

Vicar's Notes

More Accommodation

Since April last year, negotiations have been taking place on behalf of the Church Council for the purchase of a large house near the church—"Wayside"—and now at last the sale has been completed, and the house is ours, with the London Diocesan Fund as the Trustees. In due course the house should prove a great asset to the parish, for the lower floor will provide much-needed accommodation for meetings, small social gatherings, breakfasts after the Parish Communion, committees, and so on. When certain alterations have been carried out, the upper-floor should provide three very attractive small flats at a good rental. But at first, the house will seem more of a liability than an asset, for there will be very heavy initial costs, and also a large loan to pay off. The Church Council hopes that parishioners who feel the project a good one will offer help in tangible ways. Interest-free loans of £25 for a term of years have been suggested, and offers of furniture and equipment. A member of the Council has already offered to provide the fur-

niture for one room. The situation of the house near the church, and many other factors, make it a much better proposition than the small (but expensive!) new hall in School Road we originally thought of building.

Lent

It is not possible to draw up an ambitious programme for Lent, but it is possible to set free a room in the Vicarage at 8.30 p.m. on certain Wednesdays, beginning on March 2nd, for study and discussion. I suggest that we might consider together certain "Christian Deviations," as they have been well-termed in a book with that title — Christian Science, Seventh-Day Adventism, Moral Rearmament, British-Israel, Jehovah's Witnesses, and so on. Members of the last-named are shortly going to make a big onslaught on the Borough of Twickenham, and we ought to be more prepared for them than we often are—for their 'evangelists' are most carefully trained, and are very subtle, and we must know something of what they stand for in advance. Such a study should also enlarge our knowledge of the Faith we ourselves profess, and enable us to take our stand more firmly upon it.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisations

PERSONALIA

It was interesting to receive at Christmas a letter from Mr. H. S. Job, C.B.E., whose father was Vicar here for many years up to the beginning of the First World-War. Mr. Job this month completes 50 years' service in Egypt, and is hoping to come back to live in this neighbourhood in May. He and his wife have become much attached to life in Egypt, but the call of home is strong, and they hope only that the rigours of the English climate may not now prove to much for them after the pleasant sunshine of the East.

A link with the days when Mr. Job's father was Vicar here has just been broken in the death of Mr. Stephen Newman, who was a choirman here for most of that period. A framed photograph of

all the members of the choir in 1902 hangs in our vestry, and I have seen it in some houses in the Parish too. Mr. Newman and his two brothers are there. It would be interesting to know how many of the others are still amongst us, and if there are sufficient number, it may be worth-while trying to hold some form of re-union. If anyone is interested in this, please let the Vicar know. The Service in September to which all old people were specially invited, did help to renew the contacts between the Parish Church and many such "old-timers," including Mr. Newman himself, and it may be possible to plan more ventures in this direction if there is a desire for them.

We congratulate most heartily Mr. Cyril Tarrant on his engagement, and are sorry only that his

forthcoming marriage will involve his moving from this district. We shall miss him very much indeed. His name has become a by-word among us for cheerful service and efficient organisation. "Let's ask Cyril to do it," we have said, and then felt sure that everything would be attended to, no detail overlooked. His going will leave a special and irreplaceable gap in our Drama Group. He has been its secretary right from the beginning, and without his hard work and unflagging enthusiasm it could never have done what it has.

We send our sympathy to Mr. Coe on the death of his wife. Mr. Coe has lived in Hanworth for some years now, but he used to live in the Parish, and must have been one of the first of our bell-ringers, for he remembers ringing when there were only three bells, and there have, I believe, been six since 1894.

Mention of the bells reminds us of the hope cherished by Mr. Frank Sargeant, our chief authority on everything to do with the spire and tower, that they should in due course be brought up to their full number of eight. This was evidently the original intention, but the project has been shelved for many years, and to-day, of course, we are so much concerned with raising large sums of money to preserve the fabric of the church that it may be many years yet before this hope can be realised. But though we have only the awkward number of six bells, our three bell-ringers all ring so skilfully that we rarely stop to notice that two are missing.

