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INASMUCH AS YE HAVE DONE TAKE CARE OF HIM AND



IT UNTO ONE OF THE LEAST WHATSOEVER THOU

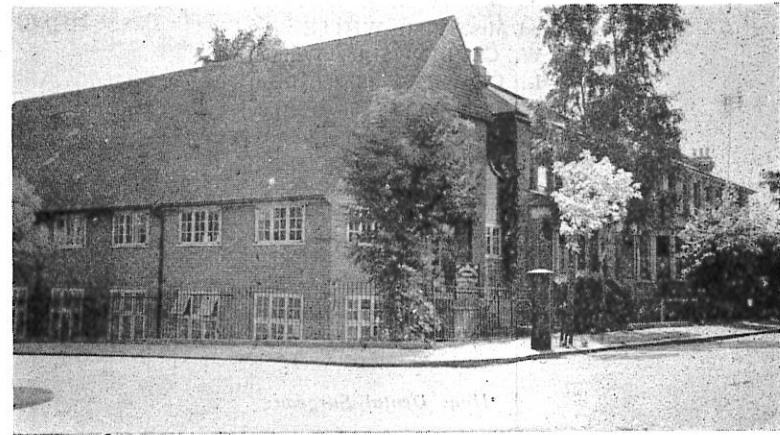
OF THESE MY BRETHREN SPENDEST MORE WHEN

YE HAVE DONE IT UNTO I COME AGAIN I WILL

ME MATTHEW 25-40 REPAY THEE LUKE 10-35

1949

THE CHILDREN'S HOME LINKS.



Headquarters Woodford, showing the
Florence Barclay Memorial Hall in foreground.

THE CHILDREN'S FOUNDED

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 D. HAMMOND (Sister Anne)
Miss E. HARRIS (Sister Eileen)
Miss B. HIBBERD (Sister Beryl)

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. Chiropodists:

Miss DOROTHY M. HAWKEY, M.S.S.Ch., L.Ch.
Mr. A. C. THOMPSON, M.S.S.Ch.

Hon. Box Secretary:

Mr. W. PARKER

Hon. Auditors:

Messrs. FRANCIS NICHOLLS, WHITE & CO.

HOME AND MISSION. 1899.

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:

(Secretary).

Shoeburyness: Miss Terry, 94 High Street, Shoeburyness.

Bankers:

MIDLAND BANK, LTD.

"OUR DAY"

THE 49th ANNUAL GATHERINGS.

AFTERNOON MEETING.

Pastor HERBERT WHITE gave the following Annual Report:—

Our children sang in their opening hymn—

" Lord who hast guided, daily provided
Thy praise we sing.
For the care that we have constant known,
For the love that left us n'er alone,
For the ceaseless grace towards us shown,
Thy praise we sing."

This has indeed been our experience throughout the past year—He has guided—daily provided—we have been conscious of His care and love. We take this opportunity of testifying before this great congregation that "He is faithful that promised."

Some of you here have known the work from the commencement in 1899—we praise God for your constant encouragement and sympathetic interest; others have joined us more recently as prayer partners and we feel that God has called you to take the places of the many who are now with Him, so that this work may grow and His Name be glorified in a greater measure.

May I remind you afresh that our Home has always had three aims:—

1. To care for children in need.
2. To be the means in God's hands of bringing the children to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.
3. To prove that God is able to answer prayer by relying upon Him to supply every need.

As I look back over the last forty-nine years I can gladly say that He has kept us faithful to these three aims, which we believe He gave to us then.

The way has not been a flower-strewn pathway, by any means, but with Paul we have been able to say, "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."—To Him alone be the glory for all that He has given us to do. "The best Friend to have is Jesus"—how very true are the words of this well-known chorus.

May I pause here for a moment—Is there anyone present this afternoon who is not a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ? Is there anyone who does not believe that God is concerned with the tiniest detail of every life? Does God really answer prayer? I have a car that is an answer to prayer—on wheels!! If you pop down to Crescent Road between the Meetings you will see six three-storeyed houses and two large halls which have been given to God's work; a journey to Tiptree would show you a large Georgian house and hall which God provided as a shelter during the war years. Also at Tiptree there are 20 acres of land which have helped to supplement our rations—four cows, ducks, chickens, pigs and a large Suffolk mare, have all done their share.

Sometimes we have prayed for certain needs to be supplied, e.g., gloves for the girls when winter approached; turkeys for our Christmas dinner,

etc., and the goods have come just at the crucial moment. At other times God has provided before we have even seen the need. The provision of our Branch at Tiptree to which I have just referred is an outstanding example in this respect. Before the war clouds had gathered and the necessity for the evacuation of children from the London area occurred, God knew the need and Tiptree was our Haven throughout the war. You will appreciate that had God not intervened in this respect, in all probability the children would have been scattered under the Government Evacuation Scheme. We thought Tiptree was to be just a holiday centre, but our God had a greater purpose.

We have with us now 71 children, 23 at Tiptree and 48 at Woodford, giving us a grand total of 718 cases helped since the commencement. During the year we took in 12 new children and 12 left. We shall be taking in another boy shortly.

A number of letters have been received from old girls and boys during the past year and I feel sure you will be interested to hear some extracts from a few of these.

