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

HELD AT NELSON, 1952

Price Two Shillings

Procurable at the Connexional Office

CHRISTCHURCH
Printed by Willis & Aiken Limited, 125 Worcester Street
1953

3. That Law Book, page 122 par. 22 (Term Examinations) be amended to read "Written examinations shall be held half-yearly."

4. That Misses Doreen Mavis Bulford, Gwenda Violet Kennedy and Kathleen Ellen Rogers be received for training in 1953.

5. That the Board for 1953 be: The Chairman of the North Canterbury District, Superintendent Ministers of the Durham Street, St. Albans and Riccarton Circuits, the Connexional Secretary, and Revs. H. E. Harkness, A. O. Harris, A. F. Collins; Messrs A. A. Harrow, H. W. Beaumont, R. G. Pearce and A. G. Harris; Mesdames P. A. LeBrun, C. Colechin, H. W. Beaumont, W. McHarg, F. Crespin, E. McNeill and A. K. Petch; Corresponding Members: President, Deaconess Association and Woman Youth Director.

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

A—Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage Mt. Albert and Epsom

THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

In presenting this Report of the past year's work, we gratefully acknowledge the guidance and blessing of our Heavenly Father. The problems of management, staffing, and supply have been met and every child in our care has been well fed, housed and clothed.

Across the lives of each of these children a dark shadow has fallen. Both or one parent has died. With some the remaining parent has ceased to care except to pay the weekly maintenance. All are deprived the right to grow up in a normal home and in an atmosphere of affection and security. Community life is thoroughly enjoyed and it is a happy sight to witness the joy and excitement as each one returns to the family after a holiday away. Our family at present consists of 62 young people. 'There are five small boys and 28 girls at Epsom and 29 boys (8 to 1£ years) at "Wesley". During the year there have been 22 admissions and six discharges. Four of our big boys have taken positions on farms. All the children attend Sunday School and Bible Class and join in the activities of the Church. Girls Brigade, Cubs and Scouts and St. John Ambulance are well attended and the majority of the boys are keen footballers.

Staff.

The Board and the children owe much to the Matrons and staff who give of their time and strength in caring for the physical and spiritual welfare of these little ones. Their contribution and devotion is greatly appreciated and we are fortunate in having men and women for whom this work is a vocation. Their loving service gives the children a sense of being loved and wanted and this brings to them a security that young people need.

During the year we said farewell to Miss Grove who for nearly six years has been Matron at "Wesley". We record our appreciation of the service she rendered and the courage with which she carried on through staff shortage and periods of ill health.

In February, Mrs Butterworth, who for many years was "Mother" at our Girls' Home, rejoined the Staff as Matron of "Wesley". Her years of experience in Children's Homes, her ability and understanding of the needs of young people, has already born fruit in a smooth running and happy household.

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Miss Archer has already given four years of service as Matron of Epsom, having served previously on the staff at "Wesley".

Ladies' Committee.

The Ladies' Committee continue in their good work. The Officers and Executive keep the needs of the Homes before the members of the Ladies' Guilds. They organise mending groups and under the leadership of Mrs Wigglesworth and Mrs Myers the House Committees meet regularly, giving advice and help in replenishing the clothes and crockery cupboards. We are grateful to those faithful helpers who mend and patch and to the Guild ladies who supply money to help clothe our large family.

United Orphanage Council.

We are indebted to the devotion and energy of this Council. Their work among the business community and Men's Organisations, as well as their Street Day Appeal, has been invaluable to us. As well as treats and gifts received through this avenue we acknowledge the gifts of bolts of flannelette which are being made into pyjamas by the members of the Travel Club. Our share of the Street Collection was £1,085. Our Secretary was asked to give an interview on Orphanage work, which was broadcast from 1YA.

Property.

Our two Homes are still being maintained and kept to a reasonable standard. Our Chairman, Rev. Allon Carr, who is keenly interested in this work, gave of his time and services in supervising the necessary alterations at "Wesley". These were essential to provide extra conveniences for staff and to improve storage for the children's clothing.

New Building Project.

The New Building Project is being pushed along. Sketch plans have been prepared and approved by the Board. Approval of these plans has been given by the Health Department and the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee. The new building will accommodate approximately 60 children, and a staff of 12. Our Architect, Mr Marshall, is now busy preparing the plans for the purpose of obtaining Estimates. We trust that in this undertaking the Auckland and South Auckland Districts will be behind us in prayer and support.

Finance.

For three years in succession our income has not been equal to our expenditure, but this year we report a credit balance of 482/16/4. If our people are prepared to give more liberally then the stress and strain of much of the work would be lifted. If our membership would take a greater interest in the work being accomplished we are sure donations would steadily increase. The Board appeals to Ministers, Home Missionaries and Deaconesses to acquaint themselves with this worthwhile work and realise that it is a great privilege for us as a Church to have the moulding of these young lives.

Bequests.

Bequests this year total approximately £2,367. We remember with gratitude those people who have remembered this cause in their Wills.

