

Vicar's Notes

A campaign that has perhaps not been noticed by us as much as it ought (though the demonstration by the Police at our Fete fitted in with it very well) is the National Road Safety Campaign, which goes on until the end of September. But it certainly is relevant to us as much as to anybody else, despite the deceptive quietness of some of our streets. The standard of road behaviour is not too good, and there are some very dangerous crossings, made worse by vehicles parked very near to them on both sides of the road. It is a wonder that there are not more serious accidents than there are. I myself have seen a number of near-misses lately. Two which stick in my mind—a car turning into a main road without slowing down, causing the traffic which had the right of way to swerve violently towards the wrong side of the road; another car, turning left from a main road into a side road, cornering so badly that it mounted the opposite curb.

In connection with the Campaign, there have been various learned articles on the psychology of bad driving, and why there should be such a strong inclination to revert to a more primitive level of personality once a man gets a steering-wheel in his hands. The theological and religious sides of road safety have also been thoroughly discussed, but the main initiative in the whole matter, and the actual request that we should pray about it, has come, not from the Church, but from the local authorities, and prayer-leaflets have been sent out in large numbers, not by Bishops and Rabbis, but by Town Clerks and Borough Surveyors.

This is a healthful recognition of the fact that there are human problems, of which carnage on the roads is one (over 60,000 killed in Europe each year), which require something more than human legislation and propaganda for their solution.

THE TIMES WE LIVE IN

There are, of course, far graver problems than this one of road-safety, which we see on our door-steps every day. Some of these others, though, seem so far away. We hear them referred to in sermons in church, and then made subjects of prayer, but they are easy to forget. Hunger in India, and the refu-

gees we have never met, often seem very remote. But we are beginning to do something about them. The response to the Christian Aid Week Appeal in this area was again very encouraging. We were not able to cover all the streets in this parish, but from those which were, £76 came—and from the whole Hampton area, £270. In addition £96 was raised for relief work in the Congo by Mrs. Eustace's clothing sales.

Other problems the newspapers bring into our homes every day. Some of these we also hear mentioned in church, and we also then offer them to God in prayer. Do we also pray about them as they press upon us day by day? Or do we, like so many, feel so absolutely powerless and even frightened that we think about them as little as possible, and grasp at any refuge that comes to hand? Perhaps we find temporary relief in Bingo, or in mentally murdering Macmillan and Gaitskell or even, going further than John Osborne, putting our knife into Kennedy and Krushchev as well. But in our hearts we know that hatred and anger are no real answer; still less is despair, or refusing to think. What is needed is far more thinking and far more praying than most of us have ever attempted, both privately and together. On the corporate side, many people might find help and inspiration in our Prayer Group, which meets every two or three weeks, and is now making a detailed study of Romans, an epistle with special relevance to our own times. In September a new study group is being formed which will bring together people from all the local churches to grapple directly with some of the stresses and strains and perplexities with which, living in the nuclear age and in a world of power politics, we are all involved. I have also been hoping for some time to get going a group of Christian and agnostic humanists. Sometimes there seems to be an iron curtain between us, and yet we often care deeply about the same matters, and long to work with others to bring the world back to sanity. It would be good to meet together to discuss what we have in common, and where we differ.

THE WORLD OUR PARISH

In one sense this ought to be true—our concern in prayer and thought and giving should go to the

ends of the earth. Most of us cannot follow this up by any actual work and service in distant lands, but some of our number can, and have. On St. James's Day last year we had Hannah Stanton, one of our pioneers, telling us about her work in South Africa and its sad, yet triumphant end. Her book about this—"Go Well, Stay Well,"—is to be published in October. Bishop Reeves says, "It is a most moving personal account of the African experiences of a very remarkable woman." Books are unfortunately very expensive today, and this costs 16/-, but I hope the Church Council may see its way towards buying one or two copies and passing them round.

On St. James's Day this year we had another of our Christian adventurers, Rodney Bishop, speaking to us of his year of work and holidays in Canada, and showing us many stirring coloured slides of his journeys in that beautiful land. Canada has been just the starting-point in overseas Christian service for him, as he now hopes to go as a medical missionary to Thailand, after some preliminary theological and language study here.

Others of us move into different parts of England. Mr. Welling, our organist, after raising our music to

a higher standard than for many years—and how he had got our boys to sing!—has now gone to be music master at Trent College. We congratulate him on this appointment, on his F.R.C.O. and Mus.Bac., and on his marriage.

Not far away are Mr. and Mrs. Hartland. Mr. Hartland has an important appointment at Nottingham University, and they are living in a district near my last parish. Mr. Hartland brought a keen and vigorous mind to our discussions at Church Council meetings, and we shall miss him very much.

