District 16 B(201)

Highbury, S. Newington, &c.

Nonconformist

Bk. XXXII

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Stevenson. Rev W.	Baptist. Highbury	33 Sotheby Road, Highbury	17
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Rev. Geo. Denton

Wesleyan Minister

GBA.

St. Mary Magdalene parish.

St. Luke's parish

Character of Congregation

Mr. Denton's mode of reaching the people.

16/10

CD (2)

Rev.d Geo Denton. 52 Aubert Park, Highbury N.

Superintendent Minister of Highbury Wesleyan Circuit.

Mr. Denton is a stout elderly man of about 50; just turning bald. He has pastoral charge of the Drayton Park Church, his colleague, Rev J H Greeves occupying that position at Caledonian Road Church, the two churches forming the circuit.

The congregations at both churches are middle class folk; some artisans and men of that type but not many shopkeepers, food many in houses of business

At this point, Mr Denton who was rather discursive all through, launched out into a vigorous speech on open air preaching. The churches are making a mistake: we ought to have better organisation for open air work and send our best men out to preach in the streets. When he was in the country, he ~~was~~ asked to be released for six months so that he might go & preach to the people in the town ~~and~~ but he was not allowed. We are sent to preach to the

people but our organizations keep us from getting out to them. When a minister has to preach twice indoors, he must keep himself for that. He would like to give ~~a thou~~ carefully thought out sermons to the small congregations but "I am alone" "I get no support": whilst ~~and~~ some of the ministers think ~~him~~ Mrs D. a crank for speaking his thoughts on this question.

Two ministers paid – one at Highbury and the other at Caledonian Road. 11 local preachers are also given on the plan.

Church at Drayton Park (seats) with school adjoining, used on Sunday and weekdays also.
Church at Caledonian Road (seats)

Persons Employed

Buildings Used

Services Held

Drayton Park Sunday School

Statistics from Islington Auxiliary Report (Dec 1896)

On Books.	Teachers 32.	Scholars	461
Av. attend^ce M	" 9	"	80
A.	" 26	"	270

Band of Hope 38 members

Services at Drayton Park

Sunday 11 am Preaching service
6.30 pm. " "
Wednesday 7.30 " . Small. 40 or 50
Saturday 8 – Prayer meeting. Nicely attended
Sunday School anom^t & affirm^ve See S.S.V. Report. over
(Entered at side)

At Caledonian Road (District 15)

Social Agencies

In Sunday night get a great number of young people. Chapel more than three parts filled. Smaller congregation in the morning – "London people don't seem to get up."

At Caledonian Road

Sunday. 11. Preaching service. "Fair congregation;
6·30 " " "not more than than."
" 3 PM. P. S. A. "many young people. Night the best." Well conducted but not very large.
Tuesday 7·30 Preaching Service
Friday 8 – Prayer meeting.
Sunday School 9 Morning & Evening.

Also hold a Mission Service in the Day school at Highbury at 8·30 on Sunday, which is supported by the congregation there and a service on Sunday morning (11 am) at a Home for fallen women at Eden Grove.

Mothers' Meeting (Monday aft.). Large meeting: attendance of 60 at least.. Get the women from the streets off the Holloway Road to this meeting but don't get many of them to chapel.

There is also a mothers' meeting at Caledonian Road but "it is not so large as ours"

Wesley Guild (Thursday) About 100 members. Started about a year ago. One just commenced at Caledonian Road.

Society Classes

Church Membership

Besides the other meetings, there are 16 classes meeting at Highbury and 11 at Caledonian Road, as under:-

HIGHBURY.

	Nos.		Time.	Date.	Min.
Mr. Gerrans	11	Sunday,	10.0 a.m.	Nov. 14	G
Mr. Campion	6	,,	10.15	,, 21	D
Miss Gerrans	12	,,	10.15	Dec. 5	D
Mrs. Chinn	10	,,	3.0 p.m.	Nov. 21	D
Mr. Fitchett	6	,,	3.0	,, 21	D
Mr. Gostick	34	Monday,	8.0	,, 8	D
Mr. Housley	12	,,	8.30	,, 15	G
Mr. Hobbs	8	,,	9.0	,, 15	G
Miss C. Brady	19	,,	8.0	,, 22	D
Rev. Geo. Denton	14	Tuesday,	3.30	,, 23	D
Miss Brady	24	,,	8.15	,, 23	G
Miss Morgan	8	,,	7.30	,, 23	G
Mr. Wood	57	,,	8.0	Dec. 7	D
Miss C. Rattenbury	11	Thursday,	3.0	Nov. 25	D
Mrs. Chinn	16	,,	7.0	,, 25	G
Miss Ratcliffe	15	,,	7.0	Dec. 2	G

JUNIOR CLASSES. 263

Miss I. Brady	Tues. 7.0 p.m.	Nov. 9	D
Miss Lambert	Wed. 6.30	,, 9	D
Miss Handisyde	Thur. 8.0	,, 9	D

CALEDONIAN ROAD.

Mr. Shaw	10	Sunday,	10.0 a.m.	Nov. 21	G
Mr. George S. Brush	7	,,	10.15	,, 21	G
Mr. Lawson	15	Monday,	8.30 p.m.	,, 22	G
Mrs. Lawson	20	Tuesday,	6.30	,, 16	G
Miss Carver	13	Wednesday,	8.30	Dec. 1	G
Mr. Howland	6	,,	7.30	,, 1	G
Miss Howe	11	,,	8.30	Nov. 24	D
Mr. Johnson	10	,,	8.0	,, 24	D
Rev. J. Henry Greeves	44	Thursday,	8.30	,, 18	G
Mr. Harrison	8	,,	8.30	,, 25	G
Mrs. Smeaton	19	Friday,	7.0	,, 26	G

JUNIOR CLASSES. 154

Mr. Packer	Wednesday,	7.30 p.m.	Dec. 7	G
Miss Harman	Friday,	7.0	,, 9	G

Membership 263
On Trial 3
Juniors 50

Membership 154
On Trial 4
Juniors 12
i.e. this equals the Church membership.

Educational Work.

Have day schools with three divisions: children pay 9d. 6d. & 4d. a week. The day schools help the church work, in that the teachers and assistants are connected with the church work: also get some of the children to the Sunday schools. Children are of rather a good class: they are surrounded by free schools to which parents could send the children if they liked. Belong to various churches: not all Wesleyans.

Visitation

Does not appear to do much visitation. Mrs S. gets a little help from the workers. but there are not a great many who need visitation. The sick always attended to.

Charitable Relief

Has never any difficulty in getting money for the poor. They have their collections from communion service and love feasts for this purpose. Also collect for the mothers meeting and for the poor at Christmas. Mrs D. does not like the methods of the C. O. S. – the interminable questions. One case he had given them and thought they could trace him back to Adam. In this case everything was known by him from the centre to the circumference. Thinks that the churches are in a position to know the condition of their applicants

Prostitution

Pretty free from prostitution in Highbury but in Islington it is bad enough. Thinks something should be done to stop solicitation but when he says anything about it he always meets with this reply " What can you do "?"

Prospects of Work

March. 15th. 1898. Visited this church this morning. It is a plain unpretentious building inside, not unlike many established churches but for the much smaller space given up to the altar. The congregation was, with the exception of a young artillery bandsman and his sweetheart, entirely middle class. The adults, of whom the women were largest in the majority, were between 70 and 90. I had never been in a Wesleyan church before and was surprised to be given a Prayer Book on entering, and to find that the service consisted of Morning Prayer, the only alteration being the substitution of 'Holy Spirit' for 'Holy Ghost'. The service indeed throughout was, but for the fact that there was no Litany or Communion Service, exactly like the ordinary of evangelical services in the Church of England: the sort of thing one may see at Islington Parish church with hatched singing, Spoken Psalms etc. Mr Denton preached on "In my father's house are many mansions", a sermon on Heaven, in which he said there could be no doubt that Heaven was a place, possibly (but this is a speculation) in the very centre of the Universe. It was hopelessly unintelligible, partly owing to a hatched delivery, accompanied with a good deal of grotesque gesture.

HRD

Thinks the prospects at Drayton Park Church are improving as they have a large number of young people. He is very hopeful. At Caledonian Road the prospect is also bright. The Society is growing. At Drayton Park, they never had so many members before.

The Drayton Park church appears to have been a wealthy one & it is the oldest in the district. Wildmay Park and Wood Green Wesleyan Churches were built by this Church. Now Highbury is poorer, altho' still a fairly well to do church.

I think we should see Rev J. Henry Reeves when we get to S.W. Islington re Caledonian Rd Church, Mr Denton's acquaintance with that being very general.

Following from 'Plan' gives some particulars as to duties of Circuit officers & their gatherings: —

THE CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING consists of the Circuit Ministers and Supernumeraries; the Circuit Stewards, the Society Stewards, and the Poor Stewards, the Class Leaders, the Local

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

EDEN GROVE HOME	11	Fitchett	
MISSION SERVICE, Highbury DAY SCHOOL	8½	Wood	Scann
FRIDAY, Prayer Meeting	8	Greeves M	Greev
TUESDAY, Preaching	7½	P. Thompson	Beard
CALEDONIAN ROAD: HOLLOWAY	11	Wright co s	Jenki
	6½	Wright co	Jenki

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In addition to the business which belongs to all Quarterly Meetings, each of the four has its own special business. March.—Ministers are invited to remain in the Circuit, or other Ministers are invited to succeed them. Candidates for the Ministry are nominated. The Superintendent reports the numbers in Junior Society Classes. The statistics of the Sunday and Day Schools in the Circuit are presented. June.—Memorials to the Conference are considered; ten days' notice, with copy of proposed memorial, to be given to the Superintendent. September.—The Circuit Treasurer of the Worn-out Ministers' Fund is appointed. The Superintendent reads any new rule for the Societies at large which may have been adopted by the preceding Conference. December.—The Treasurer of the Worn-out Ministers' Fund presents his statement of moneys received from the several Societies. The Circuit Chapel Secretary is appointed, and the time of the Annual United Trustees' Meeting is fixed. The Circuit Stewards are appointed or re-appointed.

THE LEADERS' MEETING consists of the Circuit Ministers; the Society Stewards, the Poor Stewards, the Class Leaders; and any Circuit Steward who is a member of that Church. No person is appointed a Leader, a Society Steward, or a Poor Steward, or is removed from the office, but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting. It is usual to appoint the Stewards at the first Leaders' Meeting held after the December Quarterly Meeting.

It is expected that Leaders should bring their books to the Leaders' Meeting. The Leaders pay to the Society Stewards what they have received from their several Classes. Each Leader represents the case of any poor and needy member in his Class, and the Poor Stewards disburse relief in accordance with the vote of the Meeting. Each Leader is expected to inform the Minister of any in his Class who are sick, or of anyone that walks disorderly and will not be reproved.

Mr John A Craig
Amhurst Park Wesleyan Church

GHA
22/10/97

The Stoke Newington Circuit

Just outside
St Andrew's parish.

History of Chapel

Interview with

16/4

(2)8

Mr John A. Craig at Bazna House, London Wall Avenue E.C.

Mr Craig lives at 53 Heathland Road N. and is a Circuit Steward of the Stoke Newington Wesleyan Circuit. He is also secretary of the Master Boot Makers Association and in that capacity I had met him previously during the trade inquiry. He is a pleasant man of 40 or thereabouts; keen, methodical and a ready talker. Looks what he probably is, a prosperous business man.

The Stoke Newington Circuits contains three chapels; Stoke Newington, Amhurst Park and South Tottenham and Mr Craig spoke as to the work of the second, which is situate at the Seven Sisters Road end of Amhurst Park, not far from Mr Morgan's chapel (Woodbury Down Baptist).

