

Vicar's Notes

Once again the dangers amidst which our modern life is set have forcibly obtruded themselves on our notice. We see again the hideous strength of Communism, always plotting ill in the background, now flaring forth in all its naked brutality to crush men who want to be free—and there seems nothing we can do, the United Nations talks when action is needed, but who dare act? We see action instead of talk in the Middle East cauldron, where Communism has been seeking our ruin in co-operation with other evil men—but this action has divided and bewildered a nation which is always eager to believe the best of everybody, even its worst enemies. What the situation will be like when this magazine appears no one can tell, except that it will call for all the wisdom and courage that we and our leaders can muster from anywhere—and the best source of all is God. Let us pray that He in His goodness may overrule the present difficulties and dangers for our good, and the good of all men everywhere.

CHRISTIAN CONFIDENCE

I spoke at the united service in the Methodist Church, before the situation reached its present acute stage of crisis, of that great inheritance preserved by the Methodist tradition which an old college friend of mine who is now one of the leading Methodist historians, and theologians, calls 'an optimism of grace.' This is a mood and temper which is badly needed in the whole Church to-day—this certainty that the power of God can overthrow strongholds of evil here and now, that there are no 'necessary evils' but only mountains to be removed by the faith that rebels. To-day even Christians are so often infected and enfeebled by the sense of despair around them that they become fainthearted instead of the centres of right confidence they should be. In a time like this we need more than ever to recover the great doctrines which Methodism rescued and preserved, of the all-embracing plan of salvation, of the redemption of all men by Christ, and that therefore all

human life is to be claimed for Christ, and can be cleansed and enriched and brought to perfection by Him.

OUR OWN SMALL DIFFICULTIES

In the light of world events, and the hardships suffered by millions, our own difficulties and inconveniences seem petty and trivial. We see how easy it is to get things out of proportion, and to get bogged down in our own parochial problems. One instance of this occurred last week when only eight of us turned out to see the striking films of the Church at work, tackling far greater difficulties than we have ever had to face, in Borneo and Australia. Such a demonstration of Thames Valley Apathy made one blush for shame. I hope that the unusual and I am told most gripping films about the Gospel to be shown in the Hall on November 28th, will receive better support. But it is not just a question of turning out for meetings against the counter-attraction of radio and T.V.—it is a question of finding and playing our part as Christians in a world which will perish if God's Will is not more fully sought and done in it.

THE GIFT DAY

To meet urgent commitments we need at least an additional £250 before the end of the year. I hope to give a detailed statement why this is necessary in the December magazine, which will be ready on November 30th. We want to tackle this vigorously through our Gift Day on December 9th—special envelopes will be delivered with the magazines. If we all make an extra effort, there is no doubt about our ability to do it. We have been encouraged by the fact that four people have generously offered us loans of £50 for oil heating. I hope that more will offer. With a successful Gift Day, we should be able to repay part of the loan almost at once, and the rest in the course of next year. I have also been encouraged by the slow but steady increase in direct, regular giving—the idea of 2/6 a week, or 10/10 a month, or £6-10-0 a year, is beginning to 'catch on,' and on a long-term view here is great hope.

THE MOTHERS' UNION

My dear M.U. Members,

I feel sure that those of you who were present at the Re-Dedication service in October must have been challenged by the Vicar's message. What an ideal was set before us—"The homely fireside—the warmth radiating from the fire." I trust that you have thought out the implications of the message and that together we shall strive to put it into practice so that we as a Branch of the great M.U. family may be shining servants of Christ in the life of our Parish. It is my sincere prayer that the glow of warmth may be really felt.

My own admittance as your Enrolling Member greatly humbled me. It was a most memorable service to me and they were truly sacred moments as I pledged myself to this responsible office. I realise I can only discharge my duties in the full belief that I first seek to do God's will. Will you pray daily for me that I may experience fully the power of Christ and be possessed by the love that inflames the soul with undying zeal?

Item for Praise—the recovery of Mrs. A. Lewis who is now home from hospital.