Three bell-ringers — yes, for Geoffrey Eaton, thanks to Mr. Sargeant's careful training, has now become a fully-fledged and most enthusiastic ringer, and is also relieving Mr. Sargeant and his son of the thrice-weekly winding of the heavy weights of the clock. If my information is correct, Geoffrey must be about the same age as Mr. Coe was when he began to ring way back in the 'nineties.

Miss Gwyneth Lewis has painted and inscribed the second Baptis-

mal Roll, and it is now in position. Every child whose name is on either of these rolls receives a card on the anniversary of the baptism until the age of five, by which time he or she should be happily at home in our Sunday School. The money for this, as for the framing of the rolls themselves, comes from the Mothers' Union Baptistery Fund.

We are grateful to Mr. Western for his kindness and generosity in arranging for the first three years' issues of "The Spire" to be beautifully bound by craftsmen. He has presented one of these bound volumes to the Church Council, to be kept with the other records of Church and Parish, and to be available for reference in future years, and the other to the Vicar. For many years copies of the Parish Magazine have not been kept or bound, except perhaps by individuals here and there, and the loss of the information they contain, and the sidelights they throw on the history of the Parish is a sad one.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Feb. 10.—7.45 p.m. Men's Society (Vicarage).
- Feb. 12.—3.30 p.m. Infants' Sunday School Party (Hall).
- Feb. 13.—8.0 p.m. Commission on Worship (38, St. James's Av.).
- Feb. 19.—3.0 p.m. Sunday School Demonstrations, St. Mary's Schools, Twickenham.
- Feb. 23.—Ash Wednesday. Holy Communion 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m. Lenten Evening Service. 8.15 p.m. Young Wives' Group (Hall).
- Feb. 24.—St. Matthias. Holy Communion 7.15 a.m.
- March 1.—8.0 p.m. Parish Prayer Group (Church).
- March 2.—8.30 p.m. Lenten Study (Vicarage).
- March 3.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
- March 4.—7.30 p.m. Magazine Distributors (Vicarage). 8.0 p.m. Junior Dept. S.S. Teachers (Vicarage).

N.B. Confirmation Classes will meet as arranged.

No Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m. on Thursdays until further notice.

BAPTISMS

- Jan. 23.—Martin Gregson, Lambourne, 47, Uxbridge Road.
„ 23.—Lesley Anne Straus, 15, Roy Grove.

BURIALS

- Jan. 13.—William Butt, 96, Uxbridge Road, aged 83 years.
„ 20.—Stephen John Bruce Newman, 23, Windmill Road, aged 79 years.
„ 26.—Ada Elizabeth Coe, 30, Cross Road, Hanworth, aged 68 years.

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

THE CHURCH OVERSEAS

“He is the only Saviour”

At a women's meeting in Kenya, a young woman told of the day when she discarded the last of her pagan charms. She said that she had got rid of them all except one—and this one had been tied round her waist as an infant by her mother who said: “If you take this one off you will surely die.” Her longing to be a fully committed Christian increased, but she knew that the charm was holding her back. She lit a fire and threw it on. What would happen? Nothing happened. She took a stick and poked the embers. The charm was burnt to ashes! “Yes,” she said, “it was only a thing made by man, a bit of wood and string, and could not even save itself. So don't deceive yourselves that any charm can really protect you; it can't. It is only a lie of the devil to make you afraid. Believe in Jesus. He is the only Saviour.”

The Stones will Cry Out

“Recently I was driving a mobile unit,” writes a C.M.S. missionary in Kenya. “On the side panels, printed in large letters in the local language, was the slogan: ‘New life in Christ Jesus.’ Suddenly a Christian Kikuyu teacher exclaimed: ‘Here have I been keeping quiet about Jesus, and that car is praising Him! Surely if we hold our peace the very stones will cry out!’”

