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INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE TAKE CARE OF HIM AND



T UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST WHATSOEVER THOU

OF THESE MY BRETHREN SPENDEST MORE WHEN

YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO I COME AGAIN I WILL

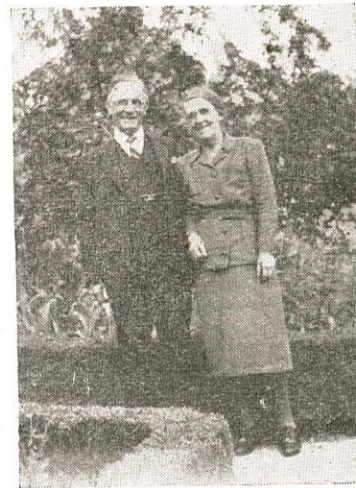
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1948



## THE CHILDREN'S HOME LINKS.

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The Founder and his wife, Pastor and Mrs. Herbert White, photographed in the garden of "The Grove," Tiptree.

Pastor White is celebrating his 70th birthday this coming October and both he and Mrs. White would be delighted to see as many of the "Old Boys and Girls" as possible at the Re-union on the 16th of that month. It will be with great praise and thanksgiving in their hearts that they will be able to look back on the past 50 years of service—set apart for helping others. Jehovah Jireh; this has been their real experience.



# THE CHILDREN'S FOUNDED

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*Headquarters:*

8-26, Crescent Road,  
South Woodford, E.18.  
Phone: BUCKhurst 2702.

HONORARY WORKERS:

Pastor HERBERT W. WHITE, Director  
Mrs. HERBERT W. WHITE  
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. WHITE  
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. J. WHITE  
Mr. and Mrs. V. J. WHITE  
Miss W. CAPLIN (Sister Winnie)  
Miss L. DOWSETT (Sister Joan)  
Miss L. EVANS (Sister Lily)  
Miss D. HAMMOND (Sister Anne)  
Miss E. HARRIS (Sister Eileen)  
Miss B. HIBBERD (Sister Beryl)  
Miss G. RUNACRES (Sister Mary)

*Hon. Medical Officers:*

Dr. DAVID H. SMITH, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)  
Dr. W. ERIC MATHIE, M.B., Ch.B.  
Dr. CAREY BAKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Hon. Dental Surgeon:*

Mr. STEPHEN H. SMITH, L.D.S., R.C.S.

*Hon. Chiropodist:*

Miss DOROTHY M. HAWKEY, M.S.S.Ch., L.Ch.

*Hon. Box Secretary:*

Mr. W. PARKER

*Hon. Auditors:*

Messrs. FRANCIS NICHOLLS, WHITE & CO.

# HOME AND MISSION. 1899.

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*Branch and Farm:*

Church Road, Tiptree,  
Colchester.  
Phone: Tiptree 113.

TRUSTEES:

A. E. Evans, Esq.	Mrs. E. C. L. Roberts.
D. J. Hutton, Esq.	F. C. Stark, Esq.
Victor G. Levett, Esq.	J. R. Stark, Esq.
Miss E. K. Marsh.	James Stokes, Esq.
Rev. K. C. Parkinson, M.A.	W. A. Warwick, Esq.
F. J. Pollard, Esq.	Pastor and Mrs. Herbert W. White.

WORKING PARTIES:

(Voluntarily Inaugurated).

Shoeburyness Gospel Hall  
Ashley Hall, St. Albans  
Old Independent Church, Haverhill  
Tebworth Road Mission Hall, Tottenham  
Alexander Hall, Westcliff  
Latimer Hall, East Ham  
Fulbridge Hall, Maldon.

BOOT FUND:

(Secretaries).

Shoeburyness: Miss Terry, 94 High Street, Shoeburyness.

*Bankers:*

MIDLAND BANK, LTD.





Christmas, 1947.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

What inspiring Meetings we had on 8th May, "Our Day"—the 48th Annual Gatherings. The Woodford Baptist Church (kindly lent) was not only filled, but overflowing, with a loud speaker in the Schoolroom to accommodate friends who could not get into the Church. Splendid messages, full of inspiration both by speech and song, and all present realised the "Holy Spirit working." You can, perhaps, imagine what a day like this means to us, the Workers, some of whom have been labouring for the Lord from one to sixteen years, and my wife and I for over 48 years. "Our Birthday Fellowship" is not only an impetus to the Staff, but even more important, brings Glory to God as this great company of "Prayer Partners" meet to praise Him from whom all blessings flow.

"Whoso offereth praise Glorifieth Me."

Then, too, many of our old Boys and Girls turned up and were indeed happy to be with us once again, some having left the Home forty years ago. This gave us great cheer.

We hope all were pleased with the change we made in the style of our Links and we are hoping that they will be even better this year.

Our Annual Report reminds you that the Work of the Evangelical Free Church Abridge, is still being maintained in all its departments, and Mission Work in many parts of the country is not overlooked. Please especially pray for the Abridge Work—there is much to be done and there are great possibilities!

We have visited many places during the Year (as shown on the diagrams), some more than once and have often conducted three meetings on the Sunday. Who can measure such a work as this?

