

The Open Door

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

MARCH, 1948.



REV. C. T. J. LUXTON of Buka who, with Mrs. Luxton and family, are in New Zealand on furlough.

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

ST. PAUL.

Price: ONE SHILLING per Annum.
Posted, One Shilling and Threepence.

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



These experienced and devoted workers, after long terms of service in the Solomons, will be retiring from the Field at the conclusion of 1948. Who will offer to take their place and carry on the Great Work of the Kingdom?



Top Left:
 Sister Ada Lee Teacher
 Sister Grace McDonald Nurse
 Rev. A. W. Silvester Missionary

Right:
 Sister Lina Jones Teacher

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VOL. XXVII., No. 4.

MARCH, 1948.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT ?

REVIEW of 1947

The Annual Reports from the Solomons are to hand and contain much of inspiration and encouragement. The Chairman's Report appears on another page and will gladden the hearts of all our readers. His assurance that "the Church of Jesus Christ remains today stronger and more vigorous for the refining fire through which it has passed" and has increased substantially in membership, strikes the note that sets our hearts singing, and once again reminds us that this is the Lord's doing and is wonderful in our eyes. The other Reports, which we hope to publish from time to time in the 'Open Door' and 'Methodist Times,' also tell of the great things God hath wrought.

God achieves His victories largely through those who go forth to do battle in His name. Such warfare is often arduous, especially when fought under such conditions as obtain in the Solomons today. Victory is not without suffering and loss, and the enduring of much hardness. Our missionaries have not failed. They laid Charles Carter to rest after three brief weeks of service, and a few in whom they had high hopes may have fallen by the way, but the year's record is of high endeavour and enheartening progress.

The re-establishment of the District Training Institution and the eagerness of the students to which the Chairman refers are very encouraging. As on occasion long ago the students are saying "Let us take every man a beam and build us a place where we may dwell," and fit ourselves for the ministry to which God is calling us. It is true that no permanent buildings have been erected, and the very site itself is still indefinite, but these are small things compared with the assurance Mr. Goldie gives us that the Institution will be over-crowded with fine young men who are offering for God's work.

On Choiseul, Mr. Metcalfe reports that the number of men willing to help as preachers and prayer leaders is steadily growing, the day school attendance easily a circuit record, and the child welfare work in full swing.

Mr. Joyce expresses gratitude to God that a further year of earnest endeavour in all corners of the far-flung Bougainville-Buka circuit has demonstrated that the Kingdom of God is a very vital thing, that the Native Church readily responds to leadership, and that the year has been one of advancement and consolidation.

Mr. Luxton tells of the thrill of the Semi-Jubilee celebrations at Buka and the growing Church,

and Mr. Shepherd of the joys of settling in to the work at Teop.

Mr. Silvester rejoices that at a time of grave difficulty when he and his people called upon God the Holy Spirit revealed Himself in stirring those who were growing slack to reconsecrated service.

The splendid impact Mr. Hall has made upon the students, the happy reports of the Sisters, and further translation work in three languages during the year are all recorded.

But the successes are not the whole story. There have been disappointments and difficulties and, at times, a real sense of frustration. These, in the main, have resulted from the lack of adequate transport through insufficient shipping. The May Synod altered from Buka to Roviana—to the bitter disappointment of the Buka folk who had planned their Semi-Jubilee celebrations to coincide with the visit of Synod members and the Chairman has been unable to visit the Choiseul and Bougainville-Buka circuits. This cloud, however, is not without its silver lining. The 'Daphne and Munda' have rendered wonderful service throughout the year, and a modern 20ton barge has been purchased and equipped with two new engines—thus largely solving the transport problem in Bougainville-Buka. In addition to commissioning the District boat, a major transport requirement is the re-establishment of a regular shipping service between Australia and/or New Zealand and the Solomons, but of this there is no sign.

The inability of Mr. Goldie to reach New Zealand in time for the Annual Meeting of the Board and the Conference is disappointing, but valuable collaboration with Mr. Luxton and Dr. Rutter has been possible. Unofficial information of a preliminary survey of War Damage in the Solomons brings a further ray of hope concerning compensation.

Our problems have driven us closer to God, and in this respect they have been blessings. His promises are for ever sure and are renewed as we face another year. "In the name of our God we will set up our banners."

SOUTH PACIFIC CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

This important gathering was held at Morpeth, New South Wales, from the 23rd to 28th of February. Our representatives were Mrs. J. R. Metcalfe, the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton and the General Secretary. We hope to give an account of this Conference in our next issue.

The Harvest White — The Reapers Few

Chairman's Report for 1947

The year 1947 has been one of hard going throughout the District. The months have been full of hard work, and have passed quickly, "Shadow and Sun for every one." The reports from all the circuits tell of heroic effort, with poor equipment, little or no transport, temporary housing, and difficulties of obtaining the necessary goods required. But as we review the year, there comes satisfaction with the thought of "Something attempted, something done" with God's guidance and help. As we look back on the past months we have a great deal to thank God for. We have been encouraged by the thought of Paul's declaration, "But GOD, Who is rich in mercy." Rich not only in respect of what He has, but also in respect of what He bestows on all who call on Him. So we thank God and take courage. The work of rehabilitation has been difficult — more difficult I think in material things than in spiritual.

SPIRITUAL LIFE.

It is difficult to measure spiritual progress, but I may safely say that the spiritual life of our native people is more vigorous because of the terrible experiences of the years of war. During those years it is true that some fell by the way-side, their faith and courage apparently failing them, or being worn down by suffering and mental agony during the destruction of their villages and the ruin of their homes, and the occupation of their islands by the enemy. But the great majority stood firm, and kept the faith, and the Church of Jesus Christ remains to-day, stronger and more vigorous for the refining fire through which it has passed. Our people love God's House, and

this year we have been privileged to open several new churches, and some of the old ones which have been restored in the Circuit. The desire of the people for Christian fellowship is great, and a deputation waited on me a few months ago and begged for the re-establishment of the Thursday afternoon Class Meeting on the head station. They said that they felt the need of such fellowship, which in past years had been such a means of grace. Their request was immediately granted, and at 4 o'clock every Thursday we have a good attendance, and a helpful time as they relate their experiences, and testify to the saving and keeping power of Christ. There have been some remarkable conversions during the year, and our members have increased by more than two hundred. I feel sure that our people are on a much higher level than last year. They have been tested, and they have come through with increased devotion to Christ and the Church. Mission natives have sometimes been called "rice Christians" by white pagans — men who are blind to all spiritual values—but this year these so-called rice Christians gave of their poverty for Mission purposes an amount far exceeding anything we expected of them. On Navy Sunday the church at Roviana took a collection for the Navy, and handed to the Commissioner the sum of £23. A few Sundays after they had their Thanksgiving, and brought their offerings amounting to £317 for the work of God. These people bring their gifts and offer them to God as a real act of worship. One Christian chief, who is also a teacher, receiving only £12 a year, sent in his contribution of £20. Of course he has other means, but this meant sacrifice. We have good reason to be thankful that our Solomon Island Methodists find it more blessed to give than to receive.

EDUCATIONAL.

Early in the year the school and kindergarten were opened in temporary buildings at Munda, and the place was packed immediately by an eager host of youngsters of varying ages. Sisters Lina and Effie Harkness were in charge, and made a good start. Later on we gladly welcomed the new headmaster Rev. Allen Hall, B.A. Mr. Hall soon got a grip of things, and got a working knowledge of the language, and school work has made surprising progress under his care. Refresher courses for the teachers were established and were very keenly appreciated, and the students will be better furnished for their work in the villages. A deputation from the Government Headmen—who are all our own boys—came to request that they be allowed to join these refresher courses. Of course we agreed. The Training College will start on January 19th, when twenty-two fine young men who are offering for God's work will enter the institution for training. This number is from the Roviana Circuit alone, and from the Circuits of Vella Lavella, Choiseul, and Bougainville will come many more who are waiting for transport. Our institution will be overcrowded, and we must have increased accommodation for them. We are confident that 1948 will easily exceed the numbers



A New Church Opened.

offering before the war.

In the village schools the work has been carried by devoted Pastor Teachers, and attendances are steadily increasing, and good work and effective is being done.

In November last an Educational Conference was arranged by His Honor, the Resident Commissioner. All Christian Missions were represented. On one side of me was the Roman Catholic Bishop, and on the other side was the Administrator of the Diocese of Melanesia. Even the Seventh Day Adventists who, like the Roman Catholics, usually refuse to co-operate with other Missions, sent representatives. The Resident Commissioner presided over most of the sessions, which last four days. Two surprises came into view during the Conference.

First the amazing view of the Commissioner with regard to what he described as "co-operation with Christian Missions in educational matters." It seemed to me and others rather like the Irishman's view of reciprocity—all on one side. The Government was to assist the Missions by inspection and Government control. No financial assistance was to be given, although £20,000 had been placed on the estimates for educational purposes. This was evidently meant to erect a Central Training College, and to provide more officials and vessels for them to get round in. The customs' duties on all material for educational purposes imported by the Missions were to remain. The native teachers, who are declining much higher salaries in order to assist their people in this great work, are to be taxed, as His Honor says that he will not agree to any "tax-free class in the Protectorate." This is in marked contrast to the attitude of the New Guinea Administration, which is rendering substantial financial assistance to Missions for their educational and medical work.

