

*Mrs Greathead*

VCL. XXIX. No. 2.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY.

# The Open Door

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

SEPTEMBER, 1949.



The Cross and the Word to meet the  
World's need and the Divine command  
to carry their message.

This effective Symbolism was designed  
for the recent Dunedin Missionary Exhibi-  
tion which was such an unqualified success.

(See page 14)

"A Great Door & Effectual is opened unto us"

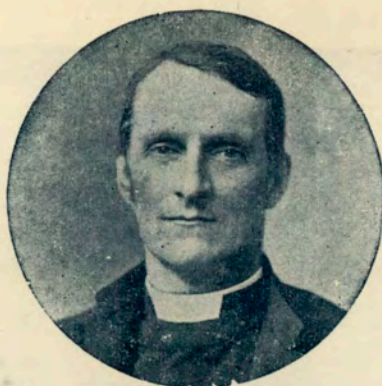
*ST. PAUL*

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General Secretary—Rev. A. H. Scrivin.



Bishop J. C. Patteson  
1861 — 1871



Bishop J. R. Selwyn  
1877 — 1891



Bishop C. Wilson  
1894 — 1911

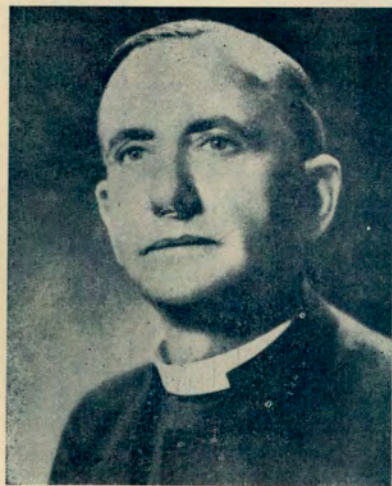


Bishop C. J. Wood  
1912 — 1918

**THE BISHOPS**  
- - of - -  
**MELANESIA**



Bishop J. M. Steward  
1919 — 1928



Bishop W. H. Baddeley  
1933 — 1947



Bishop F. M. Molyneux  
1928 — 1932



Bishop S. G. Caulton  
1948 —

# THE OPEN DOOR

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The Missionary Organ of  
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## Melanesian Mission Centenary



**George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand and  
Founder of the Melanesian Mission in 1849.**

During this month of September, 1949, the Anglican Church in New Zealand and elsewhere is celebrating a truly great event—the Centenary of the Melanesian Mission. We share their joy and add our thanksgiving to Almighty God for their high achievement of the past 100 years. To Bishop Caulton and all his colleagues—European and Native—we extend warm felicitation and congratulation and pray that the remembrance of how God has led them and their fathers may inspire and encourage them for the high adventure of the next century.

Throughout the 47 years Methodism has worked in the Western Solomons its relationship with the Melanesian Mission has been most happy and there has been frequent collaboration on matters of common interest. Not long after our pioneers arrived, a gentleman's agreement was reached by which we confined our activities to the Western Solomons, as yet untouched by Christian influence, and the Melanesian Mission continued its good work in the eastern half of the Group. With very minor adjustments this agreement is still in force and is the means of avoiding overlapping and confusion. During the present celebrations the Methodists of the West rejoice equally with the Anglicans of the East in the great things God has wrought through our sister society during the past century.

During Bishop Selwyn's first voyage to Melanesia in the "Undine" in 1849 he wrote letters to friends in England telling of his hopes for the work in the Pacific. He stated that the main object in view was "to take wild and naked savages from among a very untamed and lawless people, and to teach them to sit at the feet of Christ, clothed and in their right mind." Religion, civilisation and sound learning—all, in short, that is needful for a man seem to be meant by

those three changes; the feet of Christ, the clothing, and the right mind." During that first voyage Bishop Selwyn sailed over 3,000 miles in his small schooner of 21 tons which was built in Auckland and purchased by him in 1847—a gallant adventure in such uncertain and largely uncharted waters. From that first visit to the islands of Melanesia he brought back five native boys for training. After a few months at St. John's College, Auckland, these boys were returned to their island homes, and thus began an annual interchange of scholars between the College and the Pacific. Later, St. Andrew's College was built at Mission Bay in Auckland, and the work of training the Melanesian boys was centred there until the headquarters of the Mission were transferred to Norfolk Island in 1867.

Bishop Selwyn completed arrangements for the creation of a separate Bishopric of Melanesia, and in 1861 John Coleridge Patteson was consecrated in Auckland to be "Missionary Bishop of the Western Islands of the South Pacific Ocean." Patteson's martyrdom in 1871 on the island of Nukapu in the Santa Cruz Group was a shock to the whole civilised world, but it bore fruit in a tremendous impetus for the missionary cause. On the opposite page will be seen this saintly man and those who followed him in the Episcopate.

The present Bishop—the Right Rev. S. G. Caulton, M.A.—holds the confidence and the deep regard of all who know him. In a challenging Centenary Message, he opens thus:—

"The Centenary in the Mission happens to coincide with a very definite stage in the progress of Melanesia. As one looks back over the past history of the Church in the Islands the outstanding impression is one of a people readily embracing Christianity and showing all the freshness and zeal of "first generation" Christians. In saying this we do not minimise the heroic labours of the early missionaries who had often to face the uncomprehending opposition of wild heathen people who did not yet understand the peaceful mission upon which the white strangers had come. But when this was understood, it seems that the growth of the Church was rapid, and we have a picture of Christian communities on every island living happily in their new found faith.

Such a condition of things continued till well into the present century with the Church working without restriction and fulfilling its ideal function as the centre of the life of each community. In looking back at this period we are tempted to regard those days, as we often do in other matters, as the "good old days" or a sort of Golden Age of the Church in Melanesia. But it ought not to be so. We must go forward believing that "the best is yet to be," and whether or not the Golden Age lies behind us depends on the spirit in which we face the future."

# WESLEY'S WORLD PARISH

By the Rev. C. F. GRIBBLE, M.A., General Secretary Australian Overseas Missions.

I have been thinking of the striking effect that the Crusade led by Wesley in the 18th century had upon the missionary vision of the Church in his day, and wonder if we can discover any of the forces that made for the strong missionary character of the Evangelical Revival.



Rev. John Wesley.

Reading the history of the times, so much seemed then, as now, to be against the possibility of such a Movement. For two hundred years Protestantism had left missionary service out of its calculations. In those centuries of discovery and of unprecedented opportunity following the Renaissance, the Protestant Church remained indifferent to the salvation of the non-Christian world. Not so the Church of Rome. Through the magnificent organisation—the *Congregatio de Propaganda Fide*—she had capitalized the situation. Her friars and monks had sailed on every Portuguese and Spanish frigate that set sail for the Americas and the Indies. Her emissaries had established themselves in every new land. But Protestantism remained apathetic, partly because of dissensions in her own household, and partly because her theology left no place for a world view of the redemptive power of God through Christ. The heathen were predestined for exclusion from the holy things of God.

A few lonely souls lifted their voices against this inhuman theological outlook, and among these were the ancestors of the Wesleys. The grandfather of John and Charles had volunteered for the East Indian work, and in the next generation Samuel had tried without avail to gain entry for the Christian gospel to the undertakings of the East India Company. Susannah Wesley at the Epworth rectory gave weekly missionary instruction to her large family, and when later, John and Charles sailed for Georgia she said: "Had I twenty sons I should rejoice that they were so employed, though I should never see them more." Missions were certainly in the Wesley blood.

But it was the theology rather than the antecedents of the Wesleys that made the world their parish, although, of course, the two were not unrelated. To them it was given to re-emphasize the gospel of universal redemption through Christ. They turned away from the narrow and exclusive teachings of Augustine and Calvin through which God elected to leave large numbers of His creation without hope, to the all embracing nature of the atonement.

Our people sang, and still sing:

They sovereign grace to all extends  
Immense and unconfined;  
From age to age it never ends,  
It reaches all mankind.

This was the central theme of Methodism's message in the 18th century—the free and undeserved love of God to all men that would receive it through faith in Christ.

The victories of the gospel at home were wrought chiefly among those who had known life at its coarser and grosser levels. Aware of the great depths from which they had been raised they looked out upon pagan peoples, not knowing perhaps much about them, but convinced out of their own sordid experience that no darkness was impenetrable to the light of Christ, and no wretchedness of human life too abandoned for the yearning love of God. And so they sang:

Throughout the world its breadth is known  
Wide as infinity;  
So wide it never passed by one  
Or it had passed by me.

The world-view of Methodism rested on a theological emphasis which we cannot neglect—the outreach of God's love across the world through men to all mankind.

We will not stay now to recall the sequel to this rediscovery of New Testament truth and teaching, except to say that it prepared the way for what some historians believe to be the greatest missionary century of history. Because of it Methodism bears its luminous witness to-day in India, Burma and Ceylon, China, Korea and Japan, Africa, the Philippines and Latin America, the Pacific, the West Indies and Northern Australia.

In our own day when our missionary commitments are far flung and pressing, the Crusade will bring to us as individuals and as a Church renewed spiritual vitality. Our age is strikingly like that of the Wesleys, an age of revolt and change, of adventure for the human spirit on a world front. In such an age the people called Methodists were convinced of the power of their gospel to claim the world for Christ. If we are to recapture the sense of World Mission it will be only by looking to our strategy and finding resources sufficient for the task. We will commence as they did with renewed and disciplined personal communion with God, for from this comes—when it is real and selfless—right living and high thinking, a deepened sense of social responsibility, and a recognition of our fellowship with the whole company of men across the world for whom, we believe, Christ died.



To the uttermost parts of the earth.

# The SCOPE of METHODISM

In connection with preparations for the Second United Missionary Demonstration in Auckland, we were asked to give a few particulars of the Missionary work of the Methodist Church, and submitted the following which, it will be noted, do not include that considerable section of Methodism now included in the United Church of Canada and in our South African Conference. Nor do they include the various European Conferences. The figures given of missionaries employed by the British Conference include only ordained men and European lay-workers. In addition there are thousands of nationals who are pastors, teachers, doctors, nurses, etc.

Lift up your hearts, O ye Methodists! in humble thanksgiving that ye are called to serve in such great and noble company, and that the God who has wrought so mightily in the past is the same to-day and for ever.