PLEASE BOOK OUR 49th ANNUAL (D.V.) FOR 7th MAY, 1949, at 3 and 7 p.m., TEA BETWEEN—encourage us by much prayer and your presence with friends.

H.W.W.

## "OUR DAY" THE 48th ANNUAL GATHERINGS.

What a wonderful time was experienced by all who gathered in the Woodford Baptist Church on 8th May, 1948, to celebrate the 48th Birthday of the Children's Home and Mission of Woodford and Tiptree!

The happy sincere Spiritual atmosphere of both Meetings gave much encouragement to those responsible for the Work. The children were again present and obviously thrilled at being able to join in such enthusiastic Meetings. They sang and also recited passages of Scripture—this was greatly appreciated.

## AFTERNOON MEETING.

Dr. David Smith opened the meeting with prayer and reading of Scripture.

PASTOR HERBERT WHITE gave the following Annual Report.

OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL! Let us praise HIM for gathering us together on this our 48th Annual to record our gratitude for His grace and goodness to us-ward. We are glad to welcome you all to "OUR DAY," and your coming is a strength to us as we realise you are Prayer Partners in this His Work.

We take this opportunity of thanking the Pastor and Officers of this Church for enabling us to hold our Birthday Meetings here and also the Members of the Church for the time given in preparing tea for today. I should like to mention that this Church has suffered a great loss during the year by the "home-call" of the late Secretary, Mr. Fred Stephens. He was a man called of God, a tremendous worker, a real friend of the Children's Home and Mission and our Abridge Church—we thank God for every remembrance of him.

It is a great pleasure to welcome our Chairman this afternoon—Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor, Principal of "All Nations' Bible College" and Commissioner of the F.I.E.C., and a friend of ours before the first world war. He was one of the Trustees of the Mount Hermon Girls' Home which was merged into this Work just over a year ago.

It really is delightful to have as the Speaker this afternoon, Dr. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones of Westminster Chapel. This is not the first time we have invited Dr. Lloyd-Jones, but it is the first time that we shall have the pleasure of listening to him at our Birthday Party. Thank you for coming, Sir—we believe you have the message from God. May this prove to be a mighty urge, during the coming year, to all present.

Our Soloist today needs no introduction as he is the son of our dear Doctor, the late Dr. F. A. Martin Flegg. We should like to congratulate Mr. Bruce Flegg on his appointment, since last we met, as assistant Director of Music to the British Council. May you be a great influence in this new sphere. We also thank Miss Greta Parkinson, the accompanist; Miss Elizabeth Geary, organist; and our good friend Mr. F. W. Whitford who is conducting our choir.

IS IT WORTH WHILE?—Apart from the fact of proving God, are the children really being helped? After 48 years in this Work we are often confronted with this kind of query. Did you see in the paper the other day the report given in London to the British Council of Churches to the effect that many Army recruits



of 18 years of age cannot even say the Lord's Prayer, and others do not know what happened on the first Good Friday? Some of the young men were asked to relate the story of Good Friday—after a silence, one lad ventured "As far as I remember, Good Friday was a sort of batman to Robinson Crusoe." The lack of home life and the family altar, lost interest in Sunday Schools, desecration of God's Day by the opening of cinemas, etc., etc. bring about this appalling ignorance of the things of God. Only this week I received a letter telling of the state of Europe today—which says—"There are something like 30 millions of destitute children crying for help. Children whose spiritual hunger is met, if at all, by a compulsory creed that rejects God and worships a worldly State, bringing into subjection anything and anyone reaching for the Highest.

Is not the Power of God through Jesus Christ the one answer both to the desperate and urgent need of the little ones, and the mighty weapon through which Satan is destroyed. The same open child mind and heart that accepts false doctrine and training would expand equally more to a glorious revelation of Christ as Saviour, Redeemer and King to be served.

To reach the children in these days of complication is proving a hard battle in itself, and obstacles are to be found the whole of the way. But if we ignore the situation as God has shown to us, what then? We must go forward in His Name, to reach hearts hungry and pleading for the Word of Life. Added to this, in our own country there are thousands in like need, and for whom we must fight.

Certainly we feel more convinced than ever that our Work is to bring God to the children and the children to God, through Christ. Nothing but the Gospel and faith in Christ can change hearts and characters and we are very happy to report that during the past year several boys and girls have received Christ and are now witnessing for Him. Our children are keen to learn the Word of God, which alone is able to make them wise unto salvation. We have just celebrated our first Birthday as a Branch of the Young Sowers' League (Bible Searchers). Three children have won lovely Bibles for answering 600 Bible Questions correctly; fourteen children Certificates for answering 80 questions on the Gospels and six have won New Testaments for answering one question on each chapter in the New Testament.

A very interesting piece of news for you and our children is that the Scripture Examination results are to hand—three have passed with honours; 12 with first class certificates; eight with second class certificates and three with third class certificates, making a total of 26 passes out of 29 who entered. This is the first time these children have taken the examination and, pleased though we are with the results, we hope they will be even better next year.

A friend kindly supplies each child with the Scripture Union Junior Notes and C.S.S.M. Magazines. These are a great help and much appreciated.