Amhurst park chapel was opened in 1880. It is one of the 1000-seated Lycett chapels. Sir — Lycett who was formerly a worshipper at the Green Lanes chapel bought the ground & gave it to the Society. The chapel when built was offered to and

declined by the Finsbury Park & Green Lanes Circuits, both of whom feared the expenses. It was then offered to Stoke Newington & accepted & thus became a part of that circuit.

Three-fourths of the congregation is composed of suburban residential people and they come chiefly from the well to do roads to the south. They also get some poor folk from Woodberry Town.

Character of Congregation

Attached to the circuit are two ministers, one of whom, Rev J Cranswick is attached to the Stoke Newington chapel & the other (Rev. Stephen Bunnell) is principally at Amhurst Park, where he has pastoral oversight. He has only just come, hence interview with Mr Craig. In addition there are 10 local preachers in the circuit and 8 local officers attached to each chapel.

Persons Employed

Chapel seats 1000.

Buildings Used

Services Held

Sunday 11 + 6.30. Service
" Sunday School 10 am + 2.45.
Wednesday 7.30. Preaching service . 40 to 50.
Friday 8 — Prayer Meeting.

Sunday School 10 am & 2.45 PM. 460 children on books: mostly come from Woodberry Town.

Sunday morning service is liturgical. Use the Conference version of the prayer book, chant the psalms. Congregation 300 to 350. A family congregation and a lot of young people. "Pews full of them". Evening Service (6.30). Ordinary non-conformist service. About the same number as in the morning. The children are not there and their place is taken by adults. Their people come twice a day. Very few "once-ers".

Have also 11 Society Classes of which 2 are for juniors. These contain about 140 to 150 members excluding the juniors. Conducted by class leaders who are member of the church:

Day & Time	Amhurst Park. Meeting Leaders.		
Sun. 10	Mr. R. A. Love, 55, Bethune Road.....	Nov. 7	Burrow
Mon. 7.30	Mrs. Key, 86, Darenth Road.....	„ 1	„
Mon. 8	Mr. W. R. Gadd, 2, Denver Road.....	„ 8	„
Mon. 8	Miss Ellis, 160, Bethune Road.....	„ 15	„
Wed. 3.30	Mrs. Key, 86, Darenth Road.....	„ 10	„
Wed. 8.30	Mr. A.W. Coates, B.A., 154, Kyverdale Rd.	„ 10	„
Th. 3.30	Rev. S. Burrow, 34, Denver Road.....	„ 11	„
Th. 3.30	Rev. R. Eardley, B.A., 85, Hermitage Rd.		
Th. 7.30	Mr. J. Freeman, 112a, Osbaldeston Rd.	„ 11	„
Fri. 7	Mr. A. E. Withers, 30, Denver Rd...J.S.	„ 12	„
Fri. 6	Mrs. Coates, 154, Kyverdale Road...J.S.	„ 12	„

Social work & meetings from a great part of the

Society Classes
Membership of Church

Social Work & Meetings

Social Work (contd)

Church's activities.

Mothers Meeting (Monday 3.30 PM) has about 150 members with an attendance of 100. Most of the women come from Woodberry Town. Provident Club giving bonus & a clothing club. Managed by 6 ladies of whom Mrs Craig is one. About 20% of these women attend the church services

Band of Hope (Tuesday) One of the largest & best managed in N. North London. Over 400 children & average attendance nearly 75%. Mostly drawn from Woodberry Town. In connection with this there is a Girls Dorcas Society consisting of a number of young girls, who meet from 6 to 7 & make garments for the children of Dr Stephenson's Homes - these poor children like to make for those poorer than themselves. Have also Musical drill for members of B. of Hope. at 8 PM.

Wesley Guild (Friday) 84 members. Have a temperance section but find same difficulty as others in getting a meeting - Must be something special as last Thursday had British Womens Temperance Assn & got a good meeting.

Slate Club (Saturday 7.30). Vigorous - 600 men mostly from Woodberry Town - some from other churches: Baptist, Primitive Methodist etc.

Social Work (contd)

Charitable Work

Slate Club contd

Benefits 10/- & 5/- a week. Subs 6d a week & 1d for doctor. In connection with this are several subsidiary organisations – A labour bureau – finds work for porters etc – Penny Bank and Goose Club. Also a Pleasant Saturday evening from 7.30 to 9.30 to which the men bring their wives. Interval for refreshments 1d per head. Regard this as a means of familiarising the men with the church. Have had several excellent cases from these meetings – they become attached to the church life.

Poor Fund from Communion amounts to about £12. Relief fund in connection with Mothers' Meeting £20. Christmas dinner also given to extent of £10 or £12. Obtain funds by Rummage Sale. Give according to reports of visitors (2 or 3). Know the people as attending mother's meeting or as wives of member of slate club. [In describing the distribution of self relief Mr C., like others, speaks of the woman as the recipient – not the family or the man].
Does not think much overlapping exists: there may be some.

over

Visitation

Other Religious Influences

Visit amongst their own people. e.g. mother and members of slate club.

Woodbury Down Baptist (Hay Morgan) is the largest about there. Former pastor told them that if they had known the Wesleyans were going to build there, they would have gone further off - The two chapels are very close.
St Johns Church (Mr Letts) is very active. High Church.
Primitive Methodist have a church in Woodbury Town

At a later point of the interview, when talking generally Mr. C. went more into detail as to the ~~work~~ other churches. They were all very friendly and the people moved from one to another freely yet there was what in business you would call a very keen competition between the churches. The leading non-conformist church in the neighbourhood is Mr Gibbons, Stamford Hill Congregational; he should be seen. The Church a mystery to him. There are 1250 people in both morning and evening and yet ~~the~~ no more is done than when the congregation was half the size. They have museums, sunday school in the

Board

Other Religious Influences

Stamford Hill Congl. cont'd

Board School etc. but all these things were started by Mr G's predecessor who organised the work.

Mr G. is evidently a very popular preacher. Mrs C. told a story of a minister who came to Amherst Park to preach special sermons (I forgot the name). This minister went for a walk on the Sunday afternoon and met Mr Gibbon. Being of the same cloth, they spoke and Mr G. told the Wesleyan minister that he had 433 methodists in his congregation. They have had some members leaving them and joining Mr G's church. In such cases they would give a letter of recommendation. He himself, thinks he could point out 100 residents in district ~~who~~ now belonging to Mr G's congregation, who were formerly methodists. He is quite sure that the increased congregation at Stamford Hill is drawn from other churches and not from non-church goers.

The Wesleyan Itinerant System

So far as his church is concerned, he is hopeful. They are growing notwithstanding losses, but they feel the itinerancy. The change of minister means a change of congregation: it depends upon the man.

The Minister of Amherst Park

Religious Gipsying

man. The minister they have just parted with was a business organiser but no attraction in the pulpit. When he came they had a debt of £2150: he organised a scheme by which £1150 was raised and the other £1000 arranged for subject to a life charge. Now they only owe £750 & have spent £400 for church alterations etc. His predecessor was a fair business man ~~and~~ but attractive in the pulpit. He started the slate club with immediate results. Their gallery congregation was doubled. This minister made a point of being at the Slate Club etc on Saturday and mixed with the men. Was very friendly with the men and won their respect and regard.

Mr Burrow, who has only been at Amherst park a few weeks is able in the pulpit. A thoroughly well trained man — a gentlemanly fellow and the congregation is looking up well.

Their superintendent, Rev J. Cranswick "is a fine preacher but we do not often see him".

Altogether Mr C. thinks the ties that hold the people to a particular church or denomination are feeble. Most of the people move freely & attend other churches. To give his words: "There is a good deal of religious gipsying going on"

Highbury Quadrant Church

– The poorer parts of the district Mr C. thinks are improving
e.g. Woodberry Town. Twenty years ago it was said
that there were more ~~criminals than~~ criminals in
the district below St Annis Nation than in Seven Dials.

Mr Craig impressed me very favorably.
He evidently takes a keen interest in Church work
and has done for many year. He knew Highbury
Quadrant church some years ago in Dr Bevan's time.
The work amongst young men was then a leading
feature and has remained so ever since. There
appears to be a little feeling amongst Wesleyans against
Mr Dawson, not for leaving the denomination
but respecting a book he published 3 or 4 years ago
in which Wesleyanism is ~~not~~ attacked & not treated fairly.

Rev.d Wm Stevenson
Baptist Ministe

GbA

. Character of Population

*(Sotheby Road)

Christchurch parish.

16/13

CN (2) 17

Interview with
Rev.d Wm Stevenson. 33 Sotheby Road Highbury. N.

Wm Stevenson is the minister of the Highbury Baptist Church. Highbury Hill. He has been here 5 years and previously was pastor of churches at Kirkcaldy and Glasgow. He was educated in the north & trained at Glasgow University. A keen man of about 40, but may be a little older: with not the least trace of clericalism either in dress or manner. He had prepared a few notes, which were jotted down on our form.

The general character of the population is well-to-do ~~not~~ middleclass with a fringe of working people. Houses are sublet: in this* one of the best (of the new) roads some are sublet and this is the case with the older roads and the good old houses. If a good family moves away two families come to take their places - not necessarily less cultured but not so well off. [Mrs Brooks' church at Hampstead represents the bulk of the wealth in the denomination.] - Their young people rarely settle in the district. Go to Crouch End if well enough off

The Congregation

Persons Employed

off, otherwise to Wood Green. There is an influx of Jews still going on. The poor are well behaved respectable people. Those in Gillespie Road are not artisans - odd job men etc. Whistler Street, people so far as the houses they get into represent them are always labouring people.

The Congregation consists of a good number of clerks ~~in~~ solicitors ~~banks~~ offices ~~etc~~ banks etc; salesmen, heads of departments in the drapery, a number of employers e.g. meat salesmen in the markets, civil servants, post office employees and a good proportion of genuine, bona fide artizans, carmen etc. "These are the hope of your place. Where there is a wealthy class: the working man is slow to come in. That is changed. I have endeavoured to knock a ~~do~~ good deal of that (class distinction) out of the place". The working man is best for active work whilst the moneyed class supply the sinews of war.

The Minister and a district visitor (lady) Rand. 9 or 10 Deacons: a number of voluntary workers & 40 Sunday school teachers.

Buildings used

Meetings Held

The Church (1050 sittings), Hall holding 500 and 7 rooms.

Sunday. 11. Public Worship } Congregation does not differ much Sun & evening. 400 to 800
6.30 " " } Average about 600.

Sunday School, at 2.45 P.M. Superintendent, Mr Leonard Pewtress. Secretary, Mr Aubrey Culley. } Children come from immediate neighbourhood and all kinds of people. Church folk do not hesitate to send their children.

Oct. 3—School closed by Mr Sladen.
" 10— " " Mr Brown.
" 17—Special Prayer Meeting at 3.30, after Class Teaching.
" 18—Monday, Prayer for Sunday Schools in the School-room, at 8 P.M. All Parents and Teachers, and those friends desiring the salvation of our children, are invited to come and unite in Prayer.
" 24—School closed by Mr Wardley.
" 31— " " Mr Garton.
Prayer Meeting at 4 P.M.
Nov. 7—School closed by Mr Everett.

Bible Class for Young Women. In the Ladies' Vestry, at 3 P.M. Teacher—Miss New. — Vestry crammed. Fully 60.

Bible Class for Young Men. In the Deacons' Vestry, at 3 P.M. Leader, Mr W. Staple. — 30 to 40.

Sunday Morning, the Christian Fellowship and Prayer Union, at 10 A.M.

"Early will I seek Thee"

Open to all.

Sunday Morning School, 10 o'clock, conducted by Mr W. W. Lear. Children, young and old, are cordially invited.

Children's Special Service in the School-room from 11 to 12. All children not attending Church invited. } "Not ~~his~~ my will". Like the children in the church. Found this service going on

Scripture Union, Senior (1st and 3rd Sundays) at 10 A.M.

