

The following pages are an extract from The Methodist Church of New Zealand Minutes of the Annual Conference .

The extract contains the reports to Conference for the following three Methodist Children's homes:

- The Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage, Mt Albert and Epsom
- Masterton Methodist Children's Home
- South Island Orphanage and Children's Home

THE METHODIST CHURCH
of New Zealand

MINUTES

OF THE

Annual Conference

OPENED IN

THE TOWN HALL CONCERT CHAMBER
(and continued in Trinity Church),
DUNEDIN

On Thursday, 22nd February, 1940

CHRISTCHURCH

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1940

Principal: Mr. R. C. ...

QUESTION XLVIII.—What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting Connexional Orphanages?

A.—THE AUCKLAND CHILDREN'S HOME AND ORPHANAGE, MT. ALBERT AND EPSOM.

Report for 1939.

The life and work in our Children's Homes and Orphanages at Mt. Albert and Epsom has been carried on along the usual routine lines with, from time to time, items and incidents of varied interest and importance. The daily blessings and benefits received continue to call forth our gratitude to our Heavenly Father, Whose Divine Providence is our unfailing portion and the rejoicing of our hearts as we minister to His little ones.

Obituary.

It is with a profound sense of loss and regret that we have to report the passing of Mrs. J. Armitage at the end of August. This lady, who was for eight years (1920-1928) the Matron of Wesley Home, Mt. Albert, and, since her retirement from that position, a most valuable member of the Board, Executive and other Committees, has served the interests of our Orphanage work to an outstanding degree, and with a quality of service beyond all praise. Mrs. Armitage will be greatly missed from our councils, but her memory will long remain an inspiration and encouragement to all with whom she was associated in her work for the Master. The many boys and girls who have passed under her care and influence will have every cause to remember her with warmest affection and gratitude.

Health and Conduct.

These have been excellent throughout the year. Nothing beyond minor ailments has interfered with the physical welfare of the boys and girls—and the health of the staff members has been uniformly good. The behaviour of the children in the homes and at school has not only been well maintained, but an even further measure of improvement has been noticeable.

Admissions and Removals.

Fewer applications have been accepted than in past years, though many applications were made under circumstances the Selection Committee could not entertain. At the end of last year some more children were allowed to return to parents, but the numbers remain much as in last Report—viz., 42 in the Wesley Home and 33 in Epsom Home.

Staff.

The Homes continue under the able oversight and service of Mr. and Mrs. R. Wild, at Wesley, Mt. Albert, and Mrs. R. M. Butterworth at Buckland Road, Epsom, assisted by competent and willing helpers. The best of harmony prevails and the work in the Homes proceeds smoothly and with every attention to the best interests of all concerned. The conditions make for the happiness and contentment of all, the Ladies' Committee being entitled to their own good share of credit in this connection.

Condition of Buildings.

Further renovations and repairs have been made at Wesley Home, but the time is near when something much more extensive (and expensive) will be necessary if the premises are to remain in use for the present purpose. The Epsom Home is in a fairly good state of repair, and has still some years of serviceable life if required.

Purchase of New Site.

After numerous possible properties had been inspected and considered, the Board finally decided to purchase an area of some ten acres in the Winstone Park Estate at Mt. Roskill, Auckland, at £170 per acre—also a small section giving entrance to the larger property from Dominion Road Extension—this at a cost of £250. A survey of the boundary lines is being made, and it is hoped that a shelter belt of trees will be planted this present season along the only exposed side of the area. The Board's Architect, Mr. A. C. Marshall, has been asked to submit a lay-out of the buildings and grounds, but it is not intended to make provision beyond what at present would be required for the accommodation of the boys. This also will depend upon circumstances permitting the economical carrying-out of such a scheme.

Centennial Exhibition.

In common with the Methodist Homes at Masterton and Christchurch, steps are being taken to worthily represent our Orphanage work at the Wellington Exhibition at the end of the present year.

