

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 Christchurch, 1954

Price: Two Shillings

Procurable at the Connexional Office

to their training. We have reason to believe that these young women will render good service to Christ and His Church.

Candidates:

We are anxious about the supply of candidates. Although there have been a number of inquiries about the order in recent years, there are only two candidates taking the entrance examination this year. We would appeal to Circuit Superintendents to discuss with their young people the service which young women can render to Christ in the Deaconess Order.

Curriculum:

The change made last year in the curriculum has proved satisfactory. The Board of Studies has discussed at intervals the progress of the trainees, and encourages them to further reading and study in selected books.

Lecturers:

There have been changes in the lecturing staff this year, and the Board appreciates the work done. The Staff as present is as follows: Theology Rev W. T. Blight B.A., B.D.; N.T.: Rev R. E. Patchett; O.T.: Rev A. K. Petch B.A.; Psychology: Rev P. A. Stead; Ch. Hist.: Rev A. M. Costain; Elocution: Rev A. H. Fowles; English: Mrs Ford.

We are also grateful to various Connexional Officers and others who come and give further lectures.

Deep appreciation is recorded of the Services of the Rev H. E. Harkness M.A., B.D., Rev W. A. Chambers M.A., and Mrs G. Hill M.A., who were Lecturers in Theology, Psychology and English respectively, and who were unable to continue beyond the end of 1953.

Staff:

Our Matron, Mrs G. E. Gauntlett gives wise and gracious leadership to her staff, and we are in the position of stating that Deaconess House is "Home" away from home for the 30 girls in residence.

Property:

The Board is pleased to report that Deaconess House has been thoroughly renovated and the whole property is now in good repair. We are fortunate in having good property supervisors on the Board.

Deaconesses in the Field:

Reports from our Deaconesses indicate the wide fields of service rendered to the Church. The whole Church is grateful to them. Some appointments this year have indicated another sphere of work. In Hastings, Masterton, Palmerston North and Tauranga, Deaconesses are supplying Ministerial Probationer appointments, to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Conference Resolutions:

We regret that we cannot include in this report consideration of last year's Conference Resolutions. Due to changes in personnel of the Board we were unable to get to work on them in time. We will furnish a full report next year.

G. R. HARRIS, Chairman.

J. C. A. WILLIAMS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statements be received and adopted.
3. That Conference express its sincere thanks for the work of the Deaconess Board and the staff and lecturers of Deaconess House.

Sister Mabel Morley:

4. Conference has learned with great regret of the passing of Sister Mabel Morley. We record our deep sense of debt to Sister Mabel for the great contribution she has made to the life of the Church, especially through the Deaconess Order. Not only has she contributed personally as a Circuit Deaconess, but her influence has been felt over many years in the guidance of the work of the Deaconess Institution.

5. That Conference draw the attention of the Deaconess Committee to Resolutions 5 and 6 of Conference Minutes, 1953, page 153. The terms of reference should be extended to cover such matters as the direction and control of Deaconesses on the field; the method of stationing Deaconesses and all other matters which will help to raise the standard and increase the efficiency of members of the Order.

6. That the Board for 1955 be: The Chairman of the North Canterbury District, Superintendent Ministers of the Durham Street, St. Albans and Riccarton Circuits, the Connexional Secretary, Revs. A. O. Harris, N. P. Larsen, J. C. A. Williams, Messrs A. A. Harrow, H. W. Beaumont, R. G. Pearce, G. Hill and L. C. Moore, Mesdames P. A. Le Brun, C. H. Colechin, W. I. McHarg, H. A. McNeil, A. K. Petch, W. L. Divers and H. W. Beaumont. Corresponding Members: President of Deaconess Association and the Woman Youth Director. Secretary of Board: Rev. J. C. A. Williams.

QUESTION LIV.—What are the Resolutions of Conference respecting Children's Homes?

A—Auckland Children's Home and Orphanage

MT. ALBERT AND EPSOM

FORTY-FIRST REPORT, 1954

We report the past year's work of this Board, who under the blessing and guidance of God, has the oversight of the two Children's Homes in Auckland.

This work among these homeless and dependent children is surely the responsibility of the people of the Church. Because of the confidential nature of the work it is difficult to make known what is being accomplished. The fact remains that these children have been committed to the care of the Methodist Church and we dare not fail in this trust.

New Building Scheme:

The main work of the Board during this year under review has been the finalising of the plan, and letting the contract for the erection of the New Home. This has brought to a culmination the long years of careful planning, and marks the end of the protracted efforts to launch this major scheme in Auckland.