We have prayers every day, morning and evening, and on Sundays—Sunday School taken by the Staff. Occasionally outside speakers come and we have Open School. Our Woodford children generally attend the Baptist Church here, and quite often enjoy visits to the Latchett Hall, whilst the Tiptree children attend the Congregational Church and our Senior Boys there go to the Brotherhood Meeting in the afternoon. Often after the Evening Service the Staff and Senior children enjoy an hour's Hymn Singing.

Special Services during the week are not overlooked. The Staff and children are always keen to go to these, sometimes travelling quite a distance. On many occasions the children take part, both in singing and

recitation. Some memorable meetings have been held, such as the Harvest weeknight Meeting at the Kentish Town Mission. We travelled by coach and a large enthusiastic company gathered and appeared to enjoy the children's messages in song. At the Central Baptist Church Stratford, Cambridge Hall Enfield, Harold Park Baptist Church, and other places the children sang and we have reason to believe much blessing resulted.

A friend recently took 15 children to the Albert Hall and they much enjoyed a Campaign Meeting.

From the foregoing you can well imagine there is, throughout the whole year, much spiritual activity, all helping to mould the character of the child.

At Tiptree and Woodford the Staff meet for prayers every morning at 8.45, and on the second Friday in each month we invite friends to a special Prayer and Praise Meeting at 3 p.m. We have room for 400 in our hall at Crescent Road. Wouldn't it be fine to see this full? Much prayer is needed—"Prayer changes things."

Regarding the everyday education of the children, we are pleased to report that one girl attends the South West Essex Technical College and another the Woodford County High School, whilst the remainder go to the local Primary and Modern Secondary Schools. Some are doing very well and a few this year sat for the Scholarship Examination. We are awaiting the results. Three of our lads at Tiptree and one girl at Woodford are learning to play musical instruments. Stamp collecting is the chief hobby of the boys at the moment. We usually hold a "Stamp Evening" each week where all who are "Members of the Stamp Club" get together to compare "notes."

**Recreation and Sport.** We now have a netball court and during the year the girls have played a number of teams from Highams Park, Ilford, and Abridge, and on the whole had a very successful first year of competitive netball. Rounders will be the game for the girls during the summer and we hope they will have another happy and successful season.

The boys are not idle under this heading. When you think of boys you think of football. We managed to procure a ground on the Ashton Playing Fields each Saturday morning, free of charge (for which we are very thankful) and our lads, sometimes combining with the lads of our Abridge Church, played many games throughout the season and really did very well. Cricket, of course, will be the order of the day now, as most of the lads are keen to be chosen to play at Lords one day!

For a period during the year the boys enjoyed Physical Training on Friday Evenings, and we are hoping to be able to commence a P.T. Class for the girls. As, no doubt you recall, these were going well up to the outbreak of War.

Last Easter we arranged Sports—an interhouse competition between Dobbie and Nelson Houses—and after an afternoon of much excitement—Dobbie House won by two points.

This House System commenced at our Woodford Headquarters on 1st May last year. We are just now working out the points lost and won during the year to find out the winning House. One of our old boys kindly gave a donation towards a trophy for the cock House. The Staff and children are divided into two Houses. Points can be gained by each child, no matter how small, for politeness, punctuality, helpfulness, etc., creating a competitive spirit amongst the children, and, may I say, Staff too!

**Holidays and Excursions.** Last August all the children residing at Woodford, first girls, then boys, spent two weeks at Tiptree and we had several excursions from there to Thorpe Bay, Walton-on-Naze and other places. During the year there have been outings to Colchester, Valentines



Park, London Zoo, Kensington and British Museums, Tower of London, and rambling in Epping Forest. We are quite sure the children enjoyed all these outings.

**Parties.** Under this heading we praise God for hearts He has touched to help us with these:—Tiptree Congregational Church Sunday School; Cambridge Hall Enfield; St. Mary's Parish Church Woodford; Croyland Gospel Hall Edmonton; Grantham Gospel Mission Manor Park; and the Highams Park Methodist Church each gave our children a very happy time. The Young People connected with our Abridge Church Clubs gave a party to the children here at Woodford. Two lady friends, known to us for many years, as the "Aunties" of the children, remember each girl's birthday with a gift and also arrange competitions and give prizes during the year. They have also given two splendid parties at Woodford and Tiptree. We are indeed indebted to these two "Prayer Partners," who so faithfully let their prayers crystalise into action. How they manage to do all this on top of their own growing Sunday School and their daily work in the Civil Service is certainly wonderful.

Our Re-union Meeting, first since the war, on 18th October last, was a great success. Between 70 and 80 old girls and boys turned up. We had a very happy imte—it was most interesting to see what joy it gave to all to meet one another after so many years of separation. One was present from West Perth, Australia, after 20 years; two came from the Isle of Wight, some from Ipswich, and so on. The Senior lads from Tiptree gave an amusing "Modern Version" of Dicken's "Christmas Carol" centred around that unforgettable character, Old Scrooge.

We closed the re-union with our usual Family Prayers and it brought many wonderful memories to mind and thrilled our hearts—truly "Bread cast upon the waters shall return after many days."

