THE STORY OF THE SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST ORPHANAGE AND CHILDREN'S HOME,

CHRISTCHURCH

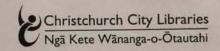
BY

M. A. RUGBY PRATT, F.R.Hist.S. 1934



"Tis Thou hast wrought among us
The great things that we see:
For things that are we thank Thee,
And for the things to be."

(S. J. Stone, M.A.)

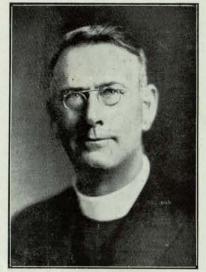


Aotearoa New Zealand Centre





The South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home PAPANUI, CHRISTCHURCH.



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REV. ARTHUR HOPPER (HON. SECRETARY).

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1934

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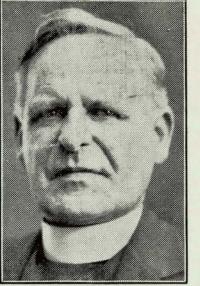
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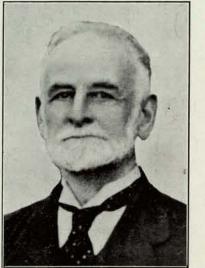
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N.B.—Apart from the official members of the Board, the names in the three groups of ministers, lady members and laymen respectively are arranged in the order in which they joined the Board.



REV. EDWARD DRAKE (DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN).



Mr. GEORGE BOWRON (HON. TREASURER),

The Story of the South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home

BY

REV. M. A. RUGBY PRATT, F.R.Hist.S. (Author of "The Pioneering Days of Southern Maoriland.")

Part 1. The Evolution of an Idea.

"A dreary place would this earth be
Were there no little people in it;
The song of life would lose its mirth
Were there no children to begin it.
No little forms, like buds, to grow,
And make the admiring heart surrender;

No little hands on breast and brow
To keep the thrilling love-chords tender.
The sterner souls would grow more stern,
Unfeeling natures more inhuman,
And man to stoic coldness turn,
And woman would be less than woman."

(J. G. Whittier)



DEAS have tremendous potency. They may be as destructive as dynamite or as constructive as the imagination of a poet. Sometimes an idea shoots like a torpedo among our complacent concepts, shattering dust-covered notions, revealing new truths and pointing to fresh avenues of service. Orphanages are the children of an idea. The idea

itself had its genesis in the heart of the Christ Who taught alike the value of man and the worth of the child. Our Saviour saw how, as children grew up, the look of wonder so often fled from their faces, fear peeped out of their eyes and tears stained their cheeks. He saw, too, that the cause of it all was the blindness and folly and sin of older folks, and with quivering resentment He declared "Whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

Nourished on the same teaching as our Lord, James, His brother, declared that one essential of all real religion, and greater than mere creeds and formularies was a devotion that issued in the service of the fatherless and the widows in their affliction. Such service it is that makes life a joy, death a burst of splendour and the Judgement a ravishing delight as the ear catches the cadence of the Christ voice saying "Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these ye did it unto Me." Any religion is rotten at the core that has no potency in overthrowing the scourges that threaten child life with disaster or that tolerates vices that may blast the promise of their fair young lives.

Page Three

WESLEY AND THE ORPHANS.

In the eighteenth century John Wesley recognised the human wastage represented by children growing up without loving guardianship, ignorant of moral standards and without knowledge of God. He met the situation with characteristic audacity. On his second visit to Newcastle-on-Tyne he bought a plot of ground for forty pounds and having twenty-seven shillings left proceeded to establish an orphanage at a cost of seven hundred pounds. Many were positive it would never be finished, others that he would not live to see it completed. He wrote in his Journal "I was of another mind." He laid the foundation stone on 20th December, 1742, the money came in as he expected and subsequently the place served as a home for training deaconesses for the wider spheres of social service.

Ever since Wesley's day Methodism has given attention to the needs of the children and has established homes and orphanages in all parts of the world. A Christian orphanage, as the Rev. C. H. Garland once declared, is like a Sacrament in that it is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace. It is a material manifestation of the reaction of the disciple to the Saviour's own concern for the child. But this visible manifestation in substantial buildings, well-equipped, efficiently staffed and capably directed, strikes its roots deep in hearts that feel the inner constraint of love for the Lord of the little ones.

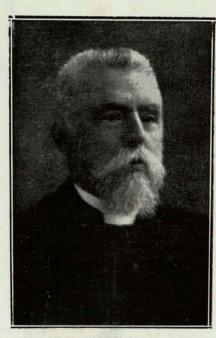
OUR MISSIONARIES AND THE ORPHANS.

From the inception of the Wesleyan Mission in New Zealand in 1822, our missionaries have given special care to the education of both native and European children. So impressed was the Colonial Government with the success of this work that on 7th October, 1844, Governor FitzRoy granted land at Auckland to the Church to be held in perpetual trust for a Wesleyan Native Institution. Several subsequent Crown Grants were made including a large area at Three Kings where Wesley College was established. The provisions of the Trust included the support and maintenance of an industrial school for the education of Maori or half-caste children, as well as orphans or destitute children of European parents.

Sir George Grey laid the foundation stone of the Establishment at Three Kings on 5th April, 1848. Its success was immediate and shortly afterwards our Church established on similar lines the Grey Institute at Ngamotu, New Plymouth, and the Kai Iwi Institute, near Wanganui. A fourth Institute was contemplated for the Wellington District, and in 1852 Sir George Grey granted to the Church an area, some seventy acres of which now comprise the Wellington Botanical Gardens. The

effects of the war between the Maoris and the white race seriously affected the work at Three Kings, led ultimately to the closing of the Grey and Kai Iwi Institutes, and prevented the setting up of the Wellington Institution. The endowments were faithfully conserved and the purposes of the various North Island trusts were partially fulfilled at Three Kings College and Wesley College, Paerata. The Wellington properties and funds were later comprised in "The Wellington Native and Destitute Children's Educational Trust," now known as the "Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments." For the South Island the establishment of an Institution in connection with the mission station at Waikouaiti, under the Rev. Charles Creed, was projected, but was never consummated.

For many years the Conference had before it various schemes for establishing an Orphanage and Industrial School in the Wellington Provincial District. There were many legal difficulties in the way some of which were removed by a decision of the Privy Council. The Conference of 1904 urged the Wellington Trust to establish a Children's Home, but the trustees did not see a clear path for some years. Ultimately they founded the Methodist Children's Home, at Masterton, which was opened so recently as 29th October, 1921.



REV. HENRY BULL.



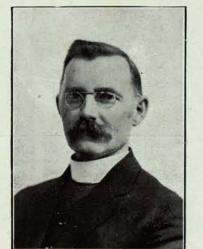
Mr. G. H. BLACKWELL.

FACING THE CHALLENGE.

Meanwhile the Conference was facing the general challenge of needy children. To mark the dawn of the twentieth century a "Century Commemoration Fund" was inaugurated in 1899, a minor purpose of which was to provide a modest fund for starting a Children's Home and Orphanage. Less than £400 was earmarked for this purpose. The sum was invested until required for the scheme, and the Rev. Henry Bull and Mr. G. H. Blackwell were appointed treasurers. In 1901 Conference set up a Wellington Committee to collect information and to make suggestions as to the best way of inaugurating and founding an Orphanage. The dream was slow to materialize, but Conference persistently affirmed its conviction of the necessity for such an institution. In 1912 it affirmed decisively that the time had come to embark upon definite philanthropic work. It set up a Christchurch committee to collect information and to formulate proposals and directed it to give special consideration to the matter of establishing an Orphanage. The Committee consisted of the ministers of the Christchurch Circuits, with Messrs, G. Bowron.