From a couple in Australia who were both in our Home—

"We were thrilled to get your letter with photograph of the Reunion. How we would like to have joined you, but being so far away it was impossible. However, you are always in our thoughts, and I have happy memories of my stay with you. We are sending you a snap which we hope you will like. God bless you. With love from your old girl and boy."

Another writes—

"I do trust you will have a happy time on the 7th. I greatly enjoy the meetings, as my childhood days at Woodford are truly my happiest memories. Thanking you again."

From one in hospital—

"You will be surprised to hear from me, but many times have I thought of you all at Tiptree and Woodford, especially while I have been lying here, and it comforts me much to know that you are praying for me. I often think how wonderful it was that God moved you to help all us children. I don't think if I had the choice I would have chosen a better childhood than I had. All my love and God bless you."

Another old girl, now married, writes—

"Thank you both for the very nice time we spent at your birthday party. It was a great success and I am sure everyone enjoyed themselves. I can imagine the children are looking forward to Christmas. It brings back many memories of the happy times we had while in the Home. Enclosed is a gift for the work and may God bless you and supply all your needs. With love and best wishes to you both and your family."

A lad who went first to Palestine and then to Khartoum, wrote—

"I visited the Sudan Interior Mission a fortnight back. It's just the kind of place I've been looking for since I've been in the Army. We could do with more of such places so that the chaps could hear the true gospel. Have been attending Bible Study on Tuesdays and Prayer Meeting on Saturdays and are they a help? I always feel blessed when I come from these meetings." **Later the same lad writes—**"Here is some good news for you. Since my friend and I have been attending the Sudan Interior Mission we picked a lad up from the Officers' Mess and took him along with us. The other Sunday he gave his testimony, telling how he had been blessed since he had been attending. The Sunday before last several of us chaps from the Hussars were asked to take the evening service and I gave

my testimony. I am on my way home now and God willing I'll be able to attend the Annual Meetings. Cheerio and God bless."

Our Staff now numbers 12, equally divided between Woodford and Tiptree. They join me in testimony to the fact that He has supplied our individual needs, giving us health and strength, and the desire to go on in His name, for His and the children's sake.

It is fitting here to express my thanks to the Staff for their unstinted effort throughout the year—you have done a grand work and my wife and I do indeed appreciate this. I could of course say much, but feel sure you will understand the depth of meaning behind these two words—THANK YOU! May He abundantly bless you for this noble service. I also thank all who have in any way helped by prayer, practical work and gifts, and I would remind you that God will not be in your debt.

A little financial information:—

Receipts during the year totalled £4,566 17s. 4d., and payments £5,992 9s. 5d., showing excess expenditure over income of £1,425 12s. 1d. This was accounted for by transferring £1,300 from the Deposit to the General Account, which together with cash at Bank and in hand gave us £1639 6s. 7d. and left us with a balance of £213 14s. 6d. to carry forward into the New Year. A special word of thanks to our Box Secretary, Mr. W. Parker, for his great help and to the many Boxholders who contributed to the grand total of £184 2s. 3d. Mr. Parker informed Boxholders that the total was £180 1s. 3d.—the increase of £4 1s. is accounted for by an additional box arriving late. Our Deposit Account now stands at £6,143 8s. 6d., of which £2,604 13s. 1d. is earmarked for the Forward Move at Tiptree.

I mentioned last year our ideas with regard to building at Tiptree, and we still have this thought in mind. Please make this a special matter for prayer, as we do desire to be certain of His sanction before building. Our architect has kindly drawn up plans which you can see in the lobby putting forth the idea in mind, D.V.

We do feel very fortunate in having as our Medical Officers three Christian men—Dr. David Smith, Dr. Eric Mathie and Dr. Carey Baker, who have rendered much valuable service throughout the year. Please accept our sincere thanks for all your work and prayerful interest.

Now what about the children themselves? Well, praise God, all are well and here this afternoon—I shall leave details of the year's Woodford Medical Record to our Doctor who will be giving us his report during the present meeting. The health at Tiptree has been very good, the Tiptree air and food obviously proving beneficial.

Mr. Stephen Smith, our Dental Surgeon, is making a routine inspection of the children's teeth. Two go to him each week and there is a clamour amongst the children as to who shall be next! We have on one or two occasions 'phoned Mr. Smith because a child has been suffering with acute toothache and he has always readily given immediate attention.

The children attend the local primary and secondary schools, with the exception of two girls who have passed scholarships and go to County High Schools. Yesterday two boys and one girl sat for the late developers examination—we are hoping that they will be successful.

Last September one of the Staff started a hand-work class on Thursday evenings. The girls were able to make Christmas presents for the Staff and other friends and since have been making summer dresses which some of them are wearing to-day.

Spiritually we have had a very encouraging year amongst the children, several making the great decision and many growing in grace and witnessing well.

We held our Young Sowers' League (Bible Searchers) second birthday on the 23rd April, when Mr. Ashley Baker, Dr. Baker's father, gave the address and the children very successfully presented a missionary play, "A Brahman Marriage." This Monday evening Meeting is proving a great blessing to the children, several having received Bibles, and others New Testaments and Certificates for answering Bible questions.

Forty-one children took the Scripture Examination in March with the following results:—

6 passed with Honours—1 receiving a prize for a 100 per cent. paper.
9 with 1st class Certificates.
10 with 2nd class Certificates.
6 with 3rd class Certificates,
making 31 passed. Of the ten that failed, five were under eight years of age. I think it is fair to point this out.