Scripture Union, Junior (2nd and 4th Sundays) at 10 A.M.

Meetings Held (cont'd)

MONDAY.

Mothers' Meeting, at 2.30 P.M.

THE PASTOR WAITS IN THE VESTRY from 7 to 8 P.M., to meet with enquirers and applicants for membership. The Pastor is also pleased to meet with those for whom this hour is not convenient at the close of any of the services.

United Prayer Meeting at 8 P.M. All invited.

TUESDAY.

The Literary Society at 8 P.M. The charge for Membership for the half-session is Sixpence, and this includes admission to all the meetings, for some of which tickets cost Sixpence to non-members.

SYLLABUS.

Oct. 5—Conversazione and Reunion of Members, Music, &c. Refreshments. It is hoped that all present at this meeting, who can see their way to do so, will purchase a card of membership

" 12—Lecture—"Oliver Goldsmith." By Mr Arthur Vanstone.

" 19—Dramatic Study—"She Stoops to Conquer." By Members.

" 26—Discussion on the value of Criticism. Opened by Mr Alfred Palace.

Nov. 2—Lecture—"Popular Authors and their work." Illustrated with Lantern Views. Delivered by Mr Arthur Vanstone.

WEDNESDAY.

SERVICE IN THE LECTURE HALL, at 8 P.M. Conducted by the Pastor.

The next Church Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27th October.

THURSDAY.

Young People's Guild and Band of Hope, at 7 P.M., conducted by the Pastor. Young people from nine to sixteen years only can be admitted to membership in the Guild, but all are welcome to attend. The Band of Hope meets on the second Thursday in each month. The Guild on the other Thursdays.

SYLLABUS.

Oct. 14—Band of Hope. Conducted by Messrs Lear and L. Pewtress. Tea to Members by Ticket. Lantern Lecture at 7.30 free to all.

" 21—Young Peoples' Guild.

" 28— Do.

Nov. 4— Do.

Women come from Gillespie Rd, Bentill Rd etc. About 50 of them A very depressed class but not bad. ~~Some~~ Morality is relative & very often these poor people have as much genuine religion as others.

Mostly young people. Attendance varies. On Oct 19. there were fully 200

This society was started by the Mrs S. Get about 50 or 60 boys & gives the Bible lesson. Band of hope did not give the needed instruction - merely entertaining.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR, from 8 to 9, in Church Parlour, entrance by Lecture Hall. All young people invited. Secretary, Mr Briggs.

Oct. 7—Consecration, . Rev. W. Stevenson.
Subject—"Enduring Hardship for Christ's sake." Heb. xii. 1-13.
" 14—Address—Mr Johnstone; Leader—Miss Kirkpatrick.
Subject—"Whatever He would have me do." Exodus xix. 1-8.
" 21—Social. Tickets Sixpence each.
Subject—"Confessing Christ before men. Why and how." John xii. 35-43; Rom. x. 8-11.
" 28—Address—Miss Cooper; Leader—Mr Bale.
Subject—"Trust Christ—for what?" 2 Tim. i. 1-12.

Society not long started. ~~Got~~ About 40 members. They are not the same as those in the Literary Society. That is the worst of it". Would like the C.E. people who are the religious minded to go to the Literary Society. They are a bit too narrow. Literary Society think them "too hot"

Friday. 6 PM Gymnasium for Girls
Young Men's Club. Two gymnasium classes at 7.30 & 8.30. Fretwork class 7 pm.
Thursday. 8.30. Training class for teachers. (S.S)

Church Magazines

A monthly magazine edited by Mr Stevenson is published and 1500 copies are distributed monthly. It consists of 16 pages of matter, 8 pages of advts & a cover, 3 ~~pages~~ pages of which are advts. It is issued free. (See copy in boc.).

Church Membership

When Mr S. came to the church it was about to break up – only 120 members: now close on 300. Gallery was shut for years. Now all seats in the area are let.

No Educational Work

No educational work in Chapel deeds would not permit of such work to be carried on for profit.

Visitation

The district visitor visits all round the Chapel, wherever she can get in. Then about 14 or 15 visitors distribute the magazine, taking the streets in order so as to cover the whole neighbourhood. One man in charge of this: and Mrs S. did not know how many times a years they visited each house. Recently they visited for the Free Church Council and from the reports he found that many to. living in the roads near the chapel, described themselves as attending the chapel altho' he had no idea that they did so.

Nursing. Nothing special. Friends: some go to hospitals.

Charitable Relief

First of all to our members from communion fund. £40 to £50. A relief fund but not much — about £5 but does not represent all that is given. Always investigate cases and make their knowledge the basis of relief. Would give to out-of-works if known to them as genuine but not to such cases if new comers.

Charitable Relief (cont^d)

Christmas dinners (about £30). people take the things home. This is about the only ~~way~~ thing on which they co-operate with the other churches. Lists are compared with the Congregationals + Christ church. Rev Isaacs (St Thomas, Finsbury Park) will not co-operate. Names on more than one list struck off but it is rare to discover names on more than one list. District visitors look out beforehand. ~~and~~ to select the people. and he does not think that any get dinners, who do not need them. There are more out of work at Xmas. So many really need: 5 or 6 cases always turn up at the last.

In times of special need, they also give meat, etc, so as not to have a soup kitchen. Get the meat from the market (I presume through their members there). Also have a Maternity fund, begs etc for poor women.

Other Religious Influences

Church of England active - extremely so.
St Thomas Hall, Gillespie Road - now closed. Was worked by a Calvinistic - Mr Wilbridge (Withridge) could not make it do.
Does not hear much of the Wesleyans in Gillespie Road - only a mission church.

Local Government

Great advance has been made by the Progressives in this part of Islington. Local Govt. was never more hopeful than now. Have good men on the Vestry.

Drink

People about here are sober: odd cases of drinking

Prostitution

Prostitution does not affect us here.

People are not indifferent
Only appear so.

Mr S. thinks the prospects are decidedly hopeful. "I am an optimist to the core". Does not think indifference is the cause of lapsing from the churches. When we get into the homes, we find that 99 out of a 100 are interested. Many are so pressed in business that they are worn out & spend their Sunday resting. Instanced the head man of a drapery establishment, who seldom came to chapel but was alway ready to help & would come on special occasions.

He expects great things of the Free Church Council. Will not be surprised if it brings us into one ecclesiastically body.

Free Church Council

~~Our people~~ leaving room for our differences. Our people

Highbury Baptist: an open church.

people go from one to the other church and all that has to be done is to bring the different organizations into one. Twenty years ago the council would have thought impossible. Think they can all unite except the Unitarians, with whom they have not got a sufficient basis for religious co-operation. Can work with them in social work on the basis of our common humanity. Could more easily find a modus vivendi with the Church of England & Roman Catholics.

The church (Highbury Baptist) is an open church. They would only ask two questions: whether the applicant believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour and whether he gave himself up to his service. Might ask a reason for those making a sudden change. They have several Primitive Methodists, Congregationalists etc in the congregation.

We should see Mr Rees of the Y.M.C.A. He knows a good deal about Upper Street. There is also some quiet christian work going on

in the great drapery houses. Rackshaws have a bible class.

Wm Stevenson impressed me as an active, methodical worker with broad views of life. He is a progressive and a member of the London Reform Union & probably takes a keen interest in local politics. The church seems to be growing and probably has an influence over some who do not attend thro' the magazine. Wm Stevenson's personality is a pleasant and attractive & he personally has no doubt a great influence over those who are attracted to the building.

Wm Stevenson had a mission in Rochsdale Road, which used to cost the Church £50 a year but he thought it was not profitable & has closed it. They are now aiding a Mission at Canning Town of which Mr S. has taken the superintendency. He was going there to see about some new premises on the afternoon I saw him.

Mr E. G. Day

Palmer Place Mission

GBA

Buildings Used

Persons Employed

St Barnabas parish
extreme S. corner

16/11

CD (2) 27

Mr E. G. Day, 210 Upper Street, Islington. N.
Superintendent of Palmer Place Mission, Drayton Park. Holloway Road.

Mr Day is a young man employed at Rackstraw's. He has been connected with this Mission for 18 months. He sent me a copy of the Report for the year 1896 and I subsequently met him before the Wednesday evening service which commences at 9 pm. From that interview & the Report the following particulars are derived.

The Mission Building is really a backward extension of the Coffee house, 134 Holloway Road, and is built over the back yard of that house, being entered from Drayton Park. There is one large room on the first floor seating - Mr Day says 250 but it would be closely packed. Another room below where the teas etc are prepared is also used for meetings.

There are no paid agents and the workers (25) are all employees at Messrs Rackstraws.

Meetings held

Charitable Relief

Sunday morning breakfasts

List of Meetings.

Sunday:	Prayer Meeting	9.30 & 10 a.m.	
	Sunday School	3 p.m.	
	Service for Adults	8 p.m.	
	Free Breakfasts (*During Winter Months*)	9.30 a.m.	
	Open-Air Service " *Summer* "	7.30 p.m.	
	Prayer Meeting	7.30 "	
Monday:	Girls' Club ... Mrs Bible class	9.15 "	
Tuesday:	Band of Hope	6.45 "	about 60 & 70 at the members tea. Practically all the Band
Wednesday:	Gospel Services	9 "	
	Boot and Clothing Club	10 "	
Thursday:	Mothers' Meeting	3 "	About 10 or 12 mothers
Friday:	Lads' Bible Class	9.15 "	

The ~~Sunday~~ school has about 250 children on the books & 180 average attendance - 23 teachers. ~~Band~~ The Adult Services are held late - Sunday 8 PM. about 50. Wednesday 9 PM. about 40. On the Wednesday I was there, ~~between~~ about 30 people were present when I left at the commencement of the meeting. at 9.7 PM. Most were poor women, scantily and shabbily clad; ~~—~~ a few lads of 16 or 17 and girls also of the same class: 4 or 5 well dressed young women & 2 young men, evidently from Rackstraws. Beside these there were 3 poor men.

For such a small Mission, much relief is given and in a way that would not commend the Mission to the C.O.S.

The Sunday morning breakfasts, which commence about November and continue to March, attract 150 or 160 men, (practically a full room) every Sunday morn?

Sunday Morning Breakfasts (cont^d)

during their continuance. The breakfast from lasts from 9 to 10 ¼ is followed by a short service from 10 to 11.0 a.m. The men are invited by tickets. Mr Day distributes most of these - some of the workers (ladies) do not like to speak to these men - quite naturally Mr Day thinks - so he gives (nearly all) the tickets to men who look as if they needed a meal - he might not know anything about the man. Thinks the majority of the cases are deserving but admits that in most cases they are poor throughout their own folly - drunk etc. Occasionally some come to the Sunday evening service & those that get to know him will ask for money for lodging. Mostly men who do "odd jobs". e.g. nothing.

The cost of these breakfasts is borne by Mr Rackstraw which cost £ 14. 0. 11 in 1896. Indeed Mr Rackstraw, his family & employees pay practically all the expenses. Of a total income of £ 170 in 1896, Mr Rackstraw & his wife & daughter gave. £ 63 ~~all but a few shilling~~ whilst 120 of the employees gave £ 31. in small sums to the "Bible Class Aid Society". This society gives grocery

over

In 1896 "Over 1700 of the most destitute ..... from all parts".

Expenses paid by Mr Rackstraw & his

† Bible Class Aid Society

bread meal & Coal tickets, Christmas parcels & part of the expenses a fortnights holiday for some of the children. 32 sent in 1896. Tickets are distributed by their visitors.

Following is extract from Report as to this part of the work:

Bible Class Aid Society.

THIS, one of the most important branches in connection with the work, is supported by the friends connected with Mr. M. H. RACKSTRAW'S establishment, Upper Street, N. who, by their monthly contributions, greatly help our work.