G. H. Blackwell, G. Barrell, R. M. Cresswell, W. H. Down, J. A. Flesher, L. M. Isitt, M.P., J. C. Prudhoe, T. T. Robson, Hon. G.





REV. W. A. SINCLAIR.

REV. C. H. LAWS, B.A., D.D.

J. Smith, M.L.C., C. E. Salter, W. H. Seed, J. L. Scott and R. H. Turner.

On 13th September, 1912, the Committee held its first meeting in the Durham Street Church parlour. The Rev. C. H. Laws was Chairman and the Connexional Secretary (Rev. Henry Bull) was convener. At this period the Orphanage Fund already in existence amounted to £1343. Included in the fund was a sum of £500, being a bequest from Mrs. Knox. This latter sum, with interest accrued. was held in trust for the purpose of an Orphanage in the Provincial District of Auckland.

On 24th October, 1912, the Committee resolved to recommend the Conference of the following year to establish a South Island Orphanage as soon as annual subscriptions to the extent of £500 were available for meeting current expenses, provided that if the scheme for a new Theological College was prosecuted during 1913 the canvass for the Orphanage be deferred for a year. The Conference adopted the recommendation and also resolved that the legacy of Mrs. Knox, with interest thereon, be handed over to the Board of the Wesley Training College to be used for Orphanage work in harmony with the terms of the bequest and subject to the provisions of Section 29 of the Methodist Charitable and Educational Trusts Act, 1911. This money was subsequently allocated to the Auckland Orphanage. The Conference further directed that the balance of the moneys then held for Orphanage purposes be devoted to the proposed South Island institution, provided that no portion of the principal or interest should be used for current expenses. Sister Mabel Morley was added to the Committee and there were several other changes in personnel. The Rev. W. A. Sinclair was appointed convener.

MAKING A COMMENCEMENT.

On 16th June, 1913, a canvass for funds was determined upon, the following being appointed for the districts indicated:—Nelson and Blenheim, Rev. Henry Bull; West Coast, Rev. C. H. Laws; North Canterbury, Revs. A. Peters, B. F. Rothwell, H. E. Bellhouse and A. N. Scotter; South Canterbury, Mrs. W. J. Williams; Otago, Rev. W. A. Sinclair; and Southland, Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt.

While this effort was proceeding in the South Island, Mr. A. C. Caughey, of Auckland, and his sister, Mrs. W. H. Smith, now Mrs. M. Caughey Preston, presented to the Church a commodious home occupying a fine site of two and a-half acres at Mount Albert, to be used as an orphanage for needy children,

irrespective of creed. The house was enlarged and modernized at considerable cost and began its career unhampered by debt on 20th December, 1913, this being the one hundred and seventyfirst anniversary of the laving of the foundation stone of John Wesley's Orphan House at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Early in 1914 the Christchurch Committee purchased a property at Papanui for £2750. The property comprised nearly five acres of land, together with an almost new house of fourteen rooms all on the ground floor. The area was surrounded by streets and formed a complete block. The house was of quaint architecture. Under the guidance of Mr. Roy Lovell-Smith, the honorary architect, alterations were made to adapt it to the purposes of an Orphanage. Accommodation was provided for about thirty children. The grounds were already tastefully planted in old English trees. There were spacious playgrounds and a detached playroom for the children. A courtyard in the centre made an admirable playing area for the tiny tots where they were under the eve of those at work in the kitchen. A sum of £750 was paid on account of purchase and the balance remained on mortgage for two years. Alterations cost £325. The furnishing of the building was carried out by a committee of ladies at a cost of £261, this sum being contributed by Methodist women throughout North Canterbury. The Conference of 1914 added to the Orphanage Committee Mesdames George Bowron, H. Berry, J. A. Flesher, D. Jones, W. H. Seed and C. E. Salter. Sister Mabel Morley was appointed Sister-in-Charge with Sister Dora Cherrie as her assistant.

THE HOME OPENED.

The Home was officially opened by Mrs. Henry Holland, the Mayoress of Christchurch, on Saturday, 25th April, 1914, with six children in residence. Owing to indisposition Sister Mabel was not able to take up her duties until 1st July, 1914, so Sister Isabel Sinclair temporarily filled the position and later was appointed to canvass the South Island circuits in the interests of the Home. She met with a fine response, but as the Great War then broke out and patriotic appeals became general the canvass

was discontinued for a time. The balance-sheet for the period ended 31st December, 1914, presented by the treasurer, Mr. W. H. Seed, showed assets amounting to £3859 and a mortgage debt of £2000 on the property. Messrs. W. H. Seed, J. C. Prudhoe, J. A. Flesher and E. W. Hall had already been appointed trustees of the property and, as trustees, were made permanent members of the Committee of Management. Mr. E. W. Hall is the only surviving member of the original trust and he now shares trusteeship with Messrs. George Bowron, Frank Thompson, W. S. Worner and Hubert de Rie Flesher. The first Admissions Committee was appointed on 23rd March, 1914. It consisted of Mrs. George Bowron, Sister Grace Crump, Revs. Samuel Lawry, C. H. Laws and Mr. W. H. Seed. By 30th June, 1914, twelve children were in residence and their numbers were steadily increasing. The first year of ministry to the children was marked with many signs of the blessing of God upon the enterprise.



Mrs. HENRY HOLLAND, O.B.E.



SISTER MABEL MORLEY.





Dart 2. The Ministry of a Home.

"O hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold. And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold. To comfort and to bless. To find a balm for woe,

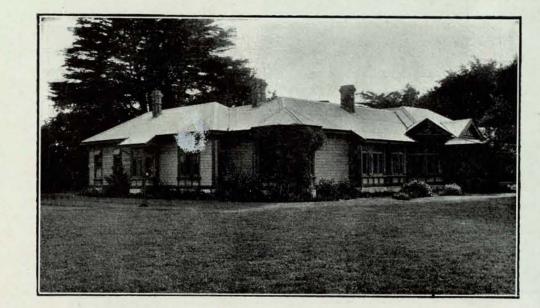
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels' work below And we believe Thy word, Though dim our faith may be; Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee." (Bishop W. W. How.)



ROM the very inception of our work the principle has been laid down that the Orphanage is to be in the highest sense a Christian home, not alone for the children, but for every member of the staff. The Board of Management has shaped its policy on the recognition that it is the proper birthright of every child admitted, to share the spirit of real home life

in a normal, healthy and happy environment. The manager and matron and their helpers are enjoined to keep constantly in their thoughts the high ideals that should govern all their acts so as to promote, in the surest way, the physical, moral and spiritual well-being and the general elevation of the boys and girls committed as a sacred trust to their care.

The official designation of the establishment is the "South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home," and a home it really is. A home opens its arms and its heart more widely than do the doors of a mere institution. In a home personal and individual relations are established and maintained, and within our walls no institutional aspect is allowed to smother the human relations of the child who receives not only care but love.