On Sundays the children usually go out to Church in the morning and evening and have their own Sunday Schools in the afternoon.

The children were instructed for the Scripture Examination in the Sunday School and we are glad to report that one of our pre-war teachers has been able to give his help again this year and so augment the present Staff.

All work and no play makes a dull child and we are pleased to say that there have been many activities for the children to enjoy. Our Football team, with the lads from our Abridge Mission, has done very well this season, all in the team showing a great keenness and a very good sense of sportsmanship. The girls have played several netball matches.

At present we have no gym. instructor for the girls or boys, but the boys during the winter months were asked to "have a go" themselves, and one can see a marked improvement in their general horse and mat work.

One evening at least per week is set aside for all over 12 as a time for games, kindly arranged and managed by a friend—this is much enjoyed.

In the holidays we have been able to fix up outings and another friend made it possible for all at Woodford to go by coach to the Circus at Olympia. It was a topping outing—so well planned in every detail. There were two large slab cakes provided for the return journey, one actually iced! Last summer we visited Walton, Thorpe Bay, Maldon, Mersea, and some of the local parks, besides places of historical and scientific interest.

Here I feel I must publicly thank our "Aunties," two faithful friends who have helped for several years, writing to each girl on her birthday, arranging competitions and giving parties to the children at both centres. Their work does not end when the girls leave—they continue to keep in touch with them and help them whenever possible.

The "House System" for the year at Woodford has ended, but we cannot say yet who are the winners as there are so many things to take into consideration. We are anticipating a special evening at the end of the present month when the cup and small shield will be presented by one of the old boys.

Obviously time does not permit me to tell of all that has happened during the year—we have received many happy surprises in gifts of money and kind. God has blessed us, and for this, and for the knowledge He is with us here to-day, and will be with us continually as long as we honour His Name, we are met together on this our 49th Anniversary to give Him the praise which is His due.

In closing I thank Mr. Stokes for occupying the chair in the absence of Dr. Beattie who is ill. We are indeed very sorry to know this and shall pray for his speedy recovery.

It is a real pleasure to welcome Rev. Gilbert Kirby, a new friend to the work, one whom we have heard proclaim the old, yet ever new, Story. We thank you for coming and pray that the Lord will use you in giving to us all "a satisfying meal."

We shall continue the Report this evening.

DR. DAVID SMITH said:—

I must apologise for the absence of Dr. Mathie and Dr. Baker. Both of them are away—they left the "old man" to carry on.

This is Dr. Baker's report—I am not responsible for the closing verses: Apart from the expected aches, pains, coughs, colds and cuts, 1948 emerged surgically rather than medically. During its latter half, two children had operations for appendicitis, and three others were relieved of their tonsils and adenoids—all in local hospitals. During the same period, one case of rheumatic fever was admitted to hospital. All these patients are back again in the Home.

The advent of 1949, however, brought an outbreak of influenza affecting one third of the children, and there have also been four cases of measles, three of mumps, several children have had attacks of tonsillitis, and two are waiting for an operation on this account. In spite of the National Health Service our relationship with the children remains on the same happy footing as previously. The only difference between then and now can be summed up in the words:—

"Whereas the pills to heal their ills
Were bought or, maybe, given,
Now the bills for treating chills
Are paid by Mr. Bevan."

J. STOKES, Esq. (Chairman), said:—

When Mr. White 'phoned me this morning and told me of the unfortunate illness of Dr. Beattie and asked me whether I would mind filling the gap—I do not think physically I am quite so big as Dr. Beattie, but I am doing my best in that respect—I said to him, "Well, of course, you will have to put up with what I have to say." He replied, "Talk to them like you would on Tower Hill." Well I don't know whether that is quite fair because I hardly like treating you all as a crowd of hardened sinners, although no doubt you will agree we are all sinners, but you may be in the position of my old father who was able to write after his name in quite a number of the books I still have on my bookshelves at home, "John Stokes, S.S.," and when he was asked what that degree signified he was very proud to say, "Sinner Saved." I have no doubt that this is the degree to which most of you here this afternoon are entitled.

But even if all of us are rejoicing in the privilege of being co-workers with our Lord Jesus Christ, we never tire of hearing the Gospel story, do we? We are proud to say that we believe in the Love of God. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." We are proud to affirm that we believe in the power of God, that we "are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth," but, having said all that, are we all quite sure on what those things of which we are proud really stand? Wherein is the security for our belief in the Love of God and the power of God? Is it not true to say that it is all bound up with this great fact, and we believe it to be a fact—the fact of the Living Christ?

I have been very much helped in the last few weeks in reading over again St. Paul's great argument about the Resurrection, and you remember that in the 15th chapter of the First Corinthians he states this, that if Christ be not risen, then our faith is vain, and it is only because Christ lives that we really have any hope at all. If, indeed, Christ be not risen we are of all men the most miserable.