The other surprise was the absolute unanimity of the Missions. There was a very brotherly spirit shown throughout the Conference, and the suggestion was made—to which all agreed—that a Church Council be formed which would enable the churches to co-operate on all matters affecting the welfare of the natives. This was apparently the only good that came out of the Conference. Every member—with the possible exception of the officials—came away with a feeling of disappointment and frustration. Every Mission refused to surrender the right to establish and maintain its own Training Institution in preference to sending their students to a Government Central Training College in which God and religion would be ignored. One of the representatives aptly described the attitude of the Administration as being anti-God. We all felt that we shall just have to carry on as we have in years past. The Government is under very great financial obligation to the Christian Missions. But for the work of the Missions in educating the natives, the fine native Civil Service—equal to anything in the Pacific—would have been quite impossible.

TRANSPORT.

This has been a serious problem during the year, and the Chairman has not been able to visit any of the circuits, with the exception of Vella Lavella. This has been a serious handicap—especially in view of the extensive rehabilitation work now being carried out in all parts of the District. In April last the long-expected vessel the "Roviana"

arrived, but the condition of the vessel, and fact that its old-fashioned engine, which was nearly forty years old, was worn out has placed us in a very awkward position. The boat is still lying at anchor in the stream, and in her present condition is quite useless to us. It has caused me many sleepless nights. I do not see any satisfactory solution, unless we obtain a new vessel. In the meantime we have had to depend on the Bougainville boat which, although old and uncomfortable—especially for women—has rendered us good service.

SITE OF TRAINING INSTITUTION.

At last Synod a commission of three was appointed to examine and report on a suitable site for the new Central Training Institution. After viewing several places in the Roviana district, the members of the Commission were unanimous in recommending a site on a hill behind the old station at Kokeqolo. Here we found a fine elevated position with a fine outlook, plenty of space for all necessary buildings on good soil, which could be made into a very attractive station. A good road made by the American Navy leads up to it, and at the back many thousands of acres of beautiful garden land for planting food for the students. The native owners who are all our own people will give any acreage we require.

We have also acquired two parcels of land right in the new capital at Honiara. Here all the other Missions have a representative living, and these building sites will enable us to make a centre of encouragement and help for the hundreds of boys on the Government station—who are mostly our own lads.

WORKERS.

The health of all the European workers has been good on the whole, but we deeply sympathise with Mr. and Mrs. Luxton in the death of their beautiful little daughter, Moyna. She was a charming lass, and a great favourite with everybody. We all loved her, and we share the sense of loss which her parents must feel.

We were greatly shocked at the news of the sudden passing of Mr. Carter so soon after arriving on the field. We send our sympathy to his wife and family, and pray that God will sustain them in this very sad death of their father and husband. It is true that little Moyna passed away last year, but the sense of loss remains, and we all share this grief with the parents. All the other workers are well and happy in their work. They have all given faithful and devoted service in this work of saving men. The wonderful progress made during the year has been only possible because of their self-sacrificing efforts to carry on the work under great difficulties. I am sorry to say that during the next twelve months we are losing some more of our workers, and our vacant stations cause us many a heart-ache. Who is to take their places? Surely there are many who will hear the call of God, and surrender their lives to ministering to these dark-skinned people who have been placed in our care by God Himself.

Mr. and Mrs. Silvester will leave us for the Home work for family reasons. They have done fine work on Vella Lavella, and the people who love them will feel their going very much indeed. Sister Lina also will be retiring after many years

(Continued on page 8)

Dr. A. G. Rutter — An Appreciation

The Solomon Islands District has been singularly fortunate in its Medical Superintendents, who have been not only very able and highly qualified practitioners, but also men whose hearts God had touched and who developed a deep concern for the native people to whose interest their healing ministry was dedicated.



DR. A. G. RUTTER, F.R.C.S., D.T.M. & H.

Dr. Rutter followed in the fine succession of Drs. E. G. Sayers and J. C. James when, with Mrs. Rutter, he sailed for the Solomons in April of 1938. Having graduated with distinction from the Medical School of Otago and completed a term as house-surgeon, he proceeded to London where, as gold medalist, he took his Diploma of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. This success was followed by valuable hospital experience at Rochester and the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons at Edinburgh. Throughout his student and post-graduate days, Dr. Rutter was actively engaged in Church work and, for years, was a very acceptable Local Preacher.

Thus fully equipped, he took up the task in the Solomons that Dr. Sayers had had to relinquish in 1934. He immediately won the love and confidence of the native people and European residents. His quick mastery of the Roviana language was a great asset and enabled him to get quickly to the hearts of the people and the root of their sickness.

The Gorman wards were added to the Helena Goldie Hospital; the Leprosarium was re-established; the training of native medical assistants proceeded apace; and regular medical patrols carried out in numerous parts of the District. Wherever he went he commended his Lord both

by his healing ministry and preaching and teaching the Word of Life.

When, at the end of January, 1942, Japanese invasion seemed imminent, Dr. Rutter was associated with the Rev. E. C. Leadley and others in evacuating a number of our Sisters and other white women in the small Mission schooner "Fauro Chief," sailing over 1,000 miles to Mackay, Queensland, in a fortnight.

Being unable to secure a permit to return to the Solomons as a civilian, Dr. Rutter, with the consent of the Mission Board, took military rank and accepted a position as Acting Government Medical Officer. This enabled him to resume his service to our people in the Western Solomons and to serve also those in the Eastern part of the Group. So successful was his work that he was urged, and subsequently consented, to accept the post of Senior Medical Officer to the Government. He retained, however, his place on our Mission staff, in an honorary capacity, and his seat in the Synod. He paid frequent visits to our District, collaborating with the Staff, distributing drugs, stationing native medical assistants, and, above all, healing the sick and preaching the Gospel.

When Mrs. Rutter was able to rejoin her husband their home became a wonderful place of hospitality for missionaries and others passing through Honiara, while they also exercised spiritual oversight of the large number of Western Solomon Islanders engaged there in Government service. Throughout this time, also, Dr. Rutter acted as a liaison between our Mission and the Government in numerous ways, including customs' clearance of much goods.

Through all their years together in the Solomons, Mrs. Rutter has been closely associated with her husband in all his work. Her sunny disposition, fine Christian character, and knowledge of bacteriology fitted her admirably for this task and, like her husband, she greatly loved the people.

In the final departure of Dr. and Mrs. Rutter the Solomons have suffered great loss, but the work of this gifted and devoted couple will live on in the hearts of the people and in the service of those they have trained. Maybe their retirement will challenge another doctor and some nurses to continue this work of the Kingdom that to such a marked degree commends to the native people the Great Healer Himself.

The gratitude and best wishes of the Mission Board and, indeed, the whole Church, will follow Dr. and Mrs. Rutter as they proceed, with their family, to England where they expect to remain for some years.

CORRECTION—M.W.M.U. BOX REPORT.

We are asked to correct an error that crept into the Report of the M.W.M.U. Conference in our December issue—Postage on the £180 worth of goods sent by the Box Organiser (Sister Edna White) to the Solomons was £8 and not £80.

Solomon Islands Synod

By REV. TREVOR SHEPHERD.

The 42nd Annual Synod of the Methodist Church in the Solomon Islands District commenced at Kilivirai, the Island home of Rev. Mr. Goldie, on December 9th, 1947. Of the 14 members of this Synod only 10 were able to be present. The Chairman and brethren cordially welcomed the two new men to the Field, but as they are only probationers, who work as second and third men in Circuits, they have no vote in the Synod. The Synod recommended that these men be continued on probation. The usual questions of the Pastoral Session were asked, and the large list of 'one wanted' recorded.

Resignations from the Field were received from Rev. A. W. Silvester, Sisters Lina Jones, Grace McDonald, and Ada Lee. These workers will leave the Field next December. Revs. J. R. Metcalfe and A. H. Voyce and Sister Effie Harkness are due for furlough in December, 1948, but Sister Effie is recommended for May to suit District arrangements.

A new site has been acquired at Honiara, the capital of the Solomons, and a Minister to care for Methodist interests and to act as liaison officer to the Government is urgently required.

The Chairman, at the opening of the Representative Session, welcomed John Taufa and Daniel Palavi, two newly-arrived Tongan Ministers. In discussing the acute shortage of white staff offering from New Zealand, he stated that he was preparing a letter which he hoped would be sent to all Circuits in New Zealand, but if this brought no fruit we would have to turn for staff to other Islands of the Pacific that had more interest in Missionary enterprise. A list of necessary equipment is to be prepared and sent to the Board for the benefit of future outgoing missionaries.

The District Training Institution provoked much discussion. It was decided to accept men immediately for training. Entrance examination papers have been sent out and preparations are under way. If our work is to advance we must have more native teachers. Our native membership is now 9898 with 16,973 adherents.

Translation work has progressed steadily. Sister Lina has completed the work of "Stories of the Life of Jesus" in the Roviana language, and this is to be printed immediately. An abridged "Pilgrim's Progress" has been translated into Bambatana, and the Book of Acts and other Scripture passages into the Petats dialect, but are not yet ready for publication.