## METHODIST OVERSEAS WORK.

### BRITISH CONFERENCE

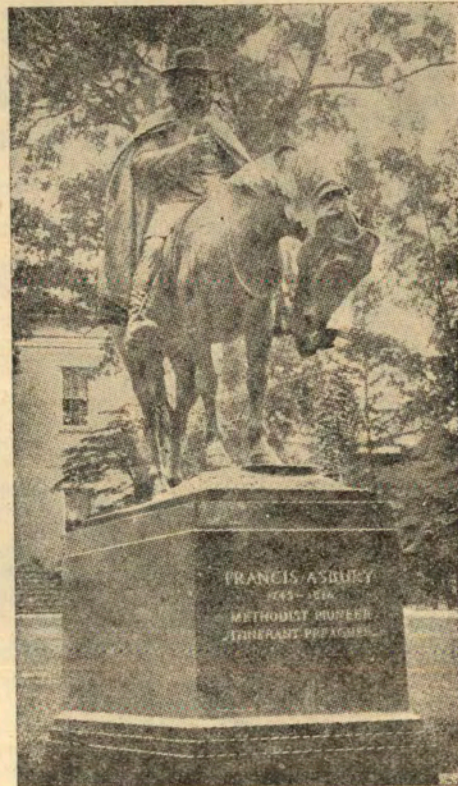
	MINISTERS (European & Native)	EUROPEAN LAY-WORKERS (Including Doctors, Nurses, Teachers, etc.)
<b>ASIA</b>		
CEYLON .....	53	15
BURMA .....	13	4
INDIA .....	36	15
INDIA (Church of South India) ..	125	81
CHINA .....	138	48
<b>AFRICA</b>		
GAMBIA .....	4	5
SIERRA LEONE .....	27	9
GOLD COAST .....	55	21
FRENCH WEST AFRICA .....	30	10
NIGERIA .....	64	51
RHODESIA .....	69	24
KENYA .....	6	10
<b>AMERICA AND WEST INDIES</b>		
BAHAMAS .....	7	
JAMAICA DISTRICT (which includes Turks & Caicos Isl., Panama, Costa Rica, Br. Honduras and Haiti) ...	48	4
LEEWARD ISLANDS .....	23	2
BARBADOS and TRINIDAD .....	23	1
BRITISH GUANA .....	8	—

### METHODIST CHURCH of AMERICA (U.S.A.)

Foreign Countries in which are working:  
736 Missionaries from U.S.A.,  
2,477 Ordained Nationals,  
15,000 Nationals who are Pastors,  
Teachers, Doctors, Nurses, etc.:-

Africa, China, Korea, Japan, the Philippine Islands, Malaya, Borneo, Sumatra, Burma, India, Europe and Latin America. In Africa there are missionaries in Liberia, Angola, Rhodesia, the Belgian Congo, Portugese East Africa, the Transvaal, Algeria and Tunisia. In Europe there are churches and other work of the denomination in Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden,

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belgium, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Bulgaria, Jugoslavia, Switzerland, Poland and Hungary. In Latin America work is carried on in Cuba, Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil.



FRANCIS ASBURY, Methodist Pioneer Itinerant Preacher in U.S.A.

### METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA.

#### MISSION FIELDS:

Fiji, Samoa, New Guinea, Papua, India, North Australia.

#### Note:

Tonga has an independent Conference, and its figures are not included below.

European Missionaries — Ordained ..	99
European Missionaries — Lay-workers ..	63
Native Ministers .....	189
Native Catechists and Teachers .....	1,399

### METHODIST CHURCH OF NEW ZEALAND.

#### MISSION FIELD:

Solomon Islands (including Bougainville and Buka).

European Missionaries — Ordained ..	8
European Missionaries — Lay-workers ..	14
Native Ministers .....	6
Native Catechists and Teachers and Medical Assistants .....	305

## By Canoe and Track in North Buka

MRS. CORNWELL MAKES HISTORY.

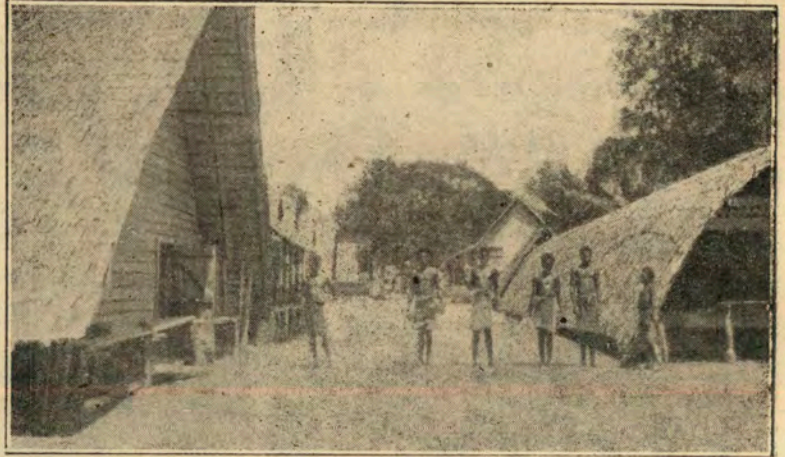
By Rev. G. A. R. Cornwell.

Mrs. Cornwell and I set out for the North Coast of Buka Island on Friday after lunch and sailed for Kessa point where we spent a very enjoyable time having dinner with Mrs. Good. Leaving Kessa Plantation at 9:30 p.m. and keeping inside the reef, we called at various villages on the way dropping off those who had come with us. The night was wonderfully calm apart from the night breeze which was catching our sails and driving us on at a good speed. Finally we arrived at the village of Tanamal at one-thirty in the morning of Sunday and piled into bed in the teachers house. One really has to see a teacher's house there to believe the story of it. It is rather a large house with four rooms and a hall-way, built in native style and very comfortable. After a canoe trip of some twenty-two miles we were asleep in a matter of minutes after our boy Harminin had made up the camp stretchers. We were up early for Lotu in the church. This was the first post-war church in the area and, although small, serves the purpose very well. The people are thinking of a new building. After a tour of the village, followed by breakfast, we set out to visit some of the neighbouring villages. First of all it was to Tuhus, which is a divided village, half Roman Catholic and half Methodist, where the resident teacher for Tanamal lives. For the rest of the tour we had this teacher, Dregei, with us as well as two of the Mission boys. He acted as general guide and interpreter when Harminin was not there. We called on all teachers in our area. A walk of four miles to the first village, then to Iltopan two miles further on and finally on another three miles to see Sevo at Tohatsi. Believe it or not, Irene and I had covered the nine miles of muddy road in little more than four and a half hours. We were tired out and rested while Kai (food) was cooking. Our opinion of the native ideas on distance should not be expressed. We asked how far it was and the invariably answer was 'One and a half miles!' On the way back we were presented with food from all parts. We did the return journey in two hours and twenty minutes, having spent some small time in visiting sick people and other villagers along the northern coast. The natives are all singing the praise of the new Marama who is the first missionary's wife to walk the north coast—I think the only white woman. There were many things on the way that really interested us which, to the person that has been in the tropics for years would seem ordinary—the interesting nature of the thick jungle dotted here and there with coconuts, the gardens of the villages and the myriads of multi-coloured birds, beetles and butterflies. It is hard to realise there is so much packed into such a small area.

After our return to Tanamal, Irene stayed there and took her first Lotu while I went to a village further down the coast where I tried to find a Mon for sale. At present we are hard hit for transport, our Mon being broken after three years of good service. However, for

all the tramping of three more miles over stones and soft sand, I managed only to see the Mons that the villages would not sell. I was so tired by the time I had finished my search that I got a little mon to take me from one village to the next and so on till I got back to Tanamal, at 10.30 p.m. It was not long before I had had a little tea and had gone to bed.

Sunday came with a beautifully hot day. Morning 'little' Lotu with the villagers of Tanamal was at seven-thirty and then breakfast and preparation for the big



Tanamal Village

service attended by all within cooe of the village. All the teachers were there too, to tell me what I had to do for the day. There were originally two baptisms arranged for, but by the time the service started at nine-thirty there were eight. Also there was a wedding and everyone wanted me to take service in their house Lotu. I tried to please as many as possible. The eight baptisms were in many ways amusing. I did not know which babies I had baptised and which

(Continued on page 11)



Large canoe—called at Buka a 'Mon.'

## How Will Christianity Fare in Communist China?

Recent Communist Army advances in China have caused many people to wonder what will happen to Christianity under the new regime.

"Will missionary work be forbidden?" "Will Christians be persecuted?" "Will the right to worship be denied?" These and a thousand other questions crowd the mind, and time alone will furnish some of the answers. While it is difficult to obtain up-to-the-minute information, Methodist missionaries who left China only a few months ago can tell of Communist-created difficulties with which they had to contend.

To learn about some of these difficulties, I called on the Rev. F. G. Garnett, who left Wenchow in South East China last December.

Early in our interview Mr. Garnett stressed that, due to his leaving Wenchow before the Communists gained complete control, he could not speak with first-hand knowledge of the effects on Church life resulting from full-scale Communist invasion. He could tell me of difficulties which increasingly interfered with Methodist work, but the remainder of his information came from reports he gathered while in China.

"What is the Communist attitude to the Christian Church in China?"

"It began with active persecution in 1946 and 1947. In the North Roman Catholic priests and nuns were killed. In 1947 there was a change, and now their attitude is one of gradual suppression through strict control. They are liable to tell a church staff that they must attend Communist meetings, demonstrations, and support Communist activities and beliefs in preaching. I have heard of Methodist hospitals, not in the Wenchow area, where staffs were told they could carry on, but on the other hand the whole staff would be called out to a Communist meeting on a Sunday morning. As a result the hospital routine was disorganised and it was made impossible to carry on. In some parts of China Methodist schools have had to close down due to Communist interference.

"It must be remembered that the position is not yet settled, and it is very hard to say what the conditions are at the present moment. Much depends upon the local Communist leader. The whole position of the Church is made precarious because the Communists are a law unto themselves. Any attempted opposition to their ideas, or disobedience of their regulations, would be instantly met by severe punishment. You are up against a totalitarian regime that has not the slightest scruple of taking life or removing anyone from their home or business."

"What is liable to happen to Christian work in the immediate future?" I asked.

