

The Open Door

The Missionary Organ
of the
Methodist Church
of N.Z.

MARCH, 1946.

The . .
Rev. Don Alley
Memorial.

£1,000
for the EDUCATION
of HIS SONS.

£4,000
for a MEMORIAL
HOSPITAL at TEOP.

WILL YOU HELP?

SEE PAGES 8-9.

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ST. PAUL.

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Posted, One Shilling and Threepence.

General Secretary—Rev. A. H. Scrivin.
Foreign Mission Dept., P.O. Box 23W, Auckland.

DOCTOR URGENTLY NEEDED



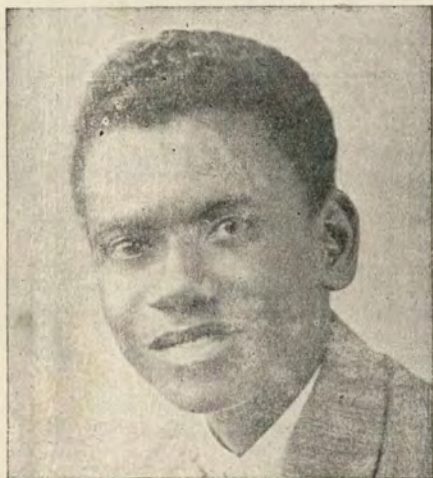
Dr. A. G. Rutter.
Medical Superintendent since 1938.

***The need is urgent,
the opportunity great.***

The Medical and Leper Funds permit of immediate resumption and extension of our Medical Work.

Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?

If this meets the eye of a young doctor who has heard the call of his Lord and caught a vision of His service in the Solomons, will he please communicate with the General Secretary, Box 23W, Auckland.



John Wesley Kere, Native Medical Practitioner.

DR. A. G. RUTTER, NOW SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER TO B.S.I. GOVERNMENT, WRITES:—

“You have not said anything further regarding the appointment of a successor to me at Bilua. I am wondering what progress you have made. The position here has clarified itself in the direction I was rather afraid it would. The new man who was to have come here from Nigeria—he was actually appointed, and his name down in the estimates—has failed to materialise: I understand he was rejected on medical grounds. The High Commissioner and the Inspector-General have both requested me under these circumstances to accept the Senior Medical Officership; and in the state in which things are at present, I did not feel that I could do other than agree. The continued “acting” state of affairs was unsatisfactory from all points of view, and was holding up the development of my work; and in view of the large amount of important reconstructive work waiting to be done, and of the need for someone with some knowledge of island conditions at this stage, I feel I must carry on here and give them of my best. I have made it clear that they will have to replace me at the end of two years; by that time, of course, I expect to be returning to New Zealand. If only you are able to get a man up here this year, I shall be able to co-operate with him to the fullest degree; and have high hopes of setting up a new state of liaison between government and mission medical services in the West.”



Isaac Pitakamoki, Native Medical Assistant.

Dr. E. G. Sayers established our Medical Unit in 1927 on very sound lines and Dr. Clifford James was associated with him for three years. Their service was of a very high order, and has been splendidly maintained by Dr. Rutter. They commended their Lord by their lives and their skill and are still gratefully remembered. Their work lives on, particularly in the service of a number of well trained native medical practitioners and assistants.

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PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE

FROM "THEY FOUND THE CHURCH THERE"

by HENRY P. VAN DUSEN.

Just fifteen years ago, a small group of wealthy American philanthropists, disturbed by what they diagnosed as a waning public confidence in Christian Missions, devised and financed an elaborate "laymen's inquiry" into certain limited areas of missionary work, in India, China and Japan. Their Report, published under the title **Re-Thinking Missions**, had a wide reading and immense influence.

Whatever the intention of its authors, the Laymen's Report undoubtedly served further to encourage misgivings, to shake and even shatter the confidence of large numbers of people in the missionary enterprise as a whole. It conveyed the impression that there were a few, probably a very few, individual instances of Christian work abroad which merited continuance; but that Missions by and large were of dubious value and validity, hardly justifying well-considered support.

To-day another "laymen's inquiry" is in process. It embraces the whole world. It is fortuitous, not carefully organised. It is being conducted, not by college professors and scholars, but by hard-bitten soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines of the armed forces of the United Nations. So far as can be judged, the verdict they are returning is almost altogether favourable. There has come to my attention just one incident when first-hand contact with Christian Missions has met a negative response. Instances of complete "about face" from indifference, scepticism or derision to ardent enthusiasm pile up by the hundreds. Just a fraction of them has been recorded in the pages above.

From these chance "discoveries," clean across the world, certain general impressions emerge:

1. A first impression is sameness, almost monotonous similarity. This book is confined to stories from the Pacific, but the material in my possession from many parts of the world tells the same story. The locations are as widely scattered as the points of the compass, the scenes as varied as the multi-of the most titanic military enterprise in history. A jungle hideout in New Guinea, a remote Solomon reef, a Tarawa cave, a cultured Samoan feast, the farious amplitude of a prodigal earth, the circumstances as contrasted as the labyrinthian operations silence of the African bush, the teeming bazaars of Teheran, the fevered unrest of India, big-game stalking in Assam, a university campus in Syria, the desperate endurance of China's millions, even the solitudes of Alaska—the background shifts. But the picture how little! In each instance, we see—first of all, persons, of dark skin and unfamiliar culture, but of strangely similar poise and strength and fidelity and grace; then, settlements

equipped with simple yet adequate instruments of health and education and worship, and communities marked by a character of life sharply contrasted with their surroundings—settlements and communities also strikingly alike; then, men and women of the West, unpretentious, often modestly furnished by nature and circumstance, yet markedly similar and irresistibly impressive. With all of its diversity, springing from different origins and adapted to varying situations, the Christian world mission wherever one encounters it is unmistakably one. And not merely in its setting and work, but no less in its inner genius. The explanation lies at a deeper level—the source of the whole in one Faith rooted in one Lord. There is no other movement which thus encircles the earth and which is thus basically the same everywhere.

For those with eyes to discern, there is more significance in this fact than mere external uniformity. An institution which thus girdles the globe with essentially similar centres is sending out into all the world like-minded and like-purposed persons. A faith which can produce the same qualities of life and of devotion in every circumstance and from among every people is a force which might unite the world. Is there any other force which can?

A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

This mark of sameness applies not only to geographical distribution. There is a no less obvious similarity whatever the denominational affinity. The incidents we have met reflect the work of almost every branch and every nation of Christendom—Roman Catholic and Protestant; Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Congregational, Reformed, Lutheran, Disciples, Adventist; American, British, French, Dutch, Belgian, Scandinavian, Swiss, yes and German and Japanese. The divergences among the various Christian communions and between churchmen of different countries are great, are often felt to be vital, and are not to be underestimated. Nevertheless, the fact must be faced that these differences have almost wholly escaped those who have encountered the several groups in far places of the earth, and that admiration for them has had no appreciable relation to their denomination bases or to denominational kinship between them and their discoverers.

The reason is at least twofold. For one thing, under the exigencies of pioneering tasks amid adverse conditions, Christians of all persuasions tend to develop mutual appreciation, to discover their affinities and to submerge their disagreements. We have noted the statesmanlike division of responsibility among Protestants throughout the Pacific.

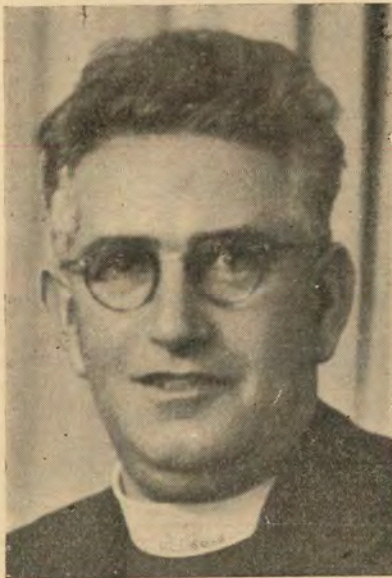
Rebuilding the Waste Places

Gratifying Progress on Bougainville

EXTRACTS FROM REV. A. H. VOYCE'S RECENT LETTERS

I have been exceedingly busy every day—in fact I don't think I have ever worked harder—and there is building up something to show for it too. I have secured some other things from Canteen Supplies before they pack all their stocks off to Rabaul. I have started getting some building material together—taking up five ply stuff, etc.

I visited Siwai at the beginning of the week again—stayed the night—and came back the next day—and brought six boys to work. We struck heavy N. W. weather—and it has lasted ever since. Down there they have finished my house—started on a good big church—and have also got many of the timbers ready for the Sister's house. They told me nothing about their intentions along these lines, but I think their attitude is mighty fine.



Rev. A. H. VOYCE

I intend to go down again next Wednesday—if the Luxtons' arrival—or non-arrival—does not interfere. I intend to take about three jeeps and trailers with furniture and other things along.

Mr. Luxton arrived just in time to give valuable advice in connection with the Commonwealth Disposals Commission—landing the day after they did. I had already put in written requests for options over various things. I considered water transport of primary importance—then housing and finally supplies and road transport.