Street Appeal.

The Advisory Council of the Combined Auckland Orphanages having been successful in securing a day for the sole benefit of the Orphanages, the appeal this year, held on September 1st, was most successful, £1,000 being realised from this effort. This amount is being shared on a per capita basis between the various Homes.

Committees.

The thanks of the Board are accorded to the members of the various Committees who again have rendered valuable service—the Ladies' Committee being entitled to special mention for their efforts on behalf of the Homes.

Thanks.

As in past years, the special thanks of the Board are accorded to Drs. Harold Pettit and Cyril Griffin, Hon. Physicians to the Homes, for their valuable and kindly professional services, and to Mr. K. W. White, Chemist, Mt. Albert, for continued supplies of medicines and also of many other useful gifts for the children generously given.

To many friends who have contributed in cash and other gifts cordial thanks are rendered and warm appreciation is expressed for all the help so generously given.

The personnel of the Board for 1940 will be submitted to Synod and Conference in due course.

F. COPELAND, Chairman.

ARTHUR HOPPER, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

- (1) That the Report and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
- (2) That thanks be accorded to the Board of Management and the staff of the Homes and the Ladies' Committee; to Drs. Harold Pettit and Cyril Griffin, Hon. Physicians, and Mr. K. W. White, Chemist; to the Treasurers (Rev. Geo. Frost and Mr. A. L. Caughey), and to the Secretary (Rev. A. Hopper).
- (3) That the Board of Management be congratulated upon the commencement of their scheme for a new site and buildings as represented by the purchase of the property at Winstone Park, Mt. Roskill, Auckland.
- (4) That the following be the Board of Management for 1940:—Mrs. W. R. Emerson and Mr. Wm. Astley (Life Members), Rev. F. Copeland, C. H. Laws, B.A., B.D., T. A. Joughin, W. A. Sinclair, W. Walker, E. T. Olds, H. A. Sharp, H. Ranston, M.A., D.Litt., A. E. Orr, and F. G. Brown; Mesdames T. A. Joughin, T. Clark, A. L. Caughey, C. H. Burton and W. P. Winstone; Misses A. Mason, E. Mason, E. Waddingham, Ida Buttle, C. Wagstaff and C. Veale; Messrs. J. E. Astley, T. Clark, A. Trenwith, Walter Ambury, A. Williams, L. F. Rudd, R. W. Gillon, Frank Penn, J. S. Caughey, J. H. Whitburn, J. Hargreaves, J. Tyler, and G. W. Turley; Revs. G. Frost (Clerical Treas.), and A. Hopper (Sec.); Mr. A. L. Caughey (Lay Treas.); and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

B.—MASTERTON METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME.

Report for the Year Ending 30th September, 1939.

In our last year's report we made reference to the difficult year we had experienced, and unfortunately we are in the position of having to repeat the same this year.

Early in this year our Secretary-Manager resigned on account of having been accepted by Conference as a Youth Director, and his position was filled by the appointment of Mr. W. R. Nicol.

Messrs C. Jones and H. Skuse resigned owing to removal from the district.

The Committee in July lost, through death, its oldest member in the person of Mr. C. E. Daniell—a loss felt greatly by all connected with the Home, as one who had done more for the Home than any other member, and his passing on is a severe loss to the whole community.

Later on, Miss E. Mygind, who was Assistant Matron for four years, left to go into business on her own account at Pahiatua, and her place has been taken by Miss Malcolm.

To replace retiring members of the Committee, Messrs J. H. Conly and G. F. Whitlock were appointed to fill the vacancies.

Statistics.

The year commenced with 32 children in the Home, and during the year one of the inmates left, on being adopted, while one boy left to take up work in New Plymouth, and with one admission (a boy) the position at the end of the year is that we have 22 boys and 9 girls—a total of 31.

Children.