Well, I believe that the 49th Annual Meeting of these Homes is a modern confirmation of this truth that Christ lives. Because He lives, and because He reigns, this work was commenced, but if Christ had not risen, well, we should have had no ground for believing in the Love of God, or in the power of God. Imagine for a moment that Christ had not risen from the dead. He, who history affirms, was the most perfect man that ever lived, that went about doing good, healing the sick, curing blind eyes and giving comfort to the poor and the needy. He, whose accusers found that when they came before the Judge the Judge acclaimed Him to have no fault at all. History declares he was a perfect man, and in His effort to help the world He was crucified. Imagine for a moment He had not been raised on the third day. What would it mean? It would mean, surely, that we could have no faith in the Love of God. Could God stand aside and see such a spectacle without acting? Could God look upon Calvary when this Innocent Son of Man was crucified by wicked hands and take no action? We could have no faith in a God like that; we could not for one moment believe in His Love.

What parent is there here having a son accused of something for which there was no foundation, who, if that son was condemned to die, would take no action? We know we should fight to the very death for our son, for his freedom. Is God different? Can we imagine God standing aside and taking no action? That is the argument of St. Paul; if Christ be not risen we can put away our faith.

There are men and women about in the world to-day who have a sort of flimsy faith. They say, "We believe all will come right in the end." What is the ground of such an idea if Christ be not risen. This Church stands for that belief; these Homes are a confirmation of that belief, that Jesus lives in power and in glory. But imagine if Christ had not risen, wherein lies the power of God?

There is a story told of a 5th or 6th century king, a barbarian, who, when he heard for the first time the story of Jesus and His Crucifixion, and when he heard how He was crucified after living a life of goodness and helpfulness, that he stood up and, drawing his sword, said: "Don't I wish I had been there! I would have stormed the heights of Calvary and, with my franks, driven off these Romans and saved Jesus." If a barbarian felt like that, can we imagine God standing aside. No, we believe that God in His power intervened, that Jesus rose again from the dead, and because of that we can have faith in His Love and in His Power. Further, if Christ be not risen then we have no forgiveness; we have no immortality. If Christ be not risen it means that at Calvary, evil won. There at Calvary we see the classic fight going on between good and evil, and if Christ be not risen, then evil won and there is no hope for you and me; there is no forgiveness, but because Christ lives there is forgiveness for everyone of us and there is immortality. When we come to the barrier of that strange fear called Death, if Christ be not risen it means that He, with all His goodness, with all His perfection could not break through that barrier of death, and Death has conquered, and if Christ, the perfect One, could not overcome it, what hopes have we? But here is St. Paul's argument, because He lives, because He broke the bands of death, because He turned the darkness of His tomb into a glittering ray of light by His Resurrection, because He turned that darkness away, we, too, can have life and we can share in that immortality; and in the power of that Resurrection. We can go through life with triumphant spirit, and take our stand with the Apostle when he cries: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the Lord, but thanks be unto God which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ, the One that ever liveth to make intercession for us, the One touched with the feelings of our infirmities and

who shares our sorrows, and entering into our burdens and all the weaknesses of our life, is able to understand our needs, meeting us just at the very point we need to be met, the point of our utmost need, and is thus able to assist and help us to gain the Victory.

As I was coming from the City in the 'bus, I read a story from to-day's "Evening News," a story by Hans Andersen, the story of a home, a man and wife. Although it was beautiful outside, beautiful country all around, beautiful weather, in the home there was sadness and a lack of joy. What had brought it about? Well, trade depression, little work to do, with the result that piece by piece their home had been sold to keep essential things together, and the man became sullen, irritable—and frustrated at every turn—the nature he had once possessed of brightness and happiness now became dark and morose. His wife was very sad about it, all the advice and comfort which she brought seemed to have no effect, and the helpfulness of his friends by encouragement and spiritual advice fell on deaf ears. At last the man became so depressed that he talked about taking his life. His wife shared in this sorrow, so much so that at last she could not sit with him at meals, and one day, as she was about to leave the room as he entered, he stood in front of her and said, "I am not going to let you go out of this room until you tell me what is worrying you." She replied, "Last night I dreamt that God was dead, and that all the Holy Angels had taken Him and buried Him." "My dear wife," said the man, "whatever put such nonsense into your head? God dead! God can never die!" "Do you mean that?" said his wife, her face lighting up with joy and pleasure, "do you mean that? God can never die?" "Why, of course it is true God cannot die; He is alive!" "Well, then," said the wife, "if it be true that God is not dead and He lives for ever, don't you think we ought to trust Him?" That night the darkness which had besieged him fell from his eyes, and he saw his mistake, and together they made this decision: to trust God in the darkness because they were sure that God lived, and it transformed the house.

The message the world needs to-day—I am certain of this—is that God lives, and that in Jesus Christ there is power, and a sure foundation for putting our faith in His Love and in His power.

That thing which is depressing men and nations—a sense of frustration brought about by their own sin and wickedness—can be lifted as they put their trust in the Living Christ, and the future with all its uncertainty can, for the Christian, be absolutely certain. Because He lives, we shall live also.

So may God bless the Homes in the New Year of service. Do not forget it is the 50th they are entering upon now, and next year will be, God willing, the 50th Anniversary. We pray that God's Blessing may rest upon Mr. and Mrs. White and their family and all who work with them, and upon the children in the Homes, and upon all the enterprise which they are planning. May God give them good successes. Amen.