Item for Prayer—for God's blessing and presence to be with Mrs. Reid who is in Mount Vernon Hospital.

Dates to remember:—

Dec. 1.—Bring and Buy Sale at Wayside.

Dec. 5.—Meeting at Wayside, 3 p.m. Speaker—Mrs. Ackroyd.

MILDRED J. BECKETT.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

The above-named is a new venture in the parish aimed at interesting all between the ages of 15 and 25. Meetings are held on Sunday evenings, and its programme includes visiting speakers, practical topics, Bible study, open meetings, etc. The full winter programme is to be announced and posted.

R.B.

THE CHURCH LADS' BRIGADE

Founded 1891—Incorporated 1893

Motto: 'Fight the Good Fight'

Patron:

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

President:

His Grace the

ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY

A long historical note would be tedious and might defeat the purpose of these notes. Nevertheless a glimpse into the past is never wasted, to look over one's shoulder is always a good way of seeing how far one has progressed on the way.

In 1891 the first company was formed at St. Andrew's, Fulham, and the founder, Walter Malloch Gee, on the 11th November in that year called an inaugural meeting. At this meeting the Gordon Boys' Brigade was merged into the C.L.B. and its crest was adapted as the C.L.B. badge.

I have learnt from our National Headquarters that our company was established on the 23rd November, 1892, and existed until 1928-29. How many of the members are there still in the parish?—How much of the good work has spread abroad? The 1926 vintage must be in the 45-55 age group. Where are they? I was delighted to have the reminiscences of Mr. H. S. Job—yes, of days before I was born!

The Church Lads' Brigade has returned to St. James', Hampton Hill, after a long absence. Not with a bang, but with some success—and they have brought the Battalion Colours back after an absence of 25 years.

These were dedicated to the memory of a gallant Church Lads' Brigade member of our very own parish. It is my hope that we can have these re-embroidered before we hand them over to some other company in the Battalion. The duty of caring for these colours may inspire a lad not to a brave deed in the horrors of war, but to the work of the C.L.B. in the service of others.

Traditions are part of our national heritage and character. This little known fact about our colours may be passed on with a sense of pride to the future families of the lads, which might well foster a sense of duty and honour in those future generations. Whether a similar sense of spiritual duty and honour can be implanted will depend on the grains of truth and kindness that are sown today.

The present company is slowly being drawn to the Church by voluntary attendance at Church parades, and continued attendance at Sunday school. On October 21st there was a special parade to mark the close of the week of Thanksgiving and we are grateful to the many parishioners who showed their interest and gave generous gifts during the week. In this age of counter-attraction, and ready acceptance of the easy alternative, it well could be the last chance we have to fill the ranks of this very fine organisation.

Very few youths have strong latent characteristics—those that have need little or no attention, they are ready made. The bulk need their various assets to be nurtured. It is an indisputable fact that their is a spark of good in every one of the lads. You can fan it up into a bright flame, not an easy thing, as any camper will have found out—alternatively it is so easily snuffed out. Intolerance, selfishness, thoughtlessness, are all so readily at hand. It is your encouragement and prayers that are so badly needed. It is not an old Victorian melodramatic hope that a 'saved' boy is going to evangelise his drunken parents, but it is certain that he is going to be a better lad himself and that he must influence those he comes in contact with.

A small contingent of 12 lads attended the London Regimental Camp at Bembridge, Isle of Wight. They weathered the storm very well, and in terms of companionship and character building it was a great success.

It is food for thought to consider what past training has produced in the form of reliability, leadership, and sense of duty. The following are the War Honours

awarded to members of the Brigade:—

- 22 Victoria Crosses.
- 36 Distinguished Service Orders.
- 131 Military Crosses.
- 175 Distinguished Conduct Medals.
- 498 Military Medals.
- 19 Croix de Guerre and many others.

May I thank all those that have helped to encourage the company, the lads are possibly the finest contribution to the Church Renovation fund that has so far been made.

