

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 WELLINGTON, 1963

Price: TWO SHILLINGS and SIXPENCE

Procurable at the Connexional Office

Christchurch—The Chairman of the District, Revs. H. G. Brown, H. K. Brown, W. T. Blight, G. V. Thomas, W. S. Dawson, R. G. Bell, C. R. Marshall, T. Shepherd, P. D. Ramsay, Messrs N. G. Hillary, A. Southey, A. Clark, W. A. Hadlee, F. T. Bartley, R. Thomas, T. J. Chamberlain, G. D. Miskimmin, L. J. Butler, R. Anderson, W. Couch, G. S. Salter, B. C. Bascand, W. T. Lill, G. M. Couch, Drs. S. C. Peddie, N. F. Greenslade, T. Hurrell and T. Enticott, Mesdames M. Leask, W. T. Blight, W. S. Dawson, R. Anderson, W. Couch, R. G. Bell, G. N. Couch, J. Yarr, and Miss P. Caukwell, together with the Mission Officials and Ministers.

QUESTION 52—

III—Children's Homes

A—AUCKLAND

We are glad to submit this 50th annual report of the work for the children under the care of the Auckland Methodist Children's Home Board. We acknowledge the guiding of our Heavenly Father and His continued goodness through the many folk who take an interest in the children.

During the year we have cared for 41 children and at present there are only six children actually in residence at Wesleydale. There are five others at Rangiatea Maori Girls' Hostel, Kurahuna Maori Girls' Hostel, Wesley College, and Trinity College Buttle House and one on a farm. Also one boy and one girl are at special schools at Otekaieke and Richmond and they return to Wesleydale in their school holidays. In addition 18 children are living in 13 foster homes in Auckland suburbs, Tauranga, Morrinsville, Hamilton, and Matakana, a total of 32 under our control. It should be realised that the majority of children under our care have been from broken homes.

As a result of wise counselling of parents by our Superintendent Mr Riley, in conjunction with our Methodist ministers, many of the parents have been brought together and the children have returned to live with them. In other cases where there is just one parent, advice and practical help have been given to re-establish their own home units and the children have now returned to their care. We feel that this is a good thing and is due mostly to the increasing interest of ministers in counselling of parents.

Until his leaving Auckland, Mr Riley kept in touch with the foster families and also with many of the parents of children who have returned to their care. At present ministers are keeping in touch with the families on our behalf.

The appointment of a full time experienced case worker to take over this duty of visiting and giving advice and counsel is under action by the Board. A special committee responsible to the Board has now been appointed to keep in touch with the children and to control the activities of the case worker. This committee consists of experienced community welfare workers and ministers who specialise particularly in this type of work.

The policy of placing many of our children in Methodist foster homes has been continued and many of our children are happily settled with their foster parents and are receiving loving care in their upbringing.

The health of the children on the whole has been very good except for the usual mild ailments taking their toll for a few days

at a time. The children of Brigade age attended and enjoyed Brigade activities at Dominion Road Methodist Church. During the year many folk have continued to take an interest in organising worthwhile activities for the children.

The annual accounts are under action and we expect that they will be in a satisfactory condition mainly due to grants from the Connexional Budget, Government capitation fees, family benefit receipts and grants from the Auckland Savings Bank, the McKenzie Trust Inc., and the Ladies Committee.

We appreciate the very practical interest of many folk who have continued to support the children's work with monetary donations, and with gifts of clothing. We acknowledge the many gifts of produce and food and sewing materials from Church folk and Sunday Schools. We receive help from the general public via the Auckland Community Chest through the Auckland United Orphanages Council.

As usual many kind church folk offered their homes for holidays for the children during the long Christmas vacation. All our children were catered for in this way and they were well catered for. After coming back from the holidays some children returned to their parents to live and others have been placed in foster homes.

At the end of 1962 Mr and Mrs Riley who have been Superintendent and Matron respectively returned to Gisborne to take up work with the Hospital Board in regard to elderly peoples' homes. We are very grateful to them for their untiring work and devoted service at Wesleydale during the last few years. Many of the children will look back to the wise guidance and kindly instruction that these two gave them during their impressionable years.

Many staff changes have caused temporary difficulties but these were overcome without any disruption to the well being of the children.

The Ladies Committee continued to take an interest in the Home and especially in the way of keeping the furnishings up to date and providing replacements where necessary. We are very grateful to the ladies on the committee for their interest over many years. Also to those ladies from the different churches who regularly have visited the Home to do sewing and repairs to clothing.

Wesleydale Home opened in 1956, is a very fine building, and it has been the policy of the Board during the year to keep it in good condition by regular maintenance and painting so that the appearance of the buildings is always good. The grounds are in good condition. We acknowledge with gratitude the interest and help of those who have supervised the grounds and the buildings.

The Board is considering what use should be made of the Wesleydale buildings and property now that so few children are actually in residence.

