas, the window-pane;
His brush is the frozen snow-flake,
Jack Frost, the artist's name.

—From Poems for the
Children's Hour

IN THE WORLD OF BOYS AND GIRLS

THE LITTLE LOST DOG

The little lost dog crept on his way.
He was only a cur, a runt and stray.
The human wretch, who had put him down

From a car on the outskirts of the town,

Had driven on. So he slunk along,
And he wondered what he had done so wrong

To be cast away. He hoped—in vain—

For each car to stop and take him again.

But the wind was sharp, the snow was white

And the hour late on the Christ Child's night.

No motorist stopped to find him there,

But a man who walked and whose hands were bare

And cold, but kind, as they stroked the throat

Of the puppy he thrust beneath his coat.

The puppy slept; but the man tramped on

And they came to a small farmhouse at dawn

Of Christmas Day. With a cry of joy,
They were met by a tiny, tousled boy.

"Oh, daddy, what did you bring for me?"

It's a Christmas present. I want to see!"

Said a woman's voice: "I told you, son,

That this year we could buy no gifts—not one."

But the small boy cried: "I see its paws;

And I know it was sent by Santa Claus."

There were no gifts on the barren farm;

But hearts were kind and the fire was warm,

And the pup, coat dried and combed to silk,

Was caressed and was fed with mush and milk—

The little lost dog, who had brought such joy,

On the Christ Child's Day, to a little boy!

—Our Dumb Animals.

JUST FOR FUN

"Now, Tommy," said his mother, giving her final instructions before he left for the Christmas party, "remember, if you're asked to have something you want, you must say, 'Yes, thank you,' and if you don't want it—"

Tommy raised his hand. "That's all right, Ma," he said, "you needn't bother about that part of it."

"Huh! I bet you didn't have a good time at your Christmas party yesterday," taunted Billy.

"I bet I did," answered little Ed-die.

"Ah, go 'way! Why ain't you sick today?"

One of those frustrated characters who are adults in name only was relentlessly trying to squeeze affection from a neighbor's attractive child.

"Do you still love me, darling?" she began as she knelt to receive her due.

A perfunctory nod.

"Then put your arms around me, honey, and div me a dreat bid tiss!"

The toddler complied and then turned her att'n to a more important matter — an empty milk carton she had been filling with pebbles.

The woman's encircling arms held their prisoner. "How much do you love me, precious?" she insisted.

"Would you cry if I died?"

The little girl dutifully nodded.

"Show me how you would cry," the woman urged.

"Die first," the wise tot suggested.

—Leldon Melick, Coronet.

Mary was helping with Sunday night supper by carrying in the dessert. Entering the room with her first dish of pudding, she gave it to her father, who offered it to

the guest on his right. Mary came back with another dish and seeing that her father had none, again gave it to him. Her father handed this dish to the person on his left.

When the little girl came back with the third, she put it before him, saying, "Daddy, you might just as well keep this one. They're all the same."—Doris Nelson, Times-picayune New Orleans States Magazine.

Once a year the newsboys of a certain district of London are taken for an outing up the Thames by a gentleman of the neighborhood, where they can bathe to their hearts' content.

As 1 little boy was getting into the water a friend observed: "I say, Bill, ain't you dirty!"

"Yes," replied Bill. "I missed the train last year."—Vancouver (Canada) Province.

A PIONEER CHRISTMAS

By Leonard C. Fuqua

It was Christmas Eve in Western Nebraska in the 80's. Snow was falling upon the rolling prairies. A sod house was visible here and there, and from its friendly windows a yellow kerosene light blinked, while in the distance the howl of a coyote was heard in mournful cadence.

To the northward, Pine Ridge carpeted with snow and majestic in the waning light as its pine trees moaned in unison, driven by the wind to chant a requiem for the departed, it seemed, offered a perfect Christmas setting.

For just a few minutes before it set, the sun shone in opalescent splendor, breaking through the clouds, like a ray of light coming from the land of the unsetting sun. Soon darkness prevailed, except for the wan light of the snow.

Within one of the sod houses a young mother was rocking her babe. All day long the tiny child had been fretful, and the mother feared it was quite ill. The father had not yet returned from Pine Ridge where he had gone early that morning after wood, so they could be warm and happy on Christmas day.

Far into the night the young mother kept her lonely vigil. The babe moaned in its troubled sleep; the father did not come. Several times she heard the coyote's mournful wail; and once she was sure she heard the war whoop of the Indians; then all was quiet, and she fell asleep.

Suddenly, she beheld the humble room flooded with a white light and One stood in her midst she seemed to recognize, and to whom she was unafraid. She seemed to hear the voice say: "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." Then the strong hand of this One, reached forth to bless her, and her babe. She sought to speak to the Visitor, but He held His hand up to indicate silence. She wanted to ask Him to heal her little one, but the babe now seemed very calm and quiet. Then she heard the Visitor carol in tones as sweet as an angel's song: "Whoso receiveth one such little child in my name receiveth Me."

She awoke with a start. The Light was gone; the Visitor had vanished. The room was a total darkness; even the lurid kerosene light had gone out. A knock was heard at the door.

Quickly, she lighted her lamp, and opened the door. Before her stood an old Indian in a ragged blanket, begging for food and warmth. She bade him enter. She let him warm himself before her fire, while she placed some simple food upon the table for him to eat. He did not talk much; not even as much as his limited knowledge of English would permit. All he said was: "White squaw; he good angel." Then he departed as sullenly as he came.

The weary night wore on, and finally came the dawn. With it returned the husband and father, tired, sleepy, but happy in the accomplishment of a hard task.

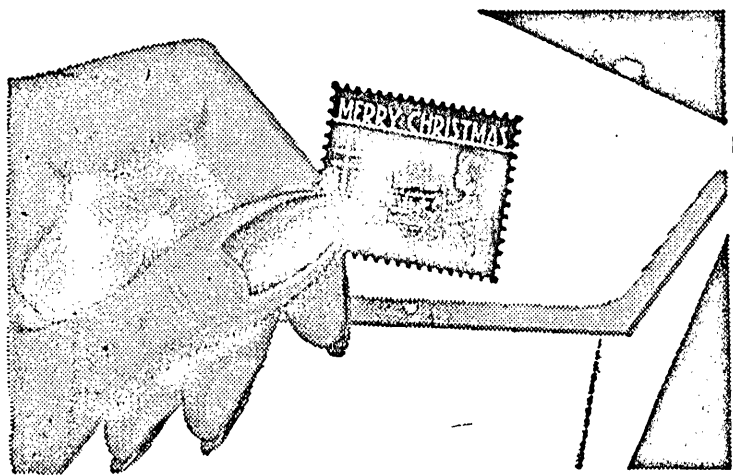
"Mary," he asked his wife, "did you see any Indians last night?"

"I saw only one," she replied, "and I took good care of him."

"Well," answered her husband, "I saw a hundred, and it may be that if you had not given food to that old Indian, disguised as a beggar, but really their Chief, I think, I might not have found you alive this morning."

"Maybe, I should not have done so, excepting for my dream."

Then she told him of her dream. And from the cradle there was heard



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Christmas Seals live throughout the year . . . make possible 365 days of tuberculosis education, X-ray examination, patient rehabilitation and medical research.

The result? Since 1907 it is estimated that they have helped save an average of *ninety thousand lives a year.*

As always, the 1949 program of the tuberculosis associations will be financed by your purchase of Christmas Seals. So please, take just a moment — send in your contribution today.

CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

When the bells ring out on a world of white,
And the shopping days are here;
When the hurrying throngs go surging by,
Through the twilight crisp and clear;
When the eager lights leap out—leap out—
In windows here and there,
Like angels keeping watch and ward
From their vantage posts in air;
When the bells peal out on a world of white,
Where the dull grey earth has lain,
Then it's Winter time, and Holly time,
And Christmas time again!

'Tis Christmas time when the bells ring out,
And the thrill of their fairy chime,
Sings to a world of a Babe, new born,
In that glad old Christmas time;
Sings to the heart "Look up—look up—
To the skies that bend above,
Look up from the shadows that dim the road,
To the star-strewn way of love!"
When the bells peal out on a world of white,
O'er mountain top and plain,
Then it's Holly time, it's Happy time,
For it's Christmas time again!

—The Optimist.

a gurgling sound, as if its occupant had recovered from its sickness.

In the early morning, with the hope of a new clear day upon them, husband and wife knelt beside the cradle of their babe, thankful that their lives had been spared.

And on that Christmas day, they could more clearly visualize the Babe born in a manger in far away Bethlehem, for they had received Him.—In the Religious Telescope.