Our visitors have been enabled to temporally relieve the deserving and destitute poor, so painfully numerous in the district of the Mission.

The relief of the Society is dispensed through the medium of **Bread, Coal, Grocery and Meat,** in this way an opportunity has been afforded for personal conversation, and a greater influence is brought to induce them to attend the gospel services held at the Mission Hall. At Christmas time, we distributed between 50 and 60 parcels of grocery, &c., to the poorer members of the Mission, which were greatly appreciated.

Boot & clothing Club

Boot & clothing Club - supplies articles of attire etc to those belonging to the Mission at cost price - £18 in 1896

Visitation

Visitation is almost entirely done in the winter. In the summer they don't get time as they don't leave business until 9 P.M. In winter leave at 8 P.M & go at once. Have 7 couples who visit; usually go in twos. Go into all the streets - Eden Grove, Queensland Road etc - Don't mind getting into a conversation, & will stop and talk to the people. Only have to get back to Rackstraws by 11 P.M.

Adjacent Missions

Mr Day did not know anything of the Mission round the corner in Holloway Road (No 140) except its existence and as to Bethshan, which is nearly opposite this Mission, he only knew that their people held an open air meeting at the corner on Sunday evening from 6 to 7 whilst they held one on the same ~~spot~~ spot from 7.15 to 8 —.

Appreciation

These young people seem to do a good deal of work in the limited time at their disposal but the results do not seem to be commensurate with the work done or the self denial shown: Mr Day appears to be an energetic & earnest young man & the work has grown under his hand. When he started 18 months ago, there were but 4 teachers now 23, whilst a paragraph in the report says the congregations have increased but does not give the numbers.

Rackshaws Bible Class.

In Rackshaws they have a Bible-class ~~which~~ held on Thursday night after the house is closed. The attendance varies according to

according to the speakers. If a popular man, they may have 60 or 70. Have had Mr Harwood & Archdeacon Sinclair is down for this quarter. Will send a card. Similar classes exist in most of the large drapery houses.

Compton Bible Class,

57, PARK STREET, N.

PRESIDENT - M. H. RACKSTRAW, ESQ.

Committee:

Miss Attwood	Miss Niner
Miss Dowland	Miss Prickett
Miss Hart	Miss Ralph
Miss Helena	Miss Suttle
Miss Lock	Mr. Penney.

Hon. Sec.:

Mr. G. Howard Barr.

according to the speakers. If a popular man, they may have 60 or 70. Have had Mr Harwood & Archdeacon Sinclair is down for this quarter. Will send a card. Similar classes exist in most of the large drapery houses.

AUTUMN SESSION, 1897.

Sep. 28	Rev. E. A. Stuart, Opening Address.	Bayswater.
Oct. 7	Rev. Alec. Morgan.	
„ 14	Rev. William Sinclair, D.D.	Archdeacon of London.
„ 16	Autumn Social of B.C.U., Exeter Hall, Chairman, Sir G. Williams.	
„ 21	Rev. H. Harwood.	Highbury.
„ 28	Rev. Stuart Fox.	Special—Two Days' Mission.
„ 29		
Nov. 4	Rev. J. R. Wood.	Holloway.
„ 11	Rev. W. R. Mowll.	Brixton.
„ 18	Rev. E. Grose Hodge.	Holloway.
„ 25	Rev. Canon Barker.	Marylebone.
Dec. 2	Lantern Lecture, on the Work of the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission	Miss Cushman.
„ 9	Hon. Emily Kinnaird, Hon. Sec., Y.W.C.A.	

Commencing at 7 o'clock sharp.

Ensign Green
Salvation Army

Holloway I District

Character of Congregation

St Mary Magdalene parish. 16/11 33 CD (2)

Ensign W. H. Green. 15 Whistler Street, Drayton Park. N. Holloway.

Ensign Green is the officer in charge of the Holloway I corps of the Salvation Army, which has its barracks in Ronald's Road. He is a man of 30 to 35. with a curiously frizzed head of hair, which stands up from his head in all directions forming a kind of aureola around his head.

His district reaches to Gillespie Road on the north, Highbury Park on the east, St Pauls Road on the south and on the west to Caledonian Road & Seven sisters Road. The worst parts are Queensland Road & Georges Road.

Have a very mixed audience. People who pass & repass along Holloway Road. On Sunday night several couples of the poorer classes and women with babies he had not noticed before. Fellows without a change of clothes, carefully brushed up for the occasion. Buys a number from from the open airs. Whenever they go to Queensland Road, always a few come without hats or shawls. Also some from the adjoining

publichouse

Building used

Persons Employed

Number in Corps

Open Air Meetings

public house 'The Lord Nelson': come in under the influence of drink but he does not mind. ~~Told~~. Get a lot of domestic servants. 40 or 50 were in the march on Sunday night. Most are country girls: get out on Sunday and one night a week. Come as strangers, see the march, are attracted to the meeting and get saved. Several sisters to look after this class of girls.

Have also better class: assistants in Jones Brothers, telegraphists in G.P.O. Corps, he regards as a miniature of that at Regent Hall.

Hall seats over 1000. Two smaller rooms used for Junior meetings.

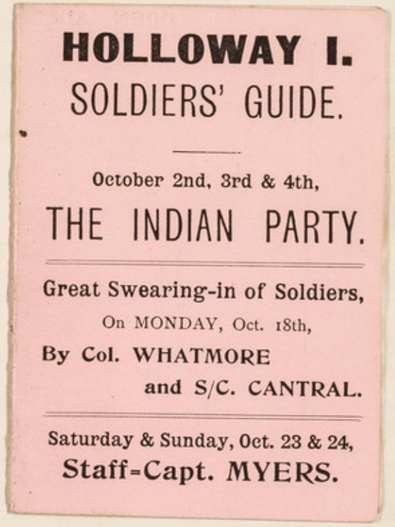
Ensign, his wife and 2 cadets. 40 local officers and 32 bandsmen ~~volunteer~~ voluntary workers.

Corps contains 400 soldiers and 20 recruits. These are divided into 4 companies, of which the band forms one.

Open air meetings are held on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings at 7 P.M. On Sundays they

Indoor Services

have 4 O.A. meetings at 10 am, 4 at 2 and 4 at 6 PM.
See plan below:



HOLLOWAY I.

SOLDIERS' GUIDE.

October 2nd, 3rd & 4th,

THE INDIAN PARTY.

Great Swearing-in of Soldiers,
On MONDAY, Oct. 18th,
By Col. WHATMORE
and S/C. CANTRAL.

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 23 & 24,
Staff-Capt. MYERS.

Each brigade holds its own meeting & then the band goes round picking up the brigades & all march back to the Hall together.

In the Hall:

Sunday 7 am. Kneedrill. ~~11 am Holiness~~

11 am Holiness meeting. About 300. includes some friends & young men who drop in

3 pm. Free & Easy. Character of meeting varies. 350 adults & 300 juniors.

7 PM. ~~Ha~~ Salvation Meeting. Hall comfortably full - about 900. On Special occasions turn people away. At Harvest festival, the place was twice packed & they turned 100's away.

Meetings every week evening at 8 PM. Attendance varies. Monday about 400; Tuesday (Holiness) 150. Saturday 300 & 400.

Indoor Services

have 4 O.A. Meetings at 10 am, 4 at 2 and 4 at 6 PM.
See plan below:

OPEN AIR MEETINGS.

Oct.	Companies.	Morning, 10.0.	Afternoon, 2.0.	Night, 6.0.
3	VICTORY	George's-road	Goodinge-road	Eden-grove United.
	FAITH	Burnard-place	Corporation-street	
	CONQUEROR	John-street	Fakenham-street	
	DELIVERER	Hope-street	Surr-street	
10	VICTORY	Spencer-road	Frederick-street	Highbury-place
	FAITH	Shelbourne-road	Blundell-street	Crane-grove
	CONQUEROR	Dunford-road		Furlong-road
	DELIVERER	Annette-road	Nailour-street	Madras-place
17	VICTORY	Queensland-square	Roman-road B.S.	Lowman-road
	FAITH	Victoria-place	Cornelia-street	Ashburton-grove
	CONQUEROR	Albany-place	St. Clement-street	Benwell-road
	DELIVERER	Albert-place	Barbara-street	Brand-street
24	VICTORY	Crossley-street	Gillespie-road	Wellington-road
	FAITH	Hollingsworth-st.	Elfort-road	Rhodes-street
	CONQUEROR	Bride-street		Charles-street
	DELIVERER	Dorinda-street		Chalfont-road
31	VICTORY	Goldsmith-place	Roman-road S.J.	Enkel-street
	FAITH	Friends-cottages	Lesley-street	Roden-street
	CONQUEROR	Edward's-cottages	Warner-street	Tollington-road
	DELIVERER	Hides-place W.	Sonning-street	Bovay-place

WEEK NIGHTS.—Mon., Allen-st.; Wed., Hornsey-st.; Th., Eden-gr.; Sat., Palmer's-pl.
JUNIOR OPEN AIRS.—Oct. 3th, Victoria-pl., 10th, Ringcroft-st., 17th, Hornsey-st., 24th, Hollingsworth-st., 31st, Eden-grove.
WEEK NIGHTS.—Wednesday, Band of Love 6.45 p.m.; Friday, Jun. Mtgs 6 45 p.m.

Each brigade holds its own meeting & then the band goes round picking up the brigades & all march back to the Hall together.

In the Hall:

Sunday 7 am. Kneedrill. ~~11 am Holiness~~

11 am Holiness meeting. About 300. includes some friends & young men who drop in

3 pm. Free & Easy. Character of meeting varies. 350 adults & 300 juniors.

7 PM. ~~Ha~~ Salvation Meeting. Hall comfortably full - about 900. On Special occasions turn people away. At Harvest festival, the place was twice packed & they turned 100's away.

Meetings every week evening at 8 PM. Attendance varies. Monday about 600; Tuesday (Holiness) 150. Saturday 300 & 400.

Childrens Meetings.

Have about 350 ~~Junior children~~ children at Sunday afternoon meeting 2 & 3 PM. Bible class at 3 PM for seniors and in other room a meeting for those who cannot come at 2 PM. "Many of the poor little beggars come without their dinners".

At 6.45 PM ~~C~~ Childrens meeting - one Room full of boys & another of girls - about 60 - "Like packing herrings in a box"

Monday. Girls Tinbell band

Tuesday. Classes in connection with Band of Love.

Wednesday. Band of Love. 68 & recognised members.

Thursday Junior leaders meeting.

Have recently formed a Junior brass band.

Visitation

Their district is divided into 11 wards, each in charge of a visiting sergeant who would visit any cases: also members of the corps. The Ensign, his wife & the 2 cadets also visit - often out from 10.30 to 6 PM.

Charitable Relief

Relief is spasmodic. They would gather a £1 or so for a poor soldier. Their recent efforts have been devoted to debt reduction - have brought a debt of £80 down to £5. . Have 'crowds' come, ~~who~~ who have

Other Religious Influences

Influence on Drinkers

have to be sent to the shelter. If they are not fit to go alone, one of the corps would take them. Social people always take them in – if full they would make shift.

Does not come in contact with any other religious work. Sees about 10 or 12 young people from Bethshan holding open air meeting at Drayton Park & standing without anybody round them. He stops the Band & singing as they go past.

At Queensland Road there is a mission worked by some energetic young men.

Ensign Green is an energetic fellow, with all his energies centred in his work and knowing little or nothing beyond. At this ~~corps~~ place the corps comes very closely into contact with the drink traffic, owing to its proximity to the publichouses. They get many of the people in direct from the bars and seem to have gained many recruits in this unlikely soil. Told of a man, who came in drunk 7 weeks ago and was taken in hand by two soldiers. He & his wife are now joining the corps.