The Synod placed on record its deep regret at the passing of Mr. Charles Carter, who in 1943 heard the General Secretary's appeal for men to assist in Rehabilitation of our Mission Stations. He came readily when the way opened up in 1947. While at Buka, en route to Teop, he worked for two weeks before he became ill with malaria and passed away with unexpected suddenness. He was laid to rest at Skotolan on Sunday, October 27, 1947. Synod extends its deep sympathy to his wife and family.

Profound regret was expressed at the condition of the "Roviana," the Mission boat acquired over a year ago, but still not serviceable. The need for a second boat was stressed. Mr. Goldie and Mr. Luxton, who will represent the Synod at the next Conference, are asked to place a comprehensive report before the Board and the Conference.

The Synod closed with a hearty vote to the Chairman and staff at Roviana for their generous hospitality to Synod at such short notice.

Skotolan Celebrates Semi-Jubilee

Opening of New Church

By REV. TREVOR SHEPHERD.

With the Teop Mission staff and native choir aboard, the "Daphne" arrived at Skotolan at 5 p.m. It was a good trip. Far out to sea we could see the new Church standing majestically some 40ft. above sea-level, looking out towards the picturesque harbour. Later when we entered it the words of a planter friend came with force to our minds: "You will be lost in admiration"—and we were. Friday, November 28, was the official opening day of Skotolan's new Semi-Jubilee Church—a worthy edifice to mark the 25th anniversary of the coming of the Mission, and a thanksgiving to God for preservation during the "night of war." It was good to be there.

Owing to transport difficulties it was impossible to hold the 1947 Synod at Buka—a disappointment to ministers and natives alike. But with dignity and a keen personal touch the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton, assisted by the Rev. Usaia Sotutu, B.E.M., made us feel that even though the Chairman of the

District was absent the Church was giving its blessing upon this House of Worship.

Usaia, who, in company with two other Fijian workers, Eroni Kotosoma and Malelli Rakanae, came with the Rev. Mr. Cropp to establish the Mission Station at Skotolan 25 years ago, told in glowing colour his first impressions. Mr. Cropp returned, in 1939, after a fine record of service, to his native land to resume Circuit work in Queensland. Mr. Luxton took his place and, except for the break during the war period, has been the Minister in this part of the Bougainville-Buka Circuit. . . . A Circuit 150 miles in length with 8158 members and adherents.

The fruits of the efforts of these men were in a small way demonstrated when 700 folk (some 200 or more were unable to come because of quarantine restrictions) gathered to give thanks to God and to witness the official opening of their

(Continued at foot of page 6)

The Church of South India

INAUGURATION OF CHURCH UNION, ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, MADRAS,
SEPTEMBER 27th, 1947.

No words can describe the thrill of being one of the mighty throng gathered from all the corners of the earth to celebrate Church Union. The 132-year-old Cathedral had never seen such a concourse of people. Inside were 6,000, and outside a palm-leaf awning had been constructed where 2,000 more were seated; and who can number the heavenly choirs, the unseen cloud of witnesses, who had seen the promises from afar and now joined in the tumultuous music of thanksgiving?

At 8 a.m. the first procession entered the Cathedral and moved down the nave. The Bishops were clad in simple white rochets with saffron-coloured stoles and bands. Here was no sacerdotal pomp, but saffron, the colour symbol of the religious devotion of India.

It was fitting that an Indian Bishop should preside, and Bishop C. K. Jacob did so with fine dignity. The Call to Worship was followed by the swelling strains of "O God, our help in ages past." After Bishop Jacob had said the Prayer of Invocation, a layman, Mr. C. J. Lucas, read the lesson from the 17th chapter of St. John's Gospel. Then Dr. Wierenga, the senior Presbyter of the S.I.U.C., himself from the Dutch Reformed Church of America, led us all in a Prayer of Confession.

Resolutions of the Churches and Books of Signatures of Assent placed on the Communion Table.

There was a deep hush as the three representatives read the resolutions of their Churches assenting to the Union. The saintly Bishop Elliott of

Dornakal for the Church of India, Burma and Ceylon, the Rev. J. A. Jacob for the S.I.U.C., and the Rev. George Kell for the Methodist Church, moved in turn to the chancel steps to perform this office. Then each carried to the altar a signed copy of the Basis of Union and the Constitution of the Church of South India. After this act the Rev. Paul Ramaseshan led the congregation in a prayer for God's blessing. Bishop Jacob, standing at the Communion Table, with his pastoral staff in hand, made the Solemn Declaration:

"Dearly beloved brethren, in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, Who on the night of His Passion prayed that His disciples might be one: and by authority of the governing bodies of the uniting Churches, whose resolutions have been read in your hearing and laid in prayer before Almighty God, I do hereby declare that these three Churches . . . are become **One Church of South India** . . . in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

The hearts of all were lifted high to God as the Te Deum pealed forth. A miracle had been achieved. The work and prayer of twenty-eight years had come to fruition in spite of many disappointments and delays. At last we were one. The glorious Cathedral of St. George belonged to us all.

—C. DERMOTT MONAHAN.

SKOTOLAN CELEBRATES SEMI-JUBILEE

(Continued.)

new Church. The building which comfortably seats 650 people is built of native materials and is typically Methodist in design. Four rows of stout pillars remind one of Solomon's efforts and stand to defy any Samson. One task the late Mr. Carter did was to build the floor for the Communion table. A large arched window, with a cross in its centre, gives a view from this table, of the harbour with its reefs and islands, making a sight to rival that seen from Waiho Church, yet distinct from its being in a tropical setting.

The Service of Dedication was a solemn time for us all. Eight native choirs took part, and the Minister spoke on the text, "In the beginning God." It was a dedication of a Church and the rededication of many hearts and lives to our God.

Following the Service we went to Petats Island where we enjoyed a feast and were entertained for three hours by native dances and singing. The Assistant District Officer, in a short but impressive ceremony, decorated Usaia Sotutu with the British Empire Medal, won by him for acts of bravery during 1942-43. The work of Usaia as a soldier, and Usaia and Margaret Sotutu as Christian soldiers, will long be remembered, for many can thank God that their spiritual and physical lives have been saved by this Fijian Minister and his wife.

As the sun, like a great ball of fire, was sinking into the sea, sending floods of colour across our world, we made our way, in a canoe, back across 1½ miles of water to Skotolan to climb the steep hill 'home.' It was a great day.

An early morning Communion was the first Service to be held in the new Church. At 7.30 a.m. the following Sunday 120 communicants came forward to partake of the sacred elements. At 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. special Services were held, and a very happy occasion was brought to a finish. Early Monday morning we waved farewell to Skotolan, as the "Daphne," carrying Rev. and Mrs. Luxton and family on the first stage of their journey to New Zealand for a well-earned furlough, transported the Teopese back to their Island home.

NEW BISHOP OF MELANESIA.

We add our congratulations and good wishes to the Diocese of Melanesia upon the consecration of the Very Rev. S. G. Caulton as its new Bishop. We are confident that Bishop Caulton will not only maintain the high tradition of his predecessors in Melanesia, but that he will also collaborate with other Christian Missions in the work of the Kingdom of God in the South-West Pacific. He assumes his high office with the considerable advantage of years of experience in the Solomons, where both he and Mrs. Caulton established a fine record of service.

Personal and General

WELCOME HOME.

We extend to the Rev. C. T. J. and Mrs. Luxton and their three boys a warm welcome and wish for them a restful and happy furlough. They arrived by the "Southern Cross" on January 15th, after a splendid term of service, during which they have endured personal sorrow and many difficulties.

Mr. Luxton attended the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board and the Conference as the representative of the Solomon Islands District and, when this goes to print, will be in Australia with the General Secretary attending the South Pacific Christian Conference.

Upon his return from Australia, Mr. Luxton will enjoy a well-earned rest prior to engaging in deputation work in Auckland and South Auckland Districts and Gisborne, Napier and Hastings, in April and May.

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REV. WILLIAM AND MRS. GREEN.

Upon their transfer from the Fiji District, of which Mr. Green has been the popular Chairman for the past ten years, to the New Zealand Conference, the following resolution was passed with hearty unanimity by the Foreign Mission Board:—

"Upon the retirement of the Rev. W. Green from the Chairmanship of the Fiji District, this Board places on record its sincere appreciation of the valuable service rendered by him to our work and workers of the Solomons during recent years when all our contacts have had to be made via Suva. His help and advice has been invaluable and greatly facilitated the work.

"To Mrs. Green also, who with Mr. Green, has extended such generous hospitality to our workers, we extend our cordial thanks.

"The Board wishes for Mr. and Mrs. Green a happy term of service in N.Z. and is confident their ministry here will be greatly blessed."

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MR. LEONARD BENNETT.

The Methodist Church in general, and the Foreign Missionary Society in particular, lost a great friend and a tireless worker on the 2nd of January when the spirit of Mr. Leonard Bennett of Port Albert passed within the veil.

He was a man of strong character, gracious bearing, simple faith in Jesus Christ, and a loyal friend. He was born in Port Albert and when a mere youth in his late teens all the responsibilities of manhood were placed upon his shoulders by the accidental death of his father.