*I like to think that every house
Is full of cheer to-night;
That everywhere—on every hearth—
Warm fires are burning bright.
God give our homes the gift of cheer,
For no one ought to grieve
On such a happy night as this—
On Christmas Eve.—Helen C. Le-
Cron.*

THE GIFT OF GIFTS

Thou Blessed Son of God, once low-
ly lying,
A little Babe in human form,
Gird us weak-hearted with thy
strength undying;
With thy pure love our service
warm.

May we to thee bring worship purer,
sweeter,
Than did the shepherds, Lord, of
old;
Make haste after, with gladder steps
and fleeter,
Thy healing tidings to unfold.

Thou unto whom the Magi brought
their treasure—
The Child divine, our glorious
King,
Grant us, in richer love, in fuller
measure,
Our offerings to thy shrine to
bring.

To thee, O Bethlehem's Babe, who
never diest,
Sing we the angels' song again:
"To God on high be glory in the
highest;
On earth be peace, good will to
men."

High glory be to God for love that
sought us,
Low, selfish, all defiled by sin;
And gave the Gift that health and
life hath brought us—
His blessed Son, our peace to win.

Let peace, on every troubled spirit
resting,
In beauty bloom o'er all the earth;
With changeless strength the ran-
somed be investing,
Lord Christ, because of thy blest
birth.

—Richard Arnold Greene, in
The Christian Herald.

THE THREE WISE MEN

By John Finley

The First

I came from Tigris' sandy plain
Where I beheld the wondrous star;
With my slow-creeping camel train
I nightly followed it afar.

The Second

I came from Persia's table-land
That lies beyond the Syrian dawn;
A candle in an angel's hand
It seemed, before the stars had
gone.

The Third

And I, 'mid mountains heav'nward
piled,
I saw the star that led them west;
I, too, with them would seek the
Child.
I, too, would make the Holy Quest.

The Three

We asked in great Jerusalem,
But none could tell us of His birth,
And then to little Bethlehem
We came—the least of all the
earth.

There came we to our journey's
goal;
No farther had we need to roam;
There was a home for every soul
Where Christ Himself could find
no home.

—Women and Missions.

FINDS LEPROSY CURABLE,
NON-CONTAGIOUS

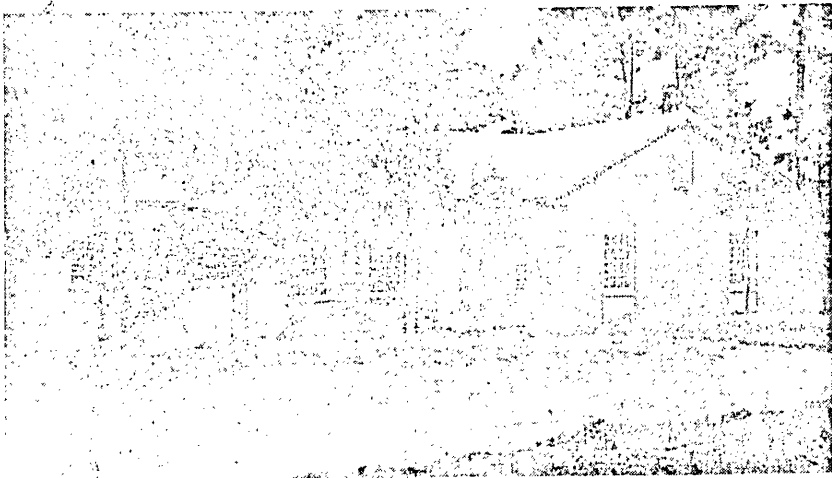
The American Mission to Lepers, with which all American Protestant churches are associated in their ministry to the victims of leprosy, is advocating that the name "leper" as applied to a person be discontinued and in place be used the term "leprosy patient" or "person suffering from leprosy." The term "leper", the Mission contends, has been a name of reproach and of reputed uncleanness since Bible times and earlier, where as it is now known to be a disease, generally curable, and generally not contagious. It should not be treated as a public danger any more than other diseases are so treated, in the opinion of Eugene R. Kellersberger, M. D., leprosy authority and head of the

Mission. The recent International Leprosy Congress and the International Leprosy Journal are advocating the same dis-use of the term and its equivalent in other languages.

Christmas Comes Again To T

THE HOME'S SEASON'S GREETINGS

It would not be a very happy Christmas for us at the Home if we did not tell you again how much the Trustees, staff members, and more than forty children appreciate every good word spoken or written in our behalf during the year now closing. We thank you for every prayer you have uttered, for every dollar you have given and induced others to give, that



THE FEILD COTTAGE, DEDICATED OCTOBER 22, 1948

life for the children here in the Home might be more abundant and happy. We pray that all these kindnesses may be multiplied and then added to your own store of happiness this Christmas season.

We trust that every pastor will thank the members of his congregation from the pulpit, through the church bulletin, or otherwise. To all who have led in any of the many activities and offerings that have come to the Home the past year, we would say in all sincerity, "Thank you."

The Methodist Children's Home wishes for you all an abundant measure of God's gracious gifts during the Christmas season and throughout the year that is to come.

IT'S NOT REALLY CHRISTMAS WITHOUT CHILDREN

What is it about a child that makes your heart leap in soft laughter? Why is it that a small hand holding yours makes you feel you can lick the world? How is it that nothing, nothing at all, is too much trouble to make them know they are loved, happy, secure? It is, perhaps, that in children



we see the dreams we used to dream; that their trusting smallness makes us fiercely protective; that their high happiness is a fire we jealously reach out for.

And now as the season of Christmas draws near, we realize deeply, painfully, that special quality which all children share. The rest of our year is comfortably filled with distractions; but during these days of rejoicing, the large light for the very young. Without them the bright star atop the Christmas tree is decoration, not golden proclamation. Without them, the night preparation, the kneading of dough, the chopping of nuts, the secret

THIS GOOD YEAR 1948

It has been a year of great achievement for the Methodist Children's Home. One year ago, we had started our first new building on the new location at 2002 Filmore Street. While work has progressed much more slowly than we could have wished, we can now say we have one building finished and occupied, with three others on the way. One of these will be ready by Christmas.

The loyal support given to us during the year has surpassed any other year in the history of the Home. We had a larger Christmas offering in 1947 than ever before. Our share in the Conference Benevolences was greater than any before received. In addition to this, we have received more in supplies, clothing, and other needed articles than at any time within the past five years. The spirit back of all this liberality is what gives us the greatest happiness and the courage to go forward and do the best we can next year.

Of course, at this season, our children are looking forward to the coming of Christmas as only children can, feeling confident that Santa will remember them again with generous gifts of toys, clothing, and other useful things to delight the child heart. If the abundance of good things that have come to us for the Thanksgiving holiday is a forerunner of what we may expect for Christmas, then our children will be most fortunate.

AMONG OUR LATEST ARRIVALS

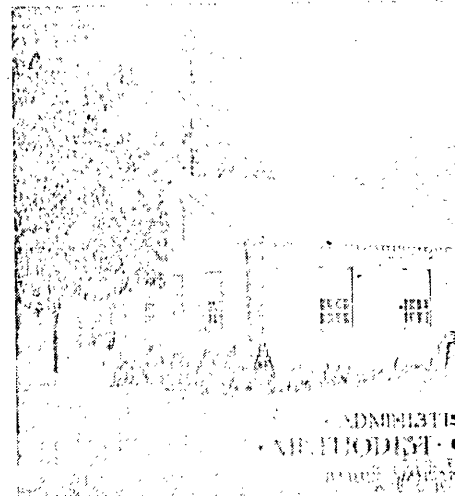
The latest addition to our family consists of six children, all of the same family, four boys and two girls. The oldest is a boy of twelve, a bit small for his age. The youngest is also a boy, not quite five. The suffering, insecurity, and stark tragedy that these children have known is almost unbelievable. Their father makes no provision for them whatsoever. They were wards of the court when we agreed to take them. They have never known the joys of Christmas like most children. Our children who have been with us through the Christmas time before will know something of the joy of sharing with these six little ones the many nice presents that will be coming in this year. These children are deeply attached to each other. Should we separate them and send them out where they would see no more of each other, or should we keep them together and teach them something of the close family ties which should bind brothers and sisters together? What would you do?

consultations, the giggles behind closed doors are empty gestures. Home is a lonesome place at best, a heartbreaking place at worst, when Christmas comes without children to bring it Home Beautiful Mags, line.

"THERE WAS NO

Yes, we are still having to say to into the Home, "There is no room."