HOLIDAYS

Most people have come back, just as we start, so we shall miss some of the resumed parish activities. I have managed to get the magazine copy to the printers before getting away, but I am afraid that the proofs will have to be sent up to Scotland for me to correct them, and the time lost in postage may mean that the magazines will appear only a few days before we return on September 16. While we are away, the Reverend E. B. Kitts, Vicar of Milnthorpe, Westmorland, will be living in the Vicarage with his wife and family, and available to help with any urgent matters—but please keep any matters that can wait until after my return.

AROUND THE SPIRE

being notes and news about
people, activities & organisation

THE MOTHERS' UNION AND YOUNG WIVES' GROUP

Our programme card has a new look this year. You may not notice this until you look at the back page. The back page has always been blank but now it has a year's list of fixtures for the middle Wednesday of each month.

There are two reasons for this extra monthly event. On the one hand members of the Group have often said that if they miss one meeting—and mothers of young children can rarely be certain of keeping a date for themselves—two months seems a long time to go from one meeting to the next. And in summer or at Christmas it may mean three months to wait. With the new programme there will be a choice of at least three meetings in

On the other hand headquarters circulars have been urging the Branch to be more flexible over the

times of meetings and urging, in particular, that evening meetings should be arranged for members unable to come in the afternoon.

The obvious solution was to combine both these meetings to make one of wider interest than the other monthly meetings. Half the mid month ones have been arranged by the M.U. committee, and half by the Y.W.G. committee. You might try to guess which!

Mothers' Union Notes. We are proud of the fact that our retiring Enrolling member—Mrs. Stevens—has been elected Chairman of the Diocesan Overseas Committee. We wish her well in this work.

As we hadn't a meeting at which to do so, we should like to take this opportunity of congratulating Mrs. Hillyer—now our most senior member—on her 87th birthday. Her regularity at Branch meetings and Church could put some of us to shame.

Part of the new-look of our programme is that the Wednesday afternoon meeting will now begin at 2.30 p.m. instead of 3.0 p.m. This alteration is to allow mothers of young children to stay for most of the meeting before having to fetch the children from school.

We are starting September with a Bring and Buy Sale, which may have taken place when this magazine appears.

Young Wives' Group

We usually try to arrange a kind of 'do-it-yourself' programme for the last meeting in July.

This year the meeting was well attended and short discussions on a variety of topics, ranging from "public lavatories" to suggestions for improving our own meetings, were interspersed with gramophone records.

As a result of the discussion on the first subject we decided to write to the Borough Council about the matter. As a result of discussion on the second subject we are taking up the suggestion that members with babies and toddlers would welcome an afternoon get-together. As this also produced some volunteers for arranging such an afternoon we hope to get this started straight away; probably on the spare Wednesday afternoons. This will not appear on the programmes as they were already at the printers. We will do our best with notices but anyhow, it would be as well to listen in to the grapevine for further news.

Our September at home this year will be slightly different as we intend to start off with a service in church and then to meet informally afterwards for eating and chatting.

The 'at-home' is particularly arranged to give us an opportunity of meeting new members. Please bring along any of your friends who may be interested.

C.H.B.

1st HAMPTON HILL GUIDE COMPANY

We are sorry that Miss Reaney, who has been our Captain for the past year, has now left us and returned to Southampton to live. We know you would all join with us in thanking her for all the work she has put in during this time, and wish her success in her Guiding at Southampton.

Unfortunately, it now leaves our Company without a Captain, and as we have not a Lieutenant either, it

creates a very serious problem. For the time being the Company has been joined with the 3rd and 5th Hampton Companies, and will continue to meet at Carlisle School on Thursdays with Miss Hammerton, the District Guide Captain as the Captain. As you will appreciate this is only a temporary measure, and we would appeal for some members of the Parish to come forward and help us. This Company has now been running for 43 years, and it would be a very sad thing if it had to close because of no Guiders.

We feel sure that somewhere in the Parish, there must be someone who has been a Guide or maybe even a Guider at some time, who can help, and so keep this Company going. We would ask anyone, even if they have not been in the movement before, who can help us, to contact our District Commissioner, Mrs. W. Belcher, 53, Kings Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

STANDING MATTER, ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS

Council

Secretary of Parochial Church

Council

Miss P. M. Stanley, 54a, St. James's Avenue. Tel. Mol. 6065.

Church Officer for Bookings of Hall and Wayside

Mr. W. F. Wigginton, 18, Cranmer Road. Tel. Mol. 4576.

Supervisors of Wayside

Mr. S. D. Harris, 82, Park Road. Tel. Mol. 1283.