On Sunday, May 2nd a Service was held for the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the New Home at Mt. Roskill, Auckland. The day was perfect and there was an excellent attendance. The Stone was laid by the President of Conference Rev H. L. Fiebig, B.A.

When tenders were called it was obvious that the Board must be committed to an expenditure far in excess of that originally contemplated. After many anxious meetings the Board took a step in Faith and let a contract for £58,000. This amount of course does not include furnishing, laying out of grounds etc.

Appeal for £20,000:

The Board has the consent of the Church to make this appeal in the Northland, Auckland and South Auckland districts and plans

are being made to go to our people for assistance. We are counting on our membership to stand behind us in our great need of financial help.

Mr Russell Garlick has relieved the Chairman of the Board and undertaken the position of Chairman of the Building Committee and Mr Gordon Matthews is Secretary. Mr J. G. Rennie has agreed to act as Liaison Officer and the Board is most fortunate to obtain the services of such an experienced man.

The Family:

There are at present 61 children in the two Homes staffed with eleven women and two gardeners. The health of the children has been excellent and we are glad to report that there has not been a case of serious sickness or accident. The school reports in most cases have been well above average and two of our senior lads obtained their school leaving Certificates. Both are staying on to obtain their University Entrance. Three young men, who are now farming, returned to "Wesley" to spend their holidays. Others have visited, all with the feeling that they wanted to visit their old home.

It is a great experience for the Children to have a holiday or outing with a private family and we are grateful to those who opened their doors and gave the children a good holiday at Christmas time. In August the Homes combined and spent a fortnight by the sea. The Central Mission Trustees made their Health Camp available and the "Florence Finlay Holiday House Fund" financed the holiday.

Once again we pay tribute to the Matrons and Staff who care for these children. Mrs Butterworth who mothers the boys at "Wesley" has been appointed to the Executive position of the new Home. The Board is indeed fortunate to have such an able, consecrated and motherly person to be in charge. Miss Archer has been on leave to enable her to nurse her aged father. The assistant Matron, Miss Robinson, has been Acting Matron at Epsom.

Committee Work:

This has been a very busy year for the different Committees. The Building and Finance Committees have spent hours planning the financing of the new Scheme. The Ladies' Committee has continued in its work of supplying clothes and money for treats etc. Groups of ladies have mended endless garments and the House Committees under the Conveners, Mrs Wigglesworth and Mrs Myers, have met regularly at the Homes. The women have undertaken the work of furnishing the new Home and are planning ways and means of raising funds for this purpose.

The Selection Committee has met and considered the many applications for admittance. Nine children have been admitted and seven have left our care.

United Orphanage Council:

Mr C. K. Wigglesworth and the Chairman represent our cause on this council. Mr. Wigglesworth has been made a Vice-President and he has earned this tribute after years of faithful service on this Council. We record our indebtedness to this Council and we are grateful for the amount of £990 received from their efforts.

Thanks:

Our gratitude is expressed to the Chaplains and those who regularly visit the Homes, providing treats, visits to the Zoo and pictures. To Drs Clifford James and H. J. Mail, our Honorary Medical Officers

who watch the health of their small charges and are always ready to help with their advice. We again thank Mr K. W. White, Chemist, who continues to donate all medical supplies to our "Wesley" Home. To Mr F. C. Matthews for his advice and help in purchasing livestock and farm equipment. We could name so many who give of their time and service, especially thanking Mrs Edna Hemmings for the valuable assistance as Minute Secretary of the Board.

As this Report is written before the close of our financial year it is impossible to give any figures but it is safe to forecast that our resources will be strained to the limit before the Board will be able to meet its commitments.

The work of the Homes is made possible and can be sustained only as our people realize the worthwhileness of this work and stand behind the Board in their efforts to provide better conditions and facilities for these dependent children.

W. E. ALLON CARR Chairman.

IVY H. JONES Secretary

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report be received and adopted.
2. That the Financial Statement be received and adopted.
3. That Conference express appreciation of the services of Sister Ivy Jones and the Board.
4. That the Rev. W. E. A. Carr be thanked for his special work for the Auckland Children's Home.
5. Board of Management, 1955 (see Page 7).

B-Masterton Methodist Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE, 1954

The year under review has been one of many changes, both on the Committee and on the Staff. We are thankful to report that even so, the children under our care have been afforded security within the Home in a Christian environment, and that their physical requirements have been well provided for.

As an avenue of Christian service, Mr and Mrs G. W. Thomas took up the positions of Manager and Matron in August 1953 and soon settled into their new and busy life. Mrs L. Coppel resigned her position owing to her departure from the district. Though she had not been with us very long, her services were much appreciated. The Home has benefitted through obtaining the services of Miss Muriel McCormack, who has a keen sense of vocation. We wish to record appreciation of the dedicated service rendered by Mr and Mrs Thomas, Miss Fell and Miss McCormack.