There was another Mary, who, h land, sought loving refuge for him against her. Then, because it was the to the door of a home built, so she'd heard she thought, "Surely, I can find love a

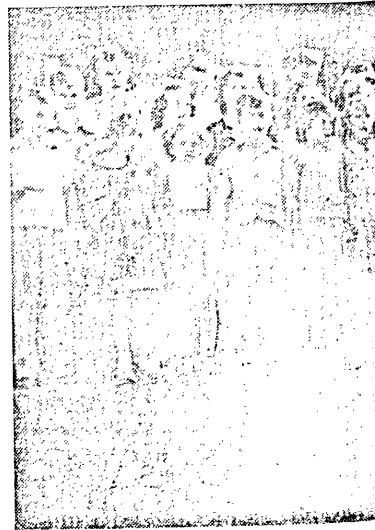


This will be the next
It should be read

not these the very words of the Master beloved phrase, 'of such is the Kingdom'

New hope welled in her mother-he "This time," she said to her child, "This the door opened, a friend whose voice w to the first Mary said, "There is no room."

Yet as they talked together, they l the place; a star full of promise for a time child; a time when the ever-loving arms the little children who needed care. A t "Of such IS the K



"WE ARE CHILDREN"
Sung by the Children A

CHRISTMAS AND T

Christmas began with the birth of a thousand years ago. Shepherds came in f was heralded by the caroling angels. T love for the Child.

Ever since that first Christmas da gifts to children. From time immemori It is, indeed, a season of joy to little child story of the Babe of Bethlehem. It is also love for children. It is a season of roni that there is no more certain way of pro by bringing gifts of love and sympathy to ill and an one to care for them.

Methodist Children's Home

FOR THEM

TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR 1948

While the Christmas offerings have increased very substantially every year during the past five years, it should be borne in mind that from the surplus above maintenance costs, we have been financing most of our building operations. It seemed the wise course to the Trustees to do it this way, rather than ask the church for a special campaign drive to raise a



BISHOP PAUL E. MARTIN
Leads In The Dedication Exercises.
On The Platform With Him Are The Trustees.

Once again the Christmas carols are on the air. We hear the old and ever to be loved hymns that tell of the advent of the Prince of Peace. "O Little Town of Bethlehem," "Silent Night," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"; what a flood of tender memories they bring. It is a time of rejoicing and great anticipation on the part of the children. It is a time when the aged renew their youth. "When I was a child," I hear them saying, and they go on to tell us of the Christmas tree in the little village church back in the country, of the joyous reunion of families, and the shouts of glad surprise by the children as they opened their gifts.

It is true today. It has always been true that children are the central figures in the Christmas celebration. Somehow, there is not much joy and but little celebration of the event unless there are children in the home.

For two thousand years, little children have been listening with rapt attention to the old, old story of the Babe of Bethlehem, of the Wise Men who brought gifts and of the shepherds who heard the angels sing. Cold indeed is the heart that does not thrill to the glow in each childish face as the story reaches its climax in the prospective visit of Santa Claus.

Few fathers or mothers would deprive their children of the joy of looking and waiting for Santa Claus. What though he may be a mythical figure? Children love the "land of make-believe." All too soon they will grow up to face the hard, realistic facts of life. Happy will be their lot if they have learned how to connect the stories of childhood, the coming of the Prince of Peace, the adoration of the Wise Men, the Hallelujah chorus of the Angels, with the Christ of later years, who walked the highways of Judea, Samaria, and Galilee, teaching men how to live together in the fellowship of love and understanding.

A most striking portrayal of the Christ character was His love for children. One of the great events of His ministry was His reception of children. "Suffer the little children to come unto me." "He took a little child and set him in the midst of them." "He laid his hands upon them and blessed them." Only under Christian influences have children inherited their rightful place in the world. The first consideration of the father and mother is the child's interest. They have indeed set their "child in the midst" of all their planning. It is for the child that the parents work and sacrifice in order that he may have his chance in the world.

Jesus said on one occasion, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." All about us are proud fathers and mothers who will provide a happy Christmas for their children. But there are other children who

building fund. It may take more time to raise the needed money this way, but we will have the satisfaction that the money contributed comes without compulsion and as the expression of the free will of the givers.

We think the use of an envelope sent out with a letter to the church membership, brings better results than any other plan. We have followed this plan during these years and the results have been satisfactory.

A few churches still follow the plan of placing a lump sum in the budget for the Home. This does not give individuals the opportunity to contribute according to their personal desires to the total offering from their church.



through death or other unfortunate circumstances, have lost fathers and mothers. For them, the church will provide homes and friends. Through all its fruitful history, the Methodist

Church has loved and cared for homeless children. "Them also must we bring, and they shall hear His voice, and they shall be one fold and one shepherd."

THE KING
Dedication Exercises.

LITTLE CHILDREN

Child. That was almost two years to see this child whose coming had brought gifts to show their

has been a time for bringing has been dedicated to children. These who have been taught the way to all our needs and hearts for love for Christ himself, that who have no home, no parents,

Contributing Editors:
Roy E. Fawcett
Mrs. W. F. Bates

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Contributing Editors:
Ira A. Brumley
Pryor Reed Cruce

MR. EISENBERG WILL HAVE RECREATION WORKSHOP

Larry Eisenberg will be in charge of a recreation workshop at First Methodist Church in Little Rock, Saturday evening, December 11, at 5:00 o'clock. Mr. Eisenberg is a member of the Youth Department in Nashville and is a widely known authority in the field of recreation. All leaders and persons interested in this vital phase of the church's program are urged to attend the workshop, which will include leaders from the churches of the Little Rock District, and will climax a series of similar workshops in other districts of the conference.

Activities will begin at 5:00 in the recreation hall at First Church, when each person is asked to bring a lunch for a potluck supper. Activities will continue throughout the evening with instruction and practice in the various types of recreation.

Mr. Eisenberg has worked in close association with Mr. E. O. Harbin, author of "Fun Encyclopedia" and "Phunology", and together they have conducted workshops and provided material for various Methodist periodicals as well as contributing widely to national magazines.

All youth and adults who are interested in recreation or are interested in receiving the best instruction available will not want to miss this rare opportunity to work under one of the outstanding recreation leaders today.—Sue Pattillo.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND EMPTY CHAIRS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTED AT EMPTY CHAIRS doesn't mean much to the Kingdom of God. Many Church Schools are working for an average attendance of at least 75 percent. Judged by the past, that is high. Judged by the importance of promoting Christ's cause, it is low. To reach this mark in your church school will take careful planning and plenty of work. Here are three suggestions:

1. Help all teachers and leaders see the importance of following up every absence. Make it a major matter in all planning groups until everybody becomes concerned. Make them realize what happens when absentees are neglected.

2. Work out a simple and practical system for following up absentees. Take note of absences, more than simply marking the class book. Make someone responsible for listing absentees on cards. Assign case workers. Visit or telephone the absentees and find out, if possible, why he (or she) was absent. Urge him to return. Report that the absentee was contacted and why he was absent, if possible.

3. Keep the plan in force. An "attendance chairman" may be what you need. Make it his job to keep the plan going. This will take constant work, but it's worth it.—Division of the Local Church.

WATCH YOUR FENCES

Occasionally adult classes or other groups decide to "clean up the roll" and go on a name-dropping spree in order to "bring up our percentage of attendance". What has happened to these inactive members about to

HEADS JAPAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Dr. Ralph E. Diffendorfer, executive secretary for foreign missions of the Board of Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Church, has been elected chairman of the newly-formed Japan Christian University Foundation, which is promoting the erection of a \$10,000,000 institution of learning near Tokyo. The Foundation has established American offices at 214 East 21st Street, New York City.

Other officers of the Foundation are: Dr. Jomn Smith, vice-chairman; Mrs. Charles H. Sears, secretary; Miss Ruth Miller, assistant secretary; Professor John L. Jones, treasurer; and Miss Henrietta Gibson, assistant treasurer. Other members of the Board of Directors are: Mr. Harold W. Hackett and Dr. Russell H. Stafford, Dr. Dobbs F. Ehlman, Dr. George H. Gebhardt, Dr. T. T. Brumbaugh, Miss Margaret Billingsley, Miss Elizabeth Lee, Dr. John L. Hooper, Dr. Luman J. Shafer, Dr. David H. Gallagher, and Dr. V. F. Schwalm.

A site for the university campus has been selected at Mitaka, fifteen miles west from the center of Tokyo. Comprising approximately 350 acres, the location was formerly a production plant for Nakajama aircraft.

Launched by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ of America and the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, the Japan Christian University Foundation

proposes to establish an international, non-sectarian university of graduate standing. Initial plans include a graduate school of education, a central library, and administrative offices. A university senate



R. E. DIFFENDORFER

will govern administration, standard making, and degree granting. A nation-wide campaign for funds will be held from April 18 to June 5 next year, during which time it is contemplated that \$10,000,000 will be raised for the new university.

ALFRED WASSON SUB-DISTRICT UNION

The Alfred Wasson Sub-district Union of Washington and Benton Counties held its regular meeting at the First Methodist Church in Rogers, November 29. There were about 175 present.