Thanks.

This Report would not be complete without recording our gratitude to the many people who give in time, service and goods to this work.

To our Chaplains, Revs. J. C. Draper and Geo. Brown, to Drs H. J. Mail and Clifford James for medical advice and care.

To Mr F. C. Matthews, who not only gives oversight to the Epsom grounds, but purchases all live stock needed. He also supervises the care and maintenance of the van.

To the many friends who provide outings, holidays, fruit and provisions. The officials of Churches who donate their Harvest Festival produce. Especially do we thank our Church people and friends who open their homes to the children at Christmas time.

These Homes exist because the need exists. It is the work of the Methodist Church to keep the doors of these Homes open for those who qualify for admittance. It is an opportunity for service for all our people and a challenge to our Church membership to provide the necessary money to enable us to provide shelter, food and clothing. These children depend on us for their all.

W. E. ALLON CARR, Chairman. IVY H. JONES. Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and

2. That the M.S.S.A. be asked to give consideration to the future adopted. policy of Children's Home work including the most suitable size of

3. Board of Management.—Chairman: Rev. W. E. Allon Carr. Life Members: Mesdames W. R. Emerson and A. H. White, Mr. J. E. Astley and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Faulkner. Secretary-Treasurer: Sister Ivy Jones. Lay-Treasurer: Mr. P. Dellow. Revs. E. W. Hames, W. Walker, Walter Parker, A. E. Orr, F. Copeland, A. H. Scrivin, the Ministers of Mount Albert, Dominion Road, Epsom and Remuera Churches, Mesdames A. L. Caughey, C. J. Burton, C. K. Wigglesworth, R. C. Hemmings, C. M. Myers, Miss C. Wagstaff, Messrs. F. Penn, A. L. Caughey, R. T. Garlick, C. K. Wigglesworth, C. E. Goode, F. C. Matthews, N. North, B. R. Burton, Gordon Matthews, and the Chairman and Secretary of the South Auckland District.

B-Masterton Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

The Committee is grateful for the opportunity for service which is afforded through the Home and thanks God for what is done from year to year in nurturing and training the young lives who are members of its family.

The service rendered by the Master, Matron and staff is outstanding and to them must be given most of the credit for what is

We now have 20 boys and 14 girls in the Home. During the year achieved. there were eight admissions and 11 departures. We are pleased to report that almost all those who left were able, through changed circumstances, to return to parents. Of those entering employment in the period under review one girl has taken up clerical work, another is a companion-help and two are telephone exchange operators. The boys have taken up grocery, plumbing and farming positions.

The annual accounts show total expenses for the year to be

almost identical with the previous year. Maintenance fees collected and circuit collections were higher than previously. In view of prevailing conditions the cost of running the Home (about £88 per child per annum), is considered to be satisfactory.

The drives and a portion of the yard have recently been tar sealed. A small garden tractor and implements have been purchased and put to good use. Preliminary plans have been prepared for the construction of a new room for recreation and general purposes. which it is hoped will ultimately be of considerable benefit in the everyday life of the Home in relieving the over-taxed common room.

Legacies of £1,110 from the estate of the late Mr George Jones. and £1,000 from the estate of the late M. E. Chowen, were received and, together with £94/12/6 income from various estates, were remitted to the Wellington Board for credit of the capital funds of the Home

The Committee wishes to acknowledge with thanks the response from church people to its appeal for increased contributions. There was also a splendid response to the call for holiday homes for the children at the Christmas and New Year period. The Masterton Trust Lands Trust grant of £20 for school stationery is acknowledged with appreciation. Many friends of the Home have given assistance in various forms and to them all we are very grateful.

We record with appreciation the services rendered to the Home by Mr C. D. Shoosmith, who has resigned from the Committee for health reasons. Mr Shoosmith was a real friend of the children and gave freely of his time for their benefit.

The following Management Committee is nominated for the ensuing year: Mr A. K. Hodder (Chairman), Mr D. E. Lyttle (Vice-Chairman), Mr W. R. Nicol (Manager), Mr J. F. Cody (Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. R. F. Clement, Dr. N. H. Prior, Mesdames J. H. Conly, A. K. Hodder, D. E. Lyttle, C. D. Shoosmith, R. F. Clement and H. C. Wood, Misses L. Cocker and M. Burton, Messrs J. H. Conly, A. H. Daniell, W. E. Layton, T. F. Mannell, K. J. Orams,

F. E. Wells and H. C. Wood.

A. KEITH HODDER, Chairman. J. F. CODY, Secretary.

RESOLUTION.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.

C-South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

In presenting this Report of the work of our Home for the past year, we would record our thankfulness to God for His goodness and for the measure of success which has attended our efforts. Only the love of God can inspire and sustain such a service as this. We are deeply grateful, too, for the spirit of dedication to the highest which is being shown by all the members of the staff. Mr and Mrs G. Howells continue to show a real concern for the welfare of the children. This is reflecting itself in the general atmosphere and kindly discipline of the Home. There have been a few changes in Staff personnel. Miss Melville, who returned to us during the year. has again had to relinquish her position. Miss Dale, who was assisting for some months in the Boys' Block, has also moved on. Mr L. Riley, our very efficient gardener, has resigned. Up to the present his position has not been filled. To these workers, who gave of their best for the Home. we tender our grateful thanks.