OUR FIRST SOUTH ISLAND ORPHANAGE.



OUR FIRST ORPHANAGE FAMILY (SISTER ISABEL AND SISTER DORA IN CHARGE).

OUR RAW MATERIAL.

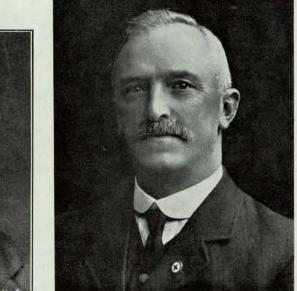
Since the home opened its doors on 25th April, 1914, with half a dozen boys and girls as its first inmates some three hundred and fifteen pairs of little feet have crossed its threshold. The circumstances from which the children have come are very diverse. Some have lost loving parents who gave them a good foundation for character. Others have never known the care of a Christian home and their lives have been shadowed by want and by sin. It is a constant wonder to note the variety of needs represented by the children for whom shelter is sought. These young lives have felt something of the touch of tragedy. As the Rev. W. J. Williams once wrote:

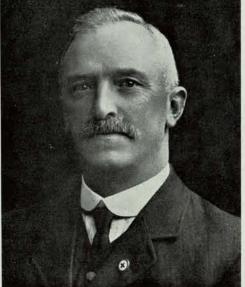
"They did not ask to be born. They had no power to choose the home they should be born in or the habits or health of their parents. They somehow find themselves in a world in which, apparently, sometimes there is no room for them. Lifting little hands that are empty and helpless, and with no language but the cry in which the hunger for mother and home finds expression, they come knocking at the door and waiting to be taken in."

Many of the most interesting cases admitted cannot be chronicled lest identification should give pain to innocent little ones. A few admissions may, however, be cited. Here are five boys and girls, children of one family. The father is dead. The mother is a problem to her friends and a perplexity to the policeman. The children are neglected, ill-nourished, ill-clad and in sore need of medical attention. Kindly neighbours call in the physician who takes steps to defend these waifs into whose lives suffering has bitten so deeply. The children find shelter within our doors and amidst happier conditions recover the birthright of which they had been robbed.

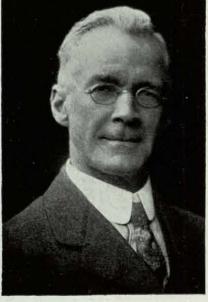
A mother, distressed to the point of despair, sought entrance for two bright boys, one seven years old, the other eight. The father was thought to be overseas. The lads were admitted and were brought to the Home by the mother. Kissing them goodbye she bade them not to grieve for her. That night she took her own life and the Church became both father and mother to the little lads.

From a widowed mother in hospital comes the appealing cry "Will you help me?" Her husband had died two years before. leaving two bairns to the widow whose physical strength was

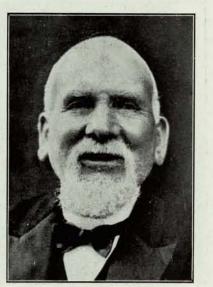




Mr. J. A. FLESHER, O.B.E.



Mr. J. C. PRUDHOE.



unequal to the strain. Now she is making her own acquaintance with death. There are no friends or relatives to care for her children and she urges that they will be safe with us. Again our doors swing open and a few days later, with a heart at ease she passes into the sheltered care of the All-Father, thanking God for the haven her little ones have found.

CRAVING PARENTAL MINISTRY.

Our Home answers the pleading of such unprivileged ones and within its walls the boy or girl suddenly thrust upon the world when most needing parental love and care finds what no mere institution can ever give. Clothing, a bed and food never make a home for little ones. Children crave parental ministry. Many pass within our portals from surroundings far from ideal.

They have known unhappiness and want. To some poverty has given an ailing body, whilst neglect has engendered undesirable habits and repression has cowed the spirit. Some come with minds that are soiled and a disposition that is selfish, disobedient and passionately rebellious. In the big family of the Home all alike are loved and tended, and each is watched over as is the child in the sunny atmosphere of a normal Christian household. Here the orphan and the waif are sheltered, nourished and clothed. The sick child is nursed, the backward child is helped, the delinquent one is corrected and new direction is given to his energies. It is little short of amazing how readily the children respond to discipline exercised with love in a new environment and a changed atmosphere. Here their education is watched over, their aptitudes are noted and their special gifts wisely developed. All are trained to earn a livelihood. Girls are fitted for useful work and boys are prepared for chosen trades and

callings and equipped for selfsupporting and honourable citizenship. All are given a true knowledge of God and each is taught that his talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow-men. All do not respond alike to the training, but as they go out into the world to tackle life on their own footing most feel something of the healing touch of Jesus and are conscious of an uplift of ideals. The heartaches comforted, the tragedies averted, the visions opened up are not to be told in type or calculated in the terms of mere arithmetic. They are written in the lives of those who are becoming good citizens because of what a Christian home is putting into them in childhood's days. Even when the young people leave the Orphanage, the Manager and Matron keep in close touch until they at least attain their majority. They are welcomed back as visitors and, subject to the proper maintenance of discipline, they are, where necessary, given the continued shelter of the Home.



SOME OF OUR CHILDREN AT PLAY IN PAPANUI PARK.

A WORTHY RECORD.

The transference of our activities from the old dwelling to the new is an event that breaks the monotony of the years. It puts a momentary arrest upon the wheels and pulses of our life, and, as the normal movement slows down, bids us try to spell out the significance of the years. We have toiled up to an eminence. But the height now attained does not mark the summit of our aim; it is simply a vantage point from which we may survey the fields we have traversed since the morning dawn of our foundation, and whence, too, we may gaze across the regions that lie towards the shadowy future. Our yesterdays have made us trustees of a noble heritage. The to-morrows are already flinging out their challenge. Let us scan our past record and give a glance at the future as it rushes to meet us.

The Home has still six months to run before it will attain its majority. Yet in the period of our service some two hundred and fifty-two children have been discharged and sixty-three still remain with us. A certain proportion entered only for short periods, others have remained for years. Some have been claimed by or returned to relatives. Some have found adoption

in the homes of our people. Many have gone out to earn their own livelihood in various occupations. A few were carried out silently over our threshold to find welcome in the home where no bud of promise dies. In the last ten years only one child has died, and he a little lad who, when brought to us, was sadly handicapped in health and physique. It gives ground for gratitude that in so large a family, constituted as is this one, the health register is so remarkably good and the mortality rate so low, especially when one considers that in the general epidemics of 1917 eleven of our children contracted diphtheria and ten were stricken with scarlet fever. The influenza epidemic of 1918 also visited the Home, but all came safely through. No serious sickness has been experienced in recent years.

In this connection we owe a debt of gratitude to our honorary physicians, Dr. A. J. Orchard and Dr. J. P. Whetter, who have stood by us through all our history. Mr. Sevicke-Jones has also placed us under obligation for his services as our honorary optician, while the Dental Department at the General Hospital has rendered most valuable gratuitous service in caring for the teeth of the children. Thanks are also due to Mr. Charles Buckett for painstaking work in gymnastics and in physical



A GROUP OF OUR HAPPY HOPEFULS.

drill, which exercises contribute materially to the well-being of our wards.