"I think schools are in for a bad time and will probably be Communist-controlled. Hospitals will only be run with great difficulty. In the churches a lot will depend upon the local Chinese leadership. If the Chinese have got strong Church leaders who are prepared to endure persecution, then the Church will stand. There may be one or two churches which cannot stand up against the Communists, but I think on the whole the Church will very definitely maintain its witness. Home worship is a strong feature of the Chinese Church, and the Church could continue in that form."

Mr. Garnett said that some people believed, probably rightly, that the circuit field and Connexional system would be threatened. If that happened, each church would have to carry on by itself. In all proba-

bility most, if not all, ministers and agents, would be forced to become "tent-makers" as well as preachers, and local preachers were going to mean much to the future life of the Methodist Church in China.

Talking about general conditions in China, Mr. Garnett said, "Economically China is in absolute chaos. Due to reliance on Britain and America for material aid, for American flour and British petrol and oil, the Communists will be forced to keep on good terms with the Western Powers. In my opinion there is good hope, therefore, that the Communists will not embark on any policy of persecution of Chinese Christian staff and missionaries, though they might commandeer church buildings. It really boils down to what type of Communism China finally adopts. There is a likelihood they will adapt it to their own national needs and circumstances. They are certainly not going to make any big changes in economic and business life."

Mr. Garnett asked me to emphasise that in obtaining a true picture of the Chinese Church to-day one has to remember a great heartening fact—the considerable reconstruction work accomplished since the end of the Japanese war. Through the Reconstruction Fund from England, thousands of pounds had been spent by the Methodist Missionary Society in repairs and rebuilding of hospitals, schools, and churches. This work together with "spiritual rebuilding," of Chinese leadership had put new life and heart into the Chinese people.

—"Methodist Recorder."



**THE REAL HOPE OF CHINA.**  
Junior High School Lad with Pocket Testament  
League Gospel.

## PERSONAL and GENERAL

### REV. A. J. SEAMER, C.M.G.

On behalf of the Foreign Mission Board and the Solomon Islands District we extend hearty congratulations to the Rev. A. J. Seamer upon the well-merited honour conferred upon him by His Majesty the King. His devotion and service on behalf of the Maori have few parallels, and it is good to know they have been thus recognised by Ministers of the Crown. It is of paramount importance to the Native Race of New Zealand in this critical period of its history to have as guides and counsellors wise and experienced men like Mr. Seamer who know that, above all else, it is righteousness that exalteth a nation.

\* \* \* \*



Sister Joyce McDonald.

### NEW TEACHER FOR THE SOLOMONS.

Sister Joyce McDonald of Broadwood, North Auckland, has been warmly welcomed to the fellowship of the Solomon Islands Sisterhood. With a very definite sense of God's call, 4½ years' teaching experience, largely among Maori children, and a winsome personality, she is admirably fitted for the educational work at Bilua, Vella Lavella, to which she has been appointed. We thank God that another able and much-needed worker has gone forth. She was dedicated as a Teaching Sister by the President of the Conference (Rev. E. T. Olds) at an impressive service in the Pitt Street Church. In presenting her dedication Bible the President referred to Sister Joyce's home and college training—she is a daughter of the Parsonage, her late father having been one of our honoured Home Missionaries, and is the sister of the Rev. Alister McDonald—and the great work that awaits her on the Field, and reminded her that the God Who had called her would be with her and His grace ever sufficient.

Mrs. H. Nicholson, on behalf of the Dom. President (Mrs. E. Virtue) conveyed greetings from the M.W.M.U. and an assurance of their constant prayers and support.

Sister Joyce's mother was present at the service and, with her daughter, received Holy Communion which was administered by the President.

### REV. C. T. J. LUXTON.

Acting on medical advice, the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton is returning to the Home Work in the immediate future. His departure from the Field constitutes a major loss as he has rendered excellent service ever since his appointment in 1939. Owing to the claims of five young children, Mrs. Luxton was unable to accompany her husband on his return from furlough last October, but the latter had hoped to give a further term to the Solomons to help meet the shortage of men.

With the exception of Mr. Goldie, Mr. Luxton was the first man back on the Field after the War and did splendid work in preparing the way for other members of the Staff by the erection of temporary houses, hospitals, etc. His station on Buka was the first in the District to get back to more or less normal pre-war conditions. When the "Daphne" was the only open-sea boat in commission she was under Mr. Luxton's care and rendered remarkable service to the District.

More than a year ago Mr. Luxton was appointed to the Roviana Circuit to assist the Chairman, but various circumstances have prevented his transfer. We trust the change of climate and re-union with his wife and family will work a speedy recovery of health.

\* \* \* \*

**SISTER GRACE McDONALD** and Sister Joyce McDonald who, by the way, are not related, left Auckland by air for Sydney on 11th August to connect with a plane for the Solomons on the 16th. As mentioned in our last issue, Sister Grace will receive an abundant welcome back to the Field both for her own and her work's sake. It was fortunate for Sister Joyce that she had such an experienced worker as travelling companion. A special word of farewell was spoken to Sister Grace at the above-mentioned dedication service by both the President of the Conference and Mrs. H. Nicholson—the latter on behalf of the M.W.M.U.

\* \* \* \*

### SISTER MERLE CARTER.

After a splendid first term of service at Buin and Kekesu, Sister Merle is expected in New Zealand on furlough about October. The recent Deputation to the Field had the privilege of meeting Sister Merle in her roomy and comfortable home and inspecting the large hospital which forms the centre for her work. There is an article from her pen on another page of this issue. She will receive a warm welcome home from her many friends in New Zealand.

\* \* \* \*

**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FOREIGN MISSION BOARD** will be held in the Pitt St. Church Parlour on October 4-5, and will be attended by the distant members in addition to the Auckland Committee. Matters of major importance to the Work of God in the Solomons will be under review such as Rehabilitation, Education, Staffing, Literature, etc., in addition to Finance and Home Base affairs. Included in the latter will be nomination to Conference of a successor to the present General Secretary who expects to retire in January, 1951. The prayers of the whole Church are asked that the Mission Board may be divinely guided in its deliberations and decisions.



## EDUCATION and FREEDOM

It seems a far cry from the primitive Solomons to the great colleges and universities of Europe, but the same basic principle in Education, as stressed by Mr. Lindsay in the following statement, applies in both cases. Our mission schools are playing a vitally important part in the development of the race, largely because the Word of God is one of the main text books and the spiritual life of the scholar is considered of paramount importance. It is the Truth that makes men free, and He that came to lead us into real liberty said . . . "I am the Truth . . ."

Mr. Lindsay, an Independent Member of Parliament in Britain for the English universities, recently told teachers from France, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg and Britain: "When the Czech Minister of Education states that 'Education must be political like the army' we ought to take as much notice as we do of a new deadly weapon of warfare, especially when such a dreadful statement emanates from the country of Comenius and Masaryk."

"As is the school so is the State," he said. "It is significant that Germany is beginning to be more and more conscious of a war lost than a war begun."

"Neither the Brussels treaty nor the Strasbourg assembly nor the United Nations itself can ignore the condition of education, the material shortages of schools and equipment, the process of teacher training, the fact of youth movements, and above all, the freedom of the teacher and the university. There must be a deliberate attempt to preach and to teach the gospel of tolerance and unity, using every media which science has placed at our disposal."

Mr. Lindsay rightly stresses the menace of the statement of the Czech Minister of Education that 'Education must be political like the army,' but there is a grave menace also in any system of purely secular education. A conference in London, attended by educationists from all the Allied nations affirmed that 'Religious training should be available for all children.' The late Archbishop of Canterbury declared, 'The further object which the school is known to serve must be of such a kind as to foster individual development on the one hand and world-fellowship on the other. There is only one candidate for this double function; it is Christianity. We must then take steps to secure that the corporate life of the schools is Christian.' In 1934 Mr. Winston Churchill said: 'Religion has been a rock in the life and character of the British people upon which they have built their hopes and cast their cares. This fundamental element must never be taken from our schools.'

In a recent issue of "The Methodist Recorder," 'Demos' declares Overseas Missions, with their triumphant record in proclaiming the liberty that makes men free indeed, are 'news' to-day. Because of the advance of Communist armies, and of Communist political activity in almost every land where missionaries are at work, Overseas Missions have taken on a new aspect; for there is now a clash between civilisations of a yet more crucial kind. It is no longer that Christianity, equipped with all the advantages of superior culture, scientific research, and surgical skill, is combating primitive cults steeped in ignorance. The Church is facing the counter-attack of a new materialist civilisation whose forces are equally well-equipped, and have the advantage of an economic sophistry not possessed by the missionary. Christianity is the answer to Communism. But its economic plea—"Seek ye first the Kingdom . . . and

all these shall be added . . ."—is nothing like so attractive to the pagan, whether black or white, as the "Seize what you want by revolution" of Communist doctrine. A war is afoot the wide world over for the very survival of true religion, against a Marxism which proclaims religion as mere "dope."

Sir Patrick Duff, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., just a year ago, when still with us as High Commissioner for the United Kingdom, in a powerful address to the Wellington Christian Businessmen's Association on the tremendous challenge of Communism, stated: "It is not Governments that can meet it. The task is one for Churches and schools and universities and the press and, above all, for the individual citizen, for you and me. We have got to confront this creed of discontent and despair with a stronger creed; and with the spirit of a Crusade! The only safeguard against ruthless ideological power politics is recovery of the sense of things that matter, more than politics or economics; which things are, in the end of the day, the things of the spirit. We have got to search our hearts for those ultimate convictions about God and man which afford the only defence."

One vitally important aspect of Christian schools, appreciated by all too few, is their capacity to heal the open and ugly sores of national prejudice and hate. Much has been written about the 'clash of colour,' and it is claimed by many that racial antipathies are instinctive, but those of us who have had under our care schools in which white, black, brown and half-caste children have been gathered at an early age, know that the hateful race prejudice does not exist until it is inculcated by older people.

We suggest, therefore, that international Christian schools for selected students are likely to be more effective in assuring understanding and peace between the nations than an international police force, necessary as the latter may be in the meantime.



Luke Zale and his wife who entertained the Deputation at Petats. Fine example of those who carry Education and Freedom to their own people.