I applied early last month for an option on what are generally considered the best and most substantial block of buildings on the Island—namely the Other Ranks' Club—which cost several thousands to build—and that was the first matter settled by the C.D.C. people. They told me very early that I had won my case providing a

figure suitable to the C.D.C. could be arrived at. They inspected the building—so did Mr. Luxton and I again. They wanted a thousand pounds—I suggested £600—they came down to £750 and eventually agreed to £675. Then they assured us that instructions have been given that all buildings of any value on the island are to be left—and though we were specifically tendering only for the O.R.'S. Club—if we secured that building it carried with it the assurance that we may salvage material from all the other buildings remaining—so that the actual buildings we were tendering for included much more in value. That was the position we anticipated—but it was very reassuring to have that statement made in public by the C.D.C. representatives—so we clinched the matter on the spot, and received the receipt—which includes immediate possession. The matter of the payment is to be met out of War Damage. Already we have begun to gather material to make the place habitable. There is ample room for two families and enough storage space for all the material we are able to salvage and to buy from C.D.C. and others. There is huge concrete floor space—and plenty of outbuildings. It is only a quarter of a mile from the beach on the harbour—and we have for a month been considering whether this might not make the headstation for our Bougainville work—or at least one of our stations and at the very least a base for supplies. However, those are points for future consideration.

The third important matter concerned stores. I was uncertain what amount the Board would countenance in the way of expenditure on essential stores, boats, etc. I have ordered what we considered minimum essential requirements for here and the British Solomon Islands for the next couple of years. I would like to secure very much more. The point is—this material is already here—no freight—no duty—it will not be procurable elsewhere as cheaply as at Army prices—but I don't know to what amount you would be prepared for me to go. However, such material will have to be procured—and it will not deteriorate by keeping—I have plenty of storage for it, and if you will agree to my purchasing more, please send me a signal.

I have previously written you regarding road transport which I have purchased, and I am negotiating for some more jeeps for the British Solomon Islands for Mr. Goldie, and have written him asking if he wishes me to proceed.

I also told you that I have spent £400 odd on stores from the Canteens, and there is no need immediately to send anything up from New Zealand in that line. I have also secured about £80 worth of material from the Australian Amenities Service (Army) and will give them an order on the Board for that amount.

I have also secured all the furniture from the Other Ranks' Club and have written Mr. Goldie advising him not to buy chairs, tables, beds, etc., as we can help them when transport is available.

Translation of a Brave Yet Gentle Soul

SUDDEN DEATH OF SISTER ELIZABETH COMMON.



The late Sister Elizabeth Common.

From her appointment in 1923 to her evacuation in 1942, owing to Japanese invasion, none served the Solomons with greater devotion and more selfless spirit than Sister Elizabeth Common, who was suddenly called to her Father's home on 12th March, 1946. Great will be the sorrow among the Mission Staff and the Native Church when the news of Sister Elizabeth's passing reaches them. Most of her service was rendered at Buka, and it was my privilege to see the high quality of a work that touched every aspect of the life of the women and girls there. She was a fully-qualified maternity nurse, and not only ministered to many mothers and their babies, but trained large numbers of girl students to exercise a similar ministry among their own people. This service was not confined to the hospital on the head station but, travelling by native canoe paddled by her girls, Sister Elizabeth

went far afield to natives villages seeking the sick and needy of body and soul.

The semi-native house in which Elizabeth Common lived with her girls at Skotolan, was a special gift of the M.W.M.U. and was called 'The Home of Light.' From it there radiated a wonderful influence to every part of the circuit. Girls educated there and trained to nurse, teach, sew, drill—and, above all, grounded in a simple faith in Jesus Christ—carried the light and love of that home, and the Sister who presided there, to many villages. In the diary written at the time of my visit in 1935, I find the following paragraph summing up my notes and conclusions:

"The tone and atmosphere of the home are very fine, and it is evident Sister Elizabeth is doing a splendid work and profoundly influencing the girls under her care and, through them, the village people to whom they will minister later."

The light and love of that Buka home have continued to shine through the dark days of war. The home has been destroyed by a ruthless invader; the brave and good woman who directed it has entered the home of eternal day; but the light and love will live on, and in the days to come many in that northern isle will rise up and call Sister Elizabeth Common blessed.

—A.H.S.

Again the New Zealand Commander assures me that there is much stuff in their stores that can now be sold to us, and which will be useful—and I will inspect that material in the next fortnight. I am buying lots of things for teachers and natives, and this will be in lieu of stipend, or else will be bought back for cash after they have been paid. I will send you a signal for more cash to be sent up, as the teachers will badly need cash in many cases.

This Saturday morning Mr. Luxton and I have spent gathering timber from an old camp for the rooms at the Other Ranks' Club. We also took up valuable sheets of five-ply.

Since writing to you last, we have been able to finalise negotiations for the "Daphne," when she is released, which will possibly be in about three weeks' time. Mr. Luxton says that she can be fixed up and painted and made quite presentable.

The Atlas saw bench, etc., that I requested an option on from the very start, was to have been sent back to Australia, but the Commanding Officer of the Ordnance, under whose direct authority that machine came, said he would send a signal away and support our application and suggest that it be declared surplus—then the Commissioners added their weight, and so it was offered to us at £200. I said I thought it was too high, and when asked what figure I had in mind, suggested £100, so a compromise of £150 was agreed upon—and that, too, is to become ours in about three

weeks' time.

Mr. and Mrs. Luxton are settling in well and finding plenty to do. We are handicapped at present with having few boys. I hope to have that remedied before long. All the roads to Siwai are out now, and will not be repaired as most bridges are down. Without definite control of boats we can't reach Buka, and when we do get them we will have to seek boat crews.

We have secured control of the "Daphne," and also of the fast speedboat, but the latter has not had the servicing attention promised, and Mr. Luxton does not want to take delivery. However, we will consider the matter further. I feel that, if we can haul her up into a shed, then the hull alone will be well worth the £175 offered for her, and we could discard the engines and import a low-speed Diesel to instal.

It may be that, if the weather is suitable, Mr. Luxton will make a trip to Saposia and Petats this coming week in search of a boat crew. Major Read has agreed to break the contracts of four Buka boys to-morrow, in order that they may go with Mr. Luxton to Buka. This is of much help to us. Mr. Luxton will also seek some cooks, etc., and other work boys. We are terribly limited at present with only seven boys and all the roads to Siwai cut out, so that I can't get down to seek more.

Regards to all at home. Hope that the Board Meeting was a successful one, and that Conference will prove a time of great blessing.

Rev. John F. Goldie Pleads for School Teachers

EXTRACTS FROM RECENT LETTERS.

I had the pleasure of opening the day school here on the head station (Bilua) yesterday. This was the senior school, as the Kindergarten has been working for some time.

We are all in excellent health and spirits, and there is plenty for all of us to do. We have the big schools in full action again, at Marovo, Vella Lavella, and I expect at Sasamuqa by this time. A large temporary hospital has been erected at Bilua, and another at Patutiva, and under the supervision of Mr. Luxton and Nurse Joy Whitehouse, our medical assistants are doing a fine work amongst the sick.

We badly need another teaching Sister at Bilua, and one also for Sasamuqa. The one at Bilua was intended to be a new appointment while the hospital was in full swing with two nurses, but with only one nurse as at present, this appointment would not mean additional staff at Bilua. There seems to be plenty of nurses willing to come, but we need additional certificated teachers at present.

The little launch is doing wonderful service. I told you of the round trip of 250 miles. She will

be splendid after she is opened up a bit, and she was never intended to carry cargo. I can assure you that I am very pleased to get her, and she has done splendid service already, without any alteration. Her engine has never given us any trouble, and the native engineer has now got the hang of her, and manages very well.

At present I am stuck here at Baraulu owing to the N.W. monsoon coming on. I left Bilua to go to Patutiva, calling at all our Wanawana and Munda stations. I got as far as this with weather threatening, and have been stuck up for a few days longer than I expected. However, it has all been for the best, as I have been able to give them a full Sunday, as well as conducting Class Meetings and School Examinations. On Thursday I examined a school of 90 scholars, and conducted a Class Meeting of about 300. On Friday I examined another school of about 120. Sunday was a high day of four big services, beginning at 7 a.m. This morning I intended to move on, but the N.W. came in properly. Sakiri says that this is all for the best also.

MRS. D. C. ALLEY'S APPRECIATION AND PLEA

May I have a little space to reply to the hundreds of letters I have recently received from all over New Zealand—those expressions of joy, of love and now of sympathy. Much as I would love to, it is quite impossible for me to reply to each individual letter, so please accept this as my personal reply to each one. As also for many others, for me this last has been an extremely severe year, but I want you to know that because of your expressions of love, especially through the medium of prayer, I have felt God very near, very comforting and sustaining.

Now we learn, our Daddy, whom we dearly loved, has been called to Higher Service. If ever I have been through a severe test it is now, but I am still able to say "Thy Will Be Done." Surely Don's witness for his Master will be an inspiration to a great many. He was a man of Faith—he knew his God. I have been in Auckland during our Church Conference which has decided to erect a Memorial Hospital to our Daddy on Bougainville. It is quite beyond my ability to describe just how I feel about that. With all my heart, I thank God for this decision to erect a Memorial Hospital for our native people. Oh, if only you could know their need as I do—if only you had come with me into some of those filthy huts and seen for yourselves those whom God loves, even as He loves us, just lying on the ground under the most primitive unhealthy conditions. If only you had seen the conditions under which those dear wee black babies were being born, you could not do other than agree that the Hospital is surely a very great necessity. Oh! I think it is fine and I plead that it be erected soon for those whom we dearly love. You couldn't help but love them as I do. Wherever you are, in whatever Circuit, please urge this Hospital be erected soon.

My loving and sincere gratitude to each one who has been "standing by" all through. Please God, I may be found worthy.