On 17th March, 1926, the Orphanage and its inmates had a merciful escape from disaster. The household numbering sixty people had just come indoors for the evening meal in the dining room when a Defence Department's Bristol Fighter aeroplane containing three persons crashed into the grounds, diving nose first on to a garden plot. It grazed the end of the glasshouse and had barely room to fall without demolishing the main building. The pilot was killed, a mechanic fatally wounded, and the other occupant severely injured. The only two persons who witnessed the actual impact were an orphanage boy and girl who were reporting late for tea. The girl immediately sped indoors for the staff to telephone for the ambulance, and the boy, a lad of twelve, pluckily rushed to the ruined plane to help to extricate the dying and injured survivors from the twisted wreckage.

The Home has been well served by its principals and their helpers. For six years Sister Mabel Morley ministered to the needs of the children committed to her care with unwearied zeal and devotion. For a time she was assisted by Sister Dora Cherrie and Sister May Barnett, with Sister Isabel Sinclair as field can-



Mr. A. E. HAYNES.



Mrs. A. E. HAYNES.

OUR MANAGER AND MATRON.

vasser. When Sister Mabel found it necessary to resign in 1920 through failure of health, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. W. Ellis were appointed Master and Matron. They, in turn, were succeeded in 1923 by Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Butler, who also maintained a high standard in the management of their numerous family.

THE STAFF AND ITS ROUTINE.

In 1926 Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Haynes were appointed Manager and Matron. Mr. Haynes was an old Army Medical Corps man of wide experience, and Mrs. Haynes a sympathetic and understanding mother rather than a matron. They came to their present sphere of ministry after having proved their worth in home mission work and in other departments of Christian service. In their capable hands and with their wise blending of love and discipline they sustain the very best traditions of the home and are especially well qualified to carry on the spiritual education of the children. The Manager conducts prayers at the morning and evening meals. In his absence the Matron officiates, or other satisfactory arrangements are made. A chief factor in the success of the work is the maintenance of the family altar. These devotional exercises morning and evening do much to maintain discipline and good behaviour while the spirit of selfhelp and mutual help, fostered by means of little duties enforced. and specific tasks assigned, contributes in a large measure to the cleanliness, the orderliness and the fine esprit de corps manifest in all the life of the home.

A willing staff supports the Manager and Matron in the proper control and supervision of the children. The staff is appointed in the ratio of one adult to every ten children and all look upon their task as a vocation. The Matron keeps in close touch with the Ladies' House Committee, which is composed of lady members of the Board of Management and which visits the Orphanage every month, and gives its support and guidance in matters affecting the equipment and working of the home, staff changes and special domestic expenditure. Of this Committee, from the commencement, Mrs. G. Bowron has been the capable leader. Some members of the staff have served for long periods. the senior member being Miss Ashcroft, who has exercised a gracious ministry as sewing mistress and assistant for the last fifteen years. The successive ministers of our Papanui Church have all given outstanding assistance to the Home. The various ministers who have acted as secretaries to the Board have also rendered conspicuous service.

Rules there must be and some restrictions in a family group

of sixty boys and girls of varying ages and differing temperaments, but expression, and not repression, is the chief rule of the home, and its life is full of joyous freedom. The Orphanage day begins at six in the morning and closes at eight in the evening. Ample time is given for home lessons and for play. Punctuality must be observed alike by the staff and the children, who all live an active life through days that are profitably employed. The Manager and Matron find time to give kindly individual counsel to the units of their large family and to train them for the Sunday School Union examinations in which our children always take high place in the prize lists. The attendance of children at Church services and Sunday school sessions appropriate to their ages is required, while for children who do not attend the evening service happy and profitable Sunday evenings must be

arranged. An occasional picnic or holiday outing gives the spice of variety to the routine of life.

By many of our Canterbury Churches the harvest thanksgiving exhibits are handed over to the Orphanage. At Christmas time Sunday schools and congregations arrange Orphanage
gift days. The toys and other gifts presented furnish a store for
the annual Christmas tree and leave something over for the celebration of individual birthdays throughout the year. Again at
Christmas time country homes are opened to some of the
children while others are quartered at Sumner, New Brighton
or Quail Island. The Automobile Association arranges an annual
outing and invitations are given to visit various shows and entertainments. All these give joy to our children and contribute to
their life's development.





LITTLE CASKETS OF POSSIBILITIES.



Part 3. A Record of Progress.

"Thine are all the gifts, Thine the broken bread,
Let the naked feet be shod and the hungry fed;
Let Thy children by Thy grace give as they abound,
Till the poor have breathing space and the lost are
found."

(J. G. Whittier.)



EFORE the Orphanage had been open two years the number of children in residence had increased to twenty-nine and the Committee was compelled to face a scheme of extension to provide accommodation for approximately sixty children. The scheme was carried through in 1917, at a cost of £1850, and two years later the enrolment of children

two years later the enrolment of children totalled fifty-six.

Meanwhile there emerged the problem of the senior boys. This problem also confronted our Orphanage authorities in Auckland. The Christchurch Committee affirmed the desirability of establishing a hostel for the bigger boys of all our Orphanages in or near one of the four principal cities so that they might be trained for industrial, commercial or professional life. It was also considered that boys who were to learn farming should be sent to Wesley Training College, at Paerata. As a temporary

expedient arrangements were made for some of the older lads to be boarded at the Presbyterian Boys' Home. This arrangement proved no permanent solution of our own problem and we began to envisage a scheme that would satisfy all reasonable requirements. In 1924 a property in Harewood Road, almost opposite the existing Orphanage, and comprising eleven acres, was purchased as a site for future activities. The following year an adjoining property of over an acre was acquired giving us a frontage also on Matson's Road. The time was not ripe nor were our resources equal to the erection of complete new premises. The expansion of the work compelled us, in 1925, to provide a new wing at a cost of £433 to afford accommodation for 12 additional children.

The passing of the years saw our girls also growing up and the need was considered for providing more effective hostel accommodation for those work-

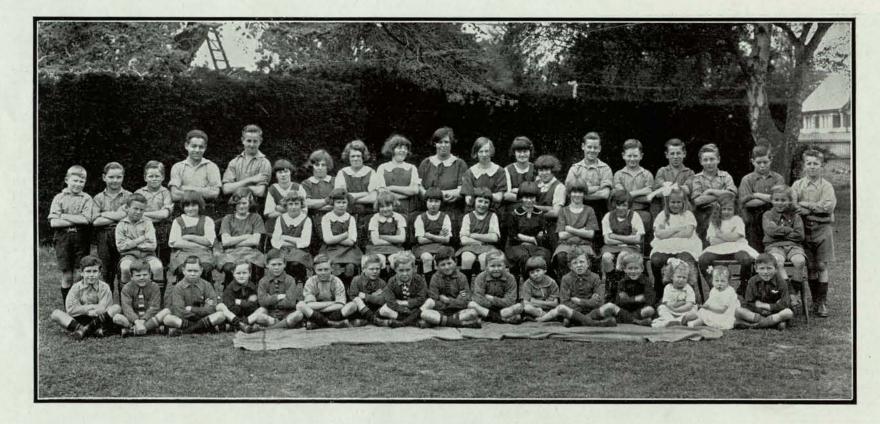


A GROUP OF INTERMEDIATES.

ing in the city or changing situations. In 1927 sixty-three children were under our roof and nine of our older boys were lodging at a sister institution. It then occurred to us that it would be a better thing for these working lads on the threshold of manhood to share in the ordinary private home life of our own Methodist families. Homes were at once offered and with gratifying results these youths have, for seven years, been boarded with refined Christian people. Here they come to know the normal back-ground of family life as it is enjoyed by the average child of the Church.