The spirit of the pioneering Albertlanders actuated every part of his life. He faced the biggest tasks with courage and perseverance. Faithfully and continually did he serve his Lord and Master through all the activities of the Methodist Church. No part of Church life appealed to him more strongly than the work of the F.M. Society. For 30 years he filled the office of Circuit F.M. Secre-

tary. Year after year he organised the campaign of growing, gathering and packing thousands of blooms and despatching them to Christchurch, the proceeds of which went to F.M. Fund. For many years Port Albert held the honourable position of the highest average per member in the Dominion.

That, however, was only a small portion of his work. He worked in the Sunday School, in Youth and Bible Class work, in every part of the life of the Church, and spread the influence of his radiant Christian life over the whole district. Strong evidence of this was clearly seen on the day he was laid to rest when people gathered from miles around to pay their tribute of respect. One of the most touching tributes was the presence of the Maoris. All hearts were deeply touched as they sang hymns in expression of their sense of loss.

To Mrs. Bennett, his four sons and two daughters the Methodist Church tenders its deep and sincere sympathy.

—WM. WALKER.

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REV. W. W. AVERY, F.R.I.H. (N.Z.).

A wide circle of friends will rejoice that the Rev. W. W. Avery has been elected to a Fellowship of the Royal N.Z. Institute of Horticulture. This distinction is fully merited as few men in this country, if any, have done more in Daffodil culture and, what is far more important, fostering in the hearts of a multitude of people an appreciation of the beautiful. As a grower and also as a judge of the daffodil, Mr. Avery is widely known. He has won many trophies but he has not looked for reward; rather has he seized every occasion of his ever-increasing reputation to extend the Kingdom of God. Any financial gain has been dedicated to God's service, and the work in the Solomons alone has benefited by not less than £1,000 in this way. From its inception Mr. Avery has been a valued member of the Foreign Mission Board, and has rendered high service to the Church as Chairman and Foreign Mission Secretary of several Districts. We extend to him our hearty congratulations in the honour that has come to him.



Some of the trophies won by the
REV. W. W. AVERY, F.R.I.H.

A Cry from the Solomons — *Come Over and Help Us!*



A letter addressed to all Ministers and Home-Missionaries by the Solomon Islands Synod:

Dear Brother,

The members of the Island Synod view with alarm the number of vacancies still appearing on our Stationing Sheet, and the number of resignations of workers who, for family and other reasons, are reluctantly compelled to leave the Field, and which calls for replacements this coming year. At the Synod just closed we unanimously agreed that an appeal be made to the individual Ministers of our Church, as well as to the Church generally, asking for their personal interest and service on behalf of our Native Church which is passing through a period of transition, and is earnestly seeking our help to lift it to a higher standard of service and usefulness for the Kingdom of God, and the Protectorate in which the Church is situated.

We, therefore, seek your personal assistance, and are confident that you will join us in this ministry, by placing the position as it now is before the members of your Church and Bible Classes, and facing up to the issue yourself. Appended is a list of vacancies.

We have been greatly blessed in the past by the number of workers whose terms of service have given this Mission District a record for long service; and some of us still serve. God's call is for lifelong devotion, and our call is for workers who will devote their lives to the service of the people who do not possess the advantages of our New Zealand people. We do not promise ease, comfort, riches or power in the things of this world, but we do promise the joy of the creator and builder, and the wealth which comes to those who give without thought of self, and see their heart's desire developing before their eyes, if not brought to fruition. Our plea is that of the Macedonian, "Come over and help us." **Do Not Delay!** The need is URGENT!

Yours in the Master's Service,

JOHN F. GOLDIE, Chairman.

JOHN R. METCALFE, Secretary.

VACANCIES TO BE FILLED . . .

Roviana Circuit.—One Minister in Full Connexion, One Teaching Sister, One Nursing Sister.

Vella Lavella Circuit.—One Minister in Full Connexion, One Teaching Sister, One Nursing Sister.

Choiseul Circuit.—One Teaching Sister and One Nursing Sister.

Bougainville and Buka Circuit.—One Teaching Sister, Buin; One Nursing Sister, Buin; One Teaching Sister, Teop; One Teaching Sister, Buka.

Helena Goldie Hospital.—One Medical Superintendent, Two Nursing Sisters.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (Continued from page 3).

of fine service. She has won the love and confidence of all the young people, and her place will be hard to fill. Her work in kindergarten and school as well as translation work is of outstanding merit, and we will all be sorry to lose her. I am sure that she will never be forgotten by the people here, and equally sure that she will never lose her interest in the people amongst whom she has laboured so long and so successfully. May God move the hearts of some of our young minis-

ters, as well as teachers and nurses to offer to take the place of these valued workers.

We thank God for the blessing of the past year, and we face the coming year with faith and hope, feeling confident that however many difficulties we have to face, they will be difficulties made to be overcome, and by God's grace we fully expect the coming year to be the best of all in our Mission history. May God give us that faith and courage which laughs at impossibilities, and cries it shall be done.

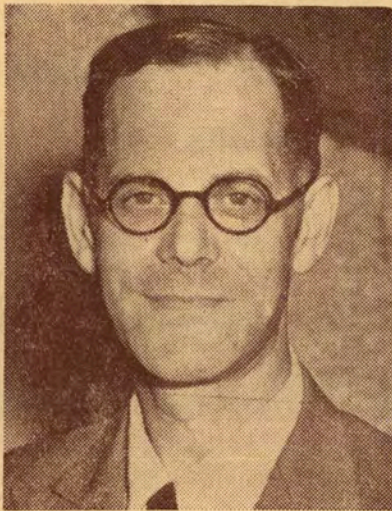
J. F. GOLDIE.

Missionaries and National Loyalty

Supra-Nationality of Missions

MEMORANDUM ADOPTED BY THE ENLARGED MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY COUNCIL AT WHITBY, ONTARIO, CANADA, JULY, 1947.

17. **Missionaries and National Loyalty.** A. Supra-nationality of Missions. Mr. Goodall presented a memorandum on this subject which had been prepared by the Continental Group meeting at Baarn. It had arisen out of the experiences of German missions but was applicable to missionaries of every nationality.



REV. NORMAN GOODALL,

London Secretary of the International Missionary Council, whose recent visit to New Zealand has been a source of much inspiration to missionary workers in this country.

'The radical transformations through which our age is passing and of which the war was one expression, have acutely brought to the mind of Christian believers the problem of loyalties. Nation, State and Race are to-day the powers to whom is overtly or covertly assigned god-like quality. Their interests determine the accepted standards of judgment and behaviour. The war has demonstrated clearly how easily men—even Christians—are led astray by their nationalist outlook and how difficult it is to see clearly the consequences of the fact that to Christ is our primary loyalty. The Christian Church needs to grapple anew with this problem and exert itself to find an adequate expression of it, in order to direct the minds of its members and to interpret God's will to the world of to-day. Missions, being a living part and function of the Church, find themselves involved in the same problem—the more so because, by their world-wide nature, missions enter into all the intricate situations in which Nation, State and

Race are virtually being deified. Missionaries, being representatives of various nations, not only live in the zones of danger but are themselves involved in the danger.

'Missionaries, like other Christians, own two citizenships—their citizenship in the Kingdom which is not of the world and the citizenship of the land of their birth or adoption. Neither their immediate national loyalty nor their historic cultural and social inheritance are to be denied or belittled. The present world situation, however, in which racialism and a narrow nationalism threaten to destroy the life of mankind, demands in us a vivid awareness of the fact that missionaries are ambassadors of Christ and messengers of a Gospel which bears witness to a fellowship that transcends all national and racial boundaries and in which there is neither Jew nor Greek, German nor English, European nor Asiatic. The task before us is to show how, as missionaries, by birth belonging to various nations and cultural traditions, we can give a more unequivocal expression to the fact that our primary loyalty is to Christ and that our responsibility as servants of the ecumenical Church must dominate our whole thinking and behaviour, and not merely influence a part of it. The great temptation for the Church, for all Christians and also for missionaries as ambassadors of Christ is that while honestly confessing our primary loyalty to Christ, with all the conflicts and tensions which this includes, in practice we subordinate this loyalty to others. In this respect a vigilant self-criticism is one of the greatest requirements in our whole missionary conduct.

'Looking back upon the years of war and the events which led up to them we are conscious of many failures at this most critical point. It has been too easy for all of us to accept unquestioningly our national or racial inheritance and to remain identified with it when in Christ's name we should have been critical of it. In our attitude towards other nations with whom our own nation was in deadly conflict and towards those of other races, we often betrayed that we also were succumbing to the perils of nationalism and racialism. We are deeply conscious of the need for far greater alertness to this peril and for conduct which will make it unmistakably clear to the world that Christian missions transcend all national and racial differences.

'While this conviction arises from our reflection upon these last years, it becomes even greater as we contemplate our future task. The end or transformation of imperial regimes and the emergence of new national states in Asia does not lessen the need for vigilance in this matter. In some respects these events widen the field within which problems of Christian loyalty will arise. Missions and missionaries need to penetrate into these problems and to find guidance for, and together with, the younger churches on the basis of our loyalty to Christ, so

(Continued on page 15)

Foreign Mission Department

Annual Report, 1947

The Foreign Mission Board returns thanks to Almighty God for His Guidance and grace, and for the privilege of association with Him in the work of the Kingdom overseas through another year.