MEMORIAL TO MISS S. A. SOMERVILLE

Chaste and impressive are the new Communion table and chairs recently dedicate, in the Onehunga Church, by the President of the Conference (Rev. A. H. Scrivin) as a Memorial to the late Miss S. A. Somerville who, throughout her life, had been closely identified with Onehunga Methodism. Every phase of church life claimed her interest and support, but the Missionary Enterprise was nearest her heart. Almost from its inception she was President of the Women's Auxiliary, and for many years was a member of the Foreign Mission Board.

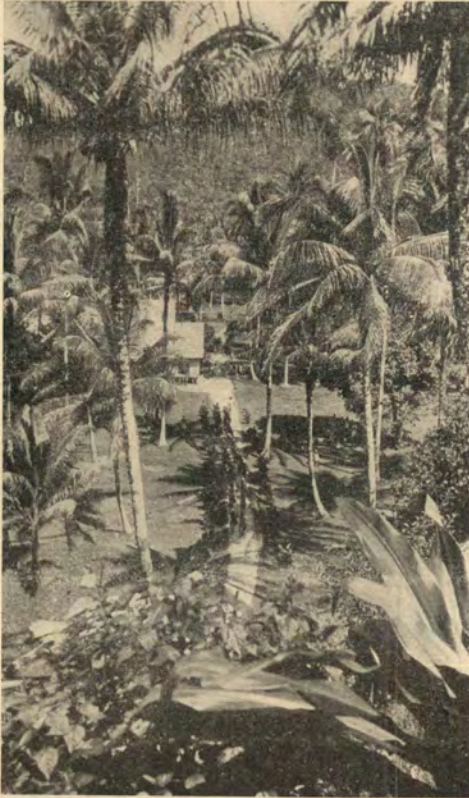
In his address the President stated that the steadfastness, devotion and singleness of purpose, apparent to such a marked degree in Miss Somerville's life and service, were among the main factors that had brought women to the forefront of the Missionary Movement and other spheres of the work of the Church. Quoting from the Tamaram Report regarding the place of women in the Church, he said: "It is of the utmost importance that women be given opportunity to use their capabilities to the full in every part of the Church's life and work. The different communions represented must decide for themselves how this contribution shall be made. Our concern is to urge that this matter be given earnest study in order that Church's message and the fulfilment of its world mission."

To one whose life work had been such a valuable contribution, to this end the Memorial was dedicated, and it was peculiarly fitting that it should take the form of a Communion Table. It was characteristic of Miss Somerville that her many generous gifts were anonymous and her constant service marked by quiet, unassuming modesty. This beautiful memorial would be her ideal, in that here many would meet her Lord, remember His dying love, and take His Sacrament to their comfort.

Back to Choiseul

Spiritual Vitality of the People

by REV. J. R. METCALFE.



Senga, where the first Choiseul Quarterly Meeting was held after the return of the Rev. J.R. and Mrs. Metcalfe and Sister Grace McDonald.

We arrived here last Monday evening and received a great welcome from the few who were at the anchorage, and from then on it has been a series of welcomes, not yet ended, but which had its peak, as far as Bambatana is concerned, last Thursday when Stephen handed back the leadership of our work here. As we arrived at the beach under the buni tree Abedneo was leading the singing, and the hymn they had selected was one composed for the bi-centenary of John Wesley's conversion, "God is with us." All who spoke at the Class Meeting emphasised that fact. There is no doubt about the spiritual vitality of the people. It looks as though the war did them good. We are all delighted by the bright, happy faces of the folk, and their keenness to serve. It is a real pleasure to minister to them. They are all glad to see Sister Grace. She is certainly needed.

As to the Mission Station, this is what we found. Our house is a hopeless wreck. One of the old tanks is the only conspicuous object. The place is a wilderness.

The people have just re-erected the Hospital. They have re-built the Outpatients Dept. just as formerly, and have added two wards built on the ground level, but quite good enough for temporary accommodation. Sister already has one or two serious cases.

The Sisters' house is better than I expected to find it. We have been busy from Tuesday onwards putting it into a little better shape. Abednego, Kunduvaru and I are the carpenters and Stephen, Joeli and others have done the leaf walls. We had one of Sasamuqa's best last night but suffered very little inconvenience, a few drips, any amount of damp but no damage. It is very largely an open air life with any number of villainous mosquitos, but in another month it will be quite livable, and will probably do us a term if necessary. The whole place will have to come down though when we can begin operations in earnest. The nursery and kitchen were shattered by near misses. The nursery is hopeless, the kitchen nearly so, but I think we shall manage to patch it up somehow, if only with leaf. The girls' leaf house is quite habitable, a few bullet holes being the chief damage.

The Primary School is another hopeless proposition, but it would not take us long to erect a good little building on the same block. The Teachers' Houses are not worth repairing, but the Boys' Houses and Stephen Gadapeta's can be made habitable for a couple of years.

The old Store is now the oldest building in the Mission and very nearly as good as when I left it in 1942. The Workshop is hopeless but the boat-house and winch are quite good. The bridges are all in order.

The most pleasing thing to us all is, however, the condition of the new church; by the way the old one is in ruins. The Japs did their best to destroy the new church, and they had some very near misses. The place shows many scars, and one blast knocked out a few timbers out of place, but there is no serious damage. We could repair it in less than a week. It is really amazing. At present it is in the bush, but very soon it will come into the light, and will be for many years a thing of beauty, a memorial of God's grace, an inspiration to noble endeavour, and a promise of still greater things to come.

We have the temporary church which is useful but not ornamental, and we could easily put in a Teaching Sister and do useful work.

"Quit India"—But Not Missionaries

by REV. G. E. HICKMAN JOHNSON.

Before attempting to describe a fortnight's tour in the Hyderabad District (which is pretty well as large as England), I would like to say a word about our general treatment in India. The papers are still full of political rancour; suspicion and distrust of Britain's policy are more deeply seated than most Britishers at home can realise; even the present Government's move to send a Parliamentary delegation is pooh-poohed by an influential paper like "The Hindu." Indian youth has been taught to regard the Government as an imperialistic exploiting power for so long that the slogan "Quit India" has become a cardinal feature of true patriotism. Yet at every hand, in trains, in streets, in shops, on buses, whether we meet individual Indians outside, as well as of course within, our Christian community, no one of us has received at any moment anything but the most perfect courtesy or been given anything but the most charming welcome. The principle "Quit India" is universally accepted; the individual Britisher is still treated as an honoured guest, and very frequently as a real friend. It is continually a delight to have chats with Indians of all creeds and classes as we journey on.

We entered Hyderabad from the north, and first met with our people at the great coal mining centre of Bellumpalli, which produces 1,000 tons of coal a day.

There are at hand in this area, most of which only a few years ago was primeval jungle, ample raw materials for plastics, cotton textiles, fertilisers, china, glass, and agricultural implements; stone and teak abound everywhere, and all the capital needed is available, the Government insisting on control by owning just over half of it. Thank God, and those to whom He gave foresight in earlier years, that our Church is firmly rooted in this trans-Godavari area; the possibilities of Church growth within this new industrialism are quite beyond our present power to compute; and much of this development should be largely self-supporting.

But another loud knocking is sounding on our church door which we can only refuse to answer at our peril. At present we have a chain of circuits along the north bank of the Godavari from Mancherial to Nirmal with thousands of Christians in their villages—Christians growing increasingly mature, able to conduct their own prayer meetings, villages with men, and some women, in them, able to read the Bible to one another; born "untouchable," now so truly "children of God" that caste Hindus, marvelling at "the power that dwelleth in them," have themselves been won into the holy fellowship of Jesus. All this is a miracle of the last 30 years.

But what of the country beyond? For 100 miles stretching north from the Godavari to beyond Adilbad is a territory totally unclaimed for Christ, into which our people are filtering and where through them the good news is being made known. If the Master's will is that His Church should be built in this new untravelled region, we alone are

at hand to do it. At the moment the necessary resources of personnel and finance are hard to envisage.

Crossing the Godavari on the only road bridge in the whole area, we went from circuit to circuit manned by our Indian brethren. Perhaps this is the place to say a word about them. In home after home we have received the bountiful hospitality of Indian superintendents and their wives, and for that, and the charming courtesy with which it has been extended, we have been profoundly grateful. Many of the meals we have had in their homes have been sacramental in their fellowship. But more than this; if one of the tests of a Church's spiritual life is the ministry it produces, then the Hyderabad District has deep cause to give God thanks.

Some of these men derive from the village homes of our people, some from our village evangelists' families; their years of training have enabled them to graduate, their reputation stands high at Bangalore Theological College, where some of the best products of the Church in India and Ceylon are being trained; but, best of all, they are God's gentlemen, keen to be used in the building of a Church based on "the poor, the weak, and the despised." They have been good enough to talk with us very frankly about the future; no one can yet tell what home rule is going to mean to the various activities of the Indian Church, but two things have become quite clear to us as we have passed along: (1) Our Church in India has no use for the "Quit India" slogan as applied to missionaries; though the ministers are ardent Nationalists almost to a man, they declare with equal unanimity their plea for missionaries, not as managing directors but as colleagues, serving side by side on terms of friendly fellowship. It has been a joy to see this fellowship in action in the District and to hear unsolicited testimony paid to it by our women missionaries working under their Indian brethren, and (2) whatever home rule may mean for the Indian Church—her educational and other activities—the Church is ready for it; hardship, and oftentimes some suffering there may well be, but on every hand we have been assured "the gates of hell cannot prevail."