How the Army is regarded by the poor.

There is also a good feeling amongst these people towards the Army. "No one would dare to say a word against us" "These girls would fly at them and fight like tigers". Told how at one meeting a man came in drunk & sat in front of the platform and "put in his say here and there". A woman, also in drink, sat near and turned on the man saying "You shut up, you never come except you are drunk". His wife went up to her and the woman said "If he does not shut up, I will flatten his nose" & shaking her fist at him. The man looked at her and walked out.

Another case was that of a girl, whom the Ensign had to reprove. He said to her "I am disappointed in you" She replied "You don't know" and subsequently wrote to the Secretary & in her letter said "Ensign does not know that I am the daughter of a poor drunkard".

In most of the poor streets, they have members: several in Queensland Road. As Ensign Green lived in Whistler street, I asked him about that. He said they had a few from ~~this~~ there "but the people about here don't go anywhere"

Corps is growing: has made 100 soldiers in the 6 months he has been here.

Captain (Miss) Clarke GLA

Salvation Army South Hornsey

Buildings Used

Persons Employed

Strength of Corps

District

St Matthias' parish 16/S CD (2) (39)

Captain (Miss) M. Clarke. 21 St Matthias Road. S. Hornsey.

Miss C. is the officer in charge of the South Hornsey Corps of the Salvation Army. She is a thin fragile looking woman: of medium height & rather dark, probably 25 to 30 years old. A pleasant face but the clear ~~busy~~ eyes and sharply marked and somewhat worn features bespeak a spirit that is wearing out its frail tenement too rapidly. Was suffering from a severe cold when I met her. Has been here 6 months; previously at Rotherhithe.

The Barracks in Hilton Road is a wooden building seating about 360 people; a smaller hall (200) for children's meetings.

Two officers paid (Capt & Lieut.) & 2 cadets. 16 local officers. Corps numbers 163 soldiers & 10 recruits: Junior 90 soldiers & 13 recruits.

The South Hornsey district extends from Balls Pond Road on the south to Walford Road on the north and from Kingsland ~~Road~~ High Street to Highbury on west. ~~Tracts~~ They do not go far west of Green Lanes.

T. O

Meetings Held.

For Adults

Sunday. Indoor meetings at 7 AM, 11 AM, 3 and 6.45 PM, the three latter being preceded by open air meetings. At 11 o'clock (Holmes Mfg, about 100 to 120 present) get a good class of people, steady & sensible. A large proportion of soldiers (SA) & christians. Evening meeting averages 200, place sometimes packed. Audience is mixed but "don't get so many rough people here as we did"

Every week evening at 8 PM, preceded by open air meeting at 7.15 on Mon. Wed. Thurs & Sat. Average attendance 50 or 60

For children

Sunday. 3 meetings, morning, afternoon & evening. Attendance at Sunday school (afternoon) 90 to 100. Have 15 teachers. Don't know number on book: under 150

Tuesday. Band of Love. About 43 members

Friday. Meeting - about 25.

Visitation

Have 5 Visiting sergeants visit soldiers and sick. Both officers and cadets visit the poor. Arranges to visit district in order but are never sure of their days: may have to go Headquarters etc. Manage to visit soldiers regularly & those who ask for or for whom a visit is asked by others: and also do a good bit of general visiting.

Results of Visitation &c

As to the results of visitation, they are not so encouraging considering the time spent. Our object is first to reach the people and get them converted and secondly we hope to bring them into our barracks. ~~The~~

The people like you to come to their houses for what they can get out of you. Will promise to come to the meetings but dont perform. Receive them very well. A lot of the prejudice against the Army has gone. Miss C. ~~thinks~~ wishes we had more of that to contend against. It would would be good for them: make them more sincere.

Don't think the district is visited much: Has only once met a lady coming out of one of the houses.

Help them with food and ~~clothes~~ clothes as well as they can if out of work or a large family. Cannot do much.

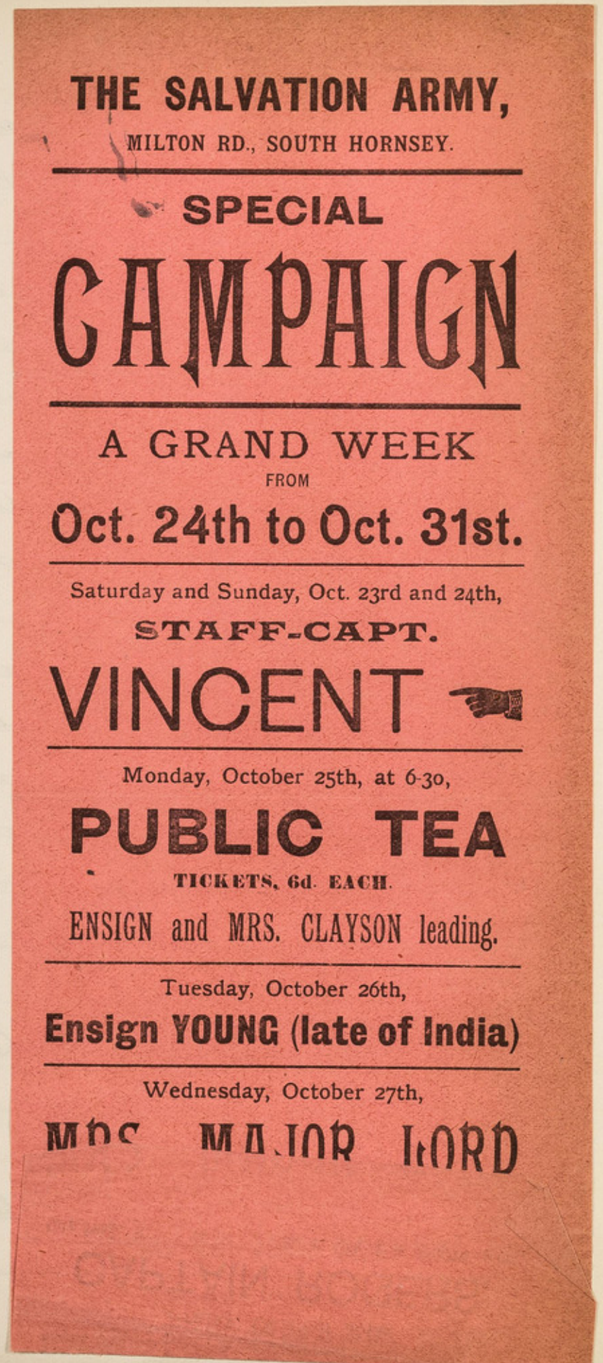
Charitable Relief

Character of District

The poorest part of the district is King Henry Street and Arundel Street but here the poverty is brought on by sin — Drink etc. The district as a whole is very, very respectable: the ~~what~~ what sin there is is done under a cloak and this makes their

Prospects

The Itinerant System



work more difficult. Thinks Rotherhithe is infinitely ~~better~~ worse than this neighbourhood.

Prospects of the work are good: just commencing a week's campaign. Local officers tell me that the congregations are better in the style & class of people. e.g. getting the poorer people Miss C. means.

In reply to queries as to the frequent changes of officers, Miss C. rather defended the system. They (~~get the officers~~) get used to the changes and get settled down to the know the people etc within a month. Then the people are a class that soon tires and they expect new officers. My locals don't like my going a little bit but you may go to 20 corps and not be received quite the same. Thinks that 6 or 7 months in a corps is "plenty long enough".

Miss C. is a quiet & decided and I should think an efficient worker and teacher. Her meetings would not be ~~are not~~ of the noisy type. If ~~the are not~~ the lads etc disturb they are put out or kept out for a time. Her influence is probably good, especially upon the rougher part of the people, with whom her strength of character & womanly tact would tell.

Prospects

The Itinerant System

THE SALVATION ARMY,

MILTON RD., SOUTH HORNSEY.

SPECIAL

CAMPAIGN

A GRAND WEEK

FROM

Oct. 24th to Oct. 31st.

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 23rd and 24th,

STAFF-CAPT.

VINCENT

Monday, October 25th, at 6.30,

PUBLIC TEA

TICKETS, 6d. EACH.

ENSIGN and MRS. CLAYSON leading.

Tuesday, October 26th,

Ensign YOUNG (late of India)

Wednesday, October 27th,

MRS. MAJOR LORD

AND

Congress Hall Junior Brass Band.

Thursday, October 28th,

ISLINGTON TIMBREL BAND

Friday, October 29th,

CAPTAIN ROGERS.

City Press, B. M. CLARK & M. DIXON, C.O's.

Rev Eric Lewis B.A.
& Mrs H.C.M. Paterson
Missionary Training Home

GLA
Oct 25/97

The People interviewed.

Buildings Used

Historical Note

St Mary Magdalene parish.

CP (2) 43

Rev Eric Lewis B.A. (Principal) and Mrs H.C.M. Paterson (Secretary) of the "Missionary Training Home and Gospel Union & Village Work". 10ª & 10ª Drayton Gardens Highbury N.

Revd Eric Lewis has only been here about 7 months: he was one of a party of Missionaries, who went to the Soudan with Mr Wilmot Brooke. He is a thin young man, with a pale face – looks a student. His wife is more robust: a bright intelligent young lady. ~~Mrs Paters~~ She assists in the work and volunteers occasional remarks or to the meetings or suggestions to her husband. Mr Paterson is a well built man of about 40 & has been connected with the place for many years. Mr Lewis called him in almost at the commencement of the interview. He is the business man of the concern.

The Home occupies 10ª & 10 Drayton Gardens, two large double fronted houses. On the back gardens a hall has been built ~~in which~~ known as Bethshan.

Originally one of these house was a Home for Divine healing, & originating from an institution in Green Lanes known as Bethshan & ~~soon~~ subsequently

transferred

transferred here. It was largely controlled by Mrs M. Baxter (the wife of Mr Baxter of the Christian Herald). The ~~was sub~~ hall at the back was built about 5 years ago & the houses were transformed into a Missionary training Home. About 9 years ago Mrs Baxter took over the work of what was known as the Blue Ribbon Gospel Union founded by the Temperance evangelist Wm Booth. She changed the name to the Gospel Union & gradually changed the character of the work which then became a spiritual work." Until 3 years ago the institutions were distinct but they are now practically amalgamated.

Work on "Faith" lines

The institutions are ~~carried~~ worked on 'faith' lines, the Report says: "

> As regards finances, we have been more tested during 1896 than ever before since the Home was opened, and yet, with all this, we can say our loving God has never left us without food and necessaries. He has graciously kept us from the temptation to incur any debt whatever, and also from the temptation to depart from absolute dependence upon Him by making known our wants to man. And He has justified us amply in so doing. There have been many weeks in which it has been "living from hand to mouth," but this can never be uncertain when it is from His hand to our mouth. There were grave questions in the summer holidays about the cleaning and whitewashing and repapering of the house—questions which, when carried to the Lord, met with a speedy answer, for He showed us that we had to put our necks to the work of our Lord, unlike Nehemiah's nobles (Neh. ii. 5). It was most refreshing to see our zealous workers whitening both the ceilings and themselves with as much earnestness and spirit as though they had been conducting an open-air meeting; and with a few zealous house-painters, also from amongst ourselves, we found the money in hand would pay for the paper-hanging; and thus the house was made sweet and clean for the September term.

Number of Students

The training home usually contains 20 to 30 students – both sexes & these work in the Mission Hall 'Bethshan' and the Gospel Union agencies.

Objects

Plan of Work

Meetings held at Bethshan

The following from Report describes the object of the Home and the subjects and method of training.

OBJECT OF THE MISSIONARY TRAINING HOME.

This Home, which was founded in September, 1886, is carried on in the name of the Lord, and is entirely unsectarian. It is intended to help young men and women who have a distinct call of God to the Mission Field, especially abroad, and who do not know what steps to take to acquire the needed Bible knowledge and practical experience of soul-winning, as well as the knowledge of how to do common things—all of which are so essential to a successful Missionary Evangelist.