News to hand indicates encouraging progress in the restoration of the work on the Field. The workers are facing this huge task of reconstruction with courage and devotion, and the utmost we at the Home Base can do to assist them is not too much. Some members of the staff have laboured under the added disability of family trouble, and the heartfelt sympathy of the Board has been extended to the Chairman in the illness of Mrs. Goldie, and to Sister Ada Lee in the death of her father.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES CARTER.

A major tragedy has been the death, at Buka on the 25th October, of Mr. Charles Carter. He was a foreman builder with missionary blood in his veins, and the total destruction of all our mission stations in the Solomons was a direct challenge to him. With the full agreement of his wife, he volunteered for the work of reconstruction long before we were able to send him. Lack of materials and transport were the hindrance and he fretted at the delay. When, however, word reached us that materials were available, transport was arranged and he left for the work upon which his heart was set, but destined to last only three brief weeks. The profound sympathy of the whole Church has gone out to Mrs. Carter and her four children.

NATIVE CHURCH.

On the occasion of the Semi-Jubilee of our work at Buka, we return thanks to Almighty God for 25 years of splendid Missionary service on that island, and rejoice with the Native Church on the happy occasion. One of the chief events at the celebrations was the opening of a beautiful Jubilee Memorial Church with seating capacity for 650.

We remember, with gratitude, the splendid pioneering spirit of the Rev. Alan H. Cropp who, with Usaia Sotutu and Eroni Kotosoma and some teachers from the Western Solomons, commenced the work in 1922. The devoted service of Mrs. Cropp and Sister Elizabeth Common has also been greatly blessed of God.

To-day, the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton and Sister Winifred Poole, with the pioneer Rev. Usaia Sotutu, and his wife Margaret and a fine band of native teachers, carry on the work that is rich in promise.

Conversions, fine fellowship in the class meetings, a successful convention, and other encouraging events, all indicate the healthy spiritual tone of the people. New Churches have been opened and numerous schools re-established. The Annual Thanksgiving services were a source of inspiration and the financial result exceeded the estimate by £900. In the Bougainville-Buka circuit the excess was £345 and this generous amount has been allocated to the Don Alley Memorial Fund.

Students and scholars are flocking to the circuit institutions as they are re-established with tempor-

ary buildings. The future of the Church will depend to a considerable extent upon the Native Ministry, and one of our most urgent tasks is speedy restoration of the Schools and Colleges, all of which were destroyed during the war years.

The first complete post-war returns reveal the encouraging fact that the membership of the Native Church has increased during the war years. There are 222 more workers to-day than in 1941 when the last returns were made. In spite of the heavy death-roll, particularly on Bougainville, adherents have declined by only 216. These are really wonderful figures under the circumstances—for which we praise God.

When the General Secretary returned from the Solomons he brought with him a beautifully carved ebony stick inlaid with mother-of-pearl. This exceptionally fine specimen of native craftsmanship was a token of appreciation from the Native Church to the Honourable, the Minister of Finance, and the War Cabinet for the remission of £12,450 succession duty in the Samuel Gorman Estate, and was presented to Mr. Walter Nash during the year.

STAFF.

The Chairman and his colleagues have been encouraged in their big task by the arrival of further reinforcements. The Rev. Allen H. Hall has made an excellent start as tutor of the District Institution, and the Rev. Trevor and Mrs. Shepherd, after gaining some valuable experience en route, have taken up their appointment at Kekesu in the Teop Section. As mentioned under Medical, Sisters



Natives gathered at Teop to welcome Rev. and Mrs. Shepherd.

Winifred, Merle and Lucy have reached their respective stations. The Rev. Taniela Palavi and his wife have arrived from Tonga, and will be a valuable addition to the South Bougainville Staff. They are a further gift from the Tongan Church, following closely after the Rev. John Taufa and his wife who arrived at the beginning of 1947.

After a further strenuous term of ten years the Rev. Paul Havea has returned to Tonga for furlough, and the Revs. J. F. Goldie and C. T. J.

Luxton are due for furlough early in 1948.

At the recent Synod the Rev. A. W. Silvester and Sisters Lina Jones, Grace McDonald and Ada Lee intimated their retirement from the staff at the end of 1948. These are all experienced workers whose terms of service in the Solomons range from 13 to 24 years. Their retirement will be a serious loss and constitutes a definite challenge to the Home Church. During the past two years we have made a wide appeal for ministers, a doctor, teachers and nurses. We thank God for those who have responded, but the need is still urgent and should constitute the call to others. The Board will rejoice, as will the Islands District, to hear of more reapers for the harvest.

EDUCATIONAL.

Lack of equipment and facilities has been a serious handicap in the re-establishment of our Schools, but encouraging progress has been made at the Head Stations, and also in the villages. We need urgently more qualified teachers and earnestly solicit the help of the Conference in this matter.

The Governments are taking an increasing interest in Education, and in the British Solomons a Director of Education and a School Inspector have been appointed. The former has visited our District and collaborated with the Chairman and other workers, and has expressed appreciation of what he has seen in quite a number of the schools. It is expected that the Government will formulate an Educational Policy which will be submitted to the various Missionary Societies for consideration. In his conversations with the newly-appointed Director, the Chairman made it clear that full control by us of our own schools will be a sine qua non of any negotiations. This is a principle of fundamental importance from which we must not deviate.

An important Conference of Government Officials and representatives of Missionary Societies was held at Port Moresby during the year, at which our Society was represented by the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton. A report of this Conference, the findings of which affect our Bougainville-Buka Circuit, has been published in the "Open Door." The proposed Government grants-in-aid are generous, but here again the fundamental principle of control has to be carefully watched.

MEDICAL.

In the British Solomons and the Territory of New Guinea, the Government is extending its medical work, and grants-in-aid will not be made for medical service rendered by Missions in areas where the Government is operating. While we are desirous of the closest possible collaboration we must never lose sight of the profound importance of spiritual emphasis in dealing with the sick—particularly among primitive people—and we must retain freedom to develop our own policy. This freedom may involve sacrifice of subsidies.

Dr. A. G. Rutter retired from the Solomons at the end of 1947. He has rendered outstanding service to the Church and has maintained a high standard both as a Doctor and spiritual leader, ably supported by Mrs. Rutter.

So far we have been unsuccessful in securing a new medical superintendent. Such an appoint-

ment is of immediate importance in view of the rebuilding of the hospital and the needs of the medical unit.

Dr. and Mrs. Rutter have also placed the Board much in their debt by their generous hospitality to our workers passing through Honiara, the spiritual care of the large number of Western natives resident there, and considerable work in clearing goods through the Customs, etc. These tasks at Honiara are increasing in volume and importance, and it has been suggested from the Field that a man should be appointed there.

As Senior Medical Officer in the Protectorate Dr. Rutter has made available to our District certain Government resources in the way of drugs and medical service, and has stationed a doctor in the Western Solomons. The ultimate location of the latter has not yet been decided, and the position of our new hospital will be affected by the Government decision in this matter.

Sister Joy Whitehouse has retired after a fine term of service, and new nursing appointments will have to be made at Bilua and Roviana.

During the year Sisters Winifred Poole, Merle Carter and Lucy Money have taken up their respective nursing appointments at Buka, Teop, and Choiseul, and are doing splendid work, notwithstanding the limitations of equipment and facilities.

REHABILITATION.

The serious lack of shipping and materials continues, and it is evident that the period of reconstruction will be longer than at first anticipated. Some materials, however, are available in Bougainville and Buka, and now that the new site at Buin has been acquired, an early start in the building programme is anticipated at all three stations in that circuit. To this end Mr. C. Carter, an experienced foreman builder, joined the staff, as mentioned above. Messrs. Bruce Cole and Grenville Voyce continue to render good service at Buin, and a master builder has volunteered to take the place rendered vacant by the death of Mr. Carter. In addition to the actual rebuilding, these capable and devoted men will train native artisans, thus playing an important part in technical education.

A site on Bimbilo Hill, adjacent to Munda, was selected during the year for the new District Institution, but some uncertainty has arisen since, owing to the possibility of the Munda air strip being required by Government.

The disappointing delay in recommissioning the "Roviana" still continues. A new engine was shipped from N.Z. in May and an engineer retained for its installation, but difficulties regarding the slipping of the vessel, etc., have arisen, and the boat has remained at her moorings.

The "Daphne" and "Munda" have continued to render excellent service. A modern "barge" was acquired during the year, and two new engines were installed by Mr. Bruce Cole. This craft has proved a valuable addition to transport at Bougainville.

HOME BASE.

The Board is extremely fortunate in the able and devoted service of its treasurers and office staff, and the district and circuit secretaries to whom it returns sincere thanks.

LITERATURE.

The circulation of the "Open Door" and "Lotu" has been well maintained, and the thanks of the Board are extended to those who edit these popular magazines and those who distribute them.

Our relationship with the Institute Press which prints the papers is very happy.

The four Gospels in Roviana have been reprinted during the year by the British and Foreign Bible Society, and specimen copies are to hand.

GENERAL SECRETARY.

The Rev. A. H. Scrivin has notified the Board of his desire to retire early in 1950, and a Committee has been set up to consider the question of his successor.

SOUTH PACIFIC CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

Sponsored by the National Missionary Councils of Australia and New Zealand, an important Conference will be held at Morpeth, N.S.W., in February, 1948, preparatory to the bigger Conference planned for 1950. Special committees have been preparing data on various subjects of major importance to Christian Missions in the Pacific, and the findings of the Conference should have far-reaching effect.