A short worship program was given, led by the Rogers M. Y. F. A solo was sung by Leroy Bender of Rogers. The special speaker for the evening was Mr. Paul Walter, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in Rogers. Following the worship program a short business meeting was held with the president, Marge Hammond, presiding. The nomination committee met to make nominations for Sub-district officers for the following year. Recreation was provided by the Rogers M. Y. F. Refreshments were later served in the basement of the church.

The attendance banner was won by the Siloam Springs M. Y. F. The next meeting will be held at the Wiggins Memorial Methodist Church in Fayetteville.—Mary Sandlin, Reporter.

be ejected from the rolls? Here is when and where we discover our broken fences. Our campaigns bring them in the front door but some of them are slipping through the back door and over the back fence. No pupil should ever be dropped from a class roll until certain reasons are definitely known and reported. These rules and regulations about adding and dropping members are found in pamphlet No. 834-B, "Standard for Church School Roll." Get a copy from our Board office.—Louisiana Conference Bulletin.

CHANGE IN DATE FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR SUB-DISTRICT

The date for the Sub-district Turkey dinner for older youth, (18-23) which was announced in last week's Methodist as December 13 has been changed to December 20 at the same place, First Methodist Church, Little Rock, at 6:00 o'clock. Tickets are available in each youth group.

NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY

Good newspaper publicity is good advertisement. And you can get it if you will.

Editors are glad to give space to church school news, if it is real news. They know that their readers are interested in religion. They know that half of their subscribers are church members—which is true of no other organization.

But your editor deserves cooperation from you. Give him information on white paper, typed and complete. He doesn't have an extra half day to spend tracking down initials, titles, dates, places, hours and other necessary facts that you may fail to include.

If you want your newspaper to give your church school news good space and treatment, see that he gets accurate, interesting facts on the church school program—news that is of general interest as well as Methodist interest. See that he gets the news before it happens, in plenty of time for the next edition. The editor will appreciate your help.

It's one more way you can gain friends for the church school and promote its purpose.—Division of the Local Church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS IMPERATIVE

"Education is important but Christian education is imperative." During the coming four years church schools are called upon to reach more people with Christian teaching. Through the Crusade we accomplished great things. But work for Christ is never finished. Let's use the Crusade as a foundation for reaching a higher goal.

The General Conference recognized the profound importance and influence of church schools. As a result they approved the quadrennial goals and emphases for the church school, with which you're already familiar. These goals are very much like those that you and your church board of education might have set for yourselves. Here they are:

Continue the emphasis on church school increase. Win more persons to Christ and church membership through the church school. Enlist youth and young adults in Christian life-service vocations. Study the Christian program. Challenge and teach families to be Christian. Teach the facts about beverage alcohol. Elevate the stewardship ideal in the church school. Strengthen the rural church. Educate concerning a Christian social and world order. Cultivate commitment to teaching Christ in all life's relationships.

No other agency can do all these things—only the church school. The bishops and general leaders can talk for weeks on what should be done . . . conference can set up hundreds of goals . . . but it'll never get to the people in your community until you and your workers get on fire, too. The Master said, "Go ye, therefore, and teach . . ."—Division of the Local Church.

"WE STOPPED THE LEAKS"

That's what successful church school superintendents have said when asked how they increased enrollment and attendance. Ask your board of education to make a careful and serious study of this question—"Why people quit coming to our church school?" Encourage them to work at this problem until they have real answers. Then shape remedies to fit the answers they find.

This doesn't sound impractical, does it? When a business slumps that is what the alert business man does. And when you take your car to the shop that is the first thing the mechanic does. Why not do it in your church school? It will work.

Watch out for these common causes of "leaks":

1. Inefficient teaching—frequent absence or tardiness of teachers and poorly prepared lessons.

2. Crowded class rooms or the opposite—a small number in a large room.

3. Lack of enthusiasm and lack of Christian spirit; coldness; cliques.

4. Unattractive surroundings.

5. Failure to keep up with new members while they are becoming "at home".

6. Many small but real things which add up to a pretext to drop out.

For every one of these ills there is a cure. Don't be content just with the diagnosis. Use the positive remedies.—Division of the Local Church.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

MRS. SUE M. WAYLAND, Editor

OUR PRESIDENT ON THE ADVANCE

Dear Conference Presidents:

Only a few hours had elapsed when we adjourned our meeting in Columbus when the world passed in review before us. It not only passed in review but I think we all found ourselves a very vital part of that procession, with a renewed understanding of our personal responsibility for its ongoing.

Some of us have had further questions to arise as to our relationship to the Quadrennial Advance program of the Church (For Christ and His Church) which indicates that it may not be entirely clear to all of us, so perhaps another word on this line might be in order. Of course, it will be easy for us to cooperate quite fully in the teaching and preaching phase of the Quadrennial Advance and every plan will be made to that end. But the question of financial cooperation naturally arises, as it is a tremendous financial objective which is being placed before the church. As active, individual members of the church we must AS USUAL give every assistance possible and that assistance on the part of EVERY MEMBER of the church must be very real if the challenge and objectives of the Quadrennial Advance of the church are to be fully met. All of this is related to World Service giving covering needs of the Division of Foreign Missions and the Division of Home Missions and Church Extension and the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief, and the askings are based on studies of all fields, at home and abroad.

The charter of the Woman's Division places upon the women of the church a special responsibility "... to develop and maintain Christian homes abroad ..." Our policy of work among women and children in planning our work on the fields in cooperation with the Home and Foreign Divisions means that when a program of missionary advance is planned, the Women's Division must advance also. And this, as usual, also becomes a part of our "over-and-above" giving, our working and our praying.

When I spoke to the District Superintendents at the recent meeting in Columbus, by request of the committee on arrangements I spoke of some of the needs of women and children as we had seen them and heard of them during the summer. I then concluded by saying that in the light of these needs, as well as those discovered by the studies made by our secretaries (which you heard), the Woman's Division, in order to advance with the church as a whole, is moving out to secure within the quadrennium one million new members of our Society, one thousand new missionaries and deaconesses, with an increased program of study and action and increase in finances commensurate with the needs.

A natural question is "why do we not present our financial advance as a total, as we did in The Crusade for Christ?" We need to remember that The Crusade for Christ financial aspect was a fund for Relief and Reconstruction, covering emergency needs, was for one year only and was not apart of World Service credit. The present program of Advance for the Church covers a four

A CHRISTMAS HYMN

By Eugene Field

Sing, Christmas bells!

*Say to the earth this is the morn
Whereon our Saviour-King is born;
Sing to all men,—the bond, the free,
The rich, the poor, the high, the low,
The little child that sports in glee,
The aged folk that tottering go,—
Proclaim the morn
That Christ is born,
That saveth them and saveth me!*

Sing, O my heart!

*Sing thou in rapture this dear morn
Whereon the Blessed Prince is born!
And as thy songs shall be of love,
So let my deeds be charity,—
By the dear Lord that reigns above,
By this fair morn
Whereon is born
The Christ that saveth all and me!*

year period and is most closely tied into World Service and Conference benevolences. It is a rather complex procedure, but one most workable if kept in its relationship to World Service giving. If we had attempted to include the financial needs of the Woman's Division we would have complicated the plan even more and perhaps caused much confusion in promotion and administration.

It has always been the custom of our Woman's Division to use our own channels of organization to promote and finance our work, so we are not establishing a new plan. As women of the church we are always loyal and active in participation in the TOTAL program of the church, but as members of our Woman's Society we joyfully go the "second mile" through the work of our Society, and what a glorious mile it becomes! The days ahead present a thrilling challenge, as I am sure you realized over and over again during our days together in Columbus. We shall continue to be much in prayer for each other as we enter into the meetings in the thirty-two cities during the weeks immediately upon us, in our own conference, district and sub-district meetings, and as we participate in all of the plannings, whether it be for the Quadrennial advance of the entire church or in the advance program of the Woman's Division. Already the plans for the Day of Advance in January in the local society are taking form and details will reach us within a short time.

The fellowship of these years has been so precious to all of us and the week together in Columbus a high point as together we planned for a great advance in the work of our Christ and of His Church, which we all love.

With deep appreciation for the many personal courtesies which you have extended, and with every prayer for your success, I am

Mrs. J. D. Bragg
President.

The best way to get a person's head out of the clouds and his feet on the ground is to place some heavy responsibility on his shoulders.—Powerfax.

LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT GUILD

A meeting of the Little Rock District Wesleyan Service Guild was held at Asbury Methodist Church on Monday evening, November 15, at 6 o'clock p. m. with registration and fellowship in the auditorium.

Asbury Guild was the current hostess for the delicious dinner which was served in the basement of the church. Rev. Arthur Terry, host pastor, gave the invocation. The Thanksgiving theme was prevalent in the decoration of the tables which were adorned with yellow crepe paper runners, and a variegation of chrysanthemums.

