

Vicar's Notes

The correspondence quoted in last month's magazine aroused a good deal of interest. There was also some indignation, amongst those who already knew the facts and the amount of work which was being done, that anyone could take A.B.'s line. But many people do, and nothing anyone can say seems to make much difference. A.B., writing again, remains unmoved, claiming the duty to criticise but refusing any obligation to help. "We all have our appointed place and work . . . and my work does not include anything to do with St. James's churchyard." This reminded me of some very similar letters a few years ago, in which the writer at first expressed great willingness to make a donation, but then withdrew the offer two months later. The reasons she gave were that these matters were the responsibility of churchgoers; she was no longer one, because she had found that people who went to church were always talking scandal. She now worshipped God in a garden, away from human insincerity; let those who profess to worship Him in church get on with the job, and leave her in peace. Well—that's what we try to do: but it's not just that question of one job, but of many, and we would welcome others to tackle them with us—and are glad when some appear. The picture is not all black!

To return to the churchyard—the Church Council has just received £75 under the will of a former churchwarden, Mr. Christopher Jakeman, to be invested to provide funds for the upkeep of his own grave and the churchyard in general. Another lady has also sent £25 for the same purpose. This is a tangible way of helping with one particular job.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

We all want to know the best ways in which to help modern young people. The need for more youth clubs is stressed again and again. But what sort of clubs should they be? Should they be entirely free and easy, where young young people can do just as they feel inclined? It is said that

many young people to-day are so exhausted after a hard week at school or at work, and so tired of being organised, that all they want on a Friday evening is to sit or stand about, doing as nearly nothing as possible in company with others—perhaps talking, or listening to records, with an occasional jive thrown in. In a club like this, nearly everything is unorganised, and no one is compelled to join in anything. The chief function of the adult leader is merely to keep an eye on things and to preserve reasonable order. If more active leadership is wanted, it is up to the young people to provide it from amongst themselves—if not, well and good.

In support of this view of what a youth club should be, it is pointed out that in many clubs to-day, when organised activities have been provided, often at the request of the members themselves, enthusiasm for them soon wanes, and only a few receive sufficient support to survive more than a month or two. It is also contended that too strong adult leadership produces hostility and sometimes rebellion, and then the club may have to close down altogether.

But the recent annual report issued by the National Association of Boys' Clubs challenges all this. It disagrees with the Albemarle Report's advocacy of clubs which cater for young people's social needs in "an unconstrained way. It maintains that the need is for clubs with proper aims and objectives, strong leadership and sound organisation. Just to keep young people off the streets or out of unsatisfactory homes, and allow them to do more or less as they like in a pleasant atmosphere, is not good enough. What the arguments of the Albemarle Report reject 'is that the younger generation has any desire to learn from the experience of adults or that they want a faith by which to live. We believe this to be the very opposite of what is true."

Here we have experts in strong disagreement. Perhaps the answer is that there is room for both types of club. We are anxious to do our best for all the young people in our parish, so the ques-

tions raised are of far more than academic importance. There have been some good discussions about them at recent meetings of our Youth Club Committee, and I hope that these will continue here and elsewhere.

ACCIDENTS

On holiday, I heard of the bad car-smash affecting a friend (who has twice acted as locum for me here) and his family as they travelled down to Devon. We had hoped that they would be able to drive over and see us in Cornwall. Then came the news of Mrs. Thomas's bad fall and painful time in hospital—a sad climax to the joyful period of diamond wedding celebrations just before.

Just after our return we heard of the accident in France in

which Dr. Marjory Warren was killed and Miss Betty Stewart seriously injured. Dr. Warren, whom many of us remember coming here as the main speaker when we started the Old People's Welfare Committee, was a pioneer in the medical care of the aged, and her death leaves a great gap. The news about Betty was at first very grave, and I was much relieved to receive a letter from her when the latest reports said that she was still unconscious. But how she could write at all, battered about as she was, and almost certainly in great pain, beats me! It certainly shows what a wonderful spirit she has. Her absence will be a great handicap as we start the new Sunday School year, but it now looks as though she may be back sooner than we dared to hope—and the latest news of Mrs. Thomas is of good progress too.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about people, activities & organisation

THE MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union will meet on October 5th at 3 p.m. to hear Mrs. Charles speak on "The Branch members in action."

October 4th is the date of the Mass Meeting to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, at 2.30 p.m. The Speaker will be the Right Rev. Stephen F. Bayne—an American who is the Chief Executive Officer to the Anglican Communion.

Members are reminded of two meetings in November. The first on November 2nd at St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham, at 3 p.m., when the speaker will be Mrs. M. Rawlinson.

There will be an evening meeting at Wayside on November 16th at 8 p.m. to see a film strip about the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

Further details of the meetings and speakers arranged by the committees of the Mothers' Union and the Young Wives' Group may be had from the printed programmes which are available for all members and any who are interested.

THE YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

As many of the members concerned were away on holiday at the time of the last meeting we should like to repeat our thanks to those who gave so generously for our cake stall at the Fête. Including the efforts made by other groups of our members (the Badminton Group, Pestalozzi Group, Mrs. Pyne's foursome, Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Taylor) £17-3-7 was contributed to Church Funds.