## Extracts from the Report of the Foreign Mission Board's Deputation to the Solomon Islands District

The deputation, as appointed by the last Annual Meeting of the Board, consisted of Messrs. J. Tyler, G. S. Gapper and the General Secretary. On medical advice Mr. Tyler was compelled, with deep regret to himself and all concerned, to withdraw. Messrs. Gapper and Scrivin left Auckland on 11th April and returned on 11th June and report as follows:—

We entered our District proper at Patutiva in the Marovo Lagoon early on Sunday, 24th April, and were warmly greeted by the Rev. Paul Havea and his people and shared in three large and inspirational services. To detail our experiences from this day until we turned our faces homeward is beyond the possibility of this report. Suffice to say we received a warm welcome everywhere from the Native Church and the European staff: we heard and delivered many addresses: many choirs sang: the bonny infant daughter of Rev. Trevor and Mrs. Shepherd and many native children were baptised. At every place visited we conveyed the affectionate greetings of the Home Church in the form of a letter from the President of the Conference and a special word to the women from the President of the M.W.M.U. We assured the native church of the determination of the Mission Board, backed by all New Zealand Methodism, to do its utmost to rebuild the Mission stations and maintain and extend the Mission staff. Everywhere the Spirit of God was very manifest and we knew we were on holy ground.

Eleven days were spent in the Roviana Circuit, five in Vella Lavella, five in Choiseul and twelve in Bougainville-Buka. At every place visited there was ample evidence of able and devoted work on the part of both European and Native staff. In the limited time at our disposal we had perforce to concentrate on the head stations. We were able, however, to visit some dozen or more village stations. In each case conditions seemed more or less back to normal after the disruption of war. Schools are well organised and well attended: every village has its own choir, and in one important village, temporarily without a Teacher, the stewards were conducting the services and some senior scholars the school. Attendance at village schools is large and the children keen to learn. For five years of war the work of our Teacher Training College was in abeyance with the inevitable result of a serious shortage of teachers that is likely to continue for some time.

### DISTRICT INSTITUTION.

One of the major matters for discussion with the workers was the location of the new District Institution. At the Buin Conference it was agreed (with one dissentient) that Bimbilo and adjacent hills in the Roviana Lagoon is the best site. We spent some time inspecting both the site and adjacent land likely to be available for gardens, and were impressed with the suitability

of the situation. There is easy access from the flat below (Munda) and the proposed wharf, while the outlook commanding the Roviana Lagoon is magnificent.

The native owners of the land have assured Mr. Goldie that they will gladly make available to the Mission any area we require and the Chairman has undertaken to make the necessary application forthwith.

The work of this Institution in training Pastor-teachers and other native leaders is of primary importance to the whole District and it is imperative that re-building proceed at the earliest possible moment. About forty students are already in residence in temporary quarters and during a recent visit the Resident Commissioner expressed high appreciation of the work being done. Other students are eager to enter as soon as facilities and food are available.

The Rev. Allen H. Hall, B.A., is revealing real capacity and initiative as Tutor and experiencing much joy and success.

### GIRLS' SCHOOL.

There is some difference of opinion regarding the location of the proposed District Girls' School. Sisters Lina and Effie are strongly of the opinion that it should be a separate institution some distance from the College. The main difficulty, in the opinion of the Chairman—with which the Deputation concur—in such a



Mission House, Patutiva, where the deputation spent its first night ashore.

separation will be that of staff. To function successfully the School must have not less than two Sisters at any given time which, to meet the exigencies of furlough, indisposition etc., would mean a staff of three. If, however, the School is adjacent to the Roviana Circuit Institution, which carries a staff of two Sisters, it should be possible to maintain the work of the two schools with a staff of three Sisters and suitable native assistants. No definite decision was reached in this matter.

### DISTRICT HOSPITAL.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board in 1948, Dr. Rutter stated that, in the event of the Government re-establishing a hospital at Gizo, Roviana was the logical place for our Medical Headquarters. Dr. Pollock McKenzie, Senior Government Medical Officer, confirmed this judgment in conversation with us at Honiara. The Government hospital has now been built at Gizo and it is the firm opinion of missionaries and deputations that our District Hospital should be rebuilt at Roviana instead of Vella Lavella. Dr. G. E. Hoult stated that, in view of his having been in the District only a few weeks, he was unable to express an opinion on this matter.

The proposed site for the hospital is on the flat, of which the Munda air-strip forms a part, with the Doctor's residence on the adjacent Kokengolo Hill.



**KOKENGOLO HILL** on which the Doctor's House will be re-built.

Note fragments of concrete steps and piles of Mr. Goldie's old home in foreground. In the centre background stretches the beautiful Roviana Lagoon and in the left background part of the famous Munda air-strip can be seen. The Helena Goldie Hospital will be re-built on the air-strip at the foot of Kokengolo Hill.

In the meantime valuable work is being maintained in temporary buildings at Bilua, Vella Lavella, by Dr. Hoult and Sister Eva Saunders and their native assistants.

### TECHNICAL SCHOOL, WHARF, ETC.

The anchorage that will serve the District Institution is good in all weather. The wharf will be built at the most convenient spot and adjacent to it will be the workshops etc., where valuable technical training will be possible. It is hoped that the construction of the wharf and a slip capable of taking the largest of our boats will be commenced in the near future.

### ROVIANA CIRCUIT.

The unanimous recommendation regarding the head station of the Roviana Circuit is that it be rebuilt at Bimbilo, adjacent to the District Institution, thus adhering to the policy of the past by which the large school of the Circuit becomes the Normal School of the District Teacher Training Institution. This has the added advantage of close co-ordination of staff and mutual help and fellowship. In the proposed plan the school will stand on one hill, the College and Tutor's

house on another, the Sister's Home on another and the Chairman's house on a fourth. There is easy access between these sites which form the corners of a square about two acres in extent.

It is estimated that there will be 300 to 400 children within reach of the Bimbilo school when villages, built on scattered islets in the Lagoon during the war period, are rebuilt on the mainland of New Georgia. These children and their parents will also be very near to the hospital and its facilities.

In spite of the limitations of temporary buildings and inadequate equipment Sisters Lina and Effie have already restored the work among the women and children to a high degree of efficiency and also, in the absence of a nurse, render much medical aid to the sick.

### VELLA LAVELLA.

Here again there is practical unanimity regarding sites—the Mission House to be rebuilt on its old site and the Sisters' Home on the site of the Doctor's House. The old site of the District Hospital is ideal for the smaller hospital that will be erected there but Dr. Hoult suggests that the maternity ward be adjacent to the Sisters' Home where it would be easy of access to the nurse. Very suitable sites for Church, School and students' quarters have been located; the students being already on their permanent location. A good wharf and permanent wharf sheds have been rebuilt by Mr. Silvester and his helpers and much of the District stock is stored there.

Considerable damage was done to the plantation at Bilua during the war, but it is still a valuable property. The clearing of this extensive station after the war years has been a heavy task and the Board's thanks are due to Mr. Silvester and all concerned.

### CHOISEUL.

The only major re-building demanding urgency at Sasamanga—head station of the Choiseul Circuit—is the Mission House. The Sisters' Home, which was the only European building left standing in the District, has been repaired and will serve for some years. The new maternity Ward, donated by the M.W.M.U., was under construction at the time of our visit and should now be near completion.

Mr. and Mrs. Metcalfe are comfortably housed in what will be the school when the Mission house has been built and Mr. Metcalfe is to be commended upon his foresight in this matter. The urgency for the new house lies not in the inadequacy of the present temporary quarters but in the need for additional school-rooms to accommodate the increasing number of scholars.

The site for the new house is agreed upon and it is also agreed that when the time comes, in the near future, to rebuild the Sisters' Home, it be upon the present foundations.

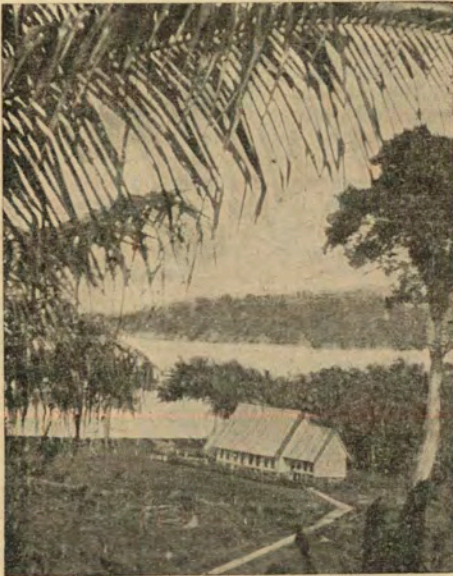
Excellent child-welfare and school work is being done by Sister Lucy, and, in the absence on furlough of Sister Grace, considerable medical work. Sister Winifred was on her way from Bougainville to assist in the meantime.

### BOUGAINVILLE-BUKA.

**Buin.** Owing to devastation of our land at Kihili a new site for the South Bougainville head station had to be sought and some 60 acres were secured at Koau, two miles distant. Already coconut and sago palms have

been planted in the swampy portion of Koau which will improve the appearance in a few years. Quite a good road has been formed across the swamp. The anchorage at Koau is claimed to be the best in Buin Bay.

Application has been made for an agricultural lease of 156 acres at Toburuai, four miles inland. This is first class gardening land bounded on one side by a river and, if secured, will be a great asset to the station at Koau. Already a large station of some 400 students has been established and Mr. and Mrs. George Carter and Mr. and Mrs. Chris. Palmer have settled in happily as colleagues of Mr. and Mrs. Voyce. Mr. Grenville Voyce and the Tongan ministers, John Taufa and Daniel Palavi are also rendering excellent service in this section.



The Church at Senga, Choiseul, where the deputation worshipped with a very large native congregation.

**Teop.** The necessity of re-building was wisely seized as the occasion for the transfer of the head station of the Teop Section from Teop island to Kekesu, three miles distant. The latter is a splendid site secured for the purpose seventeen years ago and partly planted with coconut palms at that time. These palms are now in full bearing.

Already a flourishing Mission Station is in being at Kekesu and the Rev. Trevor Shepherd and his colleagues are to be congratulated upon some really fine work. Building sites have been wisely chosen and the station well laid out. Sister Merle—like Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd—is comfortably housed and is doing excellent work in a large and reasonably equipped hospital.

While at Kekesu we had the privilege of unveiling a portrait of the late Rev. D. C. Alley, who gave his life in the service of these people.

#### SKOTOLAN.

The head station of the Buka Section is the only one in the Circuit to be rebuilt on its pre-war site and excellent work has been done by the Rev. C. T. J. Luxton and Usaia Sotutu and their helpers in restoring this

station—not an easy task as the land rises steeply from the foreshore.