THE REV. GILBERT W. KIRBY, M.A., said:—

What a privilege it is to be here! I do count it a real privilege to be associated with this truly wonderful work of God, and I am sure all of us that are here this afternoon are really enjoying a thoroughly happy day, and we thank Mr. and Mrs. White for inviting us.

I have a message to pass on to you this afternoon, and I would sum it up in two words. In a sense it is not a text—it is a bit of several texts—"Despise not."

Now first of all I bring a word from the prophet Zechariah, where he says: "Who hath despised the day of small things?" The prophet Zechariah was challenging a despondent people. The Jews were bemoaning their lot; the prospects were not very bright, and they looked back wistfully to other days; former generations. Oh, what grand days our fathers knew!

And they said, "Look at the situation to-day, what a contrast! What a day of small things!" Oh, said Zechariah, see that you do not despise the day of small things.

It is a great inspiration to be here and to see a packed Church on a Saturday afternoon, and I do not suppose you feel very despondent—that is not the mood on an afternoon like this, but—let us be honest—when you find yourself on Monday perhaps working in an office, or a factory, where you may be the only Christian, when this meeting breaks up and we go our several ways into the world, travelling back perhaps some miles in crowded trains with people whose minds and interests are very far away from the things we have talked about this afternoon, isn't it easy to get despondent? Isn't it easy to say, "Oh dear, even I only am left?" And, you know, it is very easy for some of the older folk, too—and pardon this word from a younger man—it is very easy for them to look back and say, "Yes, I remember the days when Spurgeon preached and they used to queue up" and "I remember the days when they had chairs down the aisle!" I ministered to a church in Essex which seated 800 people, and I was very glad to see 100 there sometimes, and I must say I felt somewhat discouraged when some of the older folk used to say "I remember the days when they had chairs down the aisle!" Some people have got vivid memories anyway, and the passing of the years does add a little, but even so, it is not a comfort, is it, to dwell in the past, to think only of the palmy days? You and I may live in a day of small things—I think we do. As far as the Church is concerned to-day and as far as statistics will tell us, if they have any meaning at all, you and I know this is the day of small things. You can see anywhere in London, for example, churches that have been turned into garages or factories, or anything else, but they have ceased to be churches. You can go into other churches and you can see pew after pew that is empty—one worshipper here, one there and several at the back, that is about all. You say, "Yes, ours is a day of small things." You can get very despondent these days if you are not careful. The situation that you and I face can do one of two things—it can challenge us or it can make us miserable—a day of small things, my friends, if you are Christians who believe in the living God, of Whom we have heard from our brother just now, if you believe in Him, is a day of opportunity and a day of grave responsibility. The all-important thing is the way you look at things. You know that little couplet:—

"Two men looked out from prison bars,
The one saw mud; the other, stars."

You can be depressed if you will, or you can be challenged. There were two men surrounded by their enemies; one was a prophet of God, Elisha, the other was his young ministering servant. You know that story—how the king of Syria had surrounded the mountain on which they stood, and that young man was very fearful and he cried to Elisha the prophet: "Alas, my master, what shall we do?" And Elisha replied so calmly, "Fear not, fear not, for they that be with us are more than they that be with them." Elisha prayed and he said, "Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see." We are told the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw and behold! the mountain was filled with horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. Do you ever need your eyes opened sometimes when you think you are just the last remnant of God's people, serving what seems to be a dying cause? You need an "eye-opening" experience. "Lord, open the young man's eyes." They that be with us, praise God, are more than they that be with them. Do you believe, as I do, that Christ is really the only answer to this world's tragedy? Do you believe that the Gospel is still the power of God unto Salvation to everyone that believeth? Do you believe that the ultimate victory is with Christ, that one day He will be crowned as Lord of Lords

and King of Kings and every eye shall see Him? If you believe that, dare you despise this particular day because it happens to be a day of small things?

Two hundred years ago the condition of this country spiritually was desperate. The masses were quite as godless as they are to-day, and in the midst of that situation God raised up a man, or rather several men and women—John and Charles Wesley, George Whitfield, The Countess of Huntingdon and many other lesser known figures, and you know there was such a breath of revival in this land that the whole country was stirred, and the whole face of the country was changed. We are told that through that revival, England was spared the revolution which took place on the Continent and particularly in France, and which bathed that sad country in blood. Yes, God changed the situation. Can that happen to-day? Why not? Why under heaven can't it happen again? God is waiting. He is looking for a few faithful instruments that He can use, and He can use a few, though He can't use the despondent and the depressed. When we are talking of small things, may I couple with that "small gatherings?" Go to Keswick and see that great tent full of God's people. It is an inspiration. A church full is an inspiration; it is so much easier to speak to a large company—yes, but do not always assess Christian work by the number of people that you see. Dare we despise always the small gathering in a little country church, for example, when Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst"? I could take you—many of you have been already—to a little chapel in Colchester in Artillery Street, a little Methodist chapel, and there went a young man into that chapel one wintry morning in 1850, and he sat down in one of those hard, uncomfortable pews—his name happened to be Spurgeon—and he was one of a congregation of about a dozen. A layman stood up in the pulpit to preach and, according to Spurgeon's account, the only thing he seemed to know was the text, which he gave out time and time again. He kept on repeating: "Look unto Me and be ye saved all the ends of the earth." Only a little gathering which you and I might have despised—just a handful of people—but in that gathering a mighty work of grace was done and a trophy was won—Charles Haddon Spurgeon was brought to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, and who knows how many he in turn was to lead to the feet of the Lord Jesus?