Following the dinner the group assembled in the sanctuary. The program was opened by the reading of scripture found in the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians by Mrs. George Cox. The opening prayer was given by Mrs. E. B. Matkin, President of Little Rock District W. S. C. S. who also introduced the speaker of the evening, Mrs. E. D. Galloway, President of the Little Rock Conference W. S. C. S. One of the most inspiring and heartwarming talks that Guild members have had the privilege of hearing was given by Mrs. Galloway on the "Advance Program." Her talk was certainly a challenge to every Methodist woman present.

Mrs. Galloway was one of the delegates to the recent conference which was held in Columbus, Ohio. Also included in the program was the singing of a hymn entitled "Advance, Oh Church of God," sung to the tune of "America the Beautiful." A solo was presented by Miss Dena Toland, accompanied by Miss Inez Martin at the organ.

A short business session was conducted by Miss Ollie Hall, District Secretary, and the meeting was closed by the repeating of the Guild Benediction.—Louise Murphy.

Who is there that has not the need to forgive some one? Who is there that has not the need of something to be forgiven? The founder of Georgia said to the founder of Methodism: "I never forgive any one." John Wesley answered: "Sir, I trust you never sin."—Dean Stanley.

TEXARKANA DISTRICT MEETS

The executive meeting of the W. S. C. S. of the Texarkana District was held November 16, in the First Methodist Church.

The District President, Mrs. O. B. Poland led the discussion on our "Advance Program" in an informal and interesting manner. She also outlined plans for the W. S. C. S. Advance program in a speech to the minister's Set-up meeting during the morning session. The District Vice-President, Mrs. W. M. Barry gave a splendid report on the Officers Training Day.

A discussion on ways to reach more ladies in the church was led by our president. The following district officers were present: Mrs. O. B. Poland, Mrs. W. M. Barry, Mrs. W. R. Shackelford, Miss Katie Cargile, Mrs. Fred Arnold, Mrs. M. E. Scott, Mrs. George Kerr, Mrs. C. I. Parsons and Mrs. R. L. Gantt. The honor guest were two past presidents, Mrs. A. R. McKinley and Mrs. W. A. Bengel. They were a great help during the sessions of the meeting.

Our district president is leading in a fine way, and with the cooperation of the local societies the district will make a fine record.—Reporter.

A NEW WESLEYAN GUILD ORGANIZED

A fine group of young women from First Church North Little Rock met November 8 at the parsonage with Mrs. J. W. Workman as hostess to organize a Wesleyan Guild. This is the second Guild to be organized in this church. The W. S. C. S. was represented by Mrs. O. L. Webb, president of the local society and Mrs. E. T. Wayland. Mrs. Myrtle Morton and Miss Frances Bowers from the Pearl McCain Wesleyan Guild. Mrs. Morton presided during the organization of the new Guild.

After the work of the Guild was thoroughly explained the following officers were elected: President, Miss Lila Church; Vice-President, Charlotte Pickens; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Leta Clark; Promotional Secretary, Mrs. Zoe Williams; Treasurer, Mrs. Thelma Roseberry.

Appointed officers to be selected later. There were fifteen to join at this first meeting. The hostess served lovely refreshments.

The newly organized group will meet with the Pearl McCain Guild at a Christmas dinner, December 13, for the December meeting. The new Guild is to be called the Morton-Wayland Guild.—Reporter.

THE GIFT

By Mary Buirgy

Jade and ruby jewels
Upon my Christmas tree
Flame into a vision
Of new intensity:

We who owe the Master
More than jewels' worth
Should give the brighter promise
Of good and peace on earth.

History makes haste to record great deeds, but often neglects good ones.—Ballou.

CURRENT NEWS IN ARKANSAS METHODISM

RECEPTION AT FIFTH STREET CHURCH, FT. SMITH

Rev. and Mrs. Bates Sturdy of Fifth Street Church, Ft. Smith, were honored with a reception on November 24 at 7:00 p. m. and given recognition of Brother Sturdy's third year as pastor. The new members who have joined the church since its completion were introduced. An interesting program was given in the sanctuary.

Refreshments were served in the fellowship room. At the tables the color scheme was white and pink. The center table had a large white cake with the words "welcome" written on it and the pastor cut the cake after the reception.

At the close two large cartons of all kinds of food given by members and friends were presented to Brother Sturdy and family. This was the surprise to them.

Mrs. Fred Lane, president of the W. S. C. S., was in charge of the program, ably assisted by members and co-workers.

Our W. S. C. S. has done a wonderful piece of work in raising funds toward the building of our chapel, thanks for all the help from the different societies of Ft. Smith.—Mrs. Doris Taylor, Reporter.

MARMADUKE CHARGE

We of the Marmaduke Church are happy with our new pastor, Miss Fern Cook. All departments of the church are increasing. In our Church School our attendance has increased 16 percent in the short time. We have added one new class, the Young Adult.

Miss Cook is doing some fine preaching. Our services are more like old-time revival services. We have had ten additions to the church, nine on profession of faith and one by letter. Only one Sunday's services have gone by without a conversion and that was the first Sunday.

We have re-organized our M. Y. F. with 21 members who are really working. They have decided on one cent a day for the M. Y. F. fund to missions. They have choir practice once a week and are working to raise money for church improvements.

It is fine to see the spirit of enthusiasm they have and also that of the adults.

The M. Y. F. and W. S. C. S. gave a rummage sale last Saturday and will continue this next Saturday. Each Saturday the M. Y. F. plans to sell sandwiches, cakes or candy to add to their fund.

We have remodeled the parsonage, have papered it and added new rugs, curtains and put in a new oil heater. Will paint outside as soon as weather permits.

On Thanksgiving Day we had a union service at our church. Rev. T. O. Love preached the sermon. This was one service which will be remembered by all there and one which was well attended.

POINSETT COUNTY SUB-DISTRICT YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The Poinsett County Sub-district Youth Fellowship met in Marked Tree on November 5. The program opened with the reading of the scripture and a story, "The Boy from Woodchurch Corner" by Miss Georgia Doty. The choir sang a beautiful special with organ accompaniment. A play, "Sunglasses" was given by Mary Faith Worthy, Melba King, Betty Joy Adair, Dorothy Smith and Betty Lou McGilk. This play was about a blind girl moving into a new town and how the younger group accepted her. It was well acted out and everyone enjoyed it.

The business meeting was called to order by President Alicia Ann Bell from Lepanto. The roll call of the different towns was called, Lepanto, Harrisburg, Marked Tree, Weona, Trumann and Wildwood.

The minutes of the last meeting which was held at Trumann were read by the secretary, Betty Sue Higgins from Trumann. New and old business was discussed before the meeting was adjourned to the basement for fellowship singing and refreshments.

The next meeting will be held in Lepanto on December 2. We are urging all the towns in this sub-district to be represented.—Shirley Freeman, Reporter.

METHODIST HOSPITAL AND BATH HOUSE NEWS

During November we admitted 113 patients who spent a total of 1,110 days with us. This gave us an occupancy percentage of 69.6 which is a little low. There were 23 babies born and 45 operations. Our bath house gave 689 treatments. Four of our patients came from Oklahoma, two from Texas, and one from New York. We had the Catholic and Jewish religions represented in our patients, as well as the Protestant.

Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard Machen and daughter, Ann, sent a gift in memory of Mrs. Reeves of Texarkana who was the mother of Mrs. Page Rogers of Portland.

Mr. Martin Yates, Jr., who was a patient here last summer from Artesia, New Mexico, sent a check for \$250.00 to apply on the construction of the pool.

Mr. H. Humphrey of Hot Springs sent \$40.00 for our Special Equipment Fund.

The Pilot Club of Hot Springs is furnishing a private room with modern furniture, tile floor, and venetian blinds at a cost of around \$600.00.

The hospital has been redecorated throughout with one of our regular employees doing a fine job of painting, and improvements have been made to our dining room steam table.

As we enter the closing month of 1948 we confidently look forward

ORGANIST HONORED WITH RECEPTION

Members of the First Methodist Church, Morrilton, surprised Miss Annie Brannan with a reception given in Pierce Hall at 7:30 o'clock Tuesday evening, honoring her for more than 40 years service as church organist.

Monroe Treadwell, representing the Board of Stewards, presented her with a handsome, diamond-set wrist watch as a token of love and appreciation from the church. She was also given a corsage of pink carnations by Mrs. Wilbur Britt, director of the choir, with whom she has worked faithfully for so many years.

Mrs. V. V. Hellums, representing the Woman's Society of Christian Service, opened the brief program by explaining to the guest of honor why the reception was being held, and brought her greetings from W. S. C. S.