At Christmas, God wonderfully supplied our needs for the 48th time. Special prayer was offered throughout December for turkeys and during the Christmas week we received four turkeys from different places. Toys too, might have been a problem, but again in answer to prayer, many hearts were touched to send in some splendid gifts. One of our old boys, married, with children of his own and working in Gloucester Place, several doors from a toy shop was told by the proprietress of same, that she was sending toys to an orphanage. He mentioned that he was brought up in a home at Woodford with his sister and two brothers. The outcome of the conversation was that they contacted us, we were asked to call with a car, the back of which they filled with splendid toys—all new.

Christmas was indeed a Family Gathering—some of the old children came "home," friends popped in to see us and most important of all, from the children's point of view, Father Christmas came with a special present for each Member of this large family.

We started the year with 64 children, 19 have been added and 12 have left, making 71 in residence and bringing the total of children helped since the start to 704.

We have much evidence in many letters received from our old boys and girls that the teaching received whilst with us is bearing fruit. Only a few Sundays ago, a boy aged 18 was baptised at the High Road, Ilford, Baptist Church, and a girl, 17 years, baptised here.

Let me quote some letters received from some of our old children:—

*From one of our old girls:—*

Just a line to say how I enjoyed the Annual Meetings. It was lovely to see you all again. I don't forget you in my prayers. I know what a lot more there is to do now that you have Woodford repaired and are

gradually filling it with children who need care and whenever I think about the Home I remember those words "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of" and now that I have left you nearly two years I realise the meaning of it more each day. Goodnight—fondest love.

*From another girl:—*

I've been thinking rather a lot lately about the Annual. Would it be possible for me to come to you for the week-end as I am longing to see every one of you again. Am praying for a fine day with large gatherings. Fondest love to yourselves and the children.

*An old boy writes:—*

Congratulations on your 69th birthday. I sincerely pray that God will bless you in the work amongst the children and give you strength for many years to come. I hope to see you live to a century should the Lord tarry, but I think the time is very near when He shall come. Am praying that I may be able to see you next Saturday. It will be good fun to meet some of our mates who used to be with us when at Woodford and Tiptree. It ought to be one of the happiest days of your life to see so many of your sons, daughters and grandchildren. God bless you and your wife and best regards to the workers. "As thy day so shall thy strength be."

*From an old girl:—*

I am writing to know if I can come home for Boxing Day. Have missed coming home for some years, but hope now you are back at Woodford to come more often. I did enjoy the 18th. It was so lovely to be back in the dear old home and meet so many of the old ones. Thank all who helped to give us such a happy time. I thought how lovely it was for you both to see your children so happy in the Lord's work and I pray God will use my children in His service as they get older. May God send all you need to give the children a happy Christmas. Still praying for you. Love from an old girl.

*From another:—*

You will think I have quite forgotten you during Xmas. I thought of you all enjoying yourselves and wished I could have been with you, but as you can guess I was kept very busy with my own family and all had a very happy time. Thank you for Links—the photos are lovely, the children look marvellously well and happy and always bring back memories. I was so pleased to be with you at the Re-union party. I felt very dismayed that no one gave a vote of thanks to you, but please forgive us. We were almost too full for words, in fact it seemed as if time had not passed at all. We were all children again and you were taking prayers. It was grand seeing everyone again and you both looking so well and very little changed after all the years of trials. Many thanks my dears for giving us such an opportunity to meet. Shall look forward to seeing you again in the near future. With love.

*From another:—*

I attended your 47th Annual Meetings on Saturday and wish to thank you for one of the happiest days that I have experienced for years. I am ashamed to say it must be 26 years since I visited Woodford. I felt rather like the Prodigal Son. After leaving you, one seems to be caught up in the very earnest business of earning a living and that seems to take up



the whole of one's time . . . I stood with my daughter in the same pew we used as children and cried openly whilst joining in the hymns again. My daughter is a clerk in the Midland Bank and so consequently very interested in your little book. Thank you a thousand times for all the help you gave to myself, brother and sister when we needed it most. They are both doing well. Thanking you again.

*From the old girl from Australia who was with us here last year:—*

Just a line to say my sister and I hope to be with you on Boxing Day. It does not look as though I shall be back for Xmas. However I have had a wonderful holiday with you all and shall have lovely memories to take back with me. I can only say "Thank You" to you all. Shall look forward to seeing you at Xmas and pray that God will supply all your needs. Love and best wishes from one of your old girls.

*From one of the boys:—*

Thank you for what you have done for me during the past ten years. Sorry I did not write earlier. I am working on a 400 acre farm and getting on very well. We are getting a week off at Christmas and should like to come back to see you. I trust it will be all right. Good-bye and God bless you and thanking you.

I would like here to say "Thank you" to our Medical Officers—Dr. D. H. Smith, Dr. W. Eric Mathie and Dr. Carey Baker for their unselfish and splendid assistance throughout another year. We do thank God for all the valuable help—of knowledge and skill given and time spent caring with us for the little ones.

Our Hon. Dental Surgeon, the children's friend, Mr. Stephen H. Smith, Miss Hawkey, our Hon. Chiropodist; and Mr. W. Parker, our Box Secretary, have all helped tremendously. We are indeed indebted to them for their kindness.

Regarding the financial position of the Work, I am very happy to give the following details:—

We had a balance last year in the Tiptree Forward Move Account of £1,750. Since then we have received a further £496 9s. 2d. bringing this total to £2,246 9s. 2d. which is on Deposit.