The Home is not a College, nor is it intended to supersede any other Training Institution; neither to be a Preparatory School for Missionary Colleges.

PLAN OF WORK.

The course of study is essentially Biblical. The branches pursued are as follows: Bible History, Bible Interpretation and Illustration, Bible Doctrines, Church History, Mission History, Heathen Religions, Geography (especially Mission Geography), Elocution, Arithmetic, Grammar, and Languages, when required; Music, vocal and instrumental.

Open-air preaching, house-to-house visitation, visiting in hospitals, lodging-houses, etc., practice in holding meetings in mission halls, schoolrooms, etc., and in the charge of Gospel Union Missions in London or the Provinces, as well as Village Work, are a part of the training.

Our students, male and female, have also more or less opportunity to learn housework, baking, cooking, soldering, tailoring, boot-mending, carpentering, dressmaking, etc.

The instruction is absolutely gratuitous; but the students pay 12s. 6d. a week for board when they are in a position to do so.

The time of residence for every student who is accepted is at least one year and a-half, and an added six months or more in village or mission work. The Council wish it to be clearly understood that, where they deem it necessary, either or both of these terms may be extended.

All students, before being definitely accepted, come on a month's probation; those from abroad, two months.

As regards the going out of missionaries, there is no fixed plan; the Lord has hitherto guided in each case. Many of our students have gone abroad in connection with various Foreign Missionary Societies. But it is taken for granted that all who enter the Home have definitely dedicated their lives to missionary work, ~~and they are expected not to act independently~~

At Bethshan, meetings are held morning and evening on Sunday.
Attendance - 80 to 100.

On Monday a meeting for Girls. Get very poor neglected children. From Queensland Road etc.
~~neglected~~

Meetings held (Contd)

Monday. 7.30. Bible class for Young Women. About 16, mostly servants.
Wednesday. . Divine healing Meeting. 60 to 70. People come from all parts.
Friday Prayer Meeting.

Open air meetings on Saturday and Sunday.

Visitation

Visitation and tract distribution by the students. No districts arranged but it is left to the visitors to get into the houses where they can. Also visit the Registered Lodging houses and the Holborn Infirmary in connection with the Christian Community and some cripples (20) allotted to them by the Cripples Mission of the Ragged School Union. In visiting the students find that the people will have two different visitors calling.

Charitable Relief

Give little relief. One friend* allows them £5 a week for this purpose & they have a little from other sources: about £60 in all. Miss Baxter however gives but no record of this. A few years ago they had a night school & gave a free dinner. This brought many beggars and they still continue to come. Every case is investigated: this forms part of the training of the students. A note in the Reports says "It is seldom that the cases that come to our door are worthy at all of relief. The true sufferers have to be sought out in lonely homes and garrets".

Other work of the Students

London Halls

Gospel Union Mission

148 Holloway Road

Building used

Workers

Membership

Meetings Held

The Students assist at various missions: Reuben Mays at Golden Lane, a School in the Hornsey Road board school but most work in connection with the Missions attached to the Gospel Union. This Association had a large number of halls in country towns and still has 17. Since Mrs Baxter commenced to reign the policy has been to make the halls independent & self supporting and extend the work by visiting the villages and they now have about a dozen centres from which villages are visited.

Of their halls only two are in London:

Bethany Hall, Cambridge Road, Hammersmith.

Gospel Hall 148 Holloway Road. N.

Holloway Road Mission (N° 148)

This mission is a converted shop & holds about 180 people. It is worked by Mrs Fitcher, a former student of the Home, assisted by students & a few others.

It is self supporting and as a membership of about 30.

The Meetings held are:

Sunday 11. Service
2 Open air meeting
3. Bible reading
7 PM Service - over 100. Usually about 3 parts full

Character of People

Visitation

Number of Missions etc increased

Other Religious Influences

Tuesday. Bible class.
Wednesday Children's Meeting
Thursday Gospel Meeting
Saturday. Open air meeting and a mission meeting inside

People vary tremendously. Get all sorts from the poorest. Majority are working class but not the poorest. Most of the young women attending are servants.
~~He~~ A student usually stands at the door to invite the pedestrians in.

~~Mr~~ Pitchers visits in the immediate neighbourhood on both side of Holloway Road.

When they started ~~t~~ no missions existed in the district. Now have several and the churches have become active. One of the clergymen recently asked them not to hold open air meetings as he was about to start one.

Of the other religious influences, their knowledge was slight. St James's do a good deal of work as ~~also~~ does St Davids. The latter has 2 or 3 biblewomen. Salvation Army is also strong and does a great deal. Wesleyans (Drayton Park) have a good Sunday school and an 'unfortunate' P.S.A.

My impression of the work connected with these Institution (after the interview & reading their Reports) so that as a training home for supplying workers their influence is greatest – They practically supply all the workers for a foreign mission in India – the Kurku & Central Indian Hill Mission whilst some of their students are dotted here & there all over the world. Also as an agency in the country the Gospel Union probably does good work. The local agencies are however feeble and have but a slight influence in the neighbourhood, the Bethshan Mission being the more useful but these two missions are too close together & to the Mission at Pedler Place & the Wesleyan church to be needed for local wants.

The people seemed good, well intentioned and sincere christian people and their personal influence is undoubtedly greater than that of their meetings.

Pastoral.

A preacher.

Visiting by choice, mainly.

Home.

St Mary Magdalene parish

16/10

CP (2)

Interview with the Rev. - Reynolds.
Minister of the Strict Communion Baptist Chapel
(Providence Chapel) Highbury Place
Lives at- 15 Arthur Road (Nov. 1. 97).

Mr Reynolds has been at- Providence Chapel for 18 years....
He is a popular preacher in his own Community, + visits in
& others, is always moving about the country. He preaches
6 or 7 Sermons most weeks of the year, and has part in
as many as 9. He follows that he has not very much time
for anything else, + his only function at Providence Chapel is
elsewhere, is to preach. He has little time for systematic visiting,
for instance, + special arrangements are made. Elders visit
+ keep list of the sick, + Mr Reynolds only visits the sick + those
in trouble, on report from elders. He attempts nothing further, except
on special invitation. His Congregation, is very keen, appreciative
of the arrangement, + like to have their pastor in at regular. They
in any case raise no objection. His moving about however
brings the cream of his visits + leaves in friends.

I called on Mr Reynolds at his own home, a comfortable
little house in a rather new street. The room was cosy enough,
full of furniture, but not a suggestion of crude showing, of the

Congregation.

Visited.

Hours.
Workers.

Buildings.
Services.

Common-place & the anti-macassar.

Mr Reynolds is getting on in years, perhaps nearly 60, with grey hair, & a big coloration light; mid & warmer hue, as the report will show, with figure in him; & I doubt not, clean in the pulpit, as well un-impressive & even, of the type, unpicturesque figure.

His congregation consists mainly of tradespeople, mostly well in business but with a fair retired. It does not change very much, not as much as the district would lead one to expect. It is probable that the level of the district is approximating to the level of the congregation, for, where it used to be "high-class residential", it is now becoming "well-to-do middle-class".

The Minister is the only paid person.

Voluntary workers include the Elders who look after the sick; the deacons who look after the finances; 15 Sunday School Teachers; & the 50 or 60 members of the Chapel branch of the Christian Endeavour Society.

The Chapel holds 800, & the Church 200.

The following services are held:-

Sunday morning at 11 & evening at 6.30.

Monday - Prayer meeting & Bible-Class.

Numbers -

Nursing

Curacies

Other inplaces.

Mr Dawson.

Wednesday - Meeting of the Christian Endeavour for.
Thursday - "Weekly lecture" when about 200 come.
In summer Out-door meetings are held.
The Sunday Congregation is mainly a family one, & both morning & evening is average about 500.
They make no special provision for reading the Bible, believing a recognised need for a reader arises.
They give about £60 a year to their own poor, & gather what the bulk of this work is 2 families one & what is supported entirely & another small part.

Mr Reynolds thought that the Nonconformists were probably stronger in the district than the Church of England. Mr Joseph he mentioned as doing a very good work. Mr Bowring with approval. But Mr Dawson is far & away the strongest Centre of activity in the neighbourhood. When she thought of Mr Dawson her face took on a new beauty "very nice" — was always very nice to Mr Reynolds when they met on Committees. "He is a clever man — and is conscious of it. People are always ready to cow this pride, but it needs to" said Mr Reynolds. perhaps into an inner glance on the attitude of his own mind

Drinking.
Prostitution

Sunday School
The falling away of young men.

Membership.
Rule for admission.

towards his own power in the pulpit.

There is no excessive drinking among the people.
He said that Highbury Place (the Crescent- the Terrace) was becoming bad places to reside for prostitutes, that more lights than was a good need. [Mr Faithfull who lives in the Crescent said much the same thing; but the Blythes who live in the Terrace said nothing about it.].
There are 230 children in the Sunday School.
They have great difficulty in keeping their young men, though "they try all manner of things". "Gradually we cast-hold them", & after 19 the tendency is for them to drop away. Sometimes they come back later, for instance, on marriage.
The membership is 250. He has admitted as- 11s and as- 60, but the most common age for joining is 23 or 25. They are strict in admission & every candidate is seen by the pastor; by 2 visitors from the Congregation; & finally has to come before the Congregation & answer questions. There are almost- always only 4 or- by the pastor though any member can ask them, & in any case the ceremony is something far ordered. He has had a sort- of public confession of faith in the light- from Congregation. Their position & procedure corresponds- to those of the Baptist Church in America.

Isolation, & post-exclusion from this our Association.

Providence Chapel is also in the Islington Federation of Free Churches. The Strict Communion Baptists ~~are~~ have their own Association but some years ago this particular chapel was turned out, on the ground that they had infringed the rules of the body. The offence consisted in having admitted a "pious upright person to membership without immersion. His Regards little the step on the score of health in being believed that baptism by immersion would mean death. He admits that he may have broken rules by his action, but clearly thinks that he did right. His congregation stood by him to a man. Since being turned out from Association, they have been quite alone, & were approached influenced by their past experience when they refused to join the Federation of Free Churches in Islington.

St. Jude's parish. Sunday, Nov. 8 – J.A. 55

(2)

On my way home from St. Matthews I called in at Guildway Mission Hall, 44 Newington Green Rd. (corner of Guildway avenue, wh. is d. blue & black on our map).

The building used consists of a corner shop & room at back, the 2 thrown into one & holding about 60 persons. A notice outside states that it is the "registered office of the Guildway Pk. Wesleyan Association," wh. apparently uses it for some kinds of social work, but does not use it for religious purposes. There were about 30 present when I looked in – 20 decently dressed young women (servants, &c.) & or 6 young men, & 2 or 3 older ones. I spoke to one of the young men – a very earnest fellow, who wanted to convert me on the spot. He said the place was taken by them on Sunday morning & evg, Tuesday & Thursday evgs for the "preaching of the pure Gospel" & nothing else. They were of no denomination, simply called themselves Christians, & had no connection with the Guildway Pk. Wesleyans or anyone else.

They sometimes get a full room – sometimes only half full, & do not, he thinks, get any of the "Avenue" people, but aims to try to get them by visiting. My informant – apparently himself very [illegible] for he says he devotes himself mainly to a mission in Nile St., Hoxton, where he constantly visits a very poor & low class of people. (It is an independent mission – not Hoxley's).

[I know there is a Slate club held here, & I think there are little treats for the children of the neighbourhood, &c.]

Wm A. M. Kyd
Clapton Hall

GHA
Nov. 12/97

Membership

Meetings derived from Clapton Hall

St Thomas' parish.