We are pleased to report that the children are making satisfactory progress in their school life, and reports received from time to time indicate steady progress in the outside world, of those whom we have cared for in years gone by.

In this connection it is gratifying to the Staff in particular, and the Committee in general, to be able to report that at the Christmas Tea (an annual event at the Home) no less than 10 young men and young maidens, who had all gone through our hands, took part in the gathering—surely a true indication of their recognition of the Home as a True Home and accepted as an acknowledgment by the Staff and Committee of gratitude and appreciation of the Christian training and upbringing they had received at our hands.

Collections.

These from Circuits showed a slight improvement on last year, and a greater effort is hoped for in the coming year to help in this very worthwhile object of practical Christianity.

Wellington Board.

Acknowledgment is here made of the exceedingly friendly relationship existing between the parent body (the Wellington Board) and the Management Committee.

Bequests

Notification during the year was received of bequests from the Estate J. A. Sinclair £25, Hawera Church (per Rev. G. F. Stockwell) £50, Estate Mrs. Bowyer £425, and an additional gift of £200 from an anonymous donor, who last year made a gift of £250, and for all these and many smaller gifts we gratefully acknowledge same towards the carrying on of God's work in our Masterton Home.

In conclusion the Committee record with gratitude the unfailing attention to duty of Miss Allan (the Matron), and her loyal and capable staff.

A word of thanks and appreciation is due to Dr. Prior for his watchful care of and love for the children in sickness and in health.

J. H. HANDYSIDE, Chairman.

W. R. NICOL, Secretary-Manager.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That Conference expresses its pleasure on learning of the splendid work of our Children's Home at Masterton and desires to thank:—The Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments Trust for its continued generosity; the Masterton Management Committee; the Secretary-Manager (Mr. W. R. Nicol); the Matron (Miss Allan) and members of the staff; and Dr. Prior for his continued care of the health of the children in the Home.

(3) That the Committee for 1940 be:—Messrs. A. H. Daniell, A. J. Donald, F. E. Wells, W. H. Judd, J. H. Handyside, W. R. Nicol, Dr. N. H. Prior, G. F. Whitlock, J. H. Conly, J. A. Wellington, Rev. H. S. Kings, Miss Burton, Mesdames J. Cocker, J. Elliott, F. C. Daniell and H. S. Kings. Officers:—Chairman, Mr. J. H. Handyside; Secretary-Manager, Mr. W. R. Nicol; Asst. Secretary, Mr. J. A. Wellington; Chaplain, Rev. H. S. Kings; Honorary Physician, Dr. N. H. Prior.

C.—SOUTH ISLAND ORPHANAGE AND CHILDREN'S HOME.

Report for 1939.

We have pleasure in reporting another year of rich mercies and blessings in connection with our Orphanage and Children's Home. It has been a year marked by some anxiety, with great activity, and many changes. The average number of children in the Home has been somewhat smaller than of recent years. At the present time we have 52 children in residence. The general health of the children, whilst in no way serious, has given more cause for care than usual. Our long freedom from illness has been remarkable, but unfortunately has not been so well maintained during the past year. The prevailing epidemics of measles and chicken-pox made their presence felt for a long period. Practically all the children suffered one or the other, in some cases both. Then one of our girls fell whilst playing and broke her leg. We are pleased to report that in every case there was a complete recovery. We are deeply indebted to the Staff for their untiring and unfailing care.

The Board has sought to pay special attention to the "after-care" and oversight of those leaving the Home. The appointment of a Vocational Committee has proved most valuable. Suitable positions and occupations have been found for many senior children. Two of the older boys who had been with us for over 13 years (since they were three years of age) have both passed the Matriculation examination and have been placed in good Government positions.

Owing to many factors the applications for the admission of orphans is small, but unfortunately the applications for those who are in dire need of love and care through unworthy parents show a marked increase.