Such an arrangement did not cover the case of adolescent lads. For these, in 1930, a bungalow was built within the Orphanage grounds to provide sleeping accommodation for eight senior boys and quarters for the officer in charge. Here there is an attractive living room for the evenings, together with necessary bathroom facilities. The building was so designed that it can be easily converted into a modern family dwelling when we move into our permanent quarters. The old building with its various additions is not a model of arrangement. It has proved inadequate to meet all the demands of our work and the property will be offered for sale as soon as possession is taken of the new premises.

The average number of children provided for in the Home during the whole period of its existence has been fifty, and the maintenance of this large family has cost the Church £30,000. apart from capital expenditure on land and buildings. For some of the children part board is paid, but that does not apply to the



A PORTION OF OUR BIG FAMILY AT PAPANUI.

GENEROUS HELPERS.

The appeal for the children has, from the very commencement of our work, touched a responsive chord in the hearts of our people. Generous gifts have come from many, including the Ballantyne family of Christchurch, Mr. James Fleck of Riverton, Mr. W. S. Worner of Southbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Lane of Rangiora, Mrs. C. Baker of Ashburton, and Mr. James Smith, Mr. A. Borrows, Mrs. J. Campbell and Mrs. Louisa Baker of Christchurch.

The Orphanage had only been open two months when it received its first bequest. This was a sum of £150 from the estate of Mr. Charles Beasley Abel, and was earmarked for the Maintenance Fund. The first gift of £50 for the endowment of a cot was in memory of the late Mr. Charles Duke of Dunedin, and was soon followed by another of a similar amount from the same city in memory of Mr. George Tayler, who had been a young worker in Trinity School. A constant stream of generous bequests has continued to flow into our treasury both for maintenance and for the Endowment and Building Fund. One pleasing feature about these bequests is the large number, small in amount, that have been left by people who, out of very limited resources have made some provision for our work when making their wills. The geographical distribution of our benefactors



Mrs. G. BOWRON.



Mrs. W. H. SEED.

shows how wide is the sweep of interest in our ministry to unprivileged childhood.

From North Island estates the following bequests have been received:-Mrs. Fairhurst (Palmerston North), £500; Mr. George Winstone (Auckland), £250; Lissie Rathbone (Waipawa), £250; Nathaniel Dear (Rongotea), £25; Sara Andrew (Palmerston North), £10 (to be increased upon realisation of the assets in the estate).

Two large bequests that made our new Home possible were £6474 from the estate of Mr. William Morrow of Ashburton, and £4794 from the estate of Miss Sarah Ussher of Nelson. Two other Ashburton bequests were £975 from Mr. Duncan McKenzie and £100 from Mr. Alex McKenzie. Mr. Thomas Brooks of Ellesmere left us £250; Mr. George Sheat of Dunsandel, £50; Mr. E. Holdgate of Timaru, £50; Miss E. A. Chase of Oamaru, £250. Waimate bequests have come from the estates of the late Mr. W. F. Cheverton, £516; Richard Meredith, £500; and T. W. Crone, £50.

The trustees in the estate of the late Mr. Alex Cowie (Christchurch) have made eleven annual gifts totalling £550. Other Christchurch legacies have been as follow:-Mrs. E. C. Jordan, £711; Mrs. Gunnell, £500; Harriett Butt, £400; Theresa Wisker, £276; Lily Richter, £270; James Rowe, £226; Ada Smith, £224; James Livingstone, £165; S. T. Cox, £150; Mrs. H.

Mrs. W. J. WILLIAMS.

T. Davis, Miss Butterick, A. A. Oldham, Ethel M. Scott, Jessie Kean and Martha White, £100 each; Albert Philpott, S. R. Bennett, W. D. Marks, Rev. S. Lawry, Mrs. Harvey and Miss Kitchingman, £50 each: Miss Elizabeth Slater, £40: E. A. Wallace, £35; Amelia Smith, £32; A. T. Cuming, £30; Mrs. Heward, Thomas Flesher and Albert Queree, £25 each; James Sinclair, £20: Elizabeth Harris. £20; Ellen Wallace, £8, and Elizabeth Pearce, £7.



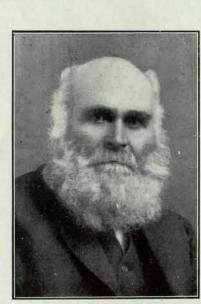


A TRIO OF ELECT LADIES.

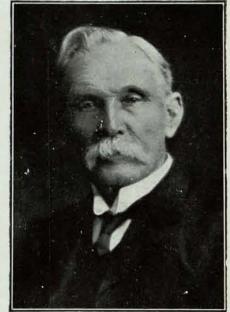
John Scott, £263; Mrs. Eastabrook, £250; Mrs. D. Haynes, £200; W. H. Duke, Ellen Foster and Mrs. Peter Christie, £100 each; J. H. Brown, £50; Janet Cameron, £50; Margaret Elliott, £34; and Mrs. J. W. Roberts, £10. Invercargill bequests have come from the estates of Ellen May Smith, £319; Miss E. G. Cheyne, £50; Alex Hardy, £50; and J. J. Wesney, £25.

The aggregate sum derived from testamentary bequests is very considerable and the practice of including the Orphanages in their wills is growing amongst our people. In addition to the amounts already received in legacies the treasurers have had advice that benefits may be expected from the estates of the late Revs. W. S. Potter and T. W. Newbold, Messrs. G. R. George, James Kirby, Christian Schmidt, William Tucker, Sampson-Uren, J. C. Waby and W. Westaway, and Mesdames McInnes, Emma Welch and A. B. C. Wills.

These bequests are in many cases subject to life interests, consequently benefits may not accrue to us for many years. In some cases also the payment of bequests is contingent upon the realisation of assets in the estates concerned.



Mr. WILLIAM MORROW.



Mr. GEORGE WINSTONE.

TWO LOVERS OF THE CHILDREN.

OPPORTUNITY AND SERVICE.

For those who desire to do something specific in the interests of the home and its young inmates it may be stated that a sum of £500 will maintain a child for all time, and a sum of £250 will maintain a cot and clothe and educate a child in perpetuity. A single gift of £30 will provide shelter, food and clothing for a child for one year.

For current running costs we need an income of at least £2000 a year from the circuits of the South Island. To many circuit and district secretaries we are indebted for devoted work, as well as to the circuit committees that were set up by Sister Isabel Sinclair, the Revs. William Laycock and F. T. Read to sustain interest in and collect subscriptions for our work. These field organisers rendered outstanding service alike in stimulating circuit workers and in securing financial support. No field organiser has been appointed since 1932. With the return of more prosperous times we shall need to recreate our circuit organisation, when it is anticipated that the needs of our work will evoke a ready and more general response from the rank and file of our people.