16/2

57

2

Wm A. M. Kyd. 41 Lazenove Road Upper Clapton N.E.

Wm Kyd is about 35; a square built, athletic well-dressed, middle-class man; looking like what he probably is a prosperous business man. He is one of the leading men at Clapton Hall, Alkham Road, which is the chief centre of the Brethren in N.E. London.

Clapton Hall was largely supported by the late John(?) Morley, who during his lifetime was the ruling spirit here, notwithstanding the 'tacit equality' that is one of the chief points in the 'Brethren's' method & ideas.

The membership now numbers 550; it has been as high as 600, but it is now & has been for some time practically stationary, the new members only compensating for the constant losses by removals.

It is really a mother of Churches. Folkestone Road Hall, Walthamstow is a child of Clapton & has a slightly larger membership. From it also sprang

Woodberry Town Hall (a small meeting) and Springfield Lake, Tottenham, (about 60). It has two connected missions in the district – one in Rossington St. N. Clapton & the other at the Ferry, Big Hill. The membership at these two halls is included with Clapton Hall.

Buildings Used

Clapton Hall (seats 750) is a well but plainly built hall – a smaller hall at back (150) which can be thrown into the larger hall. Rossington Street Mission holds about 100 & the Bighill Mission 160.

Services. At Clapton Hall.

Clapton Hall.

Sunday 11 A.M. Breaking of Bread. About 400. This meeting is distinctive of all brethrens. They hold a Communion service every Sunday morning.

" 3 P.M. Sunday School. Children from surrounding streets. On Books 303; Aver. attend 233 Teachers 33.

" 6.30. Service. Always well attended. Average 650. Come from the neighbourhood. Some from other Chapels. Some working class but most of the lower middle class; a few better off.

Monday. 8. Prayer Meeting. Mainly their own people.

Meetings at Clapton Hall (cont'd)

Tuesday — Young peoples meeting - not under 12 yrs of age. A nice little meeting - 50 to 60.

Thursday — Bible Reading - 20 to 25 attend.

Friday — Gospel Meeting for Children. Fairly well attended. Preaching Service. (address to Christians). In the evening I went about 200 were present. Nearly all had their bibles & followed the preacher, turning up the texts quoted. A respectable well-dressed congregation. Some servants & working people.

Saturday. .. Brethren meet for business; candidates for admission.

Open Air Meeting at Clapton High Rd. Corner of Rossington Street.

Social Agencies

They have no so-called social agencies except a Mothers' Meeting - (Monday 3 PM). Clubs for blankets etc. People come from a distance. Have been driven out. Small houses near Hall have been & still are being pulled down & then middle class houses are built. & the poor people have to go out. Have another large Mothers' Meeting at Rossington Street. This is worked by Mrs Morley and the people are well looked after - Too well, Mr Kyd evidently thought.

Mothers' Meetings

Average attendance 50

Meetings at Rossington St

Visitation

Charitable Relief

Other meetings at Rossington Street all:
Sunday Gospel meeting, branch Sunday school. 60 children
Gospel meeting on Wed.
Get the people from the poor streets in the immediate neighbourhood.
[Mr Kyd will send forom with figures filled in for the Hall & Mission] Rec'd 18/11/97 but incomplete. Figures filled in where they belong GLS.

They visit their own people. Before the fellowship meetings they revise the list & then all who has not attended. Not satisfactory as some do not put their cards in the box, when they attend. Only one or two business men so cannot visit much.

They have a number of pensioners - widows. Every case is dealt with. Their collections are divided between 3 funds - Poor fund, expenses fund & mission. Declined to say how much they gave officially. Evidently a good deal is given by members and at Rossington Street, Mr M. gives a good deal -. Whilst he knew the amount given officially, he said it was quite impossible to know what was given by members. They regard themselves as responsible to God, and this reticence is intended, I have no doubt as obedience to the injunction of Christ

"Let not thy right hand know what thy left hand doeth" etc.

They have no paid ministers but a gift is usually made to preachers, when they come from other places. Their own people receive nothing. Have about 20 or 30 workers. Here again it is difficult to speak as many do christian work of which they know nothing. Some of them carry on a children's service at the Board School at Church Street or Old field Rd on Sunday evening etc.

They also appear to have a number of missionaries in Central Africa, South America etc.

They are mainly middle class; some well to do & a few very poor. Are becoming poorer, owing to the removal of the best (wealthier) class.

Mr K. is a practical hard headed man & I should think that the work here is managed in a business like manner and the people no doubt have a strong influence amongst those they come in contact, but this influence is diffused over a wide area.

Character of population.

Persons employed.

Buildings.

Nov. 15th. St Matthias' parish.

(2)

Interview with Rev. J. F. White, Presbyterian Mission, St Matthias Road.

Mr. White is a man between 60 and 70; tall, stout and altogether massive in appearance with a large bronzed head. He has been here for 16 years having previously been in Clare Market.

The streets which Mr. W. considers as typical of his district are the poorer ones around Matthias Road, with the exception of Watson St and Philip St which he describes as very rough they are inhabited for the most part by family respectable people who are however exceedingly poor, and the streets in South Hornsey especially are constantly becoming poorer. In Mr W.'s opinion the main cause of poverty here is the undue proportion of their income which the people have to pay in rent.

Missionary and 60 Voluntary Workers.

Chapel with Class Rooms attached.

It is a cause for thankfulness that the Sunday evening services are well attended by the people for whom the Mission was opened.

There is an excellent spirit of hearing and the reverent manner in which the congregation join in the worship of God is in itself a matter for rejoicing.

Our Missionary is constantly visiting in the neighbourhood, his counsel and help being always appreciated, and many are found in the House of Prayer, as the direct result of these visits.

The Committee appeal to the friends both at Green Lanes and Mildmay Park for continued help and sympathy in carrying on the many agencies of the Mission. Our workers are not weary in well doing, but are devoted to the work they have undertaken, knowing that their labour is not in vain in the Lord.

The following Services and Meetings are held week by week:—

TIME.	**Sundays—**
10.0	Sunday School.
10.0	Young Men's Society Class (Leader—Mr. Lamprill).
11.0	Children's Service.
2.45	Sunday School.
6.15	Prayer Meeting.
7.0	Public Service.
	Monday—
2.30	Mothers' Meeting (Leader—Mrs. Hicks).
7.30	Band of Hope (Conductor—Mr. H. Porter).
	Tuesday—
8.30	Society Class for Men and Women (Mr. Whiten).
8.30	Society Class for Women (Mrs. Dumville).

TIME. **Wednesday**—

8.30 Public Service.

Thursday—

7.0 Junior Society Class (Miss Turney).
8.0 Society Class for Young Women (Mrs. Doncaster).
8.0 Society Class for Young Women (Mrs. Hicks).

Friday—

8.0 Prayer Meeting.

Saturday—

6.30 Penny Bank (Mr. A. E. Powell).
7.0 Slate Club for Men (Secretary—G. Braidwood).
7.0 Slate Club for Women (Secretary—J. Weller).
7.0 Loan Club ,, ,,
8.30 Choir Practice (Leader—Mr. Platt).

The Soup Kitchen is opened on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12 o'clock, during the Winter months.

An Open Air Service is held on Sunday evenings during the Summer.

SOCIETY CLASSES.

Number of Members meeting in Class, including those "on trial," 130.

TRACT SOCIETY.

The Secretary (Mr. T. Allen) reports the distribution of 1,000 per month of the "Weekly Herald" (each copy headed by a list of Services, Classes, &c., held at Matthias Road) in 14 Districts, by 7 Distributors.

This Society is supported entirely by voluntary contributions. The Secretary would be glad to receive the names of any ladies or gentlemen willing to become contributors, collectors, or distributors. All communications to be made to Mr. T. Allen, 74, Springdale Road, N., or to Mr. J. Weller, 70, Matthias Road.

Social Agencies.

Education.

The 'Shemmites' do not come to the Services. Mr Lockyer noticed when he came for the first time the other day how respectable the congregation looked, but many of them Mr. W. says are as poor as any in the neighbourhood. Mr. W. thinks that the rough class can be reached best by one of their own class.

The Chapel holds 250 and is always full on Sunday Evening; they could very easily fill a larger building.

Of the people in the neighbourhood Mr. W. thinks that 1/4 of the most go to any place of worship.

Band of Hope (250). 56 pledges have been taken in the last year.

Penny Bank: took £445 last year of which £427 was withdrawn.

Night Class for men and women.

Loan Club.

Sunday School with 640 on books and 510 in

Visiting.

Charitable Relief.

attendance.
Society Classes for young men, boys and girls. About 130 in attendance.

Mr W. thinks about 3/4ths of the children in neighbourhood go to some Sunday School.

Mr. W. pays about 4000 visits a year among the poor and spends the greater part of each day in visiting. He spoke of the tact and caution required in visiting and the foolish bull-headed way in which many went into it. He never thinks of mentioning religion for one or two visits, and only leads up to it very gradually: it is essential to gain the confidence of the people first. Mr W. claimed & that of the people he called on in this careful way he eventually secured about 50 p. c. I asked Mr W. how far those he visited expressed belief: he admitted that nearly all who knew him soon led up to that. He claimed however that he was careful in his methods: though a tender hearted old man he is exceedingly shrewd and is not I think likely to be greatly imposed on, but at the same

Personal.

time it is evident that in one way and another a good deal is given through the Mission, which is the chief channel for the charity of the Wesleyan Church in these Parts. More I think is given in food through the Soup Kitchen Fund on which last year £65 was spent.

Mr. White who is the life and soul of this Mission is a fine old fellow; Earnest, Simple and without a trace of Cant.

THE Committee in presenting their Report and Balance Sheet for the year just closed, do so with feelings of gratitude to Him "whom having not seen ye love," and to all who have in any way assisted in the work of the Mission.

No one can read this Report without seeing that Matthias Road Chapel is a centre of Christian activity.

There are many Social schemes to-day which aim at the uplifting of down trodden humanity without the aid of the Gospel, but we are not content to divorce the Spiritual from the Social; as the greater, includes the less, so our work includes such agencies as Slate Clubs for men and women, Loan Club, Band of Hope and Penny Bank.

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" J. Hibbard.	" J. C. Wells.
" T. Fordham.	" J. E. Warlters.
" G. H. Doncaster.	" E. M. Wilcox.
" McClunan.	" J. Tucker.
" H. G. Cooper.	" Thompson.
" J. Cave.	" A. Sack.
" J. C. Coates, C.C.	" W. Smith.
" J. T. Budd.	" R. Maxton.
" A. E. Booth.	" Mitchell.
" J. W. Bennett.	" G. J. Adams, M.A.

time it is evident that in one way and another a good deal is given through the Mission, which is the chief channel for the charity of the Welsh-to-do Wesleyan Church in Green Lanes. Most I think is given in food through the Soup Kitchen Fund on which last year £65 was spent.

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The amount of cash paid into these organizations speaks volumes for their worth, and shows how greatly they are appreciated.

In opening the Soup Kitchen, we have endeavoured to "Let the hungry find our heart" (*Isa.* 58-10, German version) and this charitable and benevolent institution which meets the needs of hundreds of poor families living in the locality requires no better testimony than the following: A poor woman was heard to say in the Kitchen last year—"This Mission has been my salvation, body and soul." When first known to our Missionary who met the case during his visits, the woman and her husband were in abject distress and had lost all heart and hope, but timely Christian help and encouragement, with God's blessing resting upon the effort have brought back heart and hope again.

But whilst the Committee are anxious to do all in their power to improve the surroundings of the poor, they do not forget that the Mission exists for a far higher purpose—to bring men and women to Christ.

It is comparatively easy to touch the environments of suffering humanity, we may do this, and more, and yet not really touch the individuals, for man is greater than his circumstances, hence our efforts are chiefly directed to Spiritual work. Our Sunday Schools, Public Services, Class and Prayer Meetings, have this end alone in view.