A very fine Church—one of the best in the District—has been erected in a commanding position and with two excellent school buildings will serve for a considerable time.

The wharf, which was bombed several times, has been rebuilt with a store adjacent.

The Mission House, Sisters' Home and hospital, although temporary buildings are comfortable and adequate for the time being. Sites for permanent buildings have been selected.

The graves of Moyna Luxton and Mr. Chas. Carter are well kept and we paid a silent tribute to a little child and a devoted layman both suddenly called to higher service within a few weeks of arrival on the Field.

The Rev. and Mrs. Gordon Cornwell had reached Skotolan a few weeks prior to our arrival there and had settled in very happily. Mr. Cornwell was inducted to the Buka Section at a most impressive service.

#### CONFERENCE WITH MISSIONARIES AT BUIN.

Reference has already been made to our Conference with the Missionaries which was held at Buin from 21st to 25th of May. The Minutes of the gathering are appended to this report and recommendations of considerable importance are submitted for the consideration of the Board. The re-building programme is perhaps the most important case in point. At every station we asked the workers concerned to submit their ideas of houses, schools, etc., in the form of sketch plans. We recommend that these sketches be submitted to an architect in the immediate future for the preparation of plans and quantities of more or less standard buildings embodying as far as possible the ideas suggested. Provided materials and transport and skilled labour are available there is no reason why rebuilding should not commence immediately on a number of stations. The time seems opportune for the setting up of a Committee of the Board, with which architect and builders could be co-opted, to give close and immediate attention to this matter.

Attention is drawn to the lists of proposed buildings in the Minutes. These place the buildings in what the Conference considered should be the order of priority. It should also be noted that in the opinion of the workers of the Field, there is immediate need for another builder.

A further matter concerning the desirability of immediate action regarding building is the very reasonable request of the Lepers' Trust Board that dispensaries of a permanent nature be erected within a year, from funds allocated by it for this purpose.

**Note.**—Since this report was submitted, materials for three dispensaries have been shipped.

Other important matters dealt with at the Conference are indicated by the Minutes as mentioned above.

#### STAFFING.

The appointment of successors to the Rev. A. W. S. Silvester and Sister Lina Jones, whose retirement from the Field is pending, is of the utmost importance. Teachers for Vella Lavella, Choiseul, Kekesu and Skotolan are also urgently needed, as are two nurses for the District Hospital and one each for Buin and Skotolan. There is also a request for the immediate appointment of two Fijian agriculturists.

The generous decision of Sister Grace McDonald to return to the Field for a further two years, and the expected appointment of Nurse Davinia Clark at the end of this year, will relieve considerably the nursing shortage. It is hoped also that Miss Joyce McDonald, an experienced teacher, will be available shortly, and that other teachers whom God has called to the Solomons will soon be ready. (Note.—Sister Joyce left for the Field with Sister Grace on 11th August).

#### DISTRICT TRANSPORT.

"Roviana."—The much discussed auxiliary ketch "Roviana" awaited us at Honiara and for 35 nights out of the 44 we were in the Islands, and for numerous days this boat was our comfortable home. The Board will be glad to learn that she is proving very serviceable and an excellent sea-boat of exceptional strength.

#### "CICELY II."

This new medical boat has reached the Solomons in good order. She will be based at Bilua for the time being, but will move with the Doctor to Roviana later. The gratitude of the Native Church to the M.W.M.U. and Mr. and Mrs. John Astley for this fine gift, was freely expressed throughout the District.

The Mission "fleet" is now almost back to pre-war standard and, apart from possible loss and the "Daphne" overhaul and new engine, no further heavy capital expenditure on boats should be necessary for some considerable time.

#### CONCLUSION.

In conclusion we record our gratitude to Almighty God for journeying mercies, perfect health, and much joy and inspiration in our fellowship with the Native Church and the workers on the Field. More than ever we have realised the high privilege that is ours in sharing in this great work of the Kingdom.

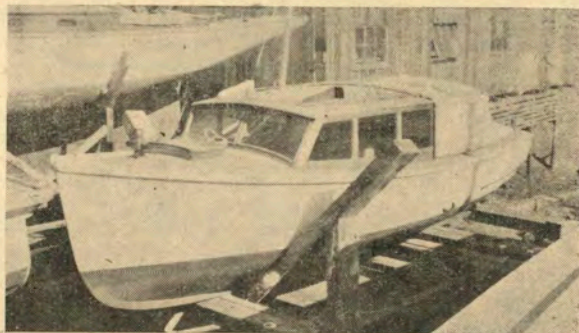
To the Chairman and all who entertained us so generously and facilitated our itinerary we also extend our sincere thanks.

In the light of our experiences we are confident the Board was wise in sending a deputation to the Field, and pray that to all concerned God will grant "good speed" in the great Missionary task committed to the Church.

(Signed) G. S. GAPPER,  
Lay Treasurer.  
A. H. SCRIVIN,  
General Secretary.

#### ANOTHER BOAT FOR THE SOLOMONS.

Yet another splendid addition has been made to our mission fleet in the shape of a launch 26ft. x 8ft. 3in., drawing 3ft., and powered by a 21 h.p. 'Lister' diesel. This fine boat is the generous gift of an anonymous



The "Vecta."

donor whose heart was stirred at the launching ceremony of the "Cicely II." He himself has found much joy in the gift—a joy which will be multiplied as the launch goes forth to the glory of God and the extension of His Kingdom in the Solomons. At the wish of the donor the new launch will be called "Vecta."

## BY CANOE AND TRACK IN NORTH BUKA

(Continued from page 4)

not and had to keep asking the parents if they were finished. This was because there was not room in the front of the church to have all the people standing and I had to work my way through them all. After Lotu we packed our things and made our way walking through the villages on the western side of Tanamal. There are Roman Catholic and Methodist villages here and we stopped at them all. One thing we noticed especially was that the Roman Catholics work on the Sunday—fishing or anything else—but the Methodists have a day of rest and worship. The wedding at Hankok was really amusing. There was no occasion on which the bride was willing and one had to answer all the questions for her. After the service the bride and the groom sat down on opposite sides of the church, all the men and women being separated. There were about sixty at the service and they had all been to Tanamal. At Big Lotu there would have been about 150, I suppose, but I did not count them. On the way down we had another talk to the people and teachers. Our travels went on for another 9½ miles during which we held Lotu in the late afternoon at a large village before having Kai and walking the three miles back

to Mrs. Good's plantation at Kessa. Were we pleased to get there! Through the last part of the road it was so muddy that it was hard to find a place to walk without slipping into the slush. The Jungle was hot and dripping water, and before long we were wet. We had tea and then waited for our canoe to arrive. Then there was the painful journey back to Skotolan. We were tired and there was a strong contrary wind which made sailing impossible. It took eight hours to travel the last eight miles. So we arrived home.

#### SPECTACLES WANTED FOR THE SOLOMONS.

Dr. G. E. Hault has asked us to appeal through these columns for dis-used spectacles of which there must be many hundreds in boxes and drawers of Methodist homes in New Zealand. When natives suffer eye-strain it often happens that we can meet their need with glasses that have outlived their usefulness for the folk who bought them. The General Secretary, P.O. Box 23W, Auckland, will be glad to receive any such glasses to forward to the Doctor.

## The Lepers' Trust Board

### FURTHER GENEROUS GIFTS AND NEW DISPENSARIES.

Among its generous grants for 1949 to missionary societies in the South Pacific for work among lepers was included £1,500 to the Methodist Society of New Zealand. In conveying advice of the allocation, Mr. P. J. Twomey, M.B.E., Secretary of the Board and known to many as 'The Leper Man,' stated inter alia: "In the 'Preventive Treatment of Leprosy' we have included the purchasing of hospital equipment and medical supplies as well as treatment of tropical diseases such as yaws, ulcers, malaria, elephantiasis, etc. 25 per cent of allocations may now be used for this purpose."

"We desire to see erected some dispensaries of a permanent nature (concrete foundations if possible) with the funds made available to your Mission."

With the sympathetic co-operation of several firms in the matter of supplies, of the Government in the matter of permits, and of Mr. C. Roose, owner of the L.S.T. "Rawhiti," we were able to ship at very short notice materials for three dispensaries. These new buildings will be erected at strategic points where they will best serve the high purpose the Lepers' Trust Board has in mind. Upon their completion plaques will be affixed stating them to be gifts from the people of New Zealand per the Lepers' Trust Board.

Early this year Mr. Twomey and Miss Kiely, his chief of staff, visited the Solomons to confer with Government and Missions regarding leper work. The following are some extracts from his Report which will be of special interest to our readers:—

"Dr. Evans then took us to Bilua on Vella-Lavella where the Methodist Mission formerly had a well-established settlement, including a hospital where treatment was given to leper patients. This was completely wiped out during the Japanese invasion, but it is now being re-built. Dr. Hault and Sister Saunders of New Zealand have recently arrived here and we were fortunate in meeting them. Both are enthusiastic workers and we expect to see much done for the sick people on this and near islands. The Rev. Mr. Silvester, late of Christchurch, is in charge of the Bilua Settlement and he is ably assisted by Mrs. Silvester.

We spent half a day with Dr. Evans and his nurses in going through a native village where once again we met two discharged lepers. At Hombu Hombu we had lunch with Mr. Russell, District Government Officer for the West Solomons. It was arranged that here we should meet a veteran worker of the Methodist Mission, Rev. John Goldie—47 years' service in the islands. Later on in the afternoon we went with Mr. Goldie to see his Mission Settlement, Munda, where we met Mr. Hall, M.A., Principal of the Boys' College, and his assistant, Miss L. Jones, both from New Zealand.

Wherever Miss Kiely and I went we heard nothing but praise for the work being done by our Board. Our influence for good in these places is very strong. It is having such a beneficial effect among the health authorities that they are now taking more interest in leprosy prevention work.

In various dispensaries in the Solomons we are now providing dressings and medicines for the numerous out-patients. By attending to tropical diseases such as yaws, ulcers, malaria, etc., we are raising the standard of health and helping to track down and prevent leprosy.