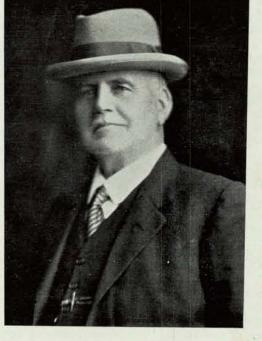
During the recent years of depression substantial assistance has resulted from the annual Orphanage Day Street Appeal, which is sanctioned by the Christchurch City Council and organised by representatives of the Anglican, Presbyterian and Methodist Orphanages and a committee of interested citizens. The Avonside Girls' High School recently sent a gift of £15. In most circuits there is a Christmas collection for our work. Many congregations arrange an "egg drive," when hundreds of dozens of eggs are collected. Others undertake jam-making to contribute to the ton and a-half annually consumed, and for this purpose cases of empty jars are sent to widely scattered places. Sacks of potatoes are collected to replenish the stores of this commodity which are consumed at the rate of about a ton every ten weeks. Gifts of fuel and vegetables are ever welcome, as are the proceeds of towel days occasionally arranged by Bible Classes, and of handkerchief and toilet-soap days arranged by Sunday schools and young people's societies. Most valued assistance comes from Ladies' Guilds, which arrange sales and garden parties and also give regular assistance in darning and sewing for our numerous family. Mr. H. Hampton for many years has helped us by taking photographs to illustrate our annual publica-

It would be impossible to catalogue the names of those who, all through the years, have rendered valuable and unostentatious service on the Board of Management and in the circuits. Their names are written on high. But less than justice would be done did we fail to pay a tribute to the work of the late Mr. W. H. Seed and the late Mr. J. A. Flesher, who in the foundational days and long after were ceaseless in their zeal on behalf of our cause. From the genesis of the Orphanage until to-day three ladies have also been outstanding in unbroken service, and a garland of gratitude is laid at the feet of Mrs. Bowron, the leader of the House Committee, and Mrs. W. H. Seed and Sister Mabel Morley. These elect ladies are an inspiration to their colleagues on the committee.

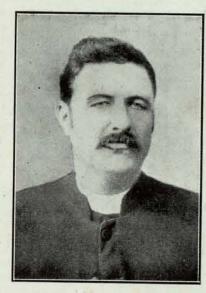
The Home and the Church are greatly indebted to Mr. George Bowron, who for over eighteen years has been our honorary treasurer. During these years he has steadily pursued the ideal now nearing realisation. He has toiled unobtrusively and with self-effacing devotion and has persistently refused all recognition of his labour of love. To-day his chief emotion is that of gratitude for the privilege of a service that has proved a saving and blessed enrichment to his own spirit, a sheer joy to his colleagues and a benediction to the children within the shelter of the Home.



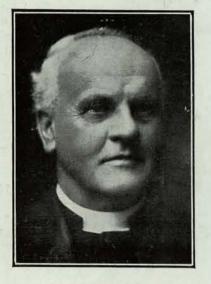
A QUARTETTE OF MINISTERIAL HELPERS.



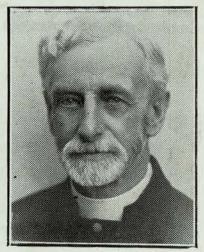
REV. W. J. WILLIAMS.



REV. W. LAYCOCK.



REV. SAMUEL LAWRY.



REV. W. BAUMBER.

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Dart 4. Facing the Future

"He who gives a child a treat
Makes joybells ring in Heaven's street,
And he who gives a child a home
Builds palaces in Kingdom Come."
(John Masefield.)



OR many years past the Board of Management has endeavoured to set aside all moneys received from legacies, together with a number of special donations, for an endowment towards the building of a new Home at a time when there should occur a conjunction of three sets of circumstance. First there should be the pressure of necessity, and this has

long been felt. Second there should be the opportune hour for the striking of which we have patiently waited. Third there should be resources adequate to meet building and furnishing requirements without leaving an undue burden of debt to hamper the Board in meeting the heavy costs of supporting our large and growing family and maintaining our property. The fund has grown with the passing years and has been increased by

its interest earnings, although, of recent years, we have found it necessary to draw to some extent upon such earnings to meet current expenditure because of the decline of revenue from circuit subscriptions and collections.



Mrs. M. CAUGHEY PRESTON AN AUCKLAND BENEFACTRESS

PLANNING FOR ADVANCE.

In November, 1930, plans for a new Orphanage were prepared, but definite action was postponed. The associated architects, Mr. G. T. Lucas, A.N.Z.I.A., and Mr. Melville Lawry,

A.N.Z.I.A. later prepared their estimates, and on 10th August, 1932, Mr. Bowron reported that the whole scheme would probably involve an expenditure of £19,137 for the new buildings. Action was again deferred, excepting that authority was given for the grounds to be laid out, lawns prepared, trees planted, roads laid down and a brick and wrought iron fence and wrought iron gates erected along three chains of the Harewood Road frontage. In this preparatory work Messrs. M. Kershaw, F. J. Carr, A. E. Haynes and others took a most helpful part. Meanwhile events were moving and the officers of the Board and a few of its members were conferring. As a consequence on 14th June, 1933, the Board of Management resolved that subject to the granting of a fifty per cent. wages subsidy by the Unemployment Board, under its building scheme, prompt steps be taken to call for tenders for erecting the building. A special committee was set up to make representations. The utmost the Unemployment Board would do was to grant a subsidy of one third of the amount spent on wages. This would leave our fund £1500 short of the amount that would enable us to proceed with safety. The matter lay heavily on the heart of the treasurer when, under the impulse of what he, and we all, recognised as a Divine prompting, he wrote to Mrs. Caughey Preston, of Auckland. This large-hearted and philanthropic lady similarly felt the Holy Spirit's urge to action, and in a few days there came her cheque for £1500 to bridge the difference between the money in sight and the sum required before a start would be made with the proposed buildings.

TAKING EFFECTIVE ACTION.

It was with an awed sense of the Divine presence and guidance that, on 2nd August, 1933, the Orphanage trustees gave formal consent to and approval of the proposal to build; that the Board of Management immediately thereafter resolved to proceed and the Church Building and Loan Fund Committee

gave its approval to the plans and specifications. Tenders were at once called, that of Mr. R. C. Jamieson being accepted at £18,373, plus £65 to cover the cost of alterations made in the plans subsequent to tenders being advertised for. Provision was also made for the expenditure of a further sum of £500 for an electric pump and refrigerator and for special covering for the roof should this last be found necessary.