There are some things that must humble any visitor to the dust as he sees what God hath wrought using the prayers and gifts of the home Church as acceptable offerings; for example, village youths, banded into a guild of service in village after village, becoming increasingly literate, active to help in Church worship, in social service and, again, villagers, men and women, poor as the dust as this world counts poverty, used of God as "class leaders," "local preachers," "exhorters" (the terms are rightly applied), ready to travel miles, carrying their bits of food with them, if it means helping another village to know God, or even to get a sight of your delegation.

—"The Methodist Recorder."

From Vella Lavella to Bougainville

by REV. C. T. J. LUXTON.

Our departure from Vella Lavella was very hurried. Your first radio was received by Mr. Goldie the day after you sent it; he just happened to be in the Wana Wana and had sent across to see if any mail had come in to Hobu Hobu. On receipt of your radio he immediately sent the "Munda" across to Bilua to notify me. It was five days later that your radio to me arrived by canoe, by which time, of course, I was family at Bilua. Then on the 28th a canoe arrived with mail and your radio which told of permission being granted for Mrs. Luxton and the children to accompany me—the radio said be ready without fail by 25th; we received it at 10 a.m. on the 28th when we were expecting the Matai to show up at any moment. We hurriedly packed and could have moved out three hours later, but the Matai didn't turn up until the following morning. It was fortunate for us that the nor-wester had held up the ship, otherwise it would have arrived before the radio.

The Matai arrived at Torokina at mid-day on the 30th, not expected by the port officer; we were held up pending explanations and then allowed in to the wharf where we and our cargo were set ashore and the Matai departed immediately.

Mr. Voyce was called up by phone and soon arrived in his jeep. Car and truck were found for our use, and so to Angau which is to be our camp for some weeks. There is no restriction on Mr. Voyce or myself going anywhere in the Bougainville and Buka districts, but it is stipulated that one of us must always remain within the perimeter of Torokina should the other be away on mission duties.

It may be some time before we can get re-established at Buka, but I hope to have the opportunity of frequent visits throughout the area.

At present there is a lot of work to be done here with regard to handling stores and equipment as they become available. Mr. Voyce has done an amazing amount of work in the short time he has been here. There have been generous gifts of equipment; all these have to be collected, carted, stored, sorted and packed for removal.

Often we are working with Bishop Wade and the Chinese representative in gathering up equipment which will be divided equally among the three interested parties. The Commonwealth Disposals Commission has been here this week, and we have been arranging to purchase stores and equipment they are releasing for disposal. Mr. Voyce and I have gone very carefully into estimating our requirements. Our first purchase was a large building which will become our headquarters. The main building will give housing to both families, and adjacent buildings will provide ample storage space, a workshop, native quarters, etc., and one building will become a chapel. When we eventually move to our mission stations the bulk of the building material will be easily removed for use on our stations.

Mr. Voyce's previous purchases of stores removes any concern about necessary supplies, pending the re-opening of regular shipping communication.

Apart from the building just mentioned the greatest expenditure has been on food supplies, that will be recoverable by the mission when the stores are divided and allocated to the respective families.

There are numbers of our mission boys working here for Angau, and I have had some happy reunions. It is noticeable that the boys who are occupying the more responsible positions in the Angau service are our mission boys.

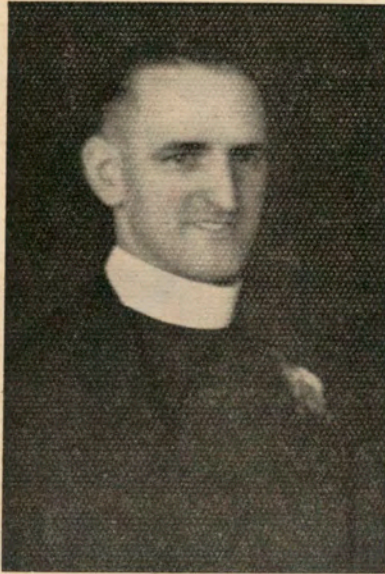
Troops are moving out rapidly, and each day sees another camp area closed down. Mr. Voyce seems to have made contacts in all quarters, and we are constantly being notified that such and such an area is being vacated, and that certain equipment is available if we can get a truck and call in. The Disposals Commission has arranged that only native type buildings be destroyed when units move out; any building with recoverable building material is to be left standing, and such material can be taken by any of the three parties who have been purchasing from the Commission, i.e., ourselves, the Bishop and the Chinese. There is very cordial co-operation between those three parties; the happy relations between us brought a comment from the members of the Commission, and they said that nowhere had they found such willing co-operation, and where they thought there might have been bargaining and competition, they found mutual agreement, a non-competitive spirit and a readiness to assist each other.

The possibilities of the Torokina area as a permanent depot have impressed themselves on both Mr. Voyce and myself. From here there is easy access to Kunua in my area, to Rotokas in the Teop area, and also to the Siwai area. It is approximately half-way between Skotolan and Kihili.



Rev. Usaia Sotutu, B.E.M., who has returned to Bougainville after excellent service as Chaplain to the Fiji Forces.

THE REV. DON A



A Worthy Tribute to a GALLANT CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

The whole Church has been deeply moved by the tragic death of the Rev. D. C. Alley while a prisoner in Japanese hands. He was captured while gallantly remaining with his people and drowned en route to Japan.

●

*Solemnly and Unanimously
Conference Resolved:-*

REV. DON ALLEY MEMORIAL.

That a Rev. Don Alley Memorial be established as follows:

1. *A Fund of £1,000 to assist in the educating of the two fatherless boys, Donald and David.*
2. *A hospital at Teop to be known as the Rev. Don Alley Memorial Hospital.*

That to this end the Foreign Mission Department be authorised to make an immediate special appeal to the Connexion for not less than £5,000.

The Conference warmly commends the appeal to our people.

**By Prompt and Eager Response let us Establish the MEMORIAL in a
Worthy Way.**

My Share in the DON ALLEY MEMORIAL.

*In addition to my usual Foreign Mission contribution I herewith donate
for the Rev. Don Alley Memorial Fund—£ : :*

PAY TO—Your Minister

—Your Circuit Foreign Mission Secretary

—or Post Direct to: Rev. A. H. Scrivin, Box 23W, Auckland.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

ALLEY MEMORIAL

In the education of his sons we shall strive to perpetuate the father's missionary spirit and devotion and to give to them the opportunity in life that is rightly theirs.

In the work of the Memorial Hospital the life and service of DON ALLEY will be perpetuated in a Christ-like ministry of healing that was much upon his heart.

We ask for £5,000

£1,000 for the BOYS' EDUCATION

£4,000 for MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

**WE ARE CONFIDENT
YOU WILL WISH TO
HELP . . .**



Pioneering the Mountains of Bougainville.

REVEREND D. C. ALLEY.

With a profound sense of sorrow the Mission Board records the death of the Rev. D. C. Alley, who has been officially presumed lost when the Japanese ship "Montevideo Maru" was sunk with all personnel off Luzon in June, 1942. With many other prisoners and internees he was being taken from Rabaul to Japan.

Mr. Alley was appointed a missionary to Teop, North Bougainville, in 1936. During the ensuing six years he rendered splendid service to the Kingdom of God. On the head station he developed the training of students and, with Mrs. Alley, extended the medical work. Probably his best work was the pioneering of a number of new stations in the mountains of North Bougainville and linking up our stations on the two coasts of that rugged land. Having acquired a good working knowledge of the Teop dialect he was able to collaborate with the Native Ministers in valuable translation work. He was loved and trusted by the native people and held a high place in the esteem and affection of his European brethren.

When the Japanese invasion of Bougainville took place early in 1942, Mr. Alley gallantly remained with his people and was interned on 31st March. His memory and his work will abide in the minds and hearts of the people for whom he gave his life, and here in New Zealand where he was greatly beloved.

New Workers for the Solomons

MORE TEACHERS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY.

REV. H. W. BURLEY, M.M.

The Rev. Harold Burley's offer for Foreign Mission work was gladly received and unanimously endorsed by both the Mission Board and the Conference. Both Mr. and Mrs. Burley have been under a sense of Divine call to the Solomons for a number of years, and have planned to fit themselves for the Field. For the past five years Mr. Burley has rendered splendid service with the Medical Corps overseas, attaining to the highest rank possible to one other than a doctor, and winning the Military Medal for distinguished service on the field. More than once he was offered a chaplaincy, but preferred to continue his ministry of healing that was fitting him so well for that important side of his work as a missionary. Mrs. Burley is a fully-qualified nurse and a gifted leader.

It is expected that Mr. Burley will be appointed to the Solomons in 1947.

MR. ALLEN H. HALL, B.A.

Another probable appointee in 1947 is Mr. Allen Hall, B.A., a student at Trinity Theological College, who has been designated as Tutor of the District Training Institution, where he will play an important part in training the Native Ministry. He held rank as first-lieutenant in the N.Z. Forces and saw considerable service in the Pacific. In addition to continuing his theological studies this year, Mr. Hall hopes to take his M.A. and Dip.Ed. He is a qualified teacher with four years' experience in N.Z. schools prior to the war. But his greatest qualifications, without which all others would be quite inadequate for his high-calling, are a deep spiritual experience and vivid sense of God's call.

SISTER WINIFRED POOLE.

After qualifying with high marks in every other branch of the nursing profession, including the post-graduate course, Sister Winifred is now taking Karitane training which she expects to complete in April. She has also taken a course at Deaconess House and was dedicated at the 1945 Conference. Her high qualifications, definite sense of call, and deep spiritual experience, fit her to a high degree for the great work awaiting her on the Field for which she hopes to leave about June.

NURSE MERLE CARTER.