After a period of six years as Chairman of the Board, Rev. Clarence Eaton removed from Christchurch. He had been deeply interested in the erection and management of the New Home. His leadership and service will ever be remembered, and will bear fruit in many ways. We regret to report the removal through death of two valued members of the Board. Mr. J. F. Carr had always shown practical sympathy and help and he will ever be remembered as one who loved the children. The untimely death of Mrs. F. B. Lawrence removed from us one whose intimate and devoted interest was most valuable.

Extensive property changes have been effected. With reservations of suitable land and buildings for future Orphanage use, the old Home site was sold to the Government for use in its new housing scheme. Thus a new settlement has sprung up around the Orphanage and Church. Two sections adjoining the New Home have been acquired for playing grounds and vegetable gardens. Through assistance of men from the Employment Bureau these grounds have been drained, levelled, and fenced at a very small cost to the Board. More intensive use is being made of the vegetable grounds.

Through the gracious offices of the Christchurch City Council we were again enabled to hold the Street Day Appeal. This, in conjunction with the Radio Concert, netted the splendid response of £1096, of which our Methodist share amounted to £238/15/4. To all willing helpers we would tender our grateful thanks.

Owing to various causes, this year is marked by many staff changes. After a brief time of service Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Butler resigned from the Home. Miss Ashcroft now leaves us after twenty years' loyal and faithful service. A new gardener has been appointed in the person of Mr. D. Hawke. The Board has been fortunate in that it has secured Miss G. S. Barclay as Matron. Miss Barclay comes to

us with a worthy record of Orphanage experience. With the new year other changes are pending. Rev. Kings retires after five years' service as Secretary, and Rev. E. Drake has been appointed as Organiser-Secretary. In reviving this office it is felt that an opportunity is provided for a much closer contact between the Home and the Circuits.

In a year that has presented its special problems we have been deeply conscious of Divine grace and guidance. We have known a Fellowship in service with Him, Who, as of old, calls the little ones unto Him.

To Dr. A. J. Orchard and Mr. G. Sevicke Jones, we tender our sincere thanks. Their unfailing care and courtesy, their love and interest have made them more than helpers. Their service has been a labour of love for which we are especially grateful.

The Board will be nominated at the North Canterbury Synod.

W. A. BURLEY, Chairman.

H. S. KINGS, Secretary.

Addendum.

The Board wishes to place on record its very great appreciation of the outstanding services of Rev. H. S. Kings, who has been Secretary to the Board for five years. Mr. Kings is greatly gifted for this position, and has laboured and never counted the cost in the interests of the children. During a most difficult period, Mr. Kings did a work the value of which is beyond computation. We realise our great indebtedness to him and unite in wishing him well in his new sphere of labours.

W. A. BURLEY, Chairman.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That Conference heartily endorses the tribute to the work of the Rev. H. S. Kings as Secretary.
3. That the following be the Committee for 1940:—Revs. W. A. Burley, W. Grigg, E. Drake, M. A. Rugby Pratt, H. Ryan, A. O. Harris, J. Richards, F. B. Lawrence, C. R. Taylor, Raymond Dudley, W. A. Mills, J. K. Watson, Messrs. M. Kershaw, F. A. Sheat, W. Dobbs, W. S. Worner, H. Holland, H. De R. Flesher, J. E. Purchase, S. Harrington, Mesdames G. Bowron, W. H. Seed, R. Pratt, W. Cock, and Sister Mabel Morley. Mr. E. W. Hall to be a Life Member of the Board.

QUESTION XLIX.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference respecting Connexional Literature?

"METHODIST TIMES" AND LITERATURE COMMITTEE.

Report for 1939.

The new contract providing for the printing of the "Methodist Times" in Levin has worked satisfactorily throughout the year and the printers have done faithful work. Difficulty is presented in procuring regular supplies of paper owing to import restrictions and to the unsettlement occasioned by the war.

This year has seen a further increase in the number of subscribers to the paper. The distinguished service being rendered by