So sometimes, when some of us who are Christian workers have only got a handful in our class or in our church—or wherever it is we go—remember: "See that ye despise not the day of small things." There are many reasons why we should not despise the day of small things; I think the greatest reason of all is that by so doing we prevent it from becoming a day of great things. You remember it was said of our Lord concerning Capernaum, that He could not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. You see, if you despise the day of small things, it will remain a day of small things. If you think your Church is never going to grow and people are never going to get converted, I will tell you—I am not a prophet—I will tell you it won't grow, and they won't get converted. If you don't believe in the seemingly impossible, then you won't see it. You are despising the day of small things. How constantly our Lord said to one and another: "According to your faith be it unto you."

This work in which we rejoice to-day, it is a work of faith, and our good friends and all associated with them have proved that the God that they believe in is a God of the impossible. If you despise the day of small things how can revival come to you and your Church? Moreover, who are we to despise the day of small things when our Lord said, "There is rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." The angels do not despise the day of small things. Are we better than the angels? Because we do not hear of mass conversions; because we do

not read of enquiry rooms where men and women are going in and out all the time, because we hear that there is a man converted over yonder, and another over yonder—just one or two here and there—Oh! we think, nothing is happening, the Church has had no conversions! They do not think like that in heaven; there is joy in the presence of the angels over one sinner that repenteth—just one. It may be a boy or a girl—just a youngster—only one conversion, but it is enough to set the joybells of heaven ringing. See that you do not despise, then, the day of small things.

I have just two other thoughts to pass on. You can despise small things and you can despise small people. "Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones." Yes, even Christian people, even the disciples, had to be warned about that. The disciples were rebuked because they did not think our Lord would be interested in boys and girls, tiny tots and toddlers, so He had to say to them "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Not all Christian people realise the value of children. Children soon know those who truly appreciate them; they are very discerning. You know I have a real sympathy with that little girl who said her prayers night after night, and one Sunday night after she had been to church and been shown into a pew with somebody who was an official in that church but was not too kind to children—she prayed: "O God, make all the bad people good, and all the good people nice!" Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones. Who can judge the possibilities wrapped up in a young life? You hear someone say: "I have not got any time for children, especially the children of to-day. I can't be bothered with them." Well, the children of to-day are the men and women of to-morrow, and if Christian people can't be bothered with them, it is a tragedy indeed. Sunday School Teachers: do you think your work is less important than the work of the Minister of your church, or of those who serve as elders or deacons? Do you think yours is just a work that anybody can do? You are doing the most important work that the Church can offer to anyone. Do you know one of the things that makes me sad is when I hear at a church some of the leading people say: "Yes, that girl So-and-So, she has been 'dropping off' a bit lately, we must make her a Sunday School Teacher; we must give her something to do." Make her a Sunday School Teacher! How can she lead someone else to the feet of Jesus if she has not been there first herself? This is too solemn an office for those who are not themselves in living contact with Christ. "Whosoever receiveth one little child in My Name receiveth Me," said Christ. Who dare despise one of these little ones?

It is said that one of the most valuable diamonds in the world lay for months on a stall in Paris marked "Rock Crystal: One franc." No one knew its value, and there are Christians, alas! who do not realise the value of childhood and children's work. I would like to ask a company of Ministers or leading Christian workers when they were converted and how old they were at the time, and I am perfectly sure what the answer would be. Most of them would look back to Sunday School, the Bible Class, the Crusader Class, or some other such class, where they first heard the voice of Jesus saying, "Come unto Me." How can we despise, then, one of these little ones that is entrusted to us now that we are grown and take our place in Christian service?

Do you remember the story of King Arthur who wanted to test his knights? They were obliged to help any damsel that they came across who was in distress. As they went out, each one bent on chivalry, they met a tiny girl trying to drive a pig to market, and this pig resolutely refused to go in the right direction; she tried to drive it one way and the pig insisted on going the other. Before long she was in tears, heart-broken. These knights went forth on their proud horses; O yes, they went by and hardly noticed this little girl, until one of them dismounted from

his horse and got down alongside her and helped her. When they came back with their stories of chivalry and what they had done, King Arthur rewarded that one who had seen the tiny child in distress and had got down to help her. The others had been too proud and too important, but he had done the one thing needful. Woe to the Christian Church that neglects the child in the midst! Take heed, Christian friends, that ye despise not one of these little ones. A child's conversion is a very real experience. When we are converted as children perhaps it does not make a vast difference at once in our lives; maybe we come to another crisis later on, but I believe wholeheartedly in the reality of a child's decision to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that some of these boys and girls in front of us this afternoon have made that all-important decision, and who are we to think lightly of it? Who are we to say—Only a child, that is all? It is a big step that they have taken. Small things, small meetings, small people, and one last thought: "Let no man despise thy youth."

Paul was anxious that no one should think lightly or disparagingly of Timothy. He was young—young in years—and also comparatively young in faith, and he was given a responsible position in the Christian Church, and there were people there who said, Oh, he is too young; we cannot give a position like that to a young man; we want a man of experience; he ought to be as old as we are before he starts anything like that! No, said Paul to Timothy, don't you let anybody think lightly of your youthfulness!