Another volunteer awaiting early appointment is Nurse Merle Carter, who has passed with honours in general nursing, mid-wifery and maternity, and has also taken the full Plunket course. During such strenuous training she has also taken several subjects in the Leadership Training Course. Very definite in her heart is the assurance that God is calling her to the Solomons, and the Mission Board in accepting her offer is confident she will find there a sphere of joyous and wide service.

SISTER MAY RUSHTON.

But for the war, Sister May Rushton would probably have been in the Solomons a year ago, and it is particularly disappointing to her and the Mission Board that she has recently been on the sick list. In fact, a few months ago, it seemed as if the door to the Solomons had been closed to her. She, however, is staging a good recovery and may yet realise the desire of years for missionary service. She, too, has qualified with great credit in all branches of her profession. She is a full local preacher and for a number of years has conducted services with much acceptance.

NURSE LUCY MONEY.

Qualified as a maternity nurse and now taking the mid-wifery course, Nurse Lucy Money has also had valuable training in kindergarten work and at Deaconess House. Prior to undertaking maternity training she was on the secretarial staff of the Y.W.C.A. This all-round experience, coupled with a deep spiritual experience and sense of call, gives rich promise of successful service in the Solomons when the time of her appointment comes.

THE DEBIT SIDE—SISTER MERLE FARLAND, O.B.E.

Against the above-mentioned rich credit is the debit of the loss of Sister Merle Farland—at least for the time being. Following her valuable service in the Army she is now undertaking a post-graduate course and is somewhat uncertain concerning her movements upon the completion of the course. Sister Merle rendered splendid service to the Solomons and may yet feel the call to return.



Sister Winifred Poole.

Solomon Islands District Emergency Synod

HELD AT BILUA ON 1ST DECEMBER, 1945.

The Representative Session was opened by the singing of Hymn 709 under circumstances which added significance to almost every word, for never before in the history of the New Zealand Methodist Church has a District Synod been held on a battlefield with the signs of War's devastation on every side. Isaiah 52 was then read, after which John R. Metcalfe, Clarence T. J. Luxton and John F. Goldie led in prayer, and all joined in the Lord's Prayer.

The Chairman mentioned the exceptional conditions under which Synod was being held and the impossibility of conducting the business of our Church in the usual way.

The following are some of the questions and answers:—

Who are present? John F. Goldie (Chairman), John R. Metcalfe, A. Wharton, L. Silvester, Clarence T. J. Luxton, Sister Lina Jones, Sister Grace McDonald, Sister Effie Harkness, Sister Joy Whitehouse.

Are there any recommendations as to the appointment of an additional Preacher to any Circuit?

Synod recommends that the Tongan Conference be requested to place the call of our Bougainville Work before the young Ministers in Full Connexion, and should such call be answered, a young Minister be selected and freed by the Tongan Conference for work in our Bougainville Circuit.

What are the recommendations of Synod regarding the Spiritual Welfare of the Church?

As far as possible the work of the Native Church has been surveyed throughout the District. The teachers have laboured under extreme difficulties in the years of military occupation, and during the period of the reconstruction of their villages. Despite the lack of equipment a fine work has been maintained, and it is a great pleasure to report that a high tone is evident throughout the District. Synod rejoices in this and gives thanks to God for the evidence of His continued Grace.

Back to the Field.

Mrs. A. H. Voyce and Family. There was keen disappointment both in New Zealand and Bougainville when the air service to the latter place ceased the very day before Mrs. Voyce, Grenville, Murray and Jean were booked to fly to join the Rev. A. H. Voyce at Torokina. Passages were secured for them, however, on the "Matai" which sailed from Auckland on her last trip to the Solomons on 22nd March. They may have to remain at Torokina with Mrs. Luxton and family for some time, but Mr. Voyce and Mr. Luxton are free to visit any part of Bougainville and Buka provided they are not both absent from Torokina at the same time.

The prayers and good wishes of the whole Church will follow Mrs. Voyce and family.

What is the District Secretary's Report on Church Property?

The Chairman reported that he had visited Roviana and had seen there the total destruction of all buildings, boats, coconut trees and other properties. The members of Synod were able to view the almost total destruction of buildings, the serious loss of coconut trees and the deterioration of the plantation at Bilua. Reliable information has been received by the Chairman that the Mission buildings on Choiseul, Bougainville and Buka have been entirely destroyed, and the plantations, gardens, etc., almost obliterated. The floating property not destroyed at Munda has been lost to us, and our transport position is now acute.

Is there any further business?

- (a) **May Meeting.** This Synod places on record its decision to hold a Meeting of as many members of the European Staff as can be gathered together in the month of May, to discuss the Agenda for the South Pacific Christian Conference to be held in 1947.
- (b) **Thank to the Board.** A cordial vote of thanks was passed to the Board of Missions and Conference for the increase in the stipends of the members of the European Staff.
- (c) **Thanks to the Captain and Crew of the "Matai."** Synod places on record its hearty appreciation of the splendid assistance and ready courtesy given by the Captain and Crew of the M.V. "Matai," to the members of the Mission Staff, and asks that this be conveyed to them in a letter of thanks.
- (d) **Appreciation of the work of C. T. J. Luxton.** The newly-arrived members of the Staff passed a hearty vote of thanks to Brother Luxton for the efficient preparations he had made for their accommodation.

An Appreciation.

By the courtesy of the Prime Minister's Dept., the Navy Dept., and the Air Force, passages and cargo space have been made available to our Mission Staff on three successive trips of the "Matai." On each of these trips the Master of the vessel, Captain Webling, and his ship's company have extended the utmost courtesy and kindness to our missionaries who have written in the most appreciative terms.

Similar courtesy and generous help have been extended prior to the ship's sailing by Flight-Lieutenants' Dickey and Robinson of R.N.Z.A.F. Shipping Section and their staff.

For this fine service, without which the return of our Mission Staff and their stores and equipment would have been impossible, we record our sincere thanks and appreciation.

The Work of a Handful of Missionaries

FROM "THEY FOUND THE CHURCH THERE"

by HENRY P. VAN DUSEN.

"The success of this campaign depended upon the co-operation we received from the natives, and that co-operation was given whole-heartedly and cheerfully by these men who a few years ago were savages," writes an American soldier from New Georgia. "It can't be estimated in figures, the number of lives saved by the tireless efforts of these men. I, for one, would not hesitate to say that in a large measure, I owe my well being to them." And a chaplain adds:

They have rescued countless fliers forced down at sea. They have fed, sheltered, and befriended scores of survivors off sunken ships. Their knowledge of the jungle trails and their uncanny ability to traverse those trails silently and with unbelievable speed make them excellent guides and deadly effective in accounting for the stray Jap patrol or sniper.

But both the real secret and the deeper meaning of what they had witnessed escaped neither of these observers. The lad from New Georgia continues:

A handful of missionaries risked their lives and sacrificed the comforts and luxuries of home to teach these natives Christianity. It was because of this new-found Faith and their trust in these white men that they worked ceaselessly on behalf of the American army—carrying ammunition and food, medical supplies and water, pointing out obscure trails to make the going easier and safer, and doing many tasks that would have been left to us. . . . As a token of my appreciation of the wonderful work these missionaries have done, I am enclosing a money order for one hundred dollars (£25) with the request that it be used for foreign missionary work. To me, this does not seem a gift; rather I consider it a debt of gratitude.

And the chaplain protests:

So foreign missionary activity got the United Nations some effective allies; therefore, it has been a good thing—is that what I am saying? No, of course not. It is what the gospel of Jesus has done for these Melanesian natives who until a comparatively recent date were a war-like, savage and primitive people. Cannibalism and head hunting were common practices among them. Their tattooed and disfigured faces and bodies, and the spears and war clubs that many of them still carry are vestiges of the savagery and darkness from which they have been so recently delivered.

Now that the recovery of the Solomons is virtually completed, there is opportunity for men in the services to penetrate the interior of the islands, to observe the life of their inhabitants more intimately and in normal circumstances, to appraise the quality and depth of their characters which had first been discovered under the testing of stress and peril. From scores of similar incidents, only a few can be given.

Marine Joe E. Ross wrote to his pastor in Houston, Texas:

I had a rather pleasant experience a short time ago that should be of interest. Just happened to drop by a native village, where I understand a short time ago human flesh was considered quite a dish. On this particular Sunday though, church was in progress. It was nearly the same service you hold there at home, but the entire church was composed of as fine a band of ex-headhunters as you could ever see. All necessary gear was furnished, and they had been taught to read by the Methodist Mission.

I have often thought since of the requests for funds for missions and the indifferent response usually encountered. It is really a good laugh on us that we didn't pay more attention to that work. Because of the work of a few men with limited funds at their disposal, American boys several thousand miles from the nearest Woolworth store have been received as friends and shown every courtesy a primitive people have to offer. I wonder if it is possible for you there, at home to realise how we feel. First trip out—weeks at sea—a landfall and you don't know what to expect. You finally get ashore, and there is a big gang of grinning natives with a tumbleweed haircut passing out pineapples at five cents each.

Some months later Ross added this further observation:

Easter Sunday these ignorant natives all broke out with new clothes and all carried palm leaves. It was hard to believe, but somehow they seemed to be observing some special day. None of us spoke their language, so we had no way of knowing any of their thoughts. Since then, some have learned to comprehend the tongue and learned that these people really knew it was Easter, and had no way of observing the day without the services of some gentleman who seems to have been carried away by the Japs. Of course, they have their own divine services in their own church now.