The stone-laying ceremony was fixed for 10th November, 1933. His Excellency the Governor-General Lord Bledisloe, P.C., G.C.M.G., K.B.E., D.Sc., had consented to lay the foundation stone of the central administrative block. He was accompanied by Lady Bledisloe, and their Excellencies were welcomed by the Rev. Clarence Eaton, Chairman of the Board. Beautiful bouquets were presented by children of the Home to Lady Bledisloe, Mrs. J. A. Flesher and Mrs. M. A. Rugby Pratt. A large gathering of citizens, church people and representative public men assembled. The Rev. M. A. Rugby Pratt, Con-

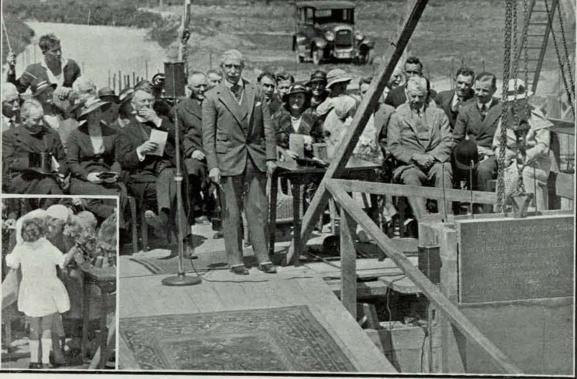
nexional Secretary and Ex-President of the Conference, laid the stone of the Girls' Home, which constitutes the west wing of the structure, in commemoration of the opening of the first Orphanage on 25th April, 1914. Mrs. J. A. Flesher laid the



HER EXCELLENCY LADY BLEDISLOE.

stone of the Boys' Home on the east wing in commemoration of the founders and benefactors of the institution. Addresses were given by the Chairman, by His Excellency Lord Bledisloe, His Worship the Mayor (Mr. D. G. Sullivan, M.P.), and Messrs. Henry Holland, M.P., and R. W.Hawke, M.P. The Rev. Edward Drake, Deputy Chairman of the Board, and the Rev. A. Hopper, to both of whom a tribute is due for faithful and zealous service, also participated in the function, which was concluded by a luncheon arranged for by the ladies of the Board. Since the new building scheme has been under consideration three members of the Board, the Rev. Samuel Lawry, Mr. J. Lomas and Mr. J. Gilmour have been called to their reward.

Building operations have proceeded without interruption and the new Home and Orphanage will be officially opened on 9th November, 1934, by the President of the Conference, the Rev. Clarence Eaton, who is also Chairman of the Orphanage Board. Prior to the opening a service of thanksgiving will be



8 31

LORD BLEDISLOE SPEAKING AFTER THE STONE-LAYING.
INSET: LADY BLEDISLOE KISSING AN ORPHANAGE LASSIE.

held in our Papanui Church, which stands near by. It is confidently hoped and anticipated that, when the President swings the doors open, the whole enterprise will be free of debt. It will then become the duty of the Board and the privilege of our people, by generous gifts and by legacies and bequests, to build up an Endowment Fund of many thousands of pounds to meet maintenance charges and to provide for needed extensions in years to come.

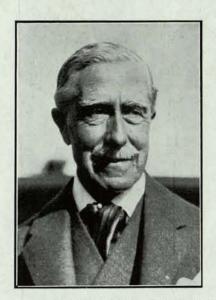
THE LOCATION OF THE HOME.

The new Home is probably the finest Orphanage building in the Dominion, and it should fill the heart of every Methodist with worthy pride. When full it will accommodate one hundred children and the necessary staff. Good use has been made of the twelve-acre site on which the building stands, and utmost pains have been taken to ensure the provision of congenial surroundings for the children.

The building is set in spacious grounds almost opposite to the Home that has sheltered so many needy children for nearly twenty-one years. It lies diagonally across the property and faces due north to get fullest advantage of the sunshine. The place presents a striking appearance as one enters the imposing gateway and advances along a drive that balloons across the whole front of the building.

But before examining the grounds and the home itself let the eye take a wider sweep. Close at hand rises the graceful spire of our Papanui Church, beside which stands the modern Sunday School in which these young wards of the church mingle without distinction with the scholars drawn from the homes of our people. Orchards and market gardens which meet the needs of the city lie beyond the fringe of neat suburban dwellings in the residential quarter of Papanui. Away to the north the inland Kaikouras lift their majestic peaks, while to the south and east the snow-clad line of the Southern Alps glistens in the sunlight.

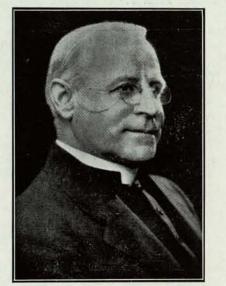
Two acres in front of the building are laid out in lawns, rose plots, flower beds and borders. There are hedges of olearia and a wide range of native and imported shrubs. Horizontal elms, ribbonwoods, specimen trees, limes, flowering cherry and other trees abound. Over five thousand bulbs have been planted. There is a beautiful mauve bed filled with hyacinths, irises and scabiosa. A yellow bed has in it the golden ash, golden city, golden forsythia, with yellow cypress and yellow tulips all inter-



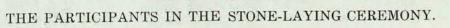
HIS EXCELLENCY LORD BLEDISLOE



Mrs. J. A. FLESHER.



REV. M. A. RUGBY PRATT.

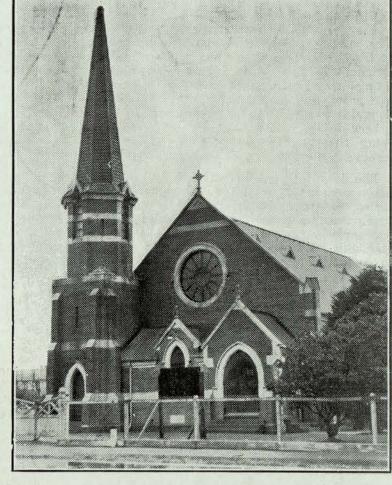


spersed with the delicate blue myosotis. Hundreds of rosebushes and other plants give promise of coming beauty and fragrance.

At the back of the main building is a concrete tank to supply water to the whole building. It stands on a pedestal fifty-five feet high and holds 6700 gallons drawn by electric motor from artesian sources. An avenue of chestnut trees joins up with the cart entrance from Matson's Road. Near to the building are extensive drying grounds and beyond these are broad playing areas, a large orchard well stocked with fruit trees, and adequate kitchen gardens. Provision is also being made for tennis courts so that the Home children may share recreational life with the young people of our Papanui Church. When finances permit it is hoped to build a gymnasium on the flat roof of each of the dormitory blocks.

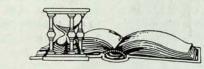


OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL AT PAPANUI.



OUR CHURCH AT PAPANUI.

WHERE OUR CHILDREN WORSHIP.



THE LAY-OUT OF THE BUILDINGS.

The buildings are in three sections with the boys' and girls' homes on either side of the administrative block and connected with it by forty feet of covered-in passage-way which will give additional playing accommodation on wet days. Throughout, the buildings are of reinforced concrete and brick, fireproof, earthquake proof, and almost sound-proof. They will require very little maintenance. The principal aim in planning the new Home has been to house the boys and girls in separate buildings, keeping them as far as possible in units of ten, grouped according to their ages, with an attendant in charge of each unit.

The dormitory blocks for both girls and boys are designed to accommodate forty children. In each wing there are four dormitories containing ten beds apiece. They provide excellent sleeping accommodation and are so situated that they get the maximum of sunshine. They can be thrown open on two sides or partially closed when the weather is rough. Two of them open on to the front balconies. Each child has a small locker alongside the bed for personal possessions. Individual lockers, wardrobes and box or hat cupboards are also provided in bedrooms and in the wide corridors. There are special bedrooms in the administrative block for some twelve or more senior girls, who also have a special toilet room and a large common room allocated to their use.