Are you giving the young folk a chance? Are you training them, or do you keep all the positions in your Christian Church or Assembly in the hands of the older folk? Now, I am not taking up sides on this issue, but it is common sense that if we don't let the young folk start, there is no possibility of gaining experience. When they start they will make mistakes and they will need you, very gently and very lovingly—and be careful how you do it—they will need you to put them right, but don't let any of us despise their youthfulness. They may stand up to speak—you may give them an opportunity of giving a testimony. Perhaps you feel they are very shaky. But how will they get confidence unless they are encouraged? Do not despise inexperience. If there is a Christian starting on the path of Christian service; if there is a young fellow or young girl doing his or her first job as a Christian, do not think they are no good—encourage them! Stand by them; help them, don't patronise them but just lead them on. Don't let anyone despise your youth. Don't feel you are a mere nobody—you are, in one sense; all of us are, but God has called you, and He will equip you.

I want to draw your thoughts together with this particular Word of Scripture: "The things which are despised hath God chosen." God loves doing that sort of thing—taking the things, and the people, and the situations that other people tend to despise and bringing something worthwhile to pass. Our Lord, the Lord Jesus is described prophetically, as you know, in that wonderful chapter—53rd chapter of Isaiah—as "despised and rejected of men." And yet He was the chosen One. "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." The things that are despised hath God chosen. That has been the story of God's servants down the ages. How often they have been despised! Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "We are despised" and when Paul wrote to Timothy, in the second Letter to Timothy, he said that in the last days there would be people who might be described as "despisers of those that are good." There are plenty of them to-day in the world—people who are ready to despise Christians—you can find them; you can hear them; you can read what they have to say in every newspaper. You can always find people who despise faithful Christians. What did our Lord say? Did He not warn us? Didn't He tell us what was coming? "Marvel not," He said, "if the world hates you. It hated Me," He said, "and it will hate you."

What did He say to the 70 when He sent them out? He said some very solemn words that everyone who despises Christian workers needs to take to their own hearts: "He that hateth you, hateth Me. He that despiseth you, despiseth Me, and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me." It is a solemn thing to despise one of God's servants. Very, very often, as I have said before, you discover that the very things that men despise are the very things that God chooses. The day of small things—and even Christian people tend to think lightly of it and despise it and say it is a day when nothing can happen, and that is the very day that God loves to use, and out of that day He brings to pass a great movement of His Spirit, and I believe with all my heart that there is no reason why we should not see a great forward movement and revival in the Christian Church, because I know God is waiting to work in a day of small things. See that you do not despise it and leave out the possibility of revival. A child in the midst. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones. God may use that child, that you think is "only a child," to rebuke you. That child may have only a simple faith and trust in the Lord Jesus but it may be a pointer to your own faithlessness. God may choose a child about whom you think, or tend to think, lightly. The things that are despised hath God chosen. Somebody may be here this evening who has just started on their Christian work, just taken a Sunday School class, just undertaken a piece of Christian work or service, but thinks, I wish I had got more experience. What good can I do? You despise yourself, but God can wonderfully use you. See that ye despise not the day of small things because God takes the despised people, and despised things and uses them to His glory. Amen.

EVENING MEETING.

PASTOR HERBERT WHITE gave the following Annual Report:—

What an inspiration for us all this afternoon—a time of great blessing. I feel sure that we shall go from strength to strength through such a service remembering the Word which says "Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee, in whose heart are the ways of them." (Psalm lxxxiv. 5.)

As I mentioned this afternoon, we have experienced another wonderful year in the Service of God. The third of our three aims has again been proved—God is alive, He reigns supreme, is almighty and He is mindful of those who put their trust in Him.

I shall endeavour to repeat as little of the afternoon Report as possible, but I shall of necessity have to mention some items again.

Our thanks are due to the Minister and Deacons of this Church for allowing us to meet here to-day and for their willing co-operation. Also, to the lady helpers who prepared the tea in the schoolroom and at the Homes; and the stewards—thank you so much.

To our Chairman, Rev. E. Kevan, principal of the London Bible College, we extend a hearty welcome and trust that this, his first visit, will not be the last. We have known each other for many years and I feel that in him we have a real Prayer Partner.

Mr. Watson, thank you too for coming. You are an old friend and it is a joy to have you with us. We know that you and Mr. Kevan will bring us inspiring messages from God at this Meeting.

We are glad Mrs. Dannatt is with us again and sincerely thank her for the part she is taking this evening. We have always enjoyed her past visits.

Turning to the musical side of the Meeting, our organist, Miss E. Geary, and our conductor, Mr. Whitford—your help has been a big contribution to the happy atmosphere of which I am sure we are all conscious.

It has been our privilege since November, 1899, to help 718 children—12 have come to us and 12 have left during the year, giving us a present total of 71, 23 at Tiptree and 48 at Woodford.

Among those who have left this year, one has gone into the Royal Signals and is now serving in Germany as a high-speed wireless operator. Here is an extract from his first letter to us on joining the forces—"Just to let you know I managed to get here safe and sound. Rather strange to say there are two boys either side of me who kneel down by their bedside, and I think that is very good." I would add here that this Christian fellowship was a definite answer to our prayers. A little later on he writes—"Oh dear, we had a 2½-hour discussion on Spiritualism and Christianity. I told them why and how I had such a firm belief, that I had had a ten to eleven years experience in the Christian atmosphere, etc., and whatever they said it couldn't knock it out of me." This lad wrote from Germany asking us to send the Scripture Union Notes and a copy for a chum. Replying, he wrote—"Thanks for S.U. Notes, and above all many thanks for your prayers. You may rest assured Woodford and Tiptree are continually in my prayers."