Children.

At the present time there are 59 children in the Home, 34 boys and 25 girls. In age these range from three to sixteen years. Several children have been found permanent homes, where, we believe, they will be well provided for and given their opportunity in life. This has come about through the practice followed at Christmas time of arranging for holiday homes for the children. On the whole the health of the children has been excellent. To Dr S. C. Peddie, our Honorary Physician, we are greatly indebted for his ever ready services.

The Home was recently visited by the Minister of Internal Ministerial Visit. Affairs, the Hon Mr Bodkin, and Mr McAlpine, M.P. Both expressed themselves in the highest terms of commendation of the Home. This was afterwards conveyed by letter to Mr Howells. Such visits must be productive of good.

Committee Work.

The various Committees, which have the oversight of work at the Home, have met regularly, giving valuable time and service. The Building Committee keeps a watchful eye on the maintenance of the property. This year very considerable renovations have been necessary, with more to be done next year. The Ladies' House Committee looks well to furnishings. Their deft touches lend brightness to dormitories that would otherwise be dull, while their suggestions concerning what might be done lead to efficient and progressive work. The Grounds Committee keeps watch over gardens, pastures, and playing fields. In addition to what is home-grown, much is donated to assist in feeding the family. To the kindly donor, who for many years has given sufficient wheat for the fowls, we express our thanks. Also to those friends who year by year donate potatoes, eggs, jam, etc., we say "Thank you."

Entertainment.

Members of Rotary and the Savage Club have continued their good service in providing outings and entertainments. Mr Ern Smith and members of the Bible Classes have continued to arrange for games evenings. The service of the Bible Classes has been outstanding in connction with the Annual Appeal. Their house to house canvass has been thorough, with excellent results.

In all and above all our aim is to win and hold the children for Christ. Some of them have found the Saviour during the year. For this we thank God. May they prove in years to come that "His service is perfect freedom."

Thanks.

We express our thanks to those who provided holiday homes for the children; also to Mr W. Worner, retiring member of the Board, for his devotion to the children for many years.

The following are nominated as members of the Board for 1953: The Chairman of the District, Connexional Secretary, Superintendent Ministers of Durham Street, Cambridge Terrace, Christchurch East, St. Albans and Woolston Circuits, Revs. A. N. Scotter and A. O. Harris, Messrs H. de R. Flesher, H. J. S. Harrington, F. A.

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Sheat, A. A. Harrow, C. L. Palmer, P. B. Birkett, R. Barnett, Mesdames M. A. R. Pratt, F. C. Thornton, R. A. Marsh, A. Black, B. M. Hodder and Miss D. Horrell.

W. T. BLIGHT. Chairman. A. O. HARRIS. Secretary.

RESOLUTION.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.

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

-Methodist Times Committee ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

Circulation.

The Committee is able to report another successful year's operation. Our circulation figure now stands at 4,750, a nett increase of 100 for the year.

We again emphasise the fact that while circumstances may differ, intensive activity within our Churches can almost invariably result in a substantial increase in the number of contributors. Recently a Church which previously had 47 subscribers, which was an average proportionate figure for its Church membership, sent in the names of 34 new readers, making a total of 81. In one Home Mission Station there has been a steadily increasing enrolment each year for the past four years with the result that there are now 46 subscribers, that is 44% of the membership, which must mean a paper in almost every home in the Station.

Question 8 in the Law Book agenda for Quarterly Meetings provides the opportunity for consideration of this matter. It is to be regretted that in many cases this is either completely ignored or passed over all too quickly. It cannot be stressed too strongly that a Church membership which is steadily being informed by its Church journal is a spiritually richer membership and a more vital force. Ample evidence of that fact abounds within our various circuits. In this connection we do ask that Quarterly Meetings give every support to the circuit agents who are rendering us such valuable service. This will perform a dual service. It will bring to more members the benefit to be derived from their Church paper. It will assist in meeting the increased cost of production referred to later in the report.

We again present a percentage table to indicate the position in our Synodal Districts

but Dynoual Districts				ALCOHOLD A	
Auckland		13.29	Wellington		15.77
South Auckland		16.03	Nelson		17.17
Taranaki-Wanganui Hawkes Bay-		17.58	North Canterbury	TERROR !	16.37
Manawatu		18.00	South Canterbury	JEMIT	18.35
			Otago-Southland	Taxati	15.12

Finance.

Increasing costs constitute a seemingly inescapable problem. As indicated in our report to last Conference we anticipated that increased revenue from subscriptions and advertising would enable us to meet during the current year rising costs of printing and distribution. Fortunately that expectation has been realised and we closed the year with a small credit balance of £5/12/6.

We are now faced with still greater charges in respect to the