A prayer and short address by Rev. Garland C. Taylor followed, after which other talks were made, thanking Miss Brannan for her loyalty and devotion to the church, her friendship, her encouragement of the appreciation of beauty, and the inspiration of her example. Speakers and the groups they represented were: Mrs. Frank Reid, former pupils; Harriett Riddick, present pupils; Miss Coma Simmons, Wesleyan Service Guild; Miss Lulu Doyle Baird, teachers of the Sunday School; Herbert Fiser, Baraca Men's Class; and Thomas Earl Massey, Young People's Department.

Receiving at the door were Mrs. Charles Bridewell and Miss Mayme Morrill. Music was furnished by Mrs. Earl Bentley who sang "White Christmas" immediately after the guests assembled, and Mrs. Otto

(Continued on Page 13)

TEXARKANA CIRCUIT YOUNG PEOPLE

The Texarkana Circuit young people met Friday night at Pleasant Hill Church. The following officers for the new year were elected with the leader, Mr. O'Neal, presiding.

Secretary, Mary Frances Perry; treasurer, Mrs. O'Neal; publicity, Martha Ann Davis; refreshment chairman from each church, Bernice Levi, Charlene Jones, A. L. Crawford and Billy Phillips.

Rev. C. H. Gilliam spoke on "The Game of Life."

The meeting then adjourned and games were played outside.

Following the games the Pleasant Hill Church served refreshments. Martha Ann Davis, Publicity Chairman.

No one can really give thanks unless within his heart he deeply feels that undeserved blessings have been bestowed upon him. Our great sin is our carefree assumption that we deserve what God gives and that we are free to do with it what we please.—Calvin H. Wingert, Reformed Church Messenger.

Prayer is a cumulative life of friendship with God.—Fosdick.



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Christmas Gifts

Dundee

PASTOR AND BERS WE

On the evening sanctuary and Fe the Fifth Street M East Smith, was a There was an er heart of the peopl one as they ente worship.

In our part of t a designated pla members to sit to coming to see sat there. But a more might join fall.

Presently the cl and the worship leader hip of Mrs. dent of the W. After long and p superintendent, L words of welcom who a beginning pastor, and his Superintendent o pathment, Mrs. Jr. welcomed th The pastor and members responde

The congregation the Fellowship 2 delicious refreshm and cake. Then "Praising" for t dy After words o prayer, the happy another with har to their homes. E fine people. It them Remember - Bates, Sturdy, I

ORGANIST WITH RE

(Continued

Coleman, who Bentley and al nisters during

The serving t with an arrang themes in a cr by tall green tap on. Presiding at were Mrs. Tom M dent of W. S. C.

STUDY

Study the Bibl to eternal life. from each bo One copy 5 cer Bible Tracts, Little

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

of Nov. 24, the Fellowship Hall of Methodist Church, astir with people. enthusiasm in the people one could easily enter the place of

the sanctuary was place for the new together. It was en- the number who desire that many their number was

choir took its place service under the S. Fred Lane, Presi- S. C. S., began. prayer, the general L. Denton spoke me to the pastor his third year as wife. Then the of the Adult De- Charles Hatfield, the new members. some of the new ed to the welcome. on was invited into Hall and enjoyed nents of ice cream came a generous the parsonage fam- of appreciation and group greeted one ndshakes and went blessings on such a is a joy to serve us in your prayers. Pastor.

HONORED RECEPTION

(from Page 12)
accompanied Mrs. o played several the social hour. ble was centered ment of chrysan-ystal bowl flanked ers in crystal hold- two silver services assey, acting presi- S., and Mrs. Britt,

THE BIBLE

Learn the way choice verse taken k in the Bible. s, 12 for 50 cents. 20 Dennison St., ck, Ark.

DISTINGUISHED METHODISTS ON "SECOND HONEYMOON"

CHICAGO — Making travel arrangements for honeymooners is not a regular function of Methodism's Transportation Bureau, but the other day it had such an opportunity.

When the Bureau's executive secretary, the Rev. William M. Cassetty, Jr., looked up from his desk to respond to a cherry greeting, he found what he described as "the most charming couple I have seen in a long time."

"We're going west on our second honeymoon," they said, "to see our children and grandchildren."

His callers were none other than Methodism's oldest bishop, 86-year-old Herbert Welch, and his gracious bride of more than a half century. They had stopped off in Chicago to visit friends in the Methodist building and to complete travel plans for their trip from New York City to Carmel, California, where they are to visit their daughter, Mrs. Anthony F. Blanks, and family. It is expected that their other daughter, Miss Eleanor Welch, New York City, will follow them a bit later for a Christmas family reunion—the first they have been privileged to have in a long time.

Honored by the entire church for his outstanding eight-year leadership of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief and a busy lifetime of consecrated service to the church, Bishop Welch plans to enjoy some richly-deserved relaxation with his family.

choir director. Assisting in serving the hot fruit punch and homemade cookies were Mrs. Bonar Moore, Mrs. George Overstreet and others. Mrs. Garland Dowdle and Mrs. W. A. Riddick were in charge of the serving.—Reporter.

Gist of the Lesson

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DR. JONES' CHURCH UNITY CAMPAIGN DESCRIBED IN CURRENT MAGAZINE

The leadership one Methodist is giving in the general movement for Christian unity is revealed in an article in the December 4 issue of the Saturday Evening Post, entitled "Can He Unite the Protestants?"

Written by Hartzell Spence, the son of a Methodist minister and author of "One Foot in Heaven," the story largely centers about the recent campaigns conducted in the United States single-handedly by Methodist missionary, Dr. E. Stanley Jones. His objective is a union of Protestant churches on the same federal principle that united the American colonies.

In the Autumn of 1947 Dr. Jones spoke to 84 audiences in 30 cities and made 12 broadcasts in behalf of his cause. He repeated this mission in 30 new cities last October. The author gives extensive quotations from Dr. Jones' plan for a type of union that would reserve to the individual denominations their historic and doctrinal differences but would, at the same time, be a testimony to their essential oneness in Christ.

Reference is made in the article to Methodist unification consummated in 1939. Mr. Spence also cites the plea made by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam for Christian unity in the Episcopal address delivered at the General Conference in Boston last April.

TEXARKANA CIRCUIT

The generous reception we have received on the Texarkana Circuit is of the finest Christian spirit. On Tuesday night of the second week after our arrival at the parsonage which is located by the Few Memorial Church, about fifty people from all over the circuit stormed us with an old-time pounding which filled the entire pantry to overflowing. Before the crowd left we sang, "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" and "Blest Be the Tie That Binds." Then followed a season of prayers from a goodly number of the leaders from the various churches.

Pray for us that we may have a great year and that the Kingdom of God will be greatly built up.—Cleve H. Gilliam, Pastor.

TELEGRAM FROM GERMANY

NEW YORK—Gratitude for \$5,000 contributed by the Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief for a student feeding project is expressed in a message from Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, just received here.

Translated it reads:

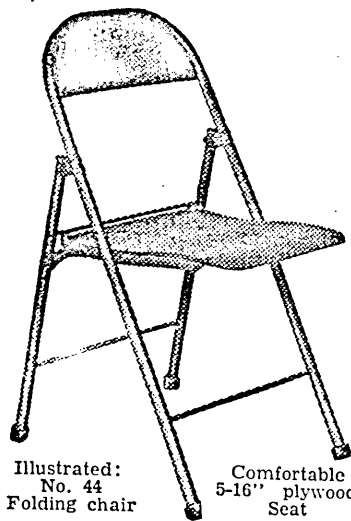
"On November 1 the Methodist Feeding Program for students was opened by Bishop Sommer. The students of the University of Frankfurt thank you many times for the splendid gift of the Methodist Church."

Directors of the Committee on Feeding Students.

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A Very Merry
Christmas! . . .

and a Bright New Year . . .

NEWS ABOUT HENDRIX COLLEGE

Travelling Art Show

Several Hendrix student artists will have works shown in the traveling exhibit of the Fourth Annual Exhibition of Arkansas Art. This select group of works from the large exhibit which opened at Hendrix November 1, will travel to several Arkansas towns and be shown under the auspices of various civic groups.

Hendrix artists having works in the show are Dorothy Du Mond of Van, Ferris Norton of Pine Bluff, Carol Beth Cade of Pine Bluff, Alice Pearle McCray of Malvern, Jo Ann Rawls of Crossett, Victor Zanovich of North Little Rock, Mimi Cazort of Little Rock and Juanita Lane of Conway.

Two To Methodists Meetings

President Matt L. Ellis and Sue Osment, junior student from Jonesboro, left last week for Buck Hill Falls, Pa., to attend important Methodist Church meetings.

Dr. Ellis on Dec. 5-6 was to attend a meeting of the executive committee of the Committee on the Advance of Christ and His Church. He is one of the 32 members of the Advance Committee, which is planning and directing the national program of the church for the quadrennium which began this year.