Seven of the children have left during the year through altered circumstances, and one girl has been transferred to an institution through the Regional Hospital Board and the other three left for work.

One little lad, aged 7, who left us, was asked what he wanted to take home with him, and his reply was, "My Bible." We have heard from him and also his mother and the letters show that he remembers choruses and is teaching them to his mother.

Such indications by letters, and in other ways, show that the spiritual teaching received whilst with us is not forgotten. This is encouraging.

We had a very happy Reunion on the 13th October last when with the "old girls and boys" around me I celebrated my 70th birthday. I wish you all could have joined in this happy family gathering. After the cutting of the birthday cake, which was lit with 70 candles, some of the old boys and girls gave a word of appreciation and good wishes for the future with several presentations. My wife and I cannot express in words the joy of that day.

We received a number of letters from those who could not be with us on this unique occasion:—

From one who was with us over forty years ago—

"It is a great disappointment to me to have to tell you I cannot be with you at your birthday party. My word, 70 years old. It seems only a year or two back that you used to romp with us all. Oh, what times they were. Thank God we can always look back on them. They are indeed sweet and precious memories to us and always will be. I never could picture you growing old.

"I do once again thank you with all my heart for all you have done for me and my sisters and brother. The Lord richly reward. I pray for you and the Work every day.

"God bless you abundantly and do for you exceedingly above all we can ask or even think. With love and grateful thanks. One of your old girls."

Another writes—

"I would like to thank you for the many happy days I had while under your care, although I was not one of your best behaved children. I often look back and think how I used to try to dodge the cod liver oil before we went to bed. I thought it cruel at the time, but can only thank you now. I have not had a single illness since I left you (11 years ago). Many happy returns of the day to you, Mr. White, and many thanks for the good old days spent at the C.H. & M. From 'an old girl'."

From an old boy—

"I find 'Links' very interesting and deeply regret that it is not

possible for us to attend the reunion as I would dearly like to wander through my childhood home again. Two memories return to me at this moment. The Oxford and Cambridge football matches that we used to play all the year round, and the occasional wielding of the cricket bat by Mr. White when we were invited to bowl him out at a penny a time. Catches didn't count, and I don't think his pocket was much lighter than by 3d. or 4d. at the end of the evening. The cherry tree in bloom, and Mr. Nickerson's path, come back to me as a write.

"I enclose a small donation to the work which did so much for me during my childhood. It is grand to hear that God still provides for your wonderful work in such numerous ways. May God bless you one and all."

Another writes—

"Sorry I cannot be with you on Saturday, but shall be with you in spirit, trusting it will be a very joyous and memorable day and a great encouragement to you all as many of your large family return home to share with you the blessing of such a happy day. May God richly bless you both and give the needed strength to continue in His work which is so dear to you. God bless and supply your every need. With love and Christian greetings. From one of the family."

Among the many activities arranged during the year, one excursion stands out in our minds. The children of a Sunday School in the London area saved up their pennies week by week and took all our Woodford children and Staff to Thorpe Bay; provided tea and 1s. each pocket money. I think that God must indeed have been touched by this kindly thought.

Some friends have given several Cinematograph and Lantern shows in our hall and the children have also been able to attend Film Shows at local churches. They have been very impressed.

It is just wonderful how our needs have been supplied in so many varied ways—

Receipts for the year totalled £4,566 17s. 4d. of which £2,590 8s. 7d. came from Donations and Subscriptions and £184 2s. 3d. from our Box-holders. It is impossible for me to give details of all the items here. How encouraging it has been to receive not only gifts large and small, but very helpful letters from our prayer partners, telling us how the Lord has been leading them. Our payments, £5,992 9s. 5d., show an expenditure in excess of Income of £1,425 12s. 1d., and to cover this we have had to transfer £1,300 from our Deposit account, which together with cash in Bank and in hand leaves us with £213 14s. 6d. in the General Account for the New Year. We have £6,143 8s. 6d. in the Deposit Account for which we praise God and pray that He may guide us with regard to the "Forward Move."

We thank all who have sent parcels of clothes, new and secondhand—including those from our Working Parties; toys for Christmas, etc., etc. A kind friend who gave us a car in 1939 had it overhauled recently. This car has been a great blessing as we have travelled since we received the car about 80,000 miles, doing work for the Home and preaching. This proves the word in Matthew, "For your Heavenly Father knoweth ye have need of all these things."

We had also the joy of receiving over 50 harvests from different places and these greatly benefited the Work. To take one item only, we had sufficient flour to meet our needs for two months, which indeed was a great boon.

What thrills us so is the truly marvellous way in which God knows and meets the needs of the moment. A few months back, whilst checking the crockery one afternoon, we found we were in need of cups for the children, and when we were wondering just what to do, some friends called bringing parcels which included 50 cups!

Another time we were especially requiring socks, and a friend wrote saying that she felt led to send some along feeling that we were in need of same.