M.W.M.U.

The Women's Missionary Union has maintained its very helpful service and is a source of much inspiration and encouragement to the Board. It keeps in close touch with the Sisters on the Field and contributes the major portion of the money required for their support. In addition to these regular contributions, special amounts were paid to the Board during the year, as follows:—

£930 for the establishment of Sisters' work at Teop.

£328 for a Maternity Ward at Choiseul.

£823 for equipping the District Girls' School.

Even more important than its substantial financial support are the spiritual fervour and informed interest maintained by the M.W.M.U. in the work of the Kingdom Overseas, and the Board extends to the Executive and all members, its sincere thanks and congratulations.

YOUTH BOARD.

The Board expresses its appreciation of the continued and growing interest of Youth in the Overseas work of the Church. The claimant need of the Solomons for more workers is both a challenge and an opportunity for Youth to-day. A doctor and qualified teachers and nurses are wanted for immediate service. Who will go?

The Board also places on record its appreciation of the services of the Rev. C. T. Symons, M.A., B.D., and Mr. Arthur Bate, as they retire from the Youth Dept., and their constant effort to keep Missionary claims before our young people. It has also appreciated the fellowship of Mr. Bate as a member.

MISSIONARY EXHIBITION.

Sponsored by nearly all the Protestant Missionary Societies represented in New Zealand, a highly successful Missionary Exhibition was held during November, in the Auckland Town Hall. So successful, indeed, was the effort that the function is likely to become an annual one. The Board is under a special debt of gratitude to the Rev. E. C. Leadley and Sister Edna White, who represented it on the united committee, and were largely responsible for the excellence of the Methodist Section of the Pacific Court.

FINANCE.

The Board is grateful for the continued generous support of the Home Church, and for several special gifts and legacies already acknowledged in the "Open Door" and the "Methodist Times." We would point out, however, that greatly increased costs are involving the Board in rapidly growing expenditure, and urge that, wherever possible, contributions be brought into line with added income.

CONCLUSION.

The Board is never in doubt concerning the work committed to it. The Great Head of the Church is so clear and definite regarding both our obligations and resources that the way cannot be mistaken. What is needed is our full surrender to Him in order that the Kingdom may fully come in the Solomons.

E. T. Olds, Chairman.

A. H. Scrivin, General Secretary.

Striking Statistics — But Merely Touching the Fringe

FIRST SYNODAL REPORT BY SISTER MERLE CARTER.

It is with a sense of thankfulness to God for His leading and His constant companionship that I make this my first report to the Solomon Islands Synod: "For we are labourers together with God."

Honiara.—Sisters Ada Lee, Winifred Poole and I arrived in Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands on 27th December, 1946. Arrangements had been made by Dr. Rutter in conference with the Chairman, Mr. Goldie, for we two nursing Sisters to be employed on the staff of the Government Hos-

pital until such time as transport was available for reaching our separate spheres of appointment. This gave us an excellent opportunity to learn something of tropical diseases and treatment, and we were also given opportunity to do a little dentistry, giving of intravenous injections, minor surgery, etc., which is standing us in good stead to-day. Ten weeks were spent here, and we were glad to be able to hand over the work to two new Sisters who arrived the day previous to our departure.

Torakina.—Leaving Guadalcanal on 14th March, we were pleased to be able to call at all Mission Stations en route to Bougainville. On reaching Torakina our first work was to sort out drugs and dressings procured from the New Zealand Forces.

Buin.—On 1st of April I arrived with Sister Ada, to take up a temporary appointment in the Buin area until such time as a Minister was appointed to Teop.

There were very few natives on the Station when we arrived, and no buildings apart from a temporary dwelling erected for the Voyce's and a Sister's home which was not ready to move into. My hospital for the first few weeks consisted of a table and seat out in the open. However, after Easter, all the teachers came in and built a temporary hospital with earth floor, and a girls' house. These were almost completed when the patients started arriving in large numbers from the Siwai area. The small hospital was overcrowded from the start, and the overflow was housed in the girls' house until the other hospital was built. During August, with a further increase of patients, it was necessary to build a further hospital.

The majority of patients coming for treatment were patients with yaws and tropical ulcers. There have been several cases of pneumonia, dysentery, malaria, otitis media, New Guinea mouth, and numerous patients with skin conditions. I have done several dental extractions and a little minor suturing. A patient coming in with severe burns of hands, face, neck and legs, made an excellent recovery.

During July and August whooping cough was epidemic in the Buin area, and in August a form of gastric influenza took its toll in the surrounding districts.

Several patients have been sent to the Government hospital, the majority to receive a course of penicillin treatment.

I have had the assistance of several of our teachers in the hospital at Buin, Puipui having been with me from the opening of the hospital. One of the natives from the Moisuru village was also employed, and all have proved valuable assistants. There are three teachers doing excellent medical work in the Siwai area. These are Magug, Korimoto, and Isaac Pitakomoki. Their work is being recognised by the Government and they are being issued with certificates for the giving of intravenous injections. This relieves the pressure on the Head Station. Their work during these past years is to be very highly commended, and they are a credit to those under whom they have trained.

The Medical policy of the Australian Government for the Territory of Papua-New Guinea is to give greater assistance to Missions both monetary and in the supply of free medicines. As yet none have come to hand but requisitions have been made, and we have hopes of securing drugs shortly.

The figures given below represent six months' work in the Buin area, and would indicate how essential it is for a nurse or preferably nurses to be placed in that area. I have found the work down there heavy going, and I have merely touched on the fringe of things. Much more could be done by village visitation, etc., and this would eliminate the necessity of having so many in-patients.

IN-PATIENTS—Monthly average, 165.8. **Out-Patients**—Monthly average, 95. Total treatments, 5,503. Total injections, 2,033. **Ante-Natal**, 1. **Maternity In-Patients**, 1. **Maternity Out-Patients**, 7. **Deaths**, 5.

Four babies were admitted to the Home, one in May and three in July. I regret to report the death of two of these from pneumonia, the second death occurring only two weeks after the first. Of the two remaining, Kau, aged 3 months, has been transferred to the care of Sister Winifred until such time as I have facilities for looking after babies at Teop. Tawag, who is over 15 months old, is remaining under Sister Ada's care.

Sister Ada has over 20 girls in residence. Seven of these developed whooping cough, others have received treatment for yaws and tropical ulcer. The months spent with Sister Ada have been a time of greater preparation for me for the work which lies ahead here at Teop. I have been able to learn much from her, particularly in regard to the girls' work, and was able to give her a little assistance with sewing classes.

Teop.—I arrived with Rev. and Mrs. Shepherd at Teop on 8th of October, and we moved up to Kekesu on 15th.

Until such time as a home and hospital are built nothing can be done towards the training of girls and medical staff. There are numbers of girls waiting to come into the Home for training which is gratifying to know, and I look forward to the time when we are able to train these girls both in Homecraft and in Medical work. There is much preparation work to be done before a hospital is opened, but in the meantime the people are coming for dressings and injections, and several pneumonia, malaria patients have been treated in their villages. The general health of the people in the Teop area appears to be satisfactory.

Conclusion.—Looking back over the past six months I thank God that He has used me in bringing a greater measure of health to these our dark-skinned brothers. It is with joy that I look forward to the work here in the Teop area, praising our God for the privilege of co-operating with Himself for the extension of His Kingdom here on earth, and with a full realisation that it is indeed "God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."



Sister Ada's first sewing class.

The M.W.M.U. Secretary in the Solomons

BY MRS. T. ROWE.

To chronicle the varied experiences of an 18 weeks' sojourn in the Western Pacific is hardly possible in the space available.

Four days after my arrival in the Solomons it was my privilege to set out with Dr. and Mrs. Rutter and members of the family on one of Doctor's periodical Medical patrols of the Western Solomons. During that trip of 2½ weeks, when most of the travelling was done at night, Doctor visited all the Government dressing stations. In our mission area we visited the tiny outposts of Simbo and Gizo as well as the larger stations at Patutiva, Roviana, Bilua and Sasamunga. The S.D.A. mission stations at Batuna, Kulambangra and Choiseul were also visited. This medical patrol gave me an excellent opportunity of judging the importance of medical mission work in the Western Solomons. Despite the excellent medical staffing and facilities at Hobu Hobu and Honiara the need of a Methodist Missionary Doctor is urgent.



From Left: Sister Lucy, Rev. Metcalfe, Mrs. Rowe, and Sister Grace.