Mrs. D. E. Warwick, 52, Park Road. Tel. Mol. 7004.

Organist and Choirmaster

Mr. G. Butterworth, Licentiate, L.C.M., 35, St. Mark's Road, Teddington.

Organiser for Church Flowers

Mrs. L. Mills, 40, Oldfield Road. Tel. Mol. 6626.

Mrs. Mills would be pleased to hear from people willing to arrange flowers on any particular Sunday.

SOME DATES TO NOTE

Sept. 6.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union (W).

Sept. 12.—8.0 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group: Film on Nursing.

Sept. 13.—8.0 p.m. Prayer Group (Vestry).

Sept. 17.—9.45 a.m. Sunday Schools re-open.

Sept. 20.—Hampton Council of Churches: Study Group—"The Christian in a World of Power-Politics," begins 8.0 p.m. (W).

Sept. 21.—St. Matthew.
 Holy Communion at 10.30 a.m.
 Harvest Festival Evensong at 7.15 p.m. Preacher: The Rev. R. S. Wallace, Vicar of St. Mark's, Teddington.
 Harvest Supper and Entertainment in Parish Hall at 8.30 p.m. (Tickets 3/6, from Mr. G. I. Robinson, 36, St. James's Road).

Sept. 24.—Continuation of Harvest Festival. 11.0 a.m. Matins (Family and Parade Service).
 Other service as usual.

Sept. 27.—7.45 p.m. Young Wives' Group: Service in Church followed by 'At Home.'

Sept. 28.—8.0 p.m. Church Council (Vestry).

Sept. 29.—St. Michael and All Angels. Holy Communion at 7.15 a.m.

Oct. 1.—3.30 p.m. 'At Home,' for parents of Sunday School children. (H).

Oct. 2.—8.0 p.m. Ruri-Decanal Conference.

Oct. 4.—2.30 p.m. Mothers' Union: 'Moral Welfare.' (W).

Oct. 11.—8.0 p.m. Mothers' Union and Young Wives' Group: "Why be a Christian." (Speaker: Mr. Lipson, son of a Jewish Rabbi.)

BAPTISM

Aug. 27.—Barry William Beaven, 24 Hazelwood Ave., Morden.

MARRIAGES

Aug. 12.—Geoffrey Alan House to Joyce Margaret Sturgess.
 „ 12.—Anthony Albert Blunden to Elizabeth Rosemary Fielder.

CREMATION

Aug. 11.—Jack Joyces, 1, Upper Lodge, Bushy Park, aged 60 years (at S.W. Middx. Crematorium).

FROM BEYOND THE SPIRE

DR. FRANK BUCHMAN

On 7th August at Freudenstadt in the Black Forest, where twenty-three years ago he conceived the idea of "a moral and spiritual re-armament" Dr. Frank Buchman died at the age of 83. The crowds who could not get into the large church for the funeral service thronged the Square, and over 2,000 people at the lying-in-state filed past the coffin, at the foot of which were laid out the eight decorations bestowed on him by the Governments of Asia and Europe, including that of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour of France and the German Grand Cross of Merit.

The Shah of Iran, the Presidents of Germany, the Philippines, Vietnam, the Republic of China and Cyprus; the Prime Ministers of Burma, Ceylon, Japan, the Republic of China, New Zealand and the Cameroons; and their Majesties King Michael and Queen Anne of Roumania were amongst thousands who sent messages presented at the Memorial Service. Personal tributes were also sent by Mr. Kishi, former Prime Minister of Japan and Chiang Kai-Shek. Amongst those present were also the ordinary men and women from nations all round the world; dockers, Ruhr miners and men from London Airport, former Mau-Mau leaders from Kenya, black

and white from South Africa, farmers and housewives, labour leaders and students from every continent. An Indian remarked that not since the death of Mahatma Gandhi had he seen such tributes given to any man; and the Presiding Abbot of Burma said "Only once in a thousand years is a man born like Dr. Frank Buchman."

An interesting point is that wherever Dr. Buchman went in the world victoriously living his Christian faith, men of other faiths and creeds found unity with him in his work to save a crumbling civilisation.

When asked how he accounted for the achievements of Moral Re-Armament, Dr. Buchman, who had a complete faith in the guidance of God, would simply say "I have been wonderfully led." Seldom is it given to a great prophet to see the results of his life's work, but Dr. Buchman's call to be a re-maker of the world began to come true in his life-time. His death will now accelerate the work he began. For his genius was to raise up leadership wherever he went, and in the grave peril in which we live today, men and women trained in the ideology of Moral Re-Armament will want to carry forward the challenge of his life which was "to usher in the greatest revolution of all time whereby the Cross of Christ will transform the World." R.T.M.