We look forward with confidence to the continued support of Christian folk in caring for the children through the foster homes and in special hostels and schools. Funds will still be needed for this work and to maintain a smaller base family home for the children not placed in foster homes.

G. C. RIDDELL,
Chairman.

B—MASTERTON

The number of children under our care, at present 19, is probably the lowest since the early years of the Home. This could be accounted for by a falling off in applications for admission and also by the return of a family of five to their parents. This action of course being the policy of the Committee when they are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the children concerned.

Management Committee:

At the Annual Meeting Dr N. H. Prior intimated that he did not wish to act again on the Committee. This intimation was received with sincere regret as Dr Prior was an original Committee Member when the Home was established. It was resolved that the Committee place on record its sincere and deep appreciation of the long and faithful services given by Dr Prior and its gratitude for his unfailing counsel and professional attention to the children.

Staff:

Although there have been one or two changes in the staff Mr and Mrs Jolly have proved themselves most capable as Manager and Matron and have proved to be efficient organisers. The Committee does indeed appreciate the work being done by this dedicated couple.

Maintenance:

The maintenance of the Home has been carefully watched and the Committee has over the last few years done much to improve the comfort of the children and staff.

Future of the Home:

The Policy adopted by Conference could possibly mean the closing of the Home in its present capacity. Discussions have taken place between the Committee of Care of Dependent Children and the Home Committee and it has been agreed that when the new Area Committee is appointed further consultations will be held.

The Committee would again express appreciation to all who have in any way assisted with the work, gifts of clothing, produce and especially the provision of Holiday Homes for the Children. Financial support from the J. R. McKenzie Trust Board and the Trust Lands Trust has helped relieve the heavy burden of expenses in connection with the Home while a substantial donation from the Police Charity Day has helped to provide additional amenities for our large family.

This report could not conclude without a very special word of thanks to Mr and Mrs Jolly and the staff for the love and care bestowed on the children and for the example and influence they are expressing in the life of the Home.

C. E. ARCHER, Chairman,
W. H. SAUNDERS, Secretary.

C—THE SOUTH ISLAND CHILDREN'S HOME

We have proved that the care of dependent children is still a growing need in the community and we are fully extended in all spheres of child care.

66 children have been admitted of which 37 were of a temporary nature. At the end of June the number in the home was 47. Highlight of the year has been the establishment of 5 family units within the existing buildings. These have proved an outstanding success and the adjustment of the children to this new venture

and the improvement in their behaviour, attitude to schooling and general happiness has been remarkable.

Play Centre: The centre caters for 12 or more children from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each school day and is fulfilling a useful educational need. The two ventures, family units and Play Centre have been closely watched by institutions similar to our own as being worthwhile developments.

Temporary Care: The need for temporary care of families where the mother has entered hospital has filled a real and urgent need. The Board agreed to the policy of receiving such children on a temporary basis and the wisdom of this has been proved in practical situations where a real service has been rendered.

Counselling Service: The Master has continued to exercise a ministry of counselling, and much time and thought has been put into this sphere of work. Placing children back with their parents has been a priority and 49 children have been reunited with their parents and many homes re-established, bringing happiness and security to the children and unity to the family. These results have not been achieved without much patient endeavour, and the follow-up work of the counselling service has been most important. When it is realised that 25 children representing 8 families have been kept within their families when otherwise the homes would have been broken up and the children placed in the Children's Home, it can be seen how effective the Counselling Service has been.

Foster Homes: The most significant development has been the Foster Homing of children, and we have 18 children happily placed in Foster Homes and during the year we have used 37 Foster Homes and of these 14 are permanent Foster Homes. Many of the others have been temporary homes caring for three year olds who are not admitted into our Home.

Adoptions: We have played our part in adoptions, one having been completed and two are pending. We have also successfully boarded-out some of our children and this year one was boarded in what had been one of our earlier Foster Homes.

General: For the year we have cared for 116 children through our several avenues of service and child care. Old boys and girls keep a continual contact with the Home. As the different spheres of Child Care develop we can foresee much good work being carried out. At the present time we are hopeful of placing 24 children back with their parents and another 10 children into permanent Foster Homes.

Deputation Work: This work has been fully sustained this year, and visits paid by Mr Scott to Nelson, Motueka, Blenheim, Richmond, Timaru, Temuka, Ashburton and in many local areas, and opportunity taken to explain the new policy and to feature the ever changing pattern of our work.

The New Policy: The Board has held a consultation with the National Committee on the care of dependent children, and all details of the new policy have been considered. We await the decision of the Government on the transfer of the buildings to the Christchurch Central Mission for the establishment of a Geriatric Hospital, and until such decision has been reached, we continue to develop the new policy within our present buildings, and to do so with both effectiveness and success.

Jubilee: The Golden Jubilee of the Home will be celebrated

on 11th April 1964 and the occasion will record a history of achievement and a record to be proud of.