Another very interesting item—you remember I referred last year to a letter I received from the Rev. E. J. Poole Connor which came, I think, two years ago last October, asking if he could bring a friend to see me. This friend, Mr. Golden and he, both Trustees of the Mount Hermon Girls' Home, asked if we would consider merging their Work with ours, and if we would receive the girls, they would give us lock, stock and barrell. After much prayer and consideration, this was agreed to as both sides were praying, and believe guided by the Lord. The children arrived last January 12 month, together with furniture, etc., and this year we have received £4,860 18s. 5d. as a final result. This amount, less £25 for Lawyers' expenses has also been placed on Deposit for the Forward Move—making our present total under this heading £7,082 7s. 7d.

With regard to our General Account we carried over a balance of £2,300 5s. 0d. We have issued just over 1,200 receipts amounting to £4,744 6s. 6d. Our payments have been £6,716 8s. 4d. and this shows excess of payments over income of £1,972 1s. 10d. This now leaves a balance on the general account of £328 3s. 2d. with which to start our new year. The balance on the general account, therefore, is £2,000 less than last year. In spite of this it has been a wonderful year from the financial point of view, in that we have received the largest amount ever. We should just point out here that the increased expenditure has been due

mainly to the reopening of the Woodford premises and war damage repairs. As I end this part of the report—(I shall continue this evening)—one feels bound to say after considering the Lord's dealings with us during the past year, "I will bless the Lord at all times, His Praise shall continually be in my mouth." We would say to all present "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good, blessed is the man that trusteth in Him."

Our blessed Lord loves us to simply trust Him for He is a living bright reality. Yes, we KNOW that "our Redeemer liveth" and join with the Apostle who said, "I know in Whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that Day." We know Him and the power of His resurrection.

I came across these words the other day written by the late Mrs. Florence L. Barclay—she was a great friend of this Work—let me read them to you.

The blessings you receive must all be transmuted into blessings which you render.

If the glory of God has touched your life, gilding it with eternal splendour, that life must be lived to His glory.

If His Peace has filled your soul, taking away all guilty fears, all dread of death, all terror of the Judgment Day—if He has made peace for you by the blood of His cross—then so far as in you lies, you must live peaceably with all men—pass on your peace.

If His Good-will towards you has smoothed life's rough places, leading you into green pastures and beside the waters of comfort—then you, by an attitude of unfailing Good-will to others, must smooth their daily path and help to make life easy.

With all the uncertainty and chaos of today—this is certain—Christ died to save, He lives to keep, and one day, we feel soon, is coming to claim His Own.

Do we *here* all know Him ?

Are we "proving Him now herewith?"

Are we living in the light of His coming ?

May He be glorified through this Meeting.

The Rev. E. J. POOLE-CONNOR (Chairman) said:—

I count it a privilege to take part once again in this gathering. I have a very high regard for my friend, Mr. Herbert White, and for the great work in which he and his fellow labourers are engaged. I am thankful that, as you have heard, I have had some small opportunity of giving practical effect of the esteem in which I hold this work. I had the somewhat melancholy privilege of being the Senior Trustee of a small Orphanage at Sevenoaks, and when the time came for us to think that it would be better to merge it in some larger and possibly some more permanent Institution, I felt that none would so meet our need as would that of which my dear friend Mr. Herbert White, is the Founder and Director. I and my fellow-trustees were concerned not only to find an Orphanage where the work would be carried on wisely and in a business-like way, but we were very anxious to maintain the evangelical tone of our work; and so in God's Providence we were able in due course to come to terms, and the Sevenoaks work was merged in this larger work here. I am very thankful to hear this afternoon that we are able to hand over to you in the end something over four thousand pounds. We are grateful to God and to you that you have received the children, and grateful to God that we were able to give that little help.

I think if I were asked to describe this work I should use a somewhat hackneyed phrase and say that the three great Christian graces characterise



it. It is a work of faith. For many years now my dear friend was persuaded that this was God's plan for him, and as time has passed he has proved increasingly the faithfulness of God and the reliability of His Holy Word; but faith is constantly needed.

It is a work of hope. We are looking forward to the lives of the children in days to come. A man was converted to faith in Christ in his latter years and when he was congratulated by a friend he said a little sadly, "Yes, I have saved my soul, but I have lost my life." We want that these children's lives should be saved as well as their souls; and who knows what potentialities for the future lie in every young life that is before us today?

Then it is a work that is carried on in the spirit of love; not mere emotion, but that strong, steady, practical love that leads men and women to devote their lives to doing good and glorifying God.

May God abundantly bless you, my dear friend Mr. White, and you who work with him!

Dr. DAVID SMITH gave the Medical Report:—

Most of the work has been done this year—the medical work by my partners, Dr. Mathie and Dr. Baker, but this afternoon they are smitten with shyness and have asked me to give the Report.

I think they have done a good job, judging by the friends on my left. I occasionally look in at the Home just to keep in touch with my young pals, but I have not seen so much of them as my partners. They tell me that there have been about the average number of colds and the usual complications of colds, that there were several cases of inflammation of the ears, but there were several cases, too, you may remember, during the past winter, with the general public. We have had several cases, too, of tonsillitis. One boy—a case of rheumatic fever which continually recurred; he is now in hospital and we trust he may soon be quite well again. One child had tubercular glands but we are glad to say they are completely healed and she has now returned home to her parents. There were just a few cases, I understand, of a non-infectious skin disease, otherwise we have had a winter peculiarly free from epidemics, for which we are very grateful.