You will remember that the Board unanimously approved of this plan which was very highly commended by Dr. Austin, O.B.E., and various other doctors in the Pacific. After consultation with the Mission Bodies I thought it prudent to permit 25% of the allocations to be used for preventive treatment of leprosy. All Missions expressed their appreciation of this arrangement. One of these Churches expressed themselves thus:

"In our judgment the alteration of your Constitution to include means to prevent or reduce leprosy and other diseases prevalent in the tropics is a wise and statesmanlike move which will greatly facilitate the relief of suffering and the early location of those in the incipient stages of leprosy."

We eagerly looked forward to visiting Tetere. It is situated about 30 miles from Honiara. We have long pressed for such an establishment to be run on the same lines as Makogai. It may surprise members to learn that the British Nation has had control of the British South Solomons for approximately 60 years, and it has mainly been through the efforts of our Board that the Government has at last begun a Leprosarium. During my visit to the Solomons in 1945 I inspected Tetere with Drs. C. J. Austin and A. G. Rutter, and it was then decided that this be the approved site for the Main Solomons Leprosarium. Partly due to the transfer of Colonial Government officials in key positions and the remote control from England, the commencement of this Leper Colony was delayed until 1947. The 1,000 or so leper patients awaiting treatment were still left to wander and spread the disease. During the war Tetere was an American Army camp site. This Station was actually opened in March last with two Nursing Sisters (trained at Makogai) and 24 able-bodied lepers. The idea is to develop gradually. I met many New Zealanders in the Islands, and at Tetere I came across Mr. G. F. Witty, appointed Government Overseer, Mrs. Whitty, and their son Murray. This family has done magnificent work for the lepers and has co-operated in our work.

Owing to the scattered nature of the Solomon Islands, the numerous languages spoken and tribal customs, it is not feasible to think of establishing one hospital for the whole of the Solomons. The Solomon Islander is a different character from the Fijian. He would go "bush" rather than be forced to leave his island. For these and various other reasons the Mission Bodies will always be giving treatment to lepers at their dispensaries or hospitals. Gradually they will endeavour to get the lepers isolated. It took Makogai 38 years to develop from the "Land of the Living Death" to "Peaceful Makogai." The Lepers' Trust, by its Christian spirit, is now endeavouring to help the Missions and other authorities to achieve a similar result in the Solomons. The Missionaries are doing the great bulk of the work, and even in the Government Leper Settlements the staffs are drawn from the Missions.

During my twenty years' service in the cause of the lepers I look upon our Solomon Island work as the biggest achievement of the Lepers' Trust Board. In the past the leper sufferers were out of sight and often out of mind, as far as the authorities were concerned, but this is now a thing of the past.

## A Tribute to the Missionaries in the Solomon Islands

By J. R. P. HOPKINS, (late Lieut. R.N.Z.R.)

This is supplementary rather than a sequel to the article THE BISH . . . A story of Vella Lavella which appeared in the June issue of "THE OPEN DOOR".

After reading the story of Robert C. Gordon, late Lieut. U.S.N.R. it occurred to me that probably few of our readers realise the part played by the New Zealand Navy at and shortly after the American cruiser U.S.S. "Helena" was sunk.

The only British ship attached to the Task Force to which "Helena" belonged was the New Zealand cruiser H.M.N.Z.S. "Leander" and this vessel took "Helena's" place when the latter was lost. "Helena" was torpedoed and sunk on the 6th July, 1943, and in the Second Battle of Kula Gulf on 13th July, "Leander" was the first ship of the Allied fleet to be torpedoed; this with the loss of 28 lives.

It was during the week that "Leander" was at Tulagi patching up the damage sufficiently well to risk the long voyage to Auckland that the "Helena" survivors arrived at Tulagi. The officers of "Helena" were invited to visit "Leander" and half a dozen of them did so. During the course of conversation one of these American officers said in answer to a question of mine "I cannot tell you **how** we escaped from Vella Lavella as we are sworn to secrecy, but I **can** tell you this. We have the natives to thank for saving our lives and their behaviour is due to the marvellous work of the missionaries in these parts."

Those who read the tribute paid to the Rev. A. W. E. Silvester in the 'BISH' article must have felt a glow



Rev. Geo. Thompson with native babies during his chaplaincy in the Solomons.

of pride, just as did we in "Leander's" wardroom at hearing this all embracing tribute to the missionaries in general. It made one feel privileged to be taking part in the freeing of the Solomon Islanders from the yoke of the invaders.

Incidentally these two actions in Kula Gulf removed the threat of the enemy to the Allied landings on the north coast of New Georgia and were decisive in that respect.

FROM THE . . .

### Rev. J. F. Goldie

UNDER DATE AUGUST 10th.

"The 'Rawhiti' arrived here (Gizo) last Friday. This was a great convenience and saved us a trip (perhaps two) to Honiara. The dinghy (a gift from Mr. Geo.

Winstone and carried free by the 'Rawhiti') will be a great acquisition for general purposes."

"The 'Roviana' only got back from Bilua last evening and is leaving for Synod to-morrow. Sunday the 7th was their Thanksgiving Day at Vella Lovella. It was a bad day — high winds and soaking rain, but although many could not come round the coast, there was a fine crowd there and their thanks-giving offering was one of the largest on record for Bilua and should amount to about £600. On the way back to Gizo the Doctor had charge of his fine new boat, the 'Cicely' and was as pleased as Punch when he ran past the 'Roviana'."



Revs. J. F. Goldie and A. W. E. Silvester among the lepers on Vella Lavella. (See opposite page).

"It is blowing great guns and likely to continue for some time. This is the reason we objected to the change in the time of holding the Annual Conference. It necessitates getting our men together for Synod at the most stormy time of the year, and certainly it will be impossible in some years. To gather men scattered over 300 miles of rough sea in small boats will be most inconvenient."

## Busy Days and More Babies at Kekesu

BY SISTER MERLE CARTER.

I have a small visitor in the house at present. Young Mary, aged 19 months manages to negotiate the high steps and crawl around inside. She is a lazy young puss. Last week she stood up without support and off her own bat for the first time. It is high time she was walking. She is certainly a healthy enough specimen now despite her bad start. Young Paul went home at the beginning of June. His parents have wanted him for long enough but he took a long time to pick up after the dysentery which persisted for about six weeks! We hear he is now walking.

This last month I started a proper baby clinic and had 14 small visitors. Among them was a 10 months old baby weighing almost 11 lbs. He was a poor little skeleton and so I asked the mother if she would come and stop at hospital. She chatted away with the other women and eventually one of them said that the mother said I could keep the baby. She handed it over and that was all there was to it. The next moment she was gone and little Paul, two now, occupies a bed in the girls house!!! The girls are not overfond of him as yet but they will be later when he fills out a bit. He is a dear wee chap but a pathetic little one.

We have had a busy time at hospital this past month too. For ages it has been almost impossible to get patients to come in to hospital as earlier in the year we had quite a few deaths from dysentery and a form of 'flu. The people were just too frightened to come in as there was an "evil spirit" around the hospital. However, towards the end of June and in July the Kukurai (No. 1 man of a village) from one village was in with his two wives!! and other retinue and several other patients were in from the same village and that started the ball rolling again. There have been 30 in this month including babies. We hadn't had a maternity case in since January, but this month have had five in ten days. The babes were called Scrivin, Gapper, Winifred, Lucy, and Trevor!!! Winifred's and Lucy's mothers caused us a few anxious hours but they seemed to progress satisfactory until one of them decided yesterday on her 10th day to develop pneumonia! The baby is a bit spotty too unfortunately. Large spreading tropical ulcers too have been the order of the month and several were spreading so rapidly that they had to be scraped. Can't say I like the job but I certainly don't like seeing the sores going for their lives!!

Last Wednesday we had official visitors. Mr. Boisen, the Government Educational Officer for Bougainville-Buka brought Miss McLaughlan the Inspector of the Domestic Branches of C.R.T.S. Schools who had come out from Port Moresby. Mr. Boisen has been a couple of times previously but always for only a couple of hours here. This is the first time our C.R.T.S. work has been inspected. The visit again was only for a matter of a couple of hours. Mr. Boisen went to the school and inspected the boys' work while Miss McLaughlan inspected the girls' work on top here. She was such a nice person—so easy to talk to, and so interested in her work. She says everywhere she goes she wants to stay longer and get to know the girls. She seemed to think we are doing quite a good job of work with the Domestic Training. The girls were all pleased with her visit too and were most responsive to her questions. She saw a couple of their dances and initiated them into a new one which they have been running around working ever since.

Our Friday night Bible Class is progressing quite well. Gloria and I both take a Class and we are just finished with leading the Children of Israel through the wilderness. It is good for us too. Sunday afternoons we have started a Class too for those girls and boys who stay at Kekesu for the week-end. There aren't a great number attending these but it is a help for them. Wednesday night Prayer Meetings too are a means of blessing I am sure and there is little hesitation between the prayers.

What do you think of the names of our babies? Scrivin and Gapper were sleeping together in the one cot for quite a few days but the amazing thing about it was that Gapper was a few ounces heavier than Scrivin!! Winifred has a lovely mop of black curly hair too, while Lucy is a bit spotty at present. Trevor is a fine baby and his mother is very proud of him.

I wish you could see the Church in its present state of completeness. I am sure you would be delighted with it. We are justly proud of it although we see its imperfections. There are plenty of poles that are a long way off the square but it is pretty well impossible I suppose to have a really squared Church with the timber being used and with the natives doing the workmanship.

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## Missionary Exhibitions

Before this appears a full account of the recent United Missionary Exhibition in Dunedin will have been published in the "Methodist Times." We seize this opportunity, however, to pay tribute to the splendid spirit and fine organisation which, with God's guidance and blessing, resulted in a really great achievement. The courts, representative of the Mission Fields of the World, were effective and of considerable educational value, but to our mind the three outstanding features of the Exhibition were:—

1. The whole-hearted co-operation of all the Churches and Societies concerned.
2. The excellent organisation of Missionary Film Sessions that enabled upwards of 7,000 people to see on the screen missionary work in action nearly all over the world.
3. The effective liaison between the Exhibition Committee and the Heads of schools and colleges resulting in well organised and controlled visits of thousands of scholars. This will probably produce the most effective and lasting result.

We have not heard the actual attendance figures but they must have been large, and almost every main evening function had a crowded audience. People attended from as far south as Invercargill, from Cromwell in the centre, and Oamaru in the north, and it may be fairly claimed that the Exhibition was a powerful witness to the effectiveness and further need of Christian Missions.