There is a plot on a mound here. It is being filled with those white crosses that mean so much and say so little. One day, we found the natives in the cemetery. They were building a chapel overlooking the Pacific. You can't possibly understand what that means. We all look as much alike to them as they do to us. It could be nothing personal. It is just a little shrine built by one people to another because they know and worship the same living God. To the boys that have walked there in the evenings, that shrine means more than they will admit, even to themselves. Somehow it softens the fate of shipmates. I wish you could see it and love it as we do. . . .

Maybe you can understand how that little symbol means so much more than the Statue of Liberty in New York harbour. This is a token of love from the hearts and hands of a trusting people.

Foreign Mission Board --- Annual Meeting

This was held in the Church Parlour, Pitt St., on February 13th, commencing at 9.30 a.m.. The President of the Conference, Rev. A. H. Scrivin, conducted the opening exercises, the Vice-President, Mr. W. E. Burley, reading the Scriptures. A welcome to the distant members of the Board was extended by the President, and special mention was made of Mrs. Alley, who would be joining the meeting later. Matters dealing with apologies, substitutes and reporter were attended to, and Mr. W. E. Burley was appointed minute secretary. Rev. E. T. Olds, chairman of the district, then took charge of the meeting, and the President, as secretary of the Board, introduced the business.

Tributes, very chastely prepared, were paid to the late Mrs. Bowron, Mr. Mackay and to the late Rev. Don Alley. It is now known that Don Alley, captured by the Japanese in March, 1942, was lost at sea in June, 1942. Later in the meeting it was decided that the Board request Conference to permit an appeal for £5000 to be launched, called the Don Alley Memorial Fund, the purpose of the fund being twofold—see p.p. 89.

The Minutes were taken as read and greetings are to be sent to the Native Church, missionaries on the field and to the Australasian Board of Missions. It was reported that Dr. J. W. Burton is to visit this country during the year.

The annual report was presented, the secretary taking time for a careful analysis of the policy of the Board.

Mr. T. L. Hames presented the financial statement. Mr. Hames has the faculty of making a financial statement absorbingly interesting. He had some large figures to itemise, the Rehabilitation Fund having reached the figure of £58,464.

Here Mr. Hames paused to issue a note of warning. This fund is now being tapped, quite appreciably so, and great care will need to be exercised or we will find our coffers empty. A great programme of building will soon be set going, shipping will have to be purchased, and a hundred other demands will be made. A watchful committee was appointed to superintend spending. A further fine move was initiated, the setting up of a committee to go into the matter of an insurance for workers on the field. Matters concerning the future medical member of the staff was discussed, such as had to do with stipend, etc. A doctor is urgently needed, a fully qualified young man who feels the call of God to devote himself to this high task.

War damage compensation amounting to about £8000 had been (partly) received from the Australian Government for losses suffered on Bougainville. During the afternoon session a period of prayer and intercession was observed.

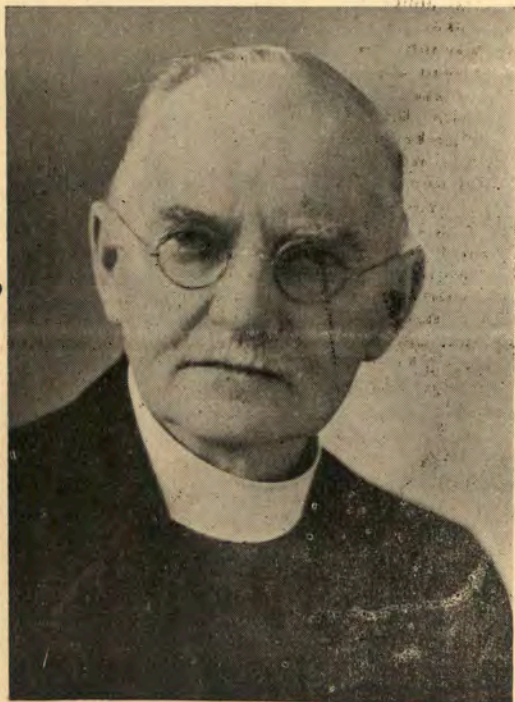
A finance committee did a good deal of work in a short time, the recommendations from which came before the full Board later. The editors of the two mission papers were thanked and re-appointed.

The matter of shipping in the islands was discussed, the secretary relating how difficult it is to hear of the right type of vessel. All these matters we commend to our people so that they may remember to unite in prayer that ways far beyond man's devising may appear. The need for a medical superintendent, the need for shipping, the need for guidance as to the proper location of future bases of operation, etc. A splendid report on the work of the M.W.M.U. was presented by Mrs. Nicholson, a report that was received with acclamation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. J. W. BURTON, M.A.

The Board receives with pleasure the information that the Victoria University, Toronto, has conferred upon the Rev. J. W. Burton, M.A., the President-General of the Methodist Church of Australasia, the degree of Doctor of Divinity, *honoris causa*. It recognises this conspicuous honour as a recognition of Mr. Burton's long service to the Christian Church, as a leader in its thought, an able and wise administrator for many years of missionary work and as a trusted counsellor in the discussion of those problems of the Pacific which are insistent in our day. The Board recalls Dr. Burton's early connection with the New Zealand Conference, tenders him its hearty congratulations, and joins in the prayer of his many friends that he may long be spared to serve the ever-widening interests of the Kingdom of God throughout Australasia.

—A. A. Bensley.



REV. W. A. SINCLAIR.

A Splendid Record . . .

RETIREMENT OF REV. W. A. SINCLAIR.

The Mission Board places on record its high appreciation of the splendid service rendered to the Foreign Mission Department and the whole Church during the past 26 years—three years as Organising Secretary for New Zealand, eleven years as General Secretary, and twelve years as clerical Treasurer.

The record of Mr. Sinclair's service as Secretary already has an honoured place in the Mission Board Minutes. On this occasion we refer particularly to his valuable contribution as Clerical Treasurer during the past twelve years. Throughout that period he has also acted as business manager of the "Open Door" and "Lotu" and has had the satisfaction of seeing considerable increase in the circulation of both magazines.

Mr. Sinclair retires from long and honourable service with the satisfaction of knowing that the funds of the Society are in a healthy state when great demands are about to be made upon them. He carries with him the gratitude and goodwill of the Mission Board and of the whole Church both in New Zealand and the Solomons.

British Churches in Wartime

THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE.

At the outbreak of war Lord Macmillan, then Minister of Information, expressed appreciation of the "great value of the continuance of the work of British missions, particularly in a crisis of war." This view was endorsed by the other Government Departments concerned, such as the Foreign Office, the Colonial Office, the Dominions Office and the Indian Office. Throughout the war efforts have been made by the Government, through the medium of the Religious Division of the Ministry of Information in co-operation with the Conference of British Missionary Societies and the Roman Catholic authorities, to reduce to a minimum the inevitable interference of war conditions with missionary work. Facilities have been given for the transmission of funds, and for missionary passages to and from the field.

Very heartening and very necessary also were the generous gifts in the early days of the war from churches of the United States and of Canada. It is not surprising that at first the war brought to British societies a period of upset and uncertainty and decrease of income. The facts given earlier as to "evacuation" are enough to account for that. These gifts from overseas helped to tide over that time of difficulty. During 1941, for example, the American Episcopal Church gave \$300,000 to help Church of England missionary work. The Baptists showed a like generosity, as did other churches.

But the war has not made the British churches shrink into themselves. The tide of giving turned

again very quickly. Here are some facts drawn from the latest sources available at the time of writing.

The London Missionary Society, associated mainly with the Congregational Churches, ended 1942 with an excess of income over expenditure of over £20,000. There was an increase of £12,000 in the contributions from the British Isles.

The Church of Scotland reported an increase of £100,000 in the total gifts.

Gifts to the Church Missionary Society in 1942 exceeded those of the previous year by over £50,000.

The British and Foreign Bible Society reported at its annual meeting in May, 1943, that the Gospel had been translated and printed in seven new languages, while the income showed an increase of £35,000.

The Methodist Missionary Society raised £40,000 more in 1942 than in the previous year.

The Baptist Missionary Society, in spite of evacuation and the reverses to British arms, launched in 1941 a fund of 150,000 guineas in celebration of its 150th anniversary. In 1943 it was able to report that never in any of its 150 years had the Society had such a response from the churches, and especially from the young people. There were 247 volunteers for missionary service. The churches gave the Society the 150,000 guineas for which it asked and, in addition, kept up the standard of their ordinary giving.

AID TO THE ORPHANED MISSIONS.

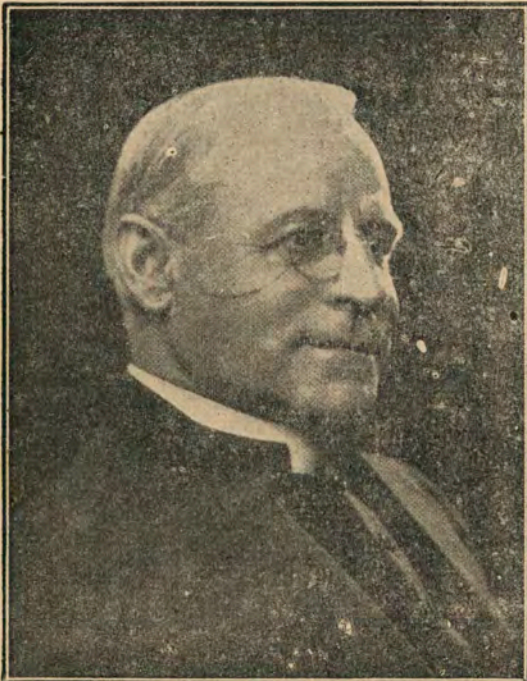
In addition to the maintenance of their own work, the British societies were able to render some help in the work normally carried on by the societies of occupied Europe. The advance of the Nazi armies cut off the Christians of most of Europe from any possibility of helping their missionaries in Africa and the East. The missionary work carried on by the churches of Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, the Netherlands and Norway, as well as Germany, has been deprived of its accustomed help in men and money. While the work inevitably suffered greatly, it remains true that none of the young churches affected has been left unhelped. There has been a wonderful rallying of the Christian world. Sweden helped to preserve the work of the German missionaries in South India, and Sweden, Norway and Denmark helped the work of the Finnish societies in the winter of 1939-40. The Swedes and the Swiss have gone on helping in this as in other realms of Christian service, with the greatest generosity. But the greater part of the help has come from the churches of Britain and America; particularly from America.