I would like to say that our work is made easier because Mr. White, and his sons too, and their helpers, believe in the maxim that "it is better to be safe than sorry." They usually send in good time, for which we are glad; we would rather go more times for minor things than have to be called in for something really grave which has been neglected. Also I would like to say we do owe a great debt to the Workers, and particularly the Nursing Section of the Workers who help us in caring for the children, they give us faithfully their reports when we come round so that we are able to do our best for the children.

We are grateful, all of us, for the privilege of this little service that we do year by year.

Dr. D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES:—

Mr. Chairman, Mr. White and Christian Friends,

I feel it is really for me to thank you for giving me the opportunity and the privilege of joining with you this afternoon in this most interesting and important anniversary. Mr. White has said that this is not the first time I have been asked, and that is perfectly true; but hitherto I have not been able to come—not that I didn't want to come but that he had been anticipated on previous occasions by somebody else. I have heard of this

work now for several years and, ever since I first heard of it, it has been my desire to come and see something of it for myself. I have listened this afternoon with the greatest possible interest to that magnificent report that Mr. White gave to us; and for myself I would wish that I had been the Chairman instead of Mr. Poole-Connor so that I could have manipulated the time and have spared you this address from myself.

I feel that it is an occasion when all of us who are interested in this kind of work should come together to listen and to learn. We certainly all feel the mighty challenge of a work like this; it is indeed a very real privilege thus to be amongst you.

Now all I am going to try to do, briefly, is to say a word which may be—not a word of encouragement, it is not for me to bring any word of encouragement to Mr. White and his co-workers—but a word which perhaps will confirm what is being done here, and all the ideas with respect to this work. At the same time, perhaps, I shall say just a word in passing to the children whom we are so glad to see, and to whom we have listened with joy as they have rendered to us these songs. It seemed to me that there was an incident in the Old Testament which could do both these things at one and the same time. It is a very familiar incident. Let me read to you just some three or four verses out of the Second Book of Kings, the fifth chapter, starting at the first verse:—

"Now Naamaan, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria; he was also a mighty man in valour; but he was a leper.

And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy.

And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and Thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel."

Now you all remember the story perfectly well; you remember how, as the result of what was said by this little girl who was acting as a maid to Naaman's wife, arrangements were eventually made for Naaman to go along to Elisha, a Prophet of the Lord, and how, as the result of the instructions given to him by Elisha, Naaman was healed and cured and delivered completely free from that terrible disease of leprosy from which he was suffering. But I am not going to talk about Naaman, neither am I going to talk about Elisha; I am going to talk about this little girl who to me, is really a most important character in this episode. It is by looking at her that we can learn some of the really important lessons that are taught us by this incident. Here is the picture. These Syrians had attacked the land of Israel, that portion of it there up in Samaria; they sent out their troops in companies and there they destroyed the fighting people, and took captive with them men, women and children. And amongst the captives was this little girl. Here she is taken captive, taken from her home, from her friends and family, carried away; and there she is behaving more or less as a little slave to the wife of the man who was most responsible for her captivity. Fate seemed to have been very cruel to her, everything seemed to have gone against her; yet, as you see, and as we all remember—it is one of the most glorious incidents in the whole of Scripture—what appeared to be so hopeless ends as something wonderful and triumphant.

Now there, it seemed to me, is a message which is not at all inappropriate for us this afternoon as we consider together the mighty work that



is being done in this Home and in this Mission. Let me try to concentrate my remarks by putting the message to you in the form of three big principles. Let us look for a second at what this incident has to tell us about the Glory of God and God's ways. Now this, of course, is the greatest lesson of all. There is perhaps no problem that one hears of quite so frequently as this problem that has agitated the minds of people—Why does God allow certain things to happen? Why is there so much unhappiness in life? Why do some people have to suffer so much? Why is it that some people in this world seem to be so unfortunate, things seem to go against them always and they seem to be destined to hardships and tribulations which the majority of people are never called upon to undergo? That, I think you will agree, is a very common question, and it must be a question that is in the minds of many of us here this afternoon. Why should the innocent suffer? Why should some children seem to be denied certain things in life which most of us have shared and have enjoyed? You cannot look at work like this without immediately asking that question. Why do these kind of things happen?

Well now, I cannot deal with that subject, which is a very vast and great subject, in a few words like this; but I can at any rate remind you of certain things which we are told with regard to that particular problem in this incident about this little girl. Let me then answer the question by reminding you of what we are told here of the marvel of God's ways. You see it is made very plain and clear here that God permits and allows certain things to take place in order that He may manifest His Glory through them, and bring good to pass out of evil. You look at this little girl who was captured by the army of this great man Naaman, and at first you are tempted to say, Surely, there can be no good in that. Well now, that is the short-sighted view. According to the Bible there is a purpose even in that. No one is insignificant in his relationship to God; and out of the capture and captivity of this little girl God eventually produced the healing of Naaman himself and that mighty testimony in the land to which Naaman belonged. The whole attention of Syria is turned in the direction of God as a result of this incident, and the key person in the whole of the incident is just this little girl.