The Second Auckland United Missionary Exhibition, as announced in our last issue, will be held in the Town Hall on September 28-30, and we commend it to all Auckland readers. We hope to report on it in our next issue.



## Methodist Newspaper for Bougainville—Buka

"Methodist News" is the name of a small newspaper intended to serve the Bougainville-Buka Circuit. It was commenced early this year and is published monthly. It will circulate mainly among the teachers who will pass the news on to their people. All concerned with the editing and publishing are to be congratulated. Following are extracts from the August number:—

Of importance during the month was the return of the "Roviana" from Rabaul, where Mr. Goldie was unable to have the vessel slipped, but was able to get a diver to do the survey work and the necessary re-coppering. On the way she picked up all the cargo for Buin from Sohana, where some of it had been lying for five months.

Amongst the cargo received was the new Gestetner Duplicator, and it is expected that all areas of the Circuit will shortly benefit, for Mr. Carter is planning a campaign of intensive help to teachers.

However, there is no sign yet of some of the essential equipment, and also school requirements, including a large consignment of exercise books. The large type-writer required for duplicating has not yet arrived.

Another Circuit matter is that of repairs to the "Daphne." Mr. Cornwell reports that a start has been made to build a slip at Skotolan. The stripping of the interior of the vessel so that alterations and repairs may be started has been completed. It will be a fine thing for the welfare of our Circuit when our boat is again on the run around Buka, Teop and Buin areas. A good, and permanent boat crew is required, if the "Daphne" is to be really useful.

The commencement of the New Britain-Bougainville Catalina flying boat service fortnightly, makes it wise for us to consider the purchase of 16mm. film projectors. The District Education Officer, Mr. F. N. Boisen, tells me that he is making immediate arrangements for the supply of films from the libraries. It is the intention of the Government Technical School at Buin, to set up a projector, and the films will be available to our Mission and others if we secure the necessary equipment to make visual education a part of our policy. Would not the spending of CRTS subsidies for this purpose be a worthy and justifiable use of such monies? The supply of films mentioned by the District Education Officer as a practical distribution was three to a district every fortnight and they would, of course, be selected films, censored by educational authorities in Port Moresby.

Since the last issue of the "Methodist News," the District Education Officer has paid visits of inspection to the Schools at Koau and Skotolan, and also the CRTS work at both places. His reports of his visit to Skotolan have been received, with his recommendations, but there has not yet been time for his report of Koau to come to hand.

On Tuesday, June 21st, 1949, the school closed up, at 9.15 a.m., and the students were marched, class by class, a mile or more along the beach towards Kihili, from where a good view could be had of the expected first landing, at Kangu Government Station, of the new air service. But to the surprise of everyone, when the plane did come in, it landed right in front of the Mission house at Koau, and upset all arrangements, for it eventually flew off back to Rabaul, without collecting the Buin mail. The Captain of the Catalina, Capt. H. M. Birch, dropped off mooring equipment here at Koau, and said it was intended that this would be the terminal for the present service.

Arrangements were made before the date of the next service, to have the mooring apparatus rigged up, and anchored, and canoes ready for speedy loading and discharge. Two large canoes were lashed together, and a platform built between them. And so on July 5th, everybody was prepared. The District Officer and the Medical Assistant travelled to Koau in state, on the A. V. "Batuna," which was in port at the time. The Koau students were lined up on the beach to form the word "Koau," and the crew and others were very appreciative of the "fine show."

The house and kitchen at Kihili for labour quarters have been completed, and a start made to clear the station. So far, only seven labourers are employed, but others are expected. The two bridges have also been repaired.

The District Education Officer reported to the Superintendent that the school at Petats was in fine shape, and had made progress since his last visit. The school at Masugag was not so good as it used to be, and the teacher was urged to pay more attention to preparation classes. At Tug there was a very fine class of youngsters worthy of special attention. Mr. Boisen expects to visit Saposa.

The first two cane workers, who had spent a month at the Kangu Technical School, Disig and Kopan, have returned to Koau, and begun the practise of "each one teach one," and their places at the Cane Workers' Class at Kangu have been taken by Koto, of Teop, and Kugke, of Buin.

Mrs. Carter has begun several classes in the school, in which hand work of various kinds is used on kindergarten principles. She is assisted by Mrs. Palmer, and native teachers in training. On a recent visit these classes were seen to be very effective.

The Buin Agricultural Station at Toburuai is looking fine now, with the rice flourishing, and coming into ear, and the peanuts and other crops looking at their best. A start has been made to put up some of the necessary buildings. Also during the last week or so, we have been trying out some of our farm implements, disc plows and big swamp discs, with success. The soil is loamy, and works up easily.

Visits from Mono and Fairo Native Chiefs during the month have been made, and we have been glad to help these two outposts of the "Roviana" Circuit with school materials, and Lotu material.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Foreign Mission Treasurers acknowledge with thanks the following donations:

#### LEPER FUND:

Miss Clara Cunninghame	10	0
Mr. G. H. Yearbury	14	19 9
Mr. Bruce Campbell	2	13 0

#### REHABILITATION:

Mr. R. H. Exton	1	1 0
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#### DOCTOR'S BOAT ("Cleely II"):

Receipt 3171	1	0 0
Mr. E. (Receipt 3218)	2	0 0
"Walnuts"	5	0 0

#### LEGACIES:

Estate late A. N. Lucas	50	0 0
Estate late E. A. Dillon	55	0 7
Estate late A. B. C. Wills	4	2 3
Estate late M. J. Elliott	100	0 0

#### MEDICAL FUND:

Pitt Street	14	6
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# WOMEN'S PAGES.

# M.W.M.U.

Methodist Women's  
Missionary Union of  
New Zealand.

12 Hukarere Rd.,  
Napier, N.Z.  
September, 1949.

Dear "Open Door" Friends,

For three years I have been writing to you through the channels of this grand little Missionary magazine, and as I sit down to write, I realise that it will be my last letter through these papers as Dominion President of our M.W.M.U., as the Dominion Executive of our Union changes every three years. What wonderful years these have been to me, full of joy and rich fellowship, I thank God that He has given me this little piece of missionary work to do for Him.

What a wealth of friends I have made as I have travelled up and down New Zealand, meeting with our Auxiliary women, attending their meetings, and giving a word of encouragement. I feel that my life has been enriched by friendships, not only the near and personal kind, but the goodwill and affection of those I have met during my Presidency.

Our Missionary Conference to be held in Blenheim, October 10th to 13th, both days inclusive, looms very close upon our M.W.M.U. horizon, and we are praying and planning that every delegate will go in the Spirit and Consciousness that God will enrich their lives, and give them a deeper sense of His need that all will carry on His work with greater zeal as Ambassadors for Him.

At the close of this Conference there will be the induction of the new Executive, which will move from Napier to Christchurch. Mrs. Hallam has been chosen to the high office of President of the Union, with Mrs. Featherstone as Secretary, and Mrs. Cockerill as Treasurer. We extend a very warm welcome to them, and pray that these officers, and the ones chosen to be members of their Executive will be conscious of God's presence with them as they take up this very important part of our Church work.

There are many enquiries with regard to the result of our "Special Objective"—"Cicely II." Up to the present all monies have not been forwarded to the Dominion Treasurer (Mrs. Bruce), but we are confident that our goal will be realised. Every Auxiliary has made this a special effort, and many novel ways used to raise the money. Lexicon Evenings, Home Dainties Stall and many others. One Auxiliary hit on the very novel idea of a Limerick Evening, the Limerick to be on "Cicely II." Here are three specimens which were sent to me:

"The Cicely' ship has gone over the sea,  
Bearing Christ's banner triumphantly,  
Second of ilk,  
With coconut milk,  
Christened, Commissioned, a blessing to be."

By island and reef and shoal  
'Cicely second' reaches her goal,  
With those who will tend  
And help to mend  
A sick body, or sin-sick soul.

The members of the M.W.M.U.  
Are buying a ship the 'Cicely two,'  
She will ride the blue ocean,  
And fulfil our best notion,  
God's grace is with 'Cicely two.'

Who says we have not talent in our Union? How our hearts have been cheered to know that Miss Joyce McDonald has offered and been accepted as a Teaching Sister for the Solomons. And ere this she will have settled into her work. A beautiful Dedication service was held at Pitt Street Church on Sunday evening, July 31st. At that service Sister Grace McDonald was wished God-speed. We are deeply grateful to her for returning to the Solomons for another period. These two missionaries were able to travel together. What a great year this has been; our hearts have been strangely warmed when we think of the number of new workers who have gone to carry on our Overseas work, and others are offering. Surely God has opened up ways and means for us to extend His Kingdom.

When word came through in July from Skotolan and Kekesu that an epidemic of pneumonic influenza was sweeping through these districts, we were very distressed. At one stage of the epidemic at Skotolan the teacher's house had to be used as a T.B. Ward, then the Sisters' house was taken for an additional Influenza Ward, and the guest house as a Maternity Ward. The treatment meant three hourly injections of penicillin besides sulpha drugs. We extend our grateful thanks to Rev. C. T. J. Luxton, Rev. and Mrs. Cornwell and Margaret, and Usaia Sotutu for their untiring labours for the sick and dying. We are glad to know that the epidemic has passed.

We congratulate Rev. A. J. Seamer in the honour conferred on him by the King in making him a Companion of the most distinguished order of St. Michael and St. George. His outstanding work for the Maori people has merited this great honour.

I close with a prayer—

"God have you in His keeping day and night,  
In the deep darkness, and the noonday bright,  
In joy's glad morning, and in sorrow's hour  
May you all be shielded by His mighty power."

This is my prayer for all readers of the "Open Door" who I count as my friends.

Yours in Missionary Service,  
EMMIE VIRTUE.