Perhaps you would like, in imagination, to follow our trip—there is a map of the Solomons on the back cover of the "Open Door." At six o'clock one evening we boarded the Government medical vessel "Hygeia." She was loaded with medical supplies, cargo for mission workers, food supplies for the trip, and mail for folk in the West. Following two wet days at sea the weather cleared beautifully as we neared New Georgia, arriving at Patutiva at 5 p.m. The Tongan teacher and his wife were soon at the wharf along with the villagers to bid the Doctor welcome and with an invitation for our party to attend evening Lotu. At this spot a night and morning were

spent on our return journey, enabling us to see something of the reconstructed mission station. The leading chief, Ngatu, accompanied by seemingly every available person, young and old, were at the wharf to present their "love gifts" and bid us farewell. It was likely to be Doctor's last official visit. Like myself you will have often read in the "Open Door" and "Times" of the singing of the islanders. Hearing them sing is a never-to-be-forgotten experience. After Doctor had spoken to the folk assembled we were farewelled in song. In the bright morning sunshine they sang unaccompanied and in harmony, "The Heavens are Telling," "Hallelujah Chorus," "God Bless and Keep You" and "God be with you till we meet again." Continuing the outward journey our next stop was Munda where a further warm welcome awaited us from both Mission and Government staffs. Mail was delivered, and the recipients must have worked at express speed to later send along a large bundle of outgoing mail. After medical matters were dispensed with we Methodists had an afternoon tea party on board, and later met for dinner with Mr. Goldie. Next day, after an early start, we were soon entering that marvellously beautiful passage called the "Diamond Narrows"—the name is most suitable for this extremely narrow, perfectly calm and deep waterway with dense vegetation to the water's edge on either side. Passing the former Banga airfield we were soon out in the Kula Gulf—the scene of naval battles of 1942. A call was made at the S.D.A. hospital, Kukudu, on Kulambangra, and from there we headed for Vella Lavella.

Arriving at Bilua about 5 p.m. we were surprised to meet the "Daphne" from Buka with Rev. Luxton and Mr. Peter DeMay. That evening we set out on a wet and stormy passage across what is locally termed "The Slot" to Choiseul. Welcome sunshine favoured our arrival at Sasamunga early next morning. The locals soon discovered the boat and seemed to pop out from here, there, and everywhere along the beach, and lost no time in gathering to welcome us. One lad was noticed racing along the foreshore donning his loin cloth as he ran. While Doctor and Mr. Metcalfe discussed business the boat's crew set about unloading. The usual method of landing the large benzine drums is to float them ashore propelled by boys in a canoe. Imagine the shrieks and consternation when in mistake a similar size drum of paint was heaved over the side, only to sink to the bottom. However, the transparency of the sea enabled it to be successfully located and later retrieved. The Sasamunga Mission Station is a large area of flat palm-covered ground near the waterfront, the cathedral church on the hill behind overlooking all. I spent a restful four days here with Sisters Grace and Lucy while Doctor's party circled the island, visiting all medical outposts.

The Sisters are efficiently caring for orphan babes, running the circuit hospital and generally helping Mr. Metcalfe in the management of the station. With the return of natives from their war-enforced hill dwellings to the coast, food sup-

plies have till now been inadequate, and one sees evidence of it in the general health of the people. It will be some time before native gardens are in full production. The recently built native houses are a good type, and provided the necessary material for the furtherance of the building programme is forthcoming Sasamunga should be a station worthy of the Methodist Mission. Having recently derived benefit from a refresher course conducted by Sister Ada Lee on her way to Buin, the native teachers are successfully conducting day school, and some of the work we saw was excellent. It was a pleasure to meet quite a few women who had lived in Sister Ethel McMillan's home for girls and in whose lives Sister Ethel's training and influence live on. Mr. Metcalfe had arranged that before leaving this delightful bay we be given an exhibition of native skill with war canoes. The large circuit canoe, also the new canoe built by Jovi Rotoava and decorated in traditional style, circled the "Hygeia" and raced across the bay several times before we had to up anchor and go on our way up the coast to Virulatu.

Sister Lucy and Mr. Metcalfe came with us, the circuit canoe being in tow for use on the return journey. Plans had been in preparation for the opening, some distance up the river, of a new church and village. But the honour was denied me, as rain descending in true tropical fashion at noon, the navigation by canoe of the much swollen river became impossible. Late afternoon with the waters somewhat receded, and not to be denied a trip in a war canoe, we all packed in and went half a mile up the river to the Government rest house and medical dressing station, and where at short notice folk had crowded into the small unit building for evening Lotu.

Dinner over, we set off again for Vella Lavella, and woke to find a calm sunny morning, ideal for the run up the Eastern coast, where we visited some of the places familiar to our N.Z. servicemen. We saw something of the wonderfully built military roads—firmly packed coral—the Memorial Church at Marivari where Padre Voyce ministered, the cemetery where fallen N.Z. soldiers were laid

to rest, also the Memorial Cairn on the foreshore at Niarovai. The one-time Barokoma air strip was noticed on the return trip to Bilua. Once ashore medical duties claimed Doctor's attention at the hospital, while we others enjoyed the company of Rev. and Mrs. Silvester and explored the station. All that is left of the one-time Helena Goldie Hospital, the Doctor's, Minister's and Sisters' Homes are the concrete piles. Our Allies dismantled the buildings for security reasons. Good use has been made of available building material, and those now in use should serve the purpose for some time to come. For our entertainment Mr. Silvester arranged for a group of native girls to perform some of their native dances on the lawn. Sister Joy Whitehouse joined us, bringing with her the three orphan babes whose photos you may have seen in this paper.

We were a happy lot at dinner that evening and early wended our way down the hill to our waiting transport. With farewells over, and the alarm-clock set for a daylight start, we were soon in our bunks congratulating ourselves on a well-spent day. Breakfast hour next morning we were nearing the island of Simbo, and to our surprise saw large numbers of godwits flying overhead on their yearly migration from Siberia to New Zealand. Later, with medical matters dispensed with, we decided on a little private sight-seeing and visited the thermal activity on the island.

In canoeing over the tepid and leaf-green water of a small inland sea we were reminded of Lake Tikitapu in the Rotorua district. From here we went across to Gizo, the pre-war Government port for the Western Solomons. This place had been severely dealt with during the war. Business buildings had been wrecked and, in circling the harbour on arrival, we could discover only three residences still standing. Our former Methodist Depot here is a badly-shattered wreck, and on our walk along the narrow path we had ample evidence of bomb-blast and shell-fire. Of foxholes there were no end, also huge bomb-craters filled with water.

(To be concluded in next issue.)

MISSIONARIES and NATIONAL LOYALTY.

(Continued from page 9.)

that more and more the Church may be seen as an ecumenical fellowship within which great differences are brought together—racial, national, cultural and economic—but which by its very existence is token of a Kingdom in which these differences have been overcome.

'This new and acute sensitiveness to the implications of our ambassadorship of Christ can only prove effective by deeper consciousness of the fact that belonging to Christ means at the same time responsibility for and solidarity with the world and our fellow-men, along with a sense of being "strangers and sojourners" in the world and in our nation. Because our real desire, hope and joy are in the Kingdom that is not of this world, in the core of our being we are no more able unreservedly to indentify ourselves with our nation, its selfwilled destiny and aspirations. The Christian, and still more the missionary—by his special position as ambassador of Christ—will always view his nation in the light of the Word of God. This is not a ready-made test and its implications are

not always easy to determine. Moreover, we have to confess that in claiming to be ruled by the Word of God we may only be trying to give a religious sanction to our own self-assertiveness. We can only guard against this danger by a continual readiness to submit ourselves to the judgment of the Word and in the light of it to amend our ways.

'Another consequence of our being essentially "strangers" though bound in the solidarity of love and service to the world, is that the Christian, in a sense peculiar to him, feels and suffers by the tension arising out of the dual character of all social, political and cultural life, which is at once good and evil. We can never forget that to take seriously in this broken world the problems of nationalism and racialism, that is to say of politics, means for a Christian always suffering and the possibility of sacrifice. This suffering and sacrifice, however, have to be seen in the light of Christ's victory over the world. They then become privilege and joy, the marks of our citizenship in that Kingdom which will endure when the fashion of this world has passed away.'

WOMEN'S PAGES.

M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's
Missionary Union of
New Zealand.

2 Hukarere Rd.,
Napier.

Dear Co-workers,

Another year of opportunity has opened to us. God has given us another New Year. The old year with its mistakes should be a means of guidance for us. God is eager for each of us to do better. He gives us a new day that we may live better than yesterday, a New Year that we may accomplish those things that will help to establish His Kingdom on earth. So let this year that has opened out before us, be another year of dedicated service for the Master.

Again I would like to express my gratitude for this wonderful little missionary paper—this "Open Door"—so full of missionary interest.

In this my first letter to you for 1948, I would like to thank all those who have written in appreciation of the monthly letters that have been sent out to all auxiliaries during the past year. It has been a source of encouragement to me in my first year as Dominion President. During the year I have done much travelling—from Kaitaia in the very North to Invercargill in the South. I have enjoyed meeting with our auxiliary women. My life has certainly been enriched by the friendship of our women—not only the near and personal ones, but the goodwill and affection of those I have met in my travels, I thank all for their good wishes, and their prayers.

Recently I attended the Annual Meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. It was especially interesting this year, as Rev. C. T. J. Luxton (who had just returned on furlough from his Mission Station at Buka, with Mrs. Luxton and their three small sons) was present. He gave us much useful information and helpful advice. It was a great joy to us also in the last hours of the Board meeting to welcome Dr. Allen Rutter. His interest in our work in the Solomons has never flagged. We wish for Dr. and Mrs. Rutter and family journeying mercies. By the time this letter is in print they will be on their way to England.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Luxton and the children on Frankton Station—they are all enjoying their furlough.

While in Auckland I visited the Maori Youth Centre and had a chat with Sister Joyce Webber. Two ladies were busy sorting over parcels of clothing, sent by some of the auxiliaries to the Centre.