MINISTER, STATESMAN, GENTLEMAN.

In the death of the Rev. W. A. Rugby Pratt the Missionary Society, in common with every other department of the Church, has suffered grievous loss. Mr. Pratt maintained a deep interest in the Solomons and counted every missionary a friend. He represented the Missionary Board on the Lepers' Trust Board and was ever concerned for the highest well-being of native races in the Pacific. His high appreciation of Christian missions was strengthened by an extended visit to Tonga that enabled him to see first-hand their great value and influence.

We mourn the loss of one of the Church's ablest statesmen, a perfect Christian gentleman and a beloved friend.

To Mrs. Pratt and family the Board and Mission Staff extend their heart-felt sympathy.



The late Rev. W. A. Rugby Pratt.

Remembering Mary E. Bowron

by SISTER MABEL MORLEY.

A chosen vessel, a city set on a hill, a pillar in the temple, wrought about with lily work—a work man that needeth not to be ashamed—a corner stone—a disciple who loved her Lord.

It is somewhat difficult to portray, without exaggeration, one so richly endowed as Mary E. Bowron—yet so approachable—withal. Gracious in manner, quick of thought and ready of speech, her words were always pithy and appropriate, and folks listened—because she had something to say, either of counsel, or rebuke, of wit, or of wisdom. She bubbled with merriment and laughter—she talked and worked with the great—and with the less great—because her heart was pure.

The grace of womanliness became her. She was utterly without ostentation—natural and clever in all the dear and homely arts that adorn a home, and make a wife and a mother, as those who have tasted of her generous hospitality know so well.

Whence came she? From a Yorkshire home—and the spice of forthright clear thinking and vigorous speech—never died down.

The early church life of Mr. and Mrs. Bowron in Christchurch was spent among the Free Methodists in St. Asaph St., later their attachment was with Durham St. and the daughter church at Cashmere.

But Mrs. Bowron's work and influence went far beyond any individual church, for her sympathies were wide and deep. To the Y.W.C.A. for many years, she contributed much in wise judgment and in personal friendships. Orphanage work and deaconess work, from the inception of these two institutions in our city, claimed her interest and her service. Disclaiming the extreme term of feminist, she yet, persistently advocated women's work for women, and when she came into her own in the Missionary work of our church, men and women alike, recognised her as a natural leader—one wise in counsel—with a burning enthusiasm and tireless in effort.

Always an omnivorous reader—of fiction, of drama, of biography, and the poetry and prose of the world's best literature, and possessed of an excellent memory and the pen of a ready writer—we found in her as first Dominion President, one equipped of God—able and willing to direct the course of the Movement, that has so enriched our church, and made it, under God, the instrument of such blessing both to our Maori people and to our folk in the Solomons. Even before the M.W.M.U. came into being, as President of the Christchurch Auxiliary, Mrs. Bowron early learned, and taught, to so many what a great and gracious work was this to which we were called, and to which we had put our hand.

One cannot be allied to a great cause, without knowing the folk, who have, and who are, making it great. So the missionaries, men and women, became her choice and intimate personal friends—deep calling unto deep. She saw the unlimited scope of God's Purpose of Redeeming Love—she studied the geography of our fields (and those in other lands)—she knew the fitness of each worker for his or her task, and all the Sisters of those



The late Mrs. George Bowron.

earlier days were inspired by her letters and her words of cheer.

To us in the Homeland, we saw her grow from strength to strength, for in her humility, she was veritably taught of God. From the very beginning Mrs. Bowron steadfastly maintained that God is the author of every good word and work. From Him we draw our springs—varied and beautiful. So in every session, in every council, dependence upon Him was sought and found. Nothing was allowed to interfere with those devotional sessions—then rising refreshed and strengthened for the work of the hour—the business was undertaken.

No detail of an ordinary meeting—no programme—no Conference—was slipshod in preparation—"Better than the best" was ever her watchword:

"With parted lips and outstretched hands
And listening ears Thy servant stands;
Call them early, call them late,
To Thy great service—dedicate."

And so for more than forty years, Mary Bowron worked and lived and loved amongst us—courteous and kindly—consecrated in heart and soul. Much joy—some great sorrows—much serving—went to the perfecting of her more than four score years—then after some quiet months borne with great courage and no impatient word, God took her.

Is it any wonder, we of her day, gladly acclaim her "Facile Princeps."

WOMEN'S PAGES.

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

Dear Friends, near and far,

I would like to thank those of you who have written in appreciation of the letters that have been sent out during the past year.

It has been a source of great encouragement to me to feel that anything I have been able to convey to my readers, has increased interest in the work.

We, as an executive, have got well into working order again, and at our first meeting in 1946, mention was made of the passing of that great leader, Mrs. Bowron. Those who have joined our ranks during the last few years have missed the privilege of knowing one who was responsible, perhaps more than any other woman, for the wonderful progress made by the M.W.M.U. in the first twenty-five years of its existence.

We pay tribute to this great lady—one who was always a great encourager and keen to bring into the movement the younger women of the Church. "She being dead, yet speaketh."

Cheery letters come from our workers in the Solomons, and now we hear of the early return of the Rev. and Mrs. Voyce to Bougainville. Before long practically the whole of our staff will have returned to the Islands.

Sister Grace McDonald has gone to Choiseul with Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe, and we look forward to news of the work there.

There is an urgent need for teachers, and we would earnestly appeal to our young qualified teachers to consider the claims of the work in the Solomons.

When our folks were on their way to Vella Lavella, it was a great joy for them to meet Dr. and Mrs. Rutter. Mrs. Rutter caused quite a stir among the American G.I.'s, who cheered lustily at a woman in those parts driving a jeep, and the M.P. traffic men gave her fits, roaring up to her, only to shout "Howdy, Sister." With Dr. driving a weapons' carrier, they were able to let our Mission party see the sights. Dr. was also able to make it possible for something in the vicinity of 100 tons of stuff to be procured and sent forward on the "Matai."

During the years since the evacuation we have been working steadily for the day of return. Now that day has come, and it is for us to go forward and grasp every opportunity for furthering the work.

In a recent letter from Mrs. Goldie she said, "It was thrilling news to hear that the staff had returned to the Solomons. How glad and thankful the Native Church will be, and what a wonderful Christmas they will spend.

"I'm wondering how the women folk will cook and bath, etc. Life will be very primitive, but I've no doubt their courage will carry them through all their difficulties triumphantly, and God will take care of them."

We think of Mrs. Goldie and what she has given since it has been necessary for her to remain in Australia.

Referring to Mr. Goldie, Mrs. Goldie writes: "J.F.G.," as we call him, seems to be very well, and very happy, and that is what matters most to us. We miss him all the time, for he has a very definite personality, which haunts the house."

So we see it is not only those who go who make the sacrifices.

We think, too, of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester having to leave Ngairie in N.Z., and Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe having to leave Elizabeth to return to Australia, after having what she termed the happiest year of her life spent with her parents in little Port Albert. These are things we don't hear very much about, but that mean a great deal in the lives of our Mission workers.

So let us to our task. Ours is surely the easier one, but without you and me the work cannot go on.

"God, let me be a giver and not one who only takes and takes unceasingly.

God, let me give so that not just my own, but others' lives as well, may richer be.

May I give faith and hope and cheerfulness.

Belief in dreams, and joy and laughter gay,

Some lonely soul to bless."

May you each feel the call to consecrated service.

Your friend,

MABEL R. NICOLSON.

AUXILIARY REPORTS.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

The 1945 Christmas meeting of the Auckland District Council was held in the Bi-Centenary Hall, Pitt Street, on December 3rd. Twenty-seven auxiliaries were represented, and the President, Mrs. E. M. Lewis, opened the meeting with prayer. Sympathy of those present was passed to Mrs. T. Clark in the loss of her husband, and with Mrs. Don Alley. Greetings were extended to visitors, some of whom came from Dunedin, Palmerston North and Warkworth. The soloist for the afternoon was Mrs. C. P. Gibson, who sang two very appropriate solos. Mrs. Harris was the accompaniste. The President read letters of thanks and appreciation of lovely flowers and messages of goodwill from the missionaries who left for the Solomon Islands. We rejoice to know that they have arrived safely. The speaker for the afternoon was Chaplain Major Thompson of the Solomon Island Forces. Major Thompson says we are all shareholders in the mission work, and we received dividends pressed down and running over. He gave some of his experiences on Vella Lavella at the dedication of a church built on a mountain, which he attended with American and New Zealand servicemen—of the radiant people—of the baptisms, native dances, and above all, the inspirational singing. Then on Christmas night, when the natives

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acted the history in four scenes: (1) The natives as they were (headhunters); (2) The coming of the missionaries; (3) The coming of the Japs; (4) The return of the American and New Zealand soldiers. Miss Pearce expressed the thanks of the meeting for the wonderful talk we had heard and also for the solos. The meeting closed with hymn 256 and Rev. A. H. Scriven pronounced the Benediction.