B. A. HOLT.

N.B.—C.L.B. Jumble Sale (Rectory School) Sat., November 10th.
Bazaar, Sat., December 8th.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Nov. 11—Remembrance Day. N.B. —Matsin begin at 10.55 a.m.
- Nov. 12—7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference (Twickenham).
- Nov. 14.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group A.G.M. (W).
- Nov. 15.—8.0 p.m. Scout Group Committee (W).
- Nov. 16.—8.15 p.m. Properties Committee (W).
- Nov. 17.—8.0 p.m. Social Evening —Proceeds for the Renovation Fund (Hall).
- Nov. 23.—Junior Dept. Sunday School Teachers (V).
- Nov. 24.—8.0 p.m. Scout Group Social Evening (Hall).
- Nov. 27.—8.15 p.m. Church Council (W).
- Nov. 28.—8.0 p.m. Film Evening (Hall).
- Nov. 30.—St. Andrew.
7.15 a.m.—Holy Communion.
7.30 p.m.—Magazine Distributors (V).
- Dec. 2.—First Sunday in Advent.
- Dec. 9.—Dedication Festival and Gift Day.

BAPTISMS

- Oct. 28.—Penelope Jane Willmott, 195, Uxbridge Road.
- „ 28.—Janet Angela Beggs, 49, Longford Close.
- „ 28.—Cheryl Lesley Philips, 31 Richmond Road, N.11.
- „ 28.—Norman Alec Charles, Lott, 94, Buckingham Rd.
- „ 28.—Christopher Keith Green 39, Burton's Road.

MARRIAGES

- Oct. 13.—Brian Anthony Greening to Eileen Grace Stacey.

BURIALS

Oct. 10.—Charles Stewart, 152, Stanley Road, aged 72 years (at Teddington).
„ 11.—William James Headford, 7, Cross Street, aged 73 years (at Hampton).

Oct. 13.—Sidney Charles Sykes 39, Rectory Grove, aged 45 years (at Hampton).
Nov. 1.—Matilda Bennett, Laurel Dene, aged 69 years (at Teddington).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND ZENANA MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Items of missionary interest this quarter include the following:—

India

In spite of recent reports in the newspapers of opposition to Christian missions in India, opportunities there are by no means diminished at present. Remembering what happened in China, however, it would be unwise to assume that all will remain well indefinitely. We do not know, for instance, what might happen if Mr. Nehru's restraining hand were removed; a change in Government might mean swift reversals of policy. All the more necessary is it to train national leaders in the Church so that it may stand on its own feet. This is being done with remarkable success, particularly in the Church of South India, a notable experiment in unity which is an example to the world. It sets significant examples, also, in the training of women for Church work and evangelisation, and in stressing the value of the Christian home.

Calcutta

The new Diocese of Barrackpore, formerly part of the Diocese of Calcutta, was inaugurated on St. Bartholomew's Day, August 26th, with the Rt. Rev. Ronald Bryan as its first Bishop. Our representative Miss Margaret D. MacArthur, will be Secreary of the Diocesan Board of Women's Work.

Ceylon

A new piece of work is being opened up by Miss Marjorie Carter, a missionary of this Society, under the Diocese of Colombo—a School for the Deaf at Kaitadi. Five acres of Crown land have been given and the first two buildings have been erected. One is the Principal's bungalow, the other a block which will eventually be used for classrooms, when we can afford to build separate hostels. At present, part is being used for dormitories and staff rooms. This term we have had twenty-five deaf boys and girls and three blind, all under eleven years of age. So this new family begins with twenty-eight delightful children, full of life and energy, eager to learn. The beginnings of any new venture are never easy, and we should value the prayer help of our friends.

General

There seems to be a world-wide revival of interest in religion. This is shown in the resurgence of interest in the ancient religions of the East, such as Buddhism and Hinduism. This may be partly due to the strong feeling of nationalism, to an awakening social conscience and an appreciation of the appeal of Christianity and a realisation of what it has done to help the poor and afflicted, or to a realisation of the menace of a godless society such as Communism.