Now I could, of course, have told you of many similar incidents in the Old Testament. Take the case of Joseph and his brothers for instance. It seems quite unjust. There is apparently no good in it; and yet, because God is in it, you see the purpose of it all. God permits certain things because ultimately He is going to use them. God can turn these incidents, which seem to us to be so hopeless, to ultimate manifestation of His Own plan. We must always bear that in mind. Here is something marvellous; He produces good out of apparent hopeless evil. He did so here and He has continued to do so throughout the centuries.

But let me say a word also about what I would call the "Romance of God's ways." This is one of the most fascinating things about any work which is done under God. When you are working for God, and when you are preaching the Gospel in any shape or form, this romantic element always comes in. You never know what is going to happen; you never know what is going to take place, nor when it is going to take place, nor through whom it is going to take place. Who, for a moment, would have imagined that an insignificant little girl like this—one of thousands of little girls in that land of Samaria—who would ever have thought that she could have done anything? And yet, in a sense, she did everything, she did the vital thing. Well, God does that sort of thing. Again you can think of numerous instances of the same thing as you go through the pages of Scripture. I feel sometimes that one could not continue with the work of God were it not for the romantic element that is in it. The last person you would expect to be converted is sometimes the very first; cases dismissed by the world as being beyond hope are to be found

as saints in the Christian Church. Take the classic instance of Philemon in the New Testament. There is Paul, rather old; and he is lonely in prison. He probably said to himself, "Well, my days are absolutely finished, what can a man do in prison? Here am I without any opportunities." And yet it was in prison that he obtained that convert Onesimus. The Gospel is full of that sort of thing; and here in this kind of work done by Mr. White and his helpers that kind of romantic element is constantly manifesting itself. When, as I say, you work under God, and for God, you never know what you are doing. You may think your work is insignificant. "It is only a child," you say, and yet in God's Hands a child can confound the authorities! Well that comes out in this very incident. If you want a theological statement of all this you will get it in the first chapter of Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians: "When the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." And then he goes on to say how God confounds the wise by the foolish, the great by the insignificant, and even takes the things that are not to bring to nought the things that are.

Let me make just one other point under this heading, and that is, the majesty of God's ways. See how that stands out in this instance. Don't you notice how in this matter God humbles everybody else? Am I going too far if I suggest God even ridiculed everybody else? There is a wonderful element of Divine humour in this story. Here is this great man, in himself a favourite with his master, the greatest in the land next to the king. He could not be greater, yet he is a leper and it spoils everything. All the physicians in those days corresponding to Dr. Smith and his partners had been called in and had done their best. They had made a diagnosis, but it is a harder thing to cure. The medical profession of those days had failed, and failed completely. The great physicians had been called, and the astrologers, they had all come in, and they all completely failed. And yet, one day, lo and behold to everybody's astonishment, a little slave girl happens to venture in and says, "Please M'm, I think I can say something which might help your husband and my lord and master." You can imagine the surprise and astonishment of Naaman's wife—"What! you help—what do you know about it?" And the little girl gave her testimony, and the result was they were so impressed by what she said, and the way she said it, that they acted upon it and Naaman was healed. Well, the Psalmist says it for us—"He that dwelleth in the Heavens shall laugh." The majesty and the glory of God! He takes hold of a little child to confound the wise and the prudent and the great, and all the medical authorities and all the others. He uses a humble instrument. Thus God, I say, manifests His Sovereignty and His Glory and humbles us all together under His Almighty Hand.

Well, that is just a little insight into why God sometimes allows these things to happen. You look at them and you say "There is no explanation." It seems harsh and it seems cruel; but never judge anything that is permitted by God until you see the end of it; and the end is glorious under God.

But let me hurry on to the second point. It is what I would call the illustration that is given here of the uniqueness of the Christian. What is a Christian? I see a very grand and perfect definition of a Christian in this story about this little girl. Let me just put it for you in terms of uniqueness. The humblest Christian knows something that the greatest outside Christ does not know—the very humblest. It is obvious, isn't it? Here is this little child in the household of Naaman, she does not know much, but she knows something of which Naaman and all his advisers and the king were utterly ignorant. That is one of the most glorious things about being a Christian. We are in possession of a knowledge, of a secret, which no one else possesses who is outside Christ. It is special, it is peculiar, it is an exact knowledge. Now had I time I would develop that



point, because we are living in an age when people seem to think that to be a Christian is something vague and indefinite. The whole point of this incident is that the Christian possesses an exact knowledge; he knows that he has this belief, he knows what he believes—there is no uncertainty about it. This child knew what she knew; and that something which she knew, I say, was something of which all the others were ignorant.

It is also knowledge concerning something which is of vital importance. This foul disease Leprosy! How it spoiled everything in the life of Naaman! This little girl, of course, could not have advised Naaman how to conduct his armies—she was completely ignorant of military strategy. She was ignorant also of politics; she was likewise ignorant of philosophy. But she knew one thing, and that was how leprosy could be dealt with and cured. Now that is specialised knowledge which every Christian has, isn't it? Every Christian knows the meaning of the term "sin." Every Christian recognises it, and every Christian knows the only certain absolute cure for it. That is our definition of the Christian; and the point I am making is that the most humble Christian possesses this knowledge about this most vital matter. Life today is being ruined by sin, it is ruining the life of the individual; it is ruining the life of the whole world. And yet this is the amazing way in which God does His work; He gives the knowledge concerning the cure of that most vital problem even to the most humble of His followers.