Miss Osment will attend the annual meeting of the Methodist Board of Missions Dec. 4-11. She is one of 12 American young people on the board, having been selected as one of two members from the South Central Jurisdiction at the quadrennial meeting in El Paso, Texas, last June. The board, which is composed of bishops, ministers, laymen and young people, plans both the home and foreign program of missionary development. Miss Osment, a pre-theolog and a religious leader at Hendrix, will be a member of the board for four years.

Mr. Faris is Co-Author of Book

Paul Faris, director of public relations and associate professor of English, is one of the authors of the book "College Publicity Manual" published last month by Harper & Brothers.

The manual was edited by W. Emerson Reck, former director of public relations at Colgate University and now vice-president at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. It is sponsored by the American College Public Relations Association and is endorsed by the Association of the American Colleges.

The 24-page volume includes 21 chapters. Mr. Faris is the author of the chapter entitled "Publicity for Student Recruitment."

Mr. Faris returned last week from a visit to three Methodist colleges in the interest of their photographic publicity program.

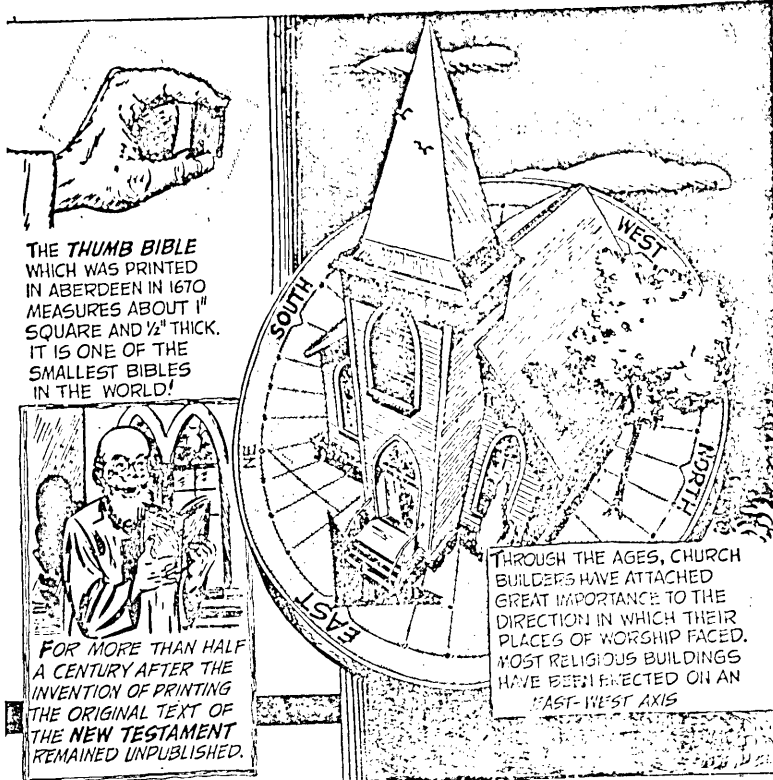
His trip was arranged by the Methodist Educational Public Relations office in Nashville, Tenn., and he was accompanied on the trip by Dr. Boyd M. McKeown of Nashville, head of the department. Colleges visited were Philander Smith in Little Rock, Rust College in Holly Springs, Miss., and Lambuth College in Jackson, Tenn.

Carroll D. Bird Elected Club President

Former student Carroll D. Bird of Washington, D. C., has recently been elected president of the nationally known Touchdown Club of that city. This organization annually

LOOKING AT RELIGION

By DON MOORE



awards outstanding football players. Former presidents of the club have come from Northwestern, Navy and Notre Dame.

Mr. Bird, originally from Crossett, is a District Sales Manager of American Lumber & Treating Company. He was graduated from Hendrix in 1933 and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Bird of Monticello. His wife is the former Mardelle Cooper, Hendrix '33, daughter of the Rev. J. E. Cooper, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Hope, and Mrs. Cooper.

Coach Grove to New York

Coach Ivan H. Grove, athletic director and professor of economics, left last week for New York where he was to attend the national meeting of the Amateur Athletic Union December 2-5.

Mr. Grove is president of the Arkansas A. A. U. and is one of four Arkansas delegates who will attend the convention in the Hotel Astor. Mr. Grove is also a member of the national track and field committee.—Margaret Pullig.

70 YEARS OF MISSIONS IN CONGO

Protestant missions are this month celebrating the seventieth anniversary of their entry into the Belgian Congo, Africa, and the observance is taking place in both Belgium and in Africa. It was the explorations of David Livingstone and the discoveries made by Sir Henry M. Stanley that started missionary societies in Great Britain, the United States, and Sweden all looking Congo-ward at the same time. The first societies to send workers into the land were the Baptist Missionary Society, the Church Missionary Society, and the Livingstone Inland Mission. Today forty-four Protestant societies from America, and Europe, and Australia have a total of 249 mission stations in the Congo; maintain 1,516 missionaries; have 23,301 African pastors, teachers, and medical workers; enroll 1,069,892 members and attendants at church services; conduct 13,683 day schools, most of which are in rural villages, and serve 357,254 boys and girls in

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(Continued from Page 16)

and healthy. We should be grateful. Our people have given more to relieve suffering this year than ever before in the same period of time.

This very day I received a letter of gratitude from a very poor and hungry elderly couple in Germany to whom I had sent food. I am one of the millions of people and organizations that have helped to rehabilitate Germany, Japan, and other countries.

Our people are more able and more willing to help them than ever before. May I suggest that you try to make more people happy this Christmas than ever before. Begin with your own family and make every member of your family happier, if you can. Be an angel of mercy, especially your own loved ones, relatives, and dearest friend. Send gifts, Christmas cards, personal notes. The reflex influence will be felt in your own heart and bring you the Christmas joy.

sharing in giving. Recently the official board of the Church, of which the Rev. T. Harry Kelly is pastor, dedicated a window in the new church edifice to the American Mission to Lepers and in honor of the Club. Miss Ethel Marie Klein was the founder and is still the leading spirit in the organization.

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth.—Rom. 1:16.

"DIME-A-MONTH CLUB" AIDS LEPROSY FIGHT

For the past eight years there has been in existence in Grace Methodist Church, Blue Island, Ill., a "Dime-a-Month Club" which gives its funds to the American Mission to Lepers to be used for the helping of men, women and children afflicted with leprosy. There were thirteen charter members; today there are 125 members regularly

these schools; and conduct 4,302 Sunday schools, with enrollment of 145,714 pupils.

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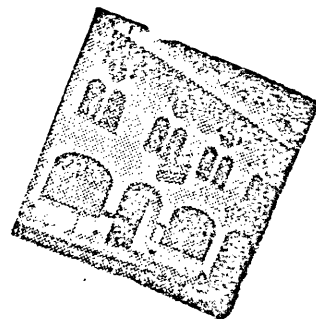
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NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT OF METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Memorials

In memory of:

Mrs. Jane Lang, given by Mrs. Esther Dante.

Mr. William Coffman, given by A Friend.

Mr. R. B. CarlLee, given by Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Rye.

Mr. Bascom Britt, given by Foreman W. S. C. S.

Mr. Clifford Price, given by Mr. and Mrs. Lantie Martin and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Olvey.

Mr. J. H. Linebarier, given by Mrs. J. H. Linebarier.

Mrs. J. F. Glover, given by Paris Wesleyan Service Guild.

Mr. W. Roy Abbott, given by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cabe.

Brother J. A. Henderson, given by Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Teague.

Mr. F. C. Nolen, given by Mrs. G. W. Wester.

Total Memorials \$45.50

Miscellaneous Gifts

Mr. and Mrs. O. G. Robinson, Des Arc \$ 2.00

Dr. and Mrs. M. T. Crow, Warren 10.00

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Crumpler, Magnolia (For clothing) 10.00

Circle No. 7, Winfield Church, (to be used for curtains) 5.00

Circle No. 1, Winfield Church, (to be used for a box of apples) 3.00

1st Year Junior Girls, Goddard Memorial Church, Fort Smith 7.25

Princeton Charge, Arkadelphia District 6.00

Parkin Sunday School 50.00

DeWitt Wesleyan Guild (For a child) 5.00

Harvesters Class, Goddard Memorial, Fort Smith (For a child) 5.00

Forrest City W. S. C. S. 25.00

Men's Bible Class, Marion Methodist Church 25.00

Susanna Wesley Class, 1st Church, Texarkana 5.00

Intermediate Department, Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock 1.40