The Committee lost a valued and respected member in the passing of the late Mr D. E. Lyttle. His many acts of kindness and his life of service within the Church and community, have left a fitting memorial in the hearts of his friends.

Mr W. R. Nicol for many years Secretary-Manager, Mr A. H. Daniell and Miss M. Burton, both foundation members, Mesdames J. H. Conly and D. E. Lyttle and Miss E. James, all resigned from the Committee during the year. For varying terms and in differ-

ent ways all have rendered excellent service to the Home and we express our thanks for what they have done.

Mrs C. E. Archer and Sister Margaret Taylor have been welcomed as new members of the Committee.

The Home family is now reduced to 24 children. During the year there were twelve departures. One of these was adopted and three have been placed in suitable foster homes, although still remaining under the Committee's control. Five were able to return to parents' homes and the remaining three secured suitable accommodation and employment. Only three children, all of the younger age group, were admitted during the year.

Last year the Committee set a target of £1000 which it hoped to receive from its annual appeal to the Churches in its area. Although this target was not quite reached £987 was received, which was a substantial increase on the previous level of giving. We wish to convey our very grateful thanks to our supporters in the Churches for their response. We trust that the new level of giving may be maintained in the future—perhaps our four figure target will be reached in response to our next appeal. There was also a greater amount received by way of maintenance from parents and though we are not yet operating within our income the financial position has improved on the previous year.

During the year legacies of £5 from Estate E. G. E. Clark and £50 from the Estate A. R. Benbow were received. The Home has greatly benefitted over the years through many supporters making provision in their wills for a legacy in its favour. This avenue of assistance is commended to all friends of the Home. We acknowledge with thanks the School Stationery grant of £20 from the Masterton Trust Lands Trust and the donation of £83/9/0 from the Masterton Police Charity Committee.

Thanks are extended to all who have assisted in the work of the Home during the year and to the many people who have entertained our children and received them into their homes.

We trust that under the guidance of God the Home may continue to fill a need in the community and to give a good foundation for life to the children coming under its influence.

A. KEITH HODDER, Chairman.

J. F. CODY, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That Conference express appreciation of the work of the Master, Staff and Committee.
3. That the separation of the assets and finance of the Home be considered during the year and a report presented to Conference.
4. That the Management Committee be as printed on Page 7.

C—South Island Children's Home

ANNUAL REPORT, 1954

The work of the Home, which was committed to God before the year commenced, has run smoothly and we have been conscious throughout of the Divine guidance and blessing. For this we give thanks.

Staffing:

Miss Bradley, whose coming to us at the end of last year was a direct result of the Youth Conference has now completed an excellent

year of service. At Christmas time, Mrs Wakelin, an experienced Children's Home worker replaced Miss Urquhart as Seamstress. We record our thanks to Miss Urquhart for her splendid work over the past two years. Loyalty has been the keynote of the work of the Staff as a whole. With almost 16 years of continuous service we are glad to say that Mr Hawke is still with us. The work of the kitchen is efficiently managed by Mrs Clark. Sister Rona Collins, who lost her mother recently, continues to find a joy in spending herself on behalf of the children, especially the boys. Mr & Mrs Howells have a firmer place than ever in the life of the Home and in the confidence of the Board.

Admissions:

During the year there were 6 admissions, (5 boys and 1 girl) while 7 were discharged (5 boys and 2 girls). The present roll stands at 49. (29 boys and 20 girls).

Renovations, etc.:

A considerable sum has been expended during the year on repairs to the building, repainting the kitchen and the papering of the girls dormitory. Curtains have been put in the recreation room. The properly laid-out football field belongs to the children as much as the gardens which they help to keep in order.

Holiday Homes:

The system by which the children spend Christmas with friends of the Home has continued to function splendidly. We express our thanks to all who assist us in this way.

Activities:

The Stamp Club conducted at the Home by Mr and Mrs Young, is doing good work. During the winter Mr Ern Smith organises boys' games enlisting the assistance of Bible Class young people from various Churches, on Saturday nights. There are also Gym evenings for both boys and girls. Individual boys are interested in Boys Brigade and Sea Scouts. Rotarian friends are responsible for a monthly screening of films at the Home.

Health:

The health of the children has been good. Our thanks are given to Dr S. C. Peddie, of whose kindness we cannot speak too highly. Mr E. Dale, Chemist, is another friend, ever ready to assist and advise.