“Joy and Peace in Believing”

C.M.S. missionaries write:

Kashmir—“We recently visited an old man who was very ill. We gathered round his bed and sang

in Kashmiri his favourite hymn—‘The Lord's my Shepherd’—and committed him to God in prayer. What it meant to the crowd of his Moslem friends and relations assembled in the room we do not know; but they must have seen the joy and peace which lit up the old man's face . . .”

Uganda—“On a recent visit to a leprosy hospital, I watched the light of the hurricane lamp on the faces of one after another as they spoke with love of the Lord Jesus. I knew it was true when they said that He meant more to them than all that they had suffered. Those who really knew Christ had joy in spite of pain, and I thought of the many throughout the world who have no real joy and peace, although they have health and possessions.”

India—“Our School clerk's wife has been admitted to hospital where she will probably have to have an operation. I said to him: ‘It is very sad isn't it? You must be very worried about your wife, and miss her very much at home?’—he has five children. His reply shamed me with its assurance and triumph: ‘Yes,’ he said, ‘but we are all happy. All the children have their work to do. Everyone helps, and we know God is with us and is looking after her.’”

“A PEOPLE APART”

The S.P.G., “the natural agent” of the Church in South Africa, has been able to acquire a much sought after collection of photographs of an exceptionally high artistic standard. Taken by Mr. Nigel Heseltine, they give a striking survey of the people and places of non-European South Africa. There has never been a

more arresting pictorial presentation of the sort of background against which the Church has to work.

This Exhibition cogently underlines the importance of the S.P.G. South Africa Emergency Fund Appeal and brings home to us the acute problems and vast challenges which face South Africa.

The Exhibition will be opened on February 1st at 3 p.m. by The Rt. Rev. Ambrose Reeves, Lord Bishop of Johannesburg, and Miss Josephine Douglas, the well known T.V., Screen and Stage personality whose production of "Cry, the Beloved Country" at St. Martin-in-the-Fields attracted wide attention.

The S.P.G. say to us all:—

"You will not forget this Exhibition for a long time once you have seen it."

"ADVENTURES BY LAND AND SEA"

Plans are now well advanced for the Hampton Deanery Missionary Exhibition under the above title, which will be held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Twickenham, on **April 26th, 27th and 28th**. The Exhibition will open each day at 3 p.m., with a Meeting at which a visiting Opener will speak; there will be another Speaker at an Evening Meeting at 7 p.m., and the Exhibition will close each evening at 9 p.m. The Opening Speaker on the first day will be the Bishop of Peterborough.

We hope you will book these dates in your diary and come to the Exhibition and bring your friends.

In these days we have news of world affairs daily at our fire-sides: we hear of events taking place in all parts of the world, but we do not hear a great deal about the Church's efforts to relieve the stresses and strains, and the message she has from her Master on the conflicts and frictions in this country and in that.

With India striding to leadership in the councils of the Asiatic bloc, what is the Church doing? You will hear from those on the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society and the Oxford Mission to Calcutta Exhibits.

South America has frequently hit the headlines in recent years, but did you know that the Anglican Church is working in that Continent? Come and hear what the South American Missionary Society Exhibit has to tell you.

(N.B.—Our Parish has been asked to find nine stewards for this Exhibit — any volunteers, please?).

How is the Jew-Arab tension being reduced? The Jerusalem and the East Mission Exhibit will enlighten you on this subject.

Why did South India send the largest number of Communist deputies to Congress at the last election? The United Society of Christian Literature Exhibit can throw light on this question.

As Missionaries are being squeezed out of many countries, what of the other British people who still live there? What of the prairies and the Australian Bush? You will find the answer at the exhibit of the Colonial and Continental Church Society.

Where is Melanesia? The Melanesian Mission Exhibit will tell you where it is and a good deal about it as well.

Besides these special Missionary Society "Courts" there will be films, film strips and talks to interest you; books and stamps to buy, and good refreshments to sustain you on your journey round the Exhibition.

The Overseas Missionary Work of the Church is not just a subject for cranks, but is a plain duty laid upon every member of the Church by Him who said—"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."