And the third thing I notice about the Christian is this, that the most humble Christian is able to impart this knowledge to others. Now this is where the children, I think, come in and are of great importance. This little serving maid could not have given an explanation as to how Elisha could help Naaman; she could not understand miracles; she could not have given any real explanation. All she knew was this, she said: "In the country where I live, and from which you brought me, I heard and saw a man of the name of Elisha. He was a remarkable man, and I saw him doing wonderful things, and I have heard of him doing wonderful things. All I know is this, I do not know how he does it, but I do know that he has been able to cure cases of this type. If only my master could be with him, there might be hope for him." Now she could say that, and that is something the humblest Christian can do. We are not all asked to be final authorities on theology; we are not all expected to be able to expound how Christ, by dying on the Cross, worked the Atonement and produced Salvation; but we can all surely do, and even a child can do, what this little girl did. We can point to Him; we can tell people about Him though we do not understand the working of it, but we can say, "If only this person knew Christ, then a cure would be obtained." There, then, I see something of the uniqueness of the Christian delineated in the character of this little girl.

Let me close by saying just a word about what I would call the character of the Christian. Have you ever been struck, I wonder, when you have read this incident by the extraordinary magnanimity of this little child? There she is, carried away from home and from her family and loved ones. She is nothing but a little slave, and it is all the result of action taken by this man Naaman to whose wife she is acting as slave. Now she begins to hear about this leprosy and sees how it is spoiling the whole of his life. How easy it would have been for her to say "Serves him right, he deserves exactly and precisely what is happening to him. He has made havoc of my country, he has ruined the lives of many people, he has spoilt our homes, he has carried me away, and it serves him right—let it continue, it is just retribution!" But you will remember she did nothing of the sort. Even, probably, at the risk of punishment, she ventures her little opinion, she gives her advice, she speaks to her mistress about this great matter, and eventually is responsible for the healing of Naaman. Now what was in her that led her to do this. Well, the answers are

quite simple, and they should always operate in the case of every Christian. She saw the man's terrible need, his terrible plight, his terrible condition. She saw this foul disease, this leprosy that was eating away at the man's physical being and spoiling the whole of his life, and it was because she just understood what that meant that she began to feel sorry for him. The tragedy of it all! That is something that should be true of all of us who are Christians. Are we, I wonder, as aware as we should be of the tragedy of the lives of men and women round about us? According to this incident the humblest Christian should be in that position. I wonder whether we are, whether we do realise the real state of society at this present time? This little child did. The second thing was her compassion, her sense of pity, her sense of sorrow. I do not know what exactly led her to do it, but I have no doubt that it was the Grace of God that was in her heart. I wonder whether, in some dim way, this little child had seen the day that was to come when Someone would be nailed upon the Cross Who was innocent and guiltless and pure? I wonder if she had been given some premonition in her little heart as a result of the Grace of God? Had she got some glimmering of the teaching which was going to say: "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you and do good to them that hate you and use you spitefully and malign you?" There was this love and compassion in her heart even for the man who was responsible for her captivity. But the greatest thing of all about her, and the thing which must captivate us whenever we read about her is this, the wonderful faith she had in the power of Elisha. Everything is based upon that. Thus when she ventured her opinion and gave her advice she risked and staked everything upon what she believed as to the power of Elisha, so she goes in and says "If only my master could meet him!"

This is the last thing and the ultimate thing that is always true of the Christian—our faith in the power of Christ to rescue, to redeem even the most hopeless, to deliver even those who have sunk to the very gutters, who apparently can sink no lower. It is those who are imbued with this unshakeable confidence in the power of the Risen and Living Lord who are the means in His Hands of passing on this blessing to others.

This work, which we are met together to honour this afternoon, is a great and glorious example and illustration of that very thing in and of itself. What I have been trying to say is just a confirmation of what is being done. This is not merely a Home, it is not merely a kind of Orphanage; it is more. They are teaching children the Word of God, they are concerned to give them the Gospel. Why? Well, because they believe that when these children go out into life they can pass it on. Even now as they go to school, as they mix with other people, and in the days that are to come they will be able to say, "I have heard of something, I know of Someone Who has the answer to this problem, Who has the cure of this disease." Well, God bless you, my friends, as you continue in this great and glorious work: And you children, remember what you are being told. Remember the prayers you hear, and the Gospel to which you listen. Remember Jesus Christ Who is constantly being held before you, and remember, as I have been trying to say, that though you may be small and young, and though you may feel that you have not much to give, it lies within your power to tell other people who seem older and greater and mightier, of the most wonderful and priceless thing that one can ever hear or ever learn in this great world, namely, that Jesus of Nazareth is the only begotten Son of God and is the only Saviour, that His is the only Name under heaven whereby we must be saved.

Well, God bless you, those who do the work and are responsible for it, and the children who are privileged to benefit under it. God grant that many who are here this afternoon may re-enact in their lives the story of the little captive maid in the house of Naaman the Syrian.