HAWKE'S BAY DISTRICT.

The first meeting of the Hawke's Bay District Council for 1945-46 was held in Hastings on Saturday afternoon, November 3rd. After the singing of hymn 745 and the reading of Psalm 67, Mrs. R. B. Tinsley led in prayer. The president, Mrs. Virtue, spoke on "Fellowship." Hostilities had ceased, but the peace we long for has not come yet. She pointed out how suffering and adversity brought a closer fellowship such as happened in the H.B. earthquake, and in a larger degree during the war. Increase the fellowship in your church, speak to the stranger in your midst, join in with the women's organisations, strive to increase the missionary spirit in your church, increase your auxiliary membership. Roll call was then taken and apologies received and sustained. Mrs. Craven was appointed M.W.M.U. representative at Synod to be held in Hastings. The reports of the auxiliaries in the district were given. The Hastings evening branch reported that they were busy making rag dolls to send to one of the deaconesses for distribution to the Maori children for 'Xmas, also they intended to go carol singing again this year, as this was a pleasant and profitable way of raising money. Napier evening auxiliary reported having sent a delegate to conference. This auxiliary also had a jumble sale and raised £16. Napier afternoon auxiliary held a jumble sale for the special objective and raised £21 in three-quarters of an hour. They had special speakers at each monthly meeting. Gisborne auxiliary had opened a Kurahuna account. Bring and Buy afternoon paid for delegate's expenses to conference. They also had special speakers at each monthly meeting. The treasurer then gave her report, followed by reports from the Depot Manager and Gleaners' agent. The gleaners' agents will include a copy of "The Open Door" with the President's monthly letter to each gleaner, "The Open Door" to be provided by auxiliary members. Mrs. Hopper said that several sisters were leaving for the Solomons. It was moved that a telegram be sent wishing them 'bon voyage' and God's blessing. Mrs. Hopper congratulated Mrs. Virtue on the honour recently conferred upon her, namely president-elect of the M.W.M.U., also the secretary, Mrs. Rowe. Both ladies replied feelingly. Mrs. Loach then gave the report of the recent M.W.M.U. conference at Nelson. She gave her report in the present tense, so that members might sit with her in the conference and share with her the inspiration of attending each session. She was thanked for her splendid report. The meeting was adjourned for tea. After tea a few more matters were discussed and the President closed the meeting with the Benediction.

WELLINGTON DISTRICT COUNCIL.

The final meeting for 1945 was held at Lower Hutt on November 2nd. Opening devotions were

led by the president, Mrs. Ramsden. The theme of her talk was taken from 2 Corinthians 1, verse 11. The need is for definite ideas about prayer; one meaning is togetherness, another friendship, then love. We need to remember the joy of belonging to the band of missionary-minded women and explore together the avenues of service. A hearty welcome was given by Sister Winifred Beaumont, president of Lower Hutt auxiliary, to all who had travelled to the Hutt for the meeting, and the desire of those entertaining us was that we would take away happy memories and renewed zeal for the work we represent. Roll call revealed a good attendance from 16 auxiliaries and 5 co-opted members. Each treasurer gave a brief statement of her auxiliaries' finances for the quarter and handed in the quarterly payments. The thank-offering in September amounted to £175/4/1. Arrangements were made for the opening function in 1946 and for the Synod morning and afternoon teas—proceeds from Synod teas to go to Kurahuna fund. Reports were received from (1) Bible in Schools' representative, (2) stamp secretary, (3) District Gleaners' secretary reported a rise from 24 (in August) to 42 (in November), (4) Box Depot manager. This concluded the council meeting business and the meeting adjourned for lunch. The afternoon session took the form of after-conference rally, when detailed reports were given (1) Devotional by Mrs. Rapley, Brooklyn auxiliary, (2) Social, Mrs. Smith, Worsley Bay-Miramar, and (3) Business, Mrs. Whitaker, Waiwhetu auxiliary. Mrs. Johnson of Lower Hutt was the soloist and rendered three delightful songs between the reports. Mrs. Bramwell Scott thanked all those who had contributed to a very happy day, with special thanks to Lower Hutt and Waiwhetu auxiliaries, who were hostesses for the day.

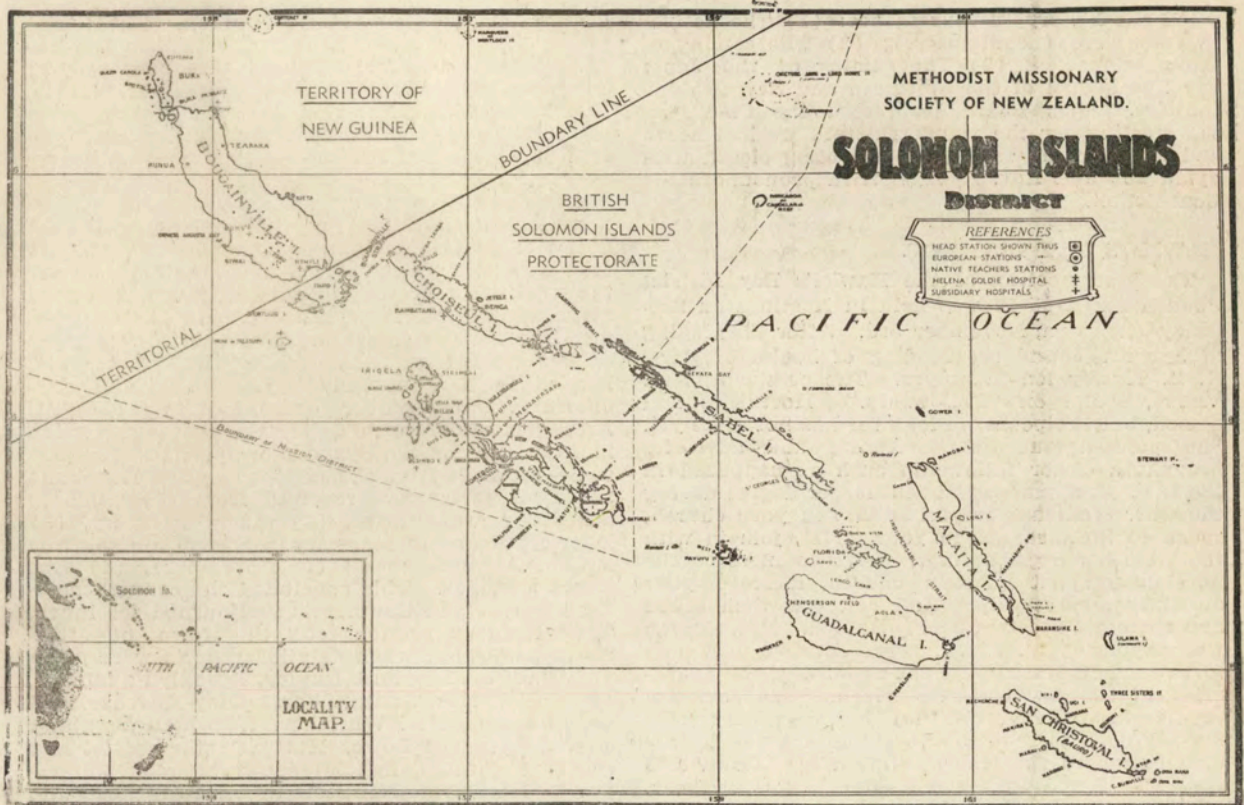
OTAGO DISTRICT.

There is a growing interest in missionary work in our district. The district council has decided to meet bi-monthly. Mrs. Duke has been appointed Kurahuna representative pro tem. Plans for extension work have been discussed, and Mesdames Cole, Hutt and Green have visited Broad Bay and Port Chalmers. Dunedin, with Mrs. Hutt as president, reports interesting meetings with the following speakers: (1) Principal Haddon, chairman of National Council of Churches, "Christchurch 1945"; (2) Rev. P. Dorrian, "Maori work in North Auckland"; (3) Mesdames Cole and Hutt, "Conference Reports"; (4) Mrs. Harvie, "mission work in India." An innovation this year was the special gift to the auxiliary of over £10.

MILTON.

This new auxiliary under Mrs. Norwell meets monthly at the parsonage and reports a membership of 20. Conference report was given by Mrs. Brialey. Mosgiel under Mrs. Hughes has had well-attended meetings, one of which was held at the residence of Mrs. Ferguson, where Mrs. Green gave the conference report. A social afternoon and gift stall was held in December, proceeds of which amounted to £5 and were divided between the Guild and the M.W.M.U. special objective. Roslyn under Mrs. Holden and Balclutha under Mrs. Sutherland are both very alive groups and report splendid work done. Both tell of the I.B.R.A. talk given by Sister Ruth Fawcett.

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Foreign Mission Deputation Plan 1946-North Island

District	Deputation	Date
AUCKLAND	The Vice-President and Rev. A. H. Scrivin	April 28th-May 30th
SOUTH AUCKLAND	The Vice-President and Rev. A. H. Scrivin	June 9th-July 12th
TARANAKI-WANGANUI	Mrs. D. C. Alley	April 21st-May 9th
HAWKE'S BAY-MANAWATU	Mrs. D. C. Alley	June 16th-July 12th
WELLINGTON	Mrs. D. C. Alley	May 12th-June 6th.

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