I also visited Kurahuna. It is looking very nice and fresh with its new coat of paint. Mrs. Breadon and Miss Harper were busy bottling fruit.

Two weddings of interest to our auxiliary women have taken place during the past few months. Sister Joy Whitehouse was married in the Epsom Methodist Church to Mr. Statham. Congratulations were sent to them on their wedding day from the Dominion Executive. Sister Joy commenced work in the Solomons in 1938.

Sister Vera Cannon was married at Morrinsville on January 31st to Mr. H. Breed of Hawera. Sister Vera first went to the Solomons in 1934. After evacuation in 1942 she resigned from the Mission Board's employ. The Dominion Executive extended their congratulations to them.

These two Sisters did yeoman service in our Solomon Island work, and we wish them both long life and happiness as they start out into married life.

Easter is early this year. This is my Easter message to "Open Door" readers:

May the glad dawn of Easter morn,
Bring joy to thee;
May the calm eve of Easter leave
A peace divine with thee;
May Easter night on thine heart write
O Christ, I live for Thee.

"O sing unto the Lord a new song, sing unto the Lord all the earth."

Loving greetings to you all,
From your partner and friend,
EMMIE VIRTUE.

AUXILIARY REPORTS.

Taranaki District Council. Twenty-nine members met at Opunake on November 26th. Rev. Fordyce conducted the Communion Service and Miss Bates, District President, was in the chair. Seven auxiliaries were represented and the reports received showed keen interest in the mission work. After the afternoon devotions, Mrs. Hartman gave a splendid report of Conference. Rev. Chrystall then gave an address on the missionary impulse and the motive for undertaking missionary work.

West Coast (South Island) District Council met on November 19th, seven members being present, six from Westport and one from Grantly. Reports from the Reefton, Hokitika and Westport auxiliaries were read. A comprehensive report of Conference sent by Mrs. Egging of Hokitika was much appreciated. Convention is to be held in Reefton early in 1948. Treasurer reported that money handed in for the quarter totalled £16/7/7.

Manawatu District Council meeting was held on February 5th, 1948, in Palmerston North, 32 members being present. Little business had accumulated over the holiday period, but auxiliaries are keen to begin their work for 1948. Convention is to be held at Woodville this year. Money handed in at this meeting amounted to £86/8/2.

Hawke's Bay District Council meeting was held on November 19th. President Mrs. Hopper was in the chair and welcomed new members of the council. Sister Lily White, a visitor in Hastings, who had gone out to serve in the Solomons as a nurse in 1925, conducted the devotional period. She spoke on the keeping of the Sabbath Day, pointing out that people are losing peace in their hearts because they have forgotten God. After

THE OPEN DOOR

roll call, the treasurer read the financial statement, £66/2/8 having been paid in during the quarter. Reports from auxiliaries were then heard. After the opening of the afternoon session several members led in prayer for other Missions, Overseas Sisters, Kurahuna, and the Home Sisters. The President gave some interesting news items from Conference. The secretary then read a letter from Sister Winifred Poole which was much enjoyed. Extracts from a letter from Mrs. Trevor Shepherd were read—the first news to hand of this earnest young couple.

Nelson-Marlborough District. November 6th was the date of the first council meeting since Nelson became Executive Headquarters. In welcoming the new executive and delegates from Motueka, Lower Moutere, Richmond and Stoke, the president, Mrs. L. White, expressed regret that Blenheim and Picton auxiliaries were unable to send representatives. Mrs. Jordan led the devotional period, directing thoughts to medical missions, showing how medical work opens the way for preaching the gospel. After roll call the treasurer reported £65/2/3 to hand for the quarter; gleanings secretary reported 50 boxes placed; stamp secretary had sold stamps to the value of £7; depot manager reported four parcels sent. The afternoon session was occupied with Conference reports, three delegates dealing with three different aspects—devotional, financial and social. After a very successful meeting the serving of afternoon tea brought a day of happy fellowship to a close.

Wanganui District Council. Newly elected president Mrs. Martin presided over the November Council meeting, and after a short scripture reading gave a talk on being co-workers with God. Reports from Trinity, Wanganui North, Gonville, and Wanganui Evening were heard.

Aramoho Evening Circle, a newly-formed auxiliary, gave its first report. Average attendance 10. After the usual business these members make toys, scrap-books, etc., for Xmas gifts for Home and Foreign missions. Two parcels have been forwarded to Rev. and Mrs. Shepherd in whom there is a special interest, and one parcel of old clothes has been sent to Sister Irene Hobbs. Meeting combined with others to hear Conference report which was helpful to new and young members. An evening at Ratana Pa was planned to give a better idea of Home Sisters' work. The group had been asked to help entertain the children from the Pa at a picnic. District treasurer reported that no stamp money had been received this quarter, but £41/9/5 had been forwarded to Dominion treasurer. The gleanings secretary read the report from Dominion gleanings secretary. It was decided to invite gleaners to the May Convention. A letter was received from Sister Anne Wilson re help for a camp for Maori young people in Wanganui during January.

Otago District Council Meeting, December 11th. Mrs. Holden of the Roslyn Auxiliary led the devotional period, taking as her theme "Let us love one another." Miss Purdie in the chair then expressed the deep sorrow of the council at the passing of Miss Adams and a suitable minute was recorded.

Reports were received from all auxiliaries in the district. **Roxburgh** record the loss by death of their beloved treasurer, Mrs. E. F. Allen. **Mosgiel** has two new members and have a market table at their meetings. A parcel has been sent to Sister Jean Simpkin and a parcel of cards for the Solomons. **Roslyn** has sent a bag of clothes to Sister Jean. The Evening Missionary Circle had held a successful Bring and Buy sale.

—M. BEST.

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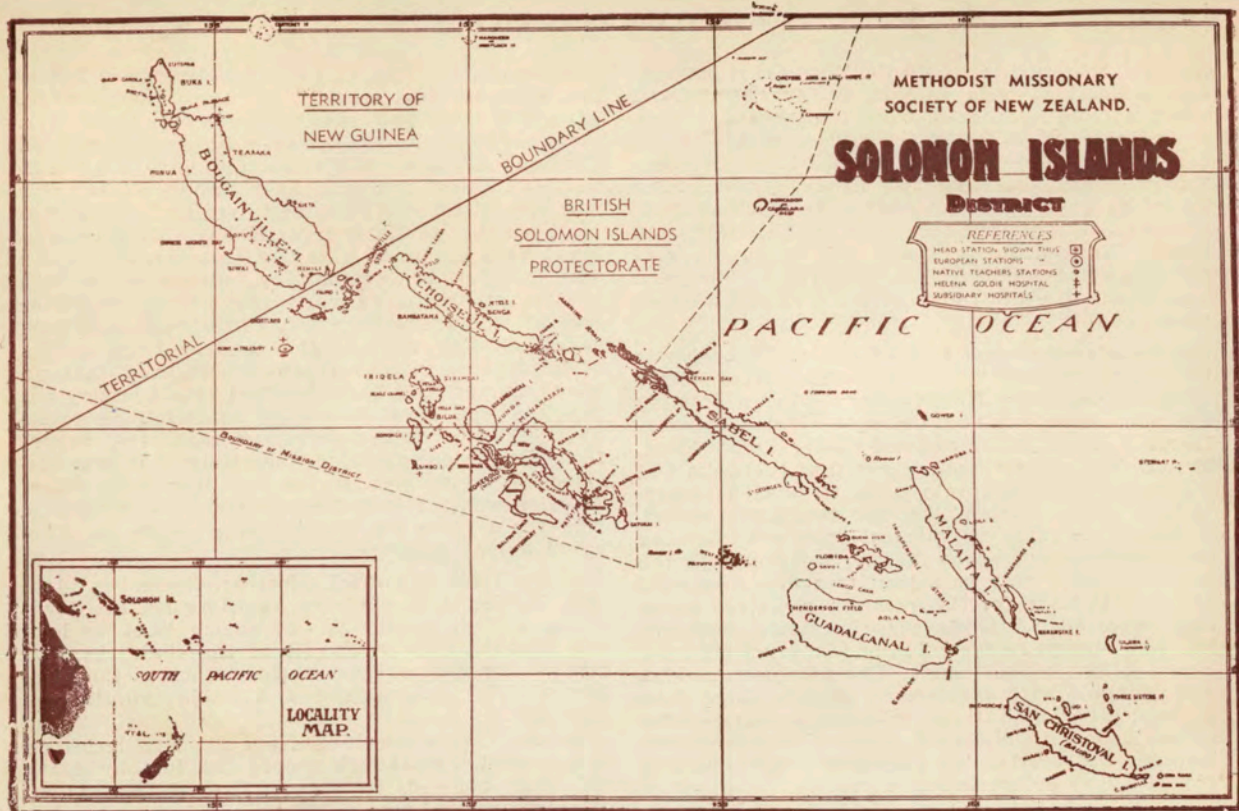
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- Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. A. H. Voyce, Buin Bay, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. C. T. J. Luxton, Buka Passage, Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Rev. Trevor Shepherd, Teop, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Rev. A. H. Hall, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Dr. A. G. Rutter, Senior Medical Officer, Honiara, Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Bruce Cole, c/o Rev. A. H. Voyce, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
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- Sister Lucy Money, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.

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