Junior Department, First Church, Jonesboro 5.00

Faithful Workers' Class, Forrest City 25.00

Circle No. 2, Marked Tree Methodist Church 50.00

From Other Sources 223.97

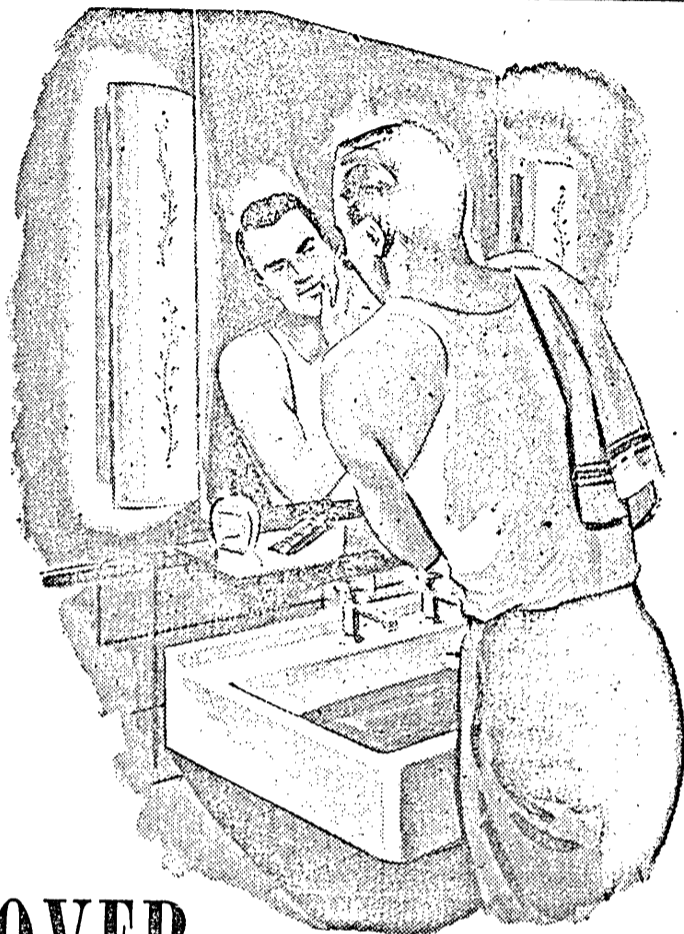
Total Receipts \$509.12

Scott County Rural Churches, 24 boxes canned goods, 3 sacks of potatoes, 4 bags of oranges, bag of popcorn; Farmington W. S. C. S., box of miscellaneous gifts; Central Methodist Church, Heber Springs, canned food shower; Mrs. G. G. Dorris, Wynne, box of clothing; Circle No. 2, Winfield Church, Little Rock, clothing; Golden Rule Class, First Church, Jonesboro, two quilts; Second Mile Class, Jonesboro, box of cookies and miscellaneous gifts; First Year Junior Girls, Capitol View Church, Little Rock, box of food; Circle No. 12, First Church, Little Rock, candy and box of glasses; Intermediate Department, Gardner Memorial Church, North Little Rock, fruit, canned goods, nuts, and \$1.40 in cash; Primary Department, Gardner Memorial Church, fruit and canned goods; Kindergarten Department, Gardner Memorial Church, fruit and canned goods; Junior Department, First Church, Jonesboro, box of canned goods, two boxes of clothing and \$5 in cash; First Methodist Church, Ashdown, two boxes of candy; Circle No. 1, Oak Forest Church, Little Rock, box of tan-

gerines; Primary Department, Goddard Memorial Church, Fort Smith, canned fruit and vegetables; Children's Division, Smackover Methodist Church, bushel of apples, fruit, nuts, and canned goods; Douglasville Methodist Church, canned goods and fruit; First Church, North Little Rock, canned goods and fruit; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Armstrong, Sonny Hays, Jo Claire Armstrong

Hays, Food Palace, cakes and pies; W. S. C. S., First Church, El Dorado, two boxes of candy, nuts, and miscellaneous gifts; Pullman Heights Church, Hot Springs, canned fruit and vegetables; Wilson Methodist Church, 3 boxes canned goods; W. S. C. S., Jamestown, quilt; Primary Department, Grand Avenue Church, Stuttgart, canned goods; First Church, Mena, 12 boxes

canned goods, sugar, flour, sorghum, etc.; W. S. C. S. Lakeside Church, Harmony Grove Circuit, quilt; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Spivey, Fayetteville, child's coat; Methodist Youth Fellowship, Wabash Church, Elaine Charge, canned foods, rice, gum, fruit, etc.; Eudora Public Schools, 7 boxes canned goods and nuts; Children of Tyronza Church School, box of canned goods.



ONCE OVER

Lightly!

Yes, better lighting means a better shave—but that's only one of the many things in which the right light for the job you're doing is highly important.

Good light is a great help all over the house! It gives your eyes a chance to see quickly and accurately. It adds sparkle and life to your draperies and furniture. It guards danger spots like cellar steps and hallways.

So with the earlier twilight hours of winter about to begin, make sure of the good lighting facilities in your home.

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The Sunday School Lesson

By DR. O. E. GODDARD



GOOD NEWS IN THE BIBLE (CHRISTMAS)

LESSON FOR DECEMBER 19, 1943

SCRIPTURE TEXT: Matthew 1:18-2:12; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 2:1-20.

GOLDEN TEXT: Be not afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people. Luke 2:10.

The annual Christmas season with all its joys approaches. No tongue can describe and no pen can portray the joys of Christmas and the good permanent aftermath of the Christmas holidays. It is thrilling to children, joyous to young people, solid comfort to the middle aged, and a serene reminiscence to the adults. It is equally joyous to white and black, red and yellow, to the rich and the middle class and it can be made a great joy to the poor, if the rich and the middle class do what the Christmas spirit impels them to do. Americans, Europeans, Asiatics, and Africans, and the Islands of the sea, all get a thrill out of the annual Christmas festivities. No other day or season of the calendar is so universally observed. If a man from the moon were to come to earth at the Christmas season, I think he would soon imbibe the Christmas spirit.

Christ's Coming Foretold By The Prophets

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

All the prophets from Isaiah to Malachi promised the people of Israel a redeemer. Each generation lived and died expecting a King, a Ruler, the Desire of all nations, The Rose of Sharon, the Bright and Morning Star, the Son of Man, or some other name, to come and restore the Kingdom of Israel. I am not ignorant of the fact that some modern scholars explain away the messianic promises. Surely the Jewish world was in expectancy. It was spreading out among other nations and wise men came from the East searching him who was born to be the King of Israel. Without doubt those holy prophets said things that created a hope of a coming Messiah. Isaiah even refers to his virgin birth and gives his name as Immanuel—God with us.

Angels Announce His Arrival

The angel told Joseph his wife should bear a son and he should be called Jesus.

Luke 2:10-17

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped

in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherd said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

Was there ever such ado over the birth of any other child? The birth of Jesus was unique, supernatural, and makes Jesus a solitary character in human history. His immaculate conception and virgin birth are facts. The God-man stands solitary among earth's notables.

Jesus' birth was recorded by: Matthew 2:1-11

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem.

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet.

6 And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judea, art not the least

among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Luke 2:1-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

In these records the supernatural is so obvious, as to differentiate the birth of Jesus from all the other births in human history. Some said when they heard the man Jesus talk, "No man ever spake as this man speaks." We can all say that no man was ever born as was Jesus. No man ever touched the hearts of humanity as has this man, Jesus.

Prophets by the score foretold his coming. Angels announced his arrival, and the celestial choir made the welkin ring with, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and

good will to men." This is all unparallelled. Jesus cannot be classed with any other man. He shines in solitary grandeur on earth and the heavenly hosts lowly adore him.

Artists, musicians, painters, men have endeavored to depict Jesus as the fairest in ten thousand and altogether lovely, but the truth has never yet been told.

"Thou O Christ art all I want
More than all in thee I find."

Should Jesus' Birth Be Commemorated?

To ask such a question is to answer it. As long as there is a spark of gratitude in the human heart, his advent to earth will be commemorated. It would be base ingratitude on the part of our people if we did not celebrate the birth of Columbus, Washington, Marshall, Abraham Lincoln, George W. Carver, Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, and other notables. It would be an ungrateful world to pass the 25th of December and make no pause for a religious jubilation. On this day we, and all the world, will rejoice and be glad that the world has a great adequate Savior.

An Enigma of History

How the celebration of the birth day of the only begotten Son of God, should be commemorated by unholiness, hilarity, beastly inebriation and diabolical indulgences, is a strange thing. That such a pure, spiritual, celestial life could ever be commemorated by unspeakable debauchery and gluttony, is past understanding.

In my father's home where the complete prohibition of intoxicants was the rule not only on Christmas but the other three hundred sixty-four days as well, we were peculiar in that ours was the only home in the community that did not have whiskey on Christmas. I hope your children may have the privilege of being as happy over having lived in a home that was sober on Christmas. The memory of my sainted father and my loving mother having a home in which intoxicants were forbidden is a great comfort to me.

What Kind of Christmas This Year

If war does not break out before December (I am writing this lesson September 20) this ought to be the brightest and happiest Christmas in our history. We have had abundant crops, our people are prosperous.

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