Spacious recreation or study rooms are provided for each ten children. These open on to covered porches where the children can play in wet weather. Each recreation room will have its own library of children's books graded according to the ages of the children. Separate bathing, washing and lavatory accommodation is provided for each group of ten, and the little ones have been especially catered for. For example the tiny tots have their own bath and shower room. To avoid stooping by the attendant a porcelain enamel bath stands at a height of over three feet from the floor and is supplied with hot and cold water. All toilet rooms, bath rooms and lavatories have polished terazzo floors. The walls are tiled on plaster to a height of four feet six inches and the floors of the shower rooms are copper-covered.

There are nine staff bedrooms so arranged that the attendant in charge of each unit is in close touch with the children at all times. The staff have also a separate sitting room and bath room in each building, a small service room in each of the two wings, and a sewing room in the administrative block. The linen presses are conveniently placed. The private sitting room of the Manager and Matron is situated on the left of the vestibule of the main entrance and immediately opposite

is a large reception room with a fine homely fireplace in Mount Somers stone. Adjacent to the sleeping quarters of the Manager and Matron is an airy sick room which will be equipped with all necessary conveniences.

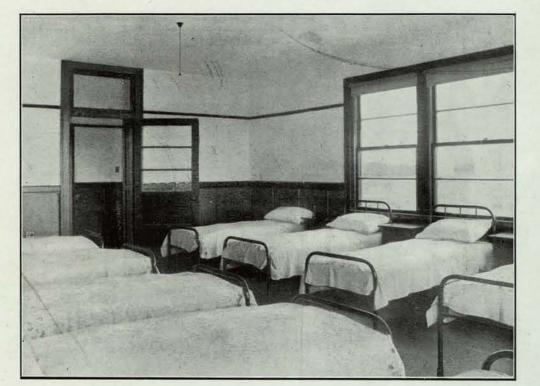
The well-lighted general dining room, 29 by 40 feet in size, is approached by separate entrances for the girls and boys. This room is admirably suited for entertainment purposes. The kitchen will contain every modern convenience including a refrigerator, benches, sinks and other equipment. For cooking the most modern plant in the Dominion is provided in two Aga cookers and heaters which are entirely new to this country. The pantry, and the storeroom, in which is placed the refrigerator motor, will both be taxed to the extent of their capacity.

In the laundry are the tubs, copper and electric washer. The drying room and ironing room are conveniently situated. Electric light and power points for cleaning purposes are provided throughout the buildings, which are served with hot and cold water right through. The building has a system of central heating by hot air driven from a boiler house in the basement at the rear of the administrative block. The boiler is fired with an automatic stoker controlled by a thermostat. The waste heat from the flues and boiler is utilized for drying clothing and house linen in wet weather.

Everything about the building is good, but not extravagantly so. The structure and its equipment are meant to last, and when one remembers that whereas the average house shelters but one growing family, the Orphanage will have a ceaseless succession of young families of very large proportions, justification will be found for every penny of expenditure.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER.

Into our hands God has put fine facilities for doing our work. From all over the South Island, irrespective of creed, there will pass through our opening doors a procession of children who are heirs of all the yesterdays and prophets of all the to-morrows. At the heart of every one of them lie nebulous thoughts and aspirations and purposes. Let us see to it that in the precious, fleeting years these plastic personalities remain in our care we not only transform them into citizens healthy in body and with their intellect sharpened for life's duties, but that we shape them in self-control, mould them in moral beauty, and lead them to the Saviour Who alone can fashion them in likeness to Himself.





A Corner of one of the Dormilories

The Reception Room

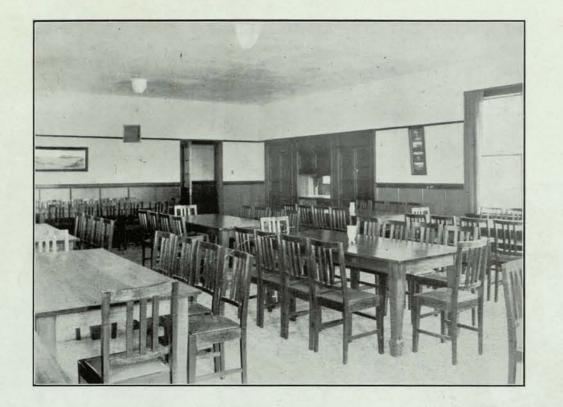




Page Twenty-two



A FRONT VIEW OF THE SOUTH ISLAND METHODIST ORPHANAGE AND CHILDREN'S HOME, PAPANUI, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.



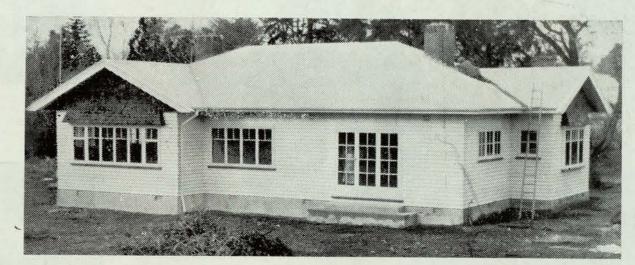


The Dining Room









THE BOYS' BUNGALOW (see page fourteen).



Miss SARAH USSHER
A NELSON BENEFACTRESS
(See page 15).



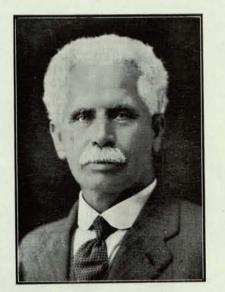
Mr. G. T. LUCAS, A.N.Z.I.A., (ONE OF OUR ARCHITECTS).





Mr. W. MELVILLE LAWRY, A.N.Z.I.A. (ONE OF OUR ARCHITECTS).





Mr. M. KERSHAW
(CONVENER OF THE GROUNDS
COMMITTEE).



Mr. R. C. JAMIESON (WHO BUILT THE NEW HOME).

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO-DAY!

HELP THE WORK

FOR THE

CHILDREN!

A Note of Challenge.

Children of yesterday, heirs of to-morrow,
Lighten your labour and sweeten your sorrow.
Now, while the shuttles fly faster and faster
Up and be at it, at work for the Master.
He stands at the loom—
Room for Him—room.

WE SHALL NEED YOUR HELP TO-MORROW!

Have You Made Your Mill?

When doing so remember the needs of the

South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home at Papanui, Christchurch.

3

Here is a form of Bequest.

I give unto the Treasurer for the time being of the South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home, at Papanui, Christchurch, the sum of pounds sterling to be paid out of my estate, in aid of the said South Island Methodist Orphanage and Children's Home, now carried on under the direction of the Conference of the Methodist Church of New Zealand, and for which the receipt of such Treasurer shall be a sufficient discharge.

Have You thought of this?

We lose what on ourselves we spend, We have as treasure without end Whatever, Lord, to Thee we lend, Who givest all.

Whatever, Lord, we lend to Thee, Repaid a thousand-fold will be; Then gladly will we give to Thee, Who givest all. The Orphanage Treasurer is:

Mr. George Bowron,
Epworth Chambers,

Christchurch.

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Page Twenty-nine

C81189113 PRINTED BY BASCANDS LTD. 151 Kilmore Street Christchurch Copies of this Booklet may be purchased for One Shilling. WRITE TO THE METHODIST CHURCH OFFICE P.O. Box 931, Christchurch OR APPLY TO THE CONNEXIONAL OFFICE, 176 HEREFORD ST. ALL PROCEEDS OF SALE FOR THE ORPHANAGE FUNDS. Page Thirty