At the last Y.W. meeting, we held a group discussion. Although, because of holidays, fewer members were present than usual, it was one of the most stimulating and interesting meetings we have held this year.

We divided into four groups, each with a leader, to enable less confident members to feel able to state their opinions. As things turned out, the difficulty was to stop people from talking, rather than any need to encourage them.

The subjects for discussion were:—

- (1) The advantages and disadvantages of the only child.
- (2) Mothers going out to work.

- (3) The problems of sex, as applied to mothers with teenage children.

It was soon apparent that most people had given a lot of thought to the last question, and even those with very young children, were worried about it.

There is not sufficient space to detail the conclusions we reached, and as it was unanimously agreed that teenagers already get far too much publicity I shall not add to it.

Our chairman had to be firm about closing the meeting at 10 p.m., but small groups of Y.W. could be heard continuing the discussion over the washing up in the kitchen, and later, in the street on the way home.

The next Y.W. meeting will be an "At Home," to be held in the hall, on September 28th.

F.M.H.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship extends a warm welcome to all newly-confirmed young people to join us in our various activities. The Autumn programme started on Sunday, September 11th. Notices concerning our activities are displayed on the notice-board facing St. James's Road.

A.C.L.

CONFIRMATION

At the Service in St. Mary's, Hampton, on July 3rd, the following young people from this parish were confirmed by the Bishop of Kensington:—

Colin Poyntz Gloyns, Graham Philip Peel, Alan Ronald Redman, Richard David Stevens, Richard Gordon Tucker, Trudy Ann Carrington, Diana Susan Corkill, Margaret Anne Gunns, Christine Janet Mackinnon, Vivien Charlotte Nassim, Deidre Pamela Stephens.

A Confirmation Service has been provisionally fixed for this church on July 9th next year, and classes in preparation will begin soon after Christmas.

A short meeting to arrange for the formation of an adult group will be held in church at 7.45 on Sunday, October 30th, after the Evening Service.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

- Sept. 22.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).
Sept. 24.—Tower open to visitors (2.30—4 p.m.).
Sept. 27.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).
Sept. 28.—8.0 p.m. Young Wives' Group 'At Home.'
Sept. 29.—St. Michael and All Angels. 7.15 and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion; 7.15 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Preacher: The Rev. E. J. Parkinson, Vicar of Hampton. 8.30 p.m. Harvest Supper and Entertainment (H).
Oct. 2.—Continuation of Harvest Festival. 11.0 p.m. Family and Parade Service.
Oct. 3.—7.30 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
Oct. 5.—3.0 p.m. Mothers' Union Meeting.
Speaker: Mrs. Charles (W).
Oct. 6.—8.0 p.m. Moral Welfare Association: Open Meeting at which the Bishop of Stepney will speak (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham).
Oct. 14.—12 noon to 6.30 p.m. Transvaal and Southern Rhodesia Missions Sale (Caxton Hall, Westminster). Hannah Stanton will speak at 1.0, 3.0 and 6.0 p.m. Admission 6d.
Oct. 19-22.—Deanery Missionary Exhibition (St. Mary's Hall, Twickenham). Admission by programme 1/-.
Oct. 23.—6.30 p.m. United Service at St. Mary's, Hampton.

Copy for the October magazine should be sent to the Vicarage not later than October 3. It is hoped that publication will be on Friday, October 14.

MARRIAGES

- Aug. 20.—Keith Barrell to Alison Joy Bellars.
„ 27.—William Henry Bass to Shirley Anne Benham.
Sept. 17.—John Michael Bonfield to Jill Gertrude Naldrett.

BURIALS AND CREMATIONS

June 9.—Beatrice Anne Benjamin,
36, Cottimore Avenue,
Walton, aged 81 years.

„ 22.—Harry Joseph Good, 214,
Hanworth Road, aged
69, yrs. (at Hampton).

„ 25.—Peter Lovell Woodford-
Ward, 6, Uxbridge Rd.,

aged 43 years (at S.W.
Midx. Crematorium).

Aug. 27.—Albert Ernest Uncles,
16, Windmill Rd., aged
63 years.

Sept. 8.—Mary Watson Tournu,
37, St. James's Avenue
(at Teddington).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

OVERSEAS STUDENTS

In Greater London there are nearly 5,000 students from abroad at the University, over 6,000 at polytechnics and technical colleges; more are studying at the Inns of Court, learning to be nurses in hospitals, or here as students and exchange teachers or trainees in industry and commerce. Two out of three are from countries of the British Commonwealth, particularly Asia and Africa. There are also many civil servants from overseas working in the Commissioners' and Agents' Offices in London.

Many have come here with commendations from Churches in their home countries, but it is estimated that 60% to 70% of Christians who have come from other parts of the world leave this country again

without ever having joined in public worship. There is a great need for offers of accommodation, hospitality and friendship.

Anyone who can offer accommodation at a reasonable rent, or occasional hospitality (invitations to a meal or a week-end) should get in touch with:

The Hon. Secretary for Overseas
Visitors,

S.P.G., 15, Tufton Street, S.W.1.
(Tel.: ABBey 7358).

or

The Secretary, Overseas Visitors
Department,

C.M.S. (Home Division),
6, Salisbury Square, E.C.4.
(Tel.: FLEet Street 7276 or
6134).