Appreciation: We record the Board's appreciation of the outstanding service of the Master and Matron, Mr and Mrs E. J. Scott, the Assistant Matron, Sister Rona Collins, and the staff. This has been a year of high achievement and we are grateful for the service being rendered in the Name of our Lord and of His Church.

H. G. BROWN, Chairman.

H. A. COCHRANE, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Reports and Financial Statements be received and adopted.
2. That Conference expresses its appreciation of the work of the Manager, Matron, Staff and Committee of the Masterton Children's Home.
3. That the Boards of Management be as printed on page 7 herein.

QUESTION 53.—What are the Resolutions of the Conference with regard to (a) The Order of Deaconesses? (b) The Training of Deaconesses?

Methodist Deaconess Board

ANNUAL REPORT, 1963

The Board has continued its work this year under the capable leadership of its chairman, Rev. H. C. Matthews. With only one student in training, it was decided that she should not live in the House, and arrangements for accommodation were made at the Children's Home in Papanui. This has proved to be an excellent arrangement for all concerned, the practical work undertaken by the trainee being of great benefit to her development during the year. A full course of lectures has been carried through under the supervision of Rev. W. T. Blight, with the assistance of Rev. R. G. Bell. Circuit work has been done in the Papanui Circuit.

At the House, the Lady Superintendent has supervised a full hostel, which has provided needed accommodation for a number of young women Training College students. The Board is pleased to see a strong group of Methodist girls in the Hostel this year.

House Committee Report: The valuable financial assistance of the many Guilds, who contribute so generously to our Renewals Fund appeal, has made possible the replacement of necessary furniture. New wooden beds, each with a colourful candlewick bedspread, give the rooms a bright and cheerful appearance; while, in the study, chesterfield suites have been given a new look with gay loose covers. Additional chairs have been purchased for the Chapel.

Our special objective this year is the replacement of the hall carpet.

Appreciation: The Board expresses its good wishes to Mrs Gauntlett in her recovery from illness, and its deep appreciation of her continued service to the House over many years.

We join with the Church in recognising the good work being rendered by Deaconesses serving in the many fields of the Church's work in New Zealand and overseas.

Deaconesses in the Field: Four probationers are at present serving in the Maori Mission and one in a Circuit. It is expected that all will be dedicated at this Conference.

In general this year, four Deaconesses are serving in Circuits, and one in the South Island Children's Home. Three are appointed to Maori Hostels, and fourteen (including probationers) are working in the Maori Mission. Two are working in the Overseas Mission Field.

It is expected that the appointment of a Warden will see more young women offering for training, and the Board feels that Circuits throughout New Zealand should be aware of the valuable work that can be done by a Deaconess as the colleague of a Minister. A trained woman worker can in many ways be a valuable assistant to a Circuit minister.

During the year, Sister Gladys Thomas was given permission to exchange with Sister Josephine Glasson of the Sydney Central Mission. The experience afforded Sister Gladys in such an appointment will be of great benefit in her work and to the Order. Sister Dorothy Pointon was given leave during the year to serve with the British and Foreign Bible Society, while Sister Mary Sealey received permission to travel overseas.

Candidates for Deaconess Work: We are pleased to report that since last Conference no fewer than seven enquiries have been received from young women interested in training for service in the Deaconess Order. Our appreciation is due to the Department of Christian Education for the interest shown by its Executive Officers in assisting the Board to publicise the Order among the young women of the Church.

Warden: The appointment of Rev. Wesley A. Chambers as Warden of Deaconess House will strengthen Deaconess training, and set the Order in a more fitting relationship to the whole Connexion. With this end in view, the Board is re-assessing the nature and function of the work of a Deaconess. We expect to see a broadening of the conception of the place and work of Deaconesses in the life of the Church.

In due course the Board will bring to Conference recommendations regarding necessary changes in the Law in respect to the relationship of the Warden to the Deaconess Institution.

Arrangements with Christchurch East Circuit: Very satisfactory arrangements have been made with Christchurch East Circuit with regard to the part-time service of the Warden at Wesley Church, Fitzgerald Avenue. Through the Warden's serving in this dual capacity in the initial stages of his appointment, the cost of such an appointment to the Connexion will be small.

We conclude our report in the confidence that under the Warden's leadership, Deaconess House will make an even worthier contribution to the life and work of the Church.

H. C. MATTHEWS, Chairman.

G. V. THOMAS, Secretary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. That the Report and Financial Statement be received and adopted.
2. That Rev. Wesley A. Chambers, M.A., be appointed Warden of the Deaconess Order.
3. That the Warden of the Deaconess Order serve as part-time Minister in Christchurch East Circuit, and be stationed in Wesley Church, Fitzgerald Avenue.
4. Conference expresses its appreciation to Rev. W. T. Blight, B.A., B.D., for his work as supervisor of studies for the past two years.