Re-Union:

These Annual gatherings grow in interest, the last being the largest yet held. They show that a very real bond exists between old boys and girls and the Home. An appreciative father, whose children entered the home on the death of their mother, and whose home was eventually re-established, sent a donation of £10 per the children to the Re-Union. Few Sundays pass but what some of those who have been previously in the Home look in on us, and often share with us whatever successes they have gained.

Combined Appeal:

This appeal throughout the City produces in cash much more than the amount given by the South Island Circuits. In this effort the Bible Classes take their full share of the work. We tender them grateful thanks.

Spiritual Life:

In this our chief aim is to lead every child to Jesus Christ. If we can do this faithfully, we will be able to do other things more successfully.

General:

We are convinced there is still room in the community for a Home of this type,—though we are not opposed to Cottage homes—where the chief interest is the welfare of each child, and where loving care and prayer surround them.

W. T. BLIGHT, Chairman

A. O. HARRIS, Secretary

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That thanks be expressed to Mr and Mrs Howells and members of the staff.
3. That the Board of Management for 1955 be as printed on Pages 7 and 8.

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

A—Methodist Times Committee

ANNUAL REPORT, 1954

We record an increase in our circulation figure of 39 for the year ended 30th April. That is by no means as large as we could hope for but it is gratifying in so far as it does continue the steady upward trend that we have been able to report each year since 1940.

The financial statement reveals a loss on the year's working of £405/11/9. Fortunately as anticipated last year paper costs have established and we have felt the benefit of this improved position. Other increased costs however are beyond our control especially such items as postages, printing, distribution and so on. While we have at present what must be considered a very favourable printing contract it is not possible to continue providing fortnightly a paper of 32 pages for the present very low subscription rate. Recourse to our reserve fund has been necessary but this cannot be continued any longer. Accordingly the Committee has decided that from 1st May, 1955, the subscription be raised by 2/6 making it 12/6 per annum. It feels that for such a subscription rate, it provides for our people a Church paper that is rich both in information and inspiration.

The Committee records its continued appreciation of the valued services of the Editor, the Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., and of his associate the Rev. C. P. Lucas—also of all who contribute regularly to our columns and those who faithfully serve the Church as Circuit Agents.

E. H. ANDREWS, Chairman.

H. L. FIEBIG, Business Manager.

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That the Editor, Associate Editor, contributors and Circuit Agents be cordially thanked for their valued services.
3. That the Committee for 1955 be:—
The Connexional Secretary, Revs. W. T. Blight, A. O. Harris, A. K. Petch, G. R. Harris, W. A. Chambers. Sir Ernest Andrews,

Messrs H. de R. Fleisher, S. D. McHarg, H. W. Beaumont, B. Bascand, R. Metson and the Chairman and the Convener of the Publications Board.

B—Board of Publications

REPORT FOR 1954

The Board is greatly encouraged by the ready sale of its publications throughout the country. It intends to go ahead with a varied publication programme, calculated to aid local churches in carrying out their work faithfully and efficiently. Suggestions about the type of material to be published will always be welcomed.

Crusade Publications:

The chief publication under this heading has been the "Leadership Year" booklet by the Rev W. A. Burley, M. A. The excellent information it contains cannot fail to be of value in the life of our Church

Books Published:

The Board feels that it has taken a real step forward this year in publishing two very useful books:

(a) "Our Fathers' Faith and Ours" by the Rev C. T. Symons, M.A., B.D.—A Membership Manual, and

(b) "The Holy Spirit of God in the New Testament" by the Rev H. Ranston, M.A., Litt. D.—a book for group study.

The latter has been particularly well received—especially the limited Souvenir Edition (300 copies) containing a signed portrait of the author. The Board intends to publish further books of this kind as funds permit.

Exchange of Publications with Australia:

The Board continues to exchange its New Zealand publications for those of the Australian Committee on a cash basis, the barter system having proved unworkable. In this way we are able to offer a wider range of useful material for circuits.

Audio-Visual Aids:

When the Rev Dr W. E. Sangster visited New Zealand, the Board arranged through two of its members, to have a 16 mm. movie film taken of his arrival by plane, and to have his three Auckland addresses tape-recorded. (One of these has already been published as a separate pamphlet). All this equipment remains freely available, and the Board seeks the permission of Conference to make further experiments in this direction.

Thanks:

Thanks are due to last year's Convener, the Rev W. F. Ford for outstanding services to the Board; to Miss L. Hendra and Mr J. C. Wigglesworth for keeping the accounts; to the staff of the Home and Foreign Mission Departments for efficient handling of orders from Circuits; to Messrs W. Haythorn-Thwaite and B. R. Burton for valuable advice on art work and the technical side of publication work generally.

W. E. A. CARR, Chairman.

L. R. M. GILMORE, Convener.

RESOLUTIONS.

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