## AUXILIARY REPORTS.

### Auckland District Convention, May 30-31st.

Convention opened on Monday evening with tea at 5.30 in Pitt St. Sunday School. This and the evening session which followed were planned for Evening Auxiliaries, all of which were represented. Round the tea-table Sister Nance Davidson gave impressions on a recent visit to Fiji, Tonga and Samoa, where she visited schools, colleges and hospitals and mission work in general. At the business session Dominion President's greeting was received. Then in reply to roll call each

## THE OPEN DOOR

evening Auxiliary gave a report of the year's activities. The President reported that a new Evening Auxiliary had been formed the previous week at Remuera. Guest speaker for this session was Miss Mary Pascoe, Dominion Secretary of the Ramabai Mukti Mission. The evening concluded with a Communion Service in the church conducted by Revs. W. Parker, J. J. Lewis and E. M. Marshall. Next morning at 10.30 a.m. we met again, commencing the day with a hymn and a time of corporate prayer. A letter was received from the organisers of the Pioneer Women's Exhibition in the Town Hall. The President expressed thanks to District Secretary, Mrs. Dixon, and to Sister Edna White for their work in this connection, and to all who helped on the stall. Mrs. Dellow presented the report on Kurahuna School and advised that Sister Madeleine Holland was new matron, and assistant, Miss Joyce Riddick. A long discussion on the holding of biennial conferences ensued until luncheon adjournment, when we were pleased to welcome Sister Madeleine Holland and hear of her work at Kurahuna. Mrs. E. D. Patchett led the afternoon devotional period. Roll call and Auxiliary reports followed. Sister Edna White then, with aid of maps of the Solomons and photographs of the Sisters and Teachers, gave a vivid account of the overseas mission work. The work of the Home Sisters in N.Z. was illustrated by Sister Nance Davidson. In answer to a question as to ways of helping the Sisters, we were told that the need is always for clothes, clothes, and more clothes. Also for homes to be made available in cases of emergency for Maori children and adolescents. A time of fellowship and renewed inspiration concluded with the pronouncing of the benediction.

**Hawke's Bay District Council.** Convention was held in Napier on May 31st. The day opened with Communion Service conducted by Rev. Francis. The morning business session opened in the usual way with president Mrs. Hopper leading the devotion. The call to prayer sent out by Dominion President was read, then roll call taken: Attendance 34, including 6 visitors. Four of the Dominion Executive were welcomed. After the minutes were read, District Secretary reminded us of remits to Conference and asked Auxiliary Secretary to remember the transfer cards when members removed to other districts. The Treasurer reported the income at £121/13/-. Representation at Conference was decided and then a discussion as to the best means of helping the Wairoa ladies with their M.W.M.U. work followed. The Reports from the Auxiliaries in the District were encouraging. In all places the members have worked hard for Special Objective. After preliminary business the afternoon session was given to the hearing about missionary enterprise in other lands, in particular India, Africa and China. A recent letter from Sister Effie Harkness gave news of our own Solomons work, and one from Sister Irene Hobbs told of the Home Mission work among the Maoris. In each case a special little prayer was offered for the people of the land. A very helpful and instructive hour had been enjoyed.

**Wairarapa Convention, May 24th.** Rev. H. White conducted the communion service which commenced our day. Mrs. H. Speight presided over the business sessions. During the morning encouraging reports were read from Eketahuna, Greytown, Carterton and Masterton, each Auxiliary expressing appreciation of Sister Grace MacDonald's visit. The afternoon session was opened with a devotional period in which all present took part. Mrs. Speight then welcomed visitors and read the President's message and call to prayer. Mes-

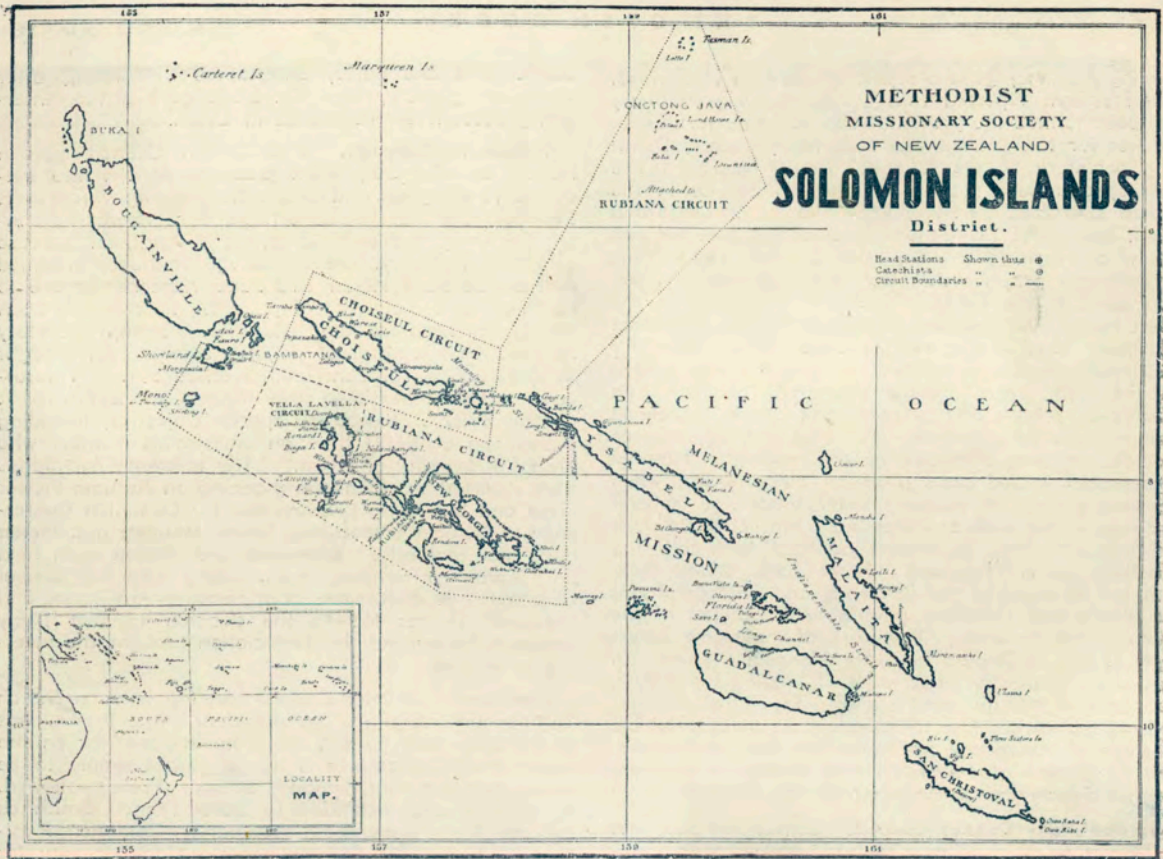
dames Ross and Farley entertained with items, after which our guest speaker Dr. Slade gave a very interesting account of his travels in U.S.A.

**Nelson-Marlborough.** The District Council met in Nelson on May 5th, when president Mrs. White welcomed 15 delegates and opened the meeting with prayer. Reports from the District officers were heard. Gleaner's Secretary had sent 69 letters in April, an increase of 6 since February. Depot manager had been informed that Sisters Ruth Hilder and June Winchcombe are to be this year's recipients of parcels. Parcels had been sent from Moutere and Motueka. Stamp Secretary reported that a total of 17,000 stamps sold brought in £10; one 1d. Centennial realised 5/-. Treasurer's statement revealed the income at £173/18/9. Of this £122/2/6 was for Special Objective, including a donation of £100 from an anonymous member who gives "in memory of Allan." The following Auxiliaries were reported on: **Blenheim** planning an Autumn Flower Show and beginning preparations for Dominion Conference in October. **Motueka, Lower Moutere and Picton** have met regularly. **Richmond and Nelson** each held an "Apron" afternoon, each raising £19 for Special Objective. A discussion about forming Auxiliaries and Gleaners' Groups led to the decision to visit likely groups. Prayer and the benediction brought the meeting to a close.

**Southland.** District Council meeting held on March 16th in Invercargill. The president, Mrs. Brown, was in the chair and gave a short opening address on the theme that Christianity is not a gospel simply to be heard, but one that demands action. Prayer followed. A welcome was extended to Sister Francis Smith as delegate from Invercargill Auxiliary. Dominion President's message for Conventions stressing necessity for prayer, and a letter from Sister Eva Saunders, were read. Parcels this year are to be sent to Sister Betty Yearbury. Mrs. Brown reported the change in Invercargill Auxiliaries. Central Church and St. Peter's now hold separate afternoon meetings, St. Peter's continuing the Evening Auxiliary as well. The Treasurer's balance sheet revealed the following items: **Riverton** (result of sale), £23/13/4; **Tuataperi**, £15; **Bluff**, £6/5/9; **Gore**, £5/7/8; **Invercargill** afternoon, £51; **Evening**, £7/13/2. In the afternoon Rev. Thornley conducted a Communion Service. Sister Francis Smith gave a talk on her work at Deaconess House, ending with an appeal for groups. Prayer brought a successful day to its close.



Sister Grace McDonald who has recently returned to the Field.



METHODIST  
MISSIONARY SOCIETY  
OF NEW ZEALAND.

# SOLOMON ISLANDS

District.

Head Stations Shown thus ●  
Circuit Boundaries .. .. .

## Missionaries' Addresses

- Rev. J. F. Goldie, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- 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, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. Trevor Shepherd, Teop, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Rev. A. H. Hall, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Rev. G. A. R. Cornwell, Buka Passage, New Guinea.
- Dr. G. E. Hoult, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Bruce Cole, Roviana, Solomon Islands.
- Mr. Geo. G. Carter, M.A., Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.
- Mr. C. D. R. Palmer, Buin, South Bougainville, New Guinea.

- Mr. Grenville Voyce, c/o Rev. A. H. Voyce, South Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Lina Jones, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Grace McDonald, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Effie Harkness, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Winifred Poole, Buka Passage, Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Merle Carter, Buka Passage, Bougainville, Territory of New Guinea.
- Sister Lucy Money, Choiseul, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Eva Saunders, Roviana, New Georgia, British Solomon Islands.
- Sister Joyce McDonald, Vella Lavella, British Solomon Islands.

ADD "METHODIST MISSION" IN EVERY CASE.

### "THE OPEN DOOR"

Editor: Rev. A. H. SCRIVIN,  
Probert Chambers,  
Queen Street, Auckland.

Copies are supplied by appointed agents in the Circuits at 1/- per annum, single copies posted at 1/3 per annum.

Orders and remittances to be sent to  
Rev. A. BLAKEMORE,  
P.O. Box 23W,  
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Editor: Rev. A. A. BENSLEY,  
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is supplied quarterly, and is supplied to Sunday Schools in fives or any multiple of five, at the rate of £2 per 100 per annum. Single copies 1/- per annum; posted 1/3.