REV. JOSEPH DIXON.

Vice-President :

REV. ROBERT FOSTER.

Lay Missionary :

Mr. J. F. WHITEN, 41, Winston Road, N.

Treasurer :

Mr. A. HORATIO JONES, 291, Green Lanes, N.

Secretary and Steward :

Mr. E. J. WILLIAMS, 61, Digby Road, N.

Committee :

Mr. M. H. Arundel.	Mr. H. L. Hibbard.
„ H. Airey.	„ R. Hicks.
„ F. Agar.	„ H. Knight.
„ Abbott.	„ W. N. Law.
„ J. W. Bennett.	„ G. J. Morris, M.A.
„ A. E. Booth.	„ Mitchell.
„ J. T. Budd.	„ R. Maxton.
„ J. C. Coates, C.C.	„ W. Smith.
„ J. Cave.	„ A. Sack.
„ H. G. Cooper.	„ Thompson.
„ McClunan.	„ J. Tucker.
„ G. H. Doncaster.	„ E. M. Wilcox.
„ T. Fordham.	„ J. E. Warlters.
„ J. Hibbard.	„ J. C. Wells.

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Nov. 26th. St John's parish. 16/12 (2) 67

Interview with Rev. J. Olding, Fighting Vale Mission.

I had a short interview with Rev. Olding with reference to the work of this mission (Myrtle St) which is an offshoot from Rev Dawson's church.

I got little or nothing from him except what appears in the Report on the following page. The mission is evidently on a very large scale compared with most, and is a centre of great activity, more however of a social than a spiritual character.

Beyond a general superintendence and the conduct of a Bible Class Rev Olding does not actively take any active part in the work. He is an old gentleman of about 70 with some work in the city, good, kind, and probably generous with his money.

HIGHBURY VALE MISSION.

Leaflet Report

CIRCULATED AT THE

ANNIVERSARY MEETING,

Wednesday Evening, October 20th, 1897.

Again we have gratefully to acknowledge that the blessing of God has distinctly rested on the labours of the past year. All the former branches of work have been carried on vigorously, and some new enterprises have been set on foot.

Ten Days' Mission by Mr. Henry Thorne.—Especially do we thank God for the visit of Mr. Henry Thorne, of Exeter Hall, in February last. Christians received a fresh impulse in their spiritual life, workers re-consecrated themselves to their Master's service, and a large number of young people were led to intelligent decision for Christ.

As the immediate outcome of Mr. Thorne's Special Mission, **the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour** was formed in March, under the leadership of Mr. W. Perkins, Jun. and a strong Executive Committee, and it has now a membership of over 60, holding its weekly meetings on Thursdays, at 8.15, in the Small Hall. The objects of the Society are to promote earnest Christian living among its members, to increase their mutual acquaintance, and to set them at work for Christ. The first half year just closed shows that much has been done in these directions. The weekly meetings have an average attendance of over 40 members. Seven Committees have been at work, viz.: Look-out, Prayer-meeting, Social, Flower and Sunshine, Music, Missionary and Literature, and their labours have been very widespread and useful. Flowers have been distributed every week to the sick of the neighbourhood, and the Sunday School has looked to the Society to supply teachers when required. A library of helpful reading has been established, and is largely used. Over £15 has been raised by the Society for various objects during the six months of its existence. In addition to this the Sunday evening Service has been twice entrusted to the Endeavourers, and the Band of Hope, the Open-air meetings, and other agencies of the Mission have been assisted.

The meetings of the Society have proved very helpful to the members; practical subjects have been considered week by week, and the opening winter session is looked forward to with keen anticipation. This Society and its work are commended to the prayers and sympathies of all who read this Report.

The Sunday Evening Services have been well attended, considering the difficulties with which parents and others have to contend. We are greatly indebted to the brethren who so willingly and profitably conduct the services, and are confident that their faithful words are bearing fruit in the hearts and lives of the hearers.

The **Wednesday Evening Service** has taken a fresh start under the leadership of Mr. E. S. Budd, who is kindly devoting his attention to it.

Open-Air Services —Leaders, Messrs. A. E. Pettet, and W. Perkins, Jun. -These services, held at the corner of Myrtle Street on Sunday evenings during the summer months, have been times of much blessing. There has been an increase this season in the number of helpers, and God has, we believe, given his blessing to the crowds that have gathered round. Our workers have also taken a prominent part in the services in Finsbury Park on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

Adult Bible Class.—Leader, Mr. J. J. Olding; Secretary, Mr. A. E. Pettet. Present membership, 102 (men and women of all ages). Most profitable and helpful seasons have been spent in the study of God's word, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit have been manifest in our midst. The Class meets on Sunday afternoons from 3 to 4.15, and we cordially invite new members.

Mothers' Meeting. Manager, Miss Denovan; Visitor, Miss Goode. Number of Members, 90. Attendance necessarily varies. A quiet work is going on at the weekly meetings. Any friends who would come and speak a few words would be heartily welcomed.

Sunday School.—Superintendent, Mr. John Foster. Scholars on the roll, 350; teachers, 29. The teachers have been happy in their work, and many are actively engaged in the good work now being carried on by the Y.P.C.E. Society. The School meets on Sundays at 10 and 3 o'clock. Meetings of the Band of Hope are held on Friday evening, and are well attended. It is hoped to extend its sphere of usefulness during the season just commenced. One hundred and four children were sent into the country this past summer through the Fresh Air Mission.

The **Children's Service** held on Sunday mornings from 11 to 12 o'clock continues to be of interest and attraction to the children of the neighbourhood. It is under the guidance of Messrs. Perkins and Hewitt, the average attendance being about 80. The object of the workers is to bring the children to Christ, and every means is used that will in any way promote that end. Missionary Talks, Object Services, Blackboard Addresses, Text Meetings, Song Services. Gospel Choruses, all help in this direction, and are heartily appreciated by the children. Our speakers come from all parts of North London, and we have lately been much assisted by members of the Christian Endeavour Society.

Saturday Evenings for the People.—These are as popular as ever in the past, and every effort has been made to render the entertainments and concerts not only pleasant and recreative, but helpful to character and purpose in daily life.

Highbury Vale Choral Society.—Hon. Sec.. Mr. Cole, Present membership, 40. Rehearsals well attended, averaging over 25 each evening. The valuable stock of music in hand has been added to during the past year. Useful service was rendered by the Members at the Special Mission held in February last. The Society again assisted at the Co-operative Society's Festival at the Crystal Palace in August last. Several Concerts have been given by the Society at various places to appreciative audiences, invitations to oblige them again being invariably received. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings at 8.30, when new Members can be enrolled. Fee per quarter, 1/-.

Free Lending Library.—Librarian, Mr. W. T. Fleet. Assistants: Miss Player, Mr. Harry Taylor, and Mr. Ernest Few. Increasing membership, now numbering 100. Average monthly circulation for past 9 months, about 130. Over 50 new books added early in the year, for which there is great demand. Gifts of books, and Donations in money towards filling up the remaining empty shelves, always acceptable.

Gymnastic Club —Instructor, Mr. A. Frankel (Polytechnic, Regent Street); Hon. Sec., Mr. G. Couling. The good work of last season was plainly seen at the Annual Display in May last, when those Vice-Presidents who were present and other gentlemen spoke highly of the rapid progress made by the members, which reflected great credit alike on Instructor and Members. The fourth season commenced October 4th, and having now secured two nights for practice per week, the season will terminate with the Annual Display in March instead of May. A Competition will be held in February and medals awarded. Fee, 2.6 per Quarter, or 5/- for the Season. Young men over the age of 17 eligible.

The Boys' Brigade, 21st London Company.—Officers: Capt- A. E. Gray. Lieuts. W. W. Jewell and A. W. Moriarty. Though small in numbers, the work done is satisfactory. The average attendance at Bible Class is more than at Drill, and during the summer months, when there has been no drill, the Bible Class shows an average of 21 boys for 17 Sundays. At the Annual Company Inspection on 3rd June, there were 33 boys and 2 Officers present, when Major Hughes was the Inspecting Officer. The Captain and 12 boys attended the North London Battalion Camp at Hayling Island in July last. Several boys competed for Ambulance badges, and were successful. A "B.B." Sergeant's badge was also won in competition with boys from other Companies The new Session, 1897-98, commenced 1st October. Bible Class, Sundays 7 p.m. Drill, Thursday, 8.30 p.m. Boys' Room, Tuesday, 7 to 9.30. A record of the Company's doings is inserted in the Mission "Reporter" weekly.

Highbury United Benefit Society.—President, Rev. W. J. Dawson. Treasurer, A. M. Torrance, Esq., J.P. Sec., Mr. A. E. Pettet. Number of members, 902. Amount paid for sickness first three-quarters of year, £268 8s. 4d.; amount paid for death claims same period, £65. Night of meeting, Tuesday at 7.30.

Industrial Exhibition.—Arrangements are in progress for holding another Exhibition in February of next year. Already valuable and increasing help has been promised, and we are looking forward to the enterprise being taken up heartily by residents in the neighbourhood.

Highbury Vale Women's Benefit Society.—Treasurer, Mrs. Cousins; Secretary, Mrs. Hugall. This Society is still on the increase, the Members on the books for this year is 247, as against 183 for the year 1896, being an increase of 64. The amount paid for contributions from January to September, £123 5s. 8d. The amount paid out for sickness for the same period being £7 13s.

Myrtle Street Penny Bank.—Two hundred and seven deposit accounts have been opened since January last. Funds in hand £69.

The **Total Abstinence Society.**—Secretary, Mr. G. Hugall. The increase in membership of this Society during the year has been very small, 97 names being on the register, with a small balance in hand for the ensuing year.

Other Societies are doing excellent work in connection with Temperance and Thrift, such as the **Phœnix Lodges, Good Templar** and **Juvenile Temple Lodges.**

P.T.E. for Men.—With a view to reach the Men in our midst, a series of Pleasant Tuesday Evenings has been arranged, and we are looking forward to large and enthusiastic gatherings, when the arrangements are more widely known.

Donations and subscriptions will be gladly received in aid of the general work of the Mission, by the Treasurer, Mr. J. W. Brigstock, 143, Green Lanes, or by Mr. J. J. Olding, 85, Queen's Road.

Highbury Vale Sunday School.

President—Rev. W. J. Dawson. *Vice-President*—Mr. Wm. Cook.
Treasurer—Mr. J. W. Brigstock. *Secretary*—Mr. Sydney Foster.
Superintendent—Mr. John Foster.
Librarian—Mr. T. E. Hayman.
Registrar and Organist—Miss Mabel Briggs.
Representatives to the Sunday School Auxiliary—Miss Gough and Mr. J. Briggs.
Secretary International Bible Reading Association—Miss G. Edwards.
School Visitors—Misses G. and F. Baucher.

Teachers.

Miss G. Baucher	Miss Henderson	Miss F. Toomer
,, F. Baucher	,, Hewitt	,, Woodrow
,, A. Bolton	,, A. Hewitt	Mr. A. Capps
Mrs. Clarke	,, H. Millman	,, Cullen
Miss Corbett	,, Preece	,, H. Hewitt
,, Duffell	,, E. Player	,, C. P. Jeeves
,, G. Edwards	,, J. Player	,, W. Perkins
,, Emery	,, Smith	,, H. G. Perkins
,, L. Foster	,, L. Smith	,, W. Portlock
,, Gough	,, A. Shrimpton	,, H. Still
,, Grundell		

Report for 1896.

We thankfully report that the past year's work in our School has been continued with many evidences of increased spiritual life and activity in all its branches.

The work comprises **Sunday School**, morning at 10 o'clock, afternoon at 3 o'clock; Fridays, **Band of Hope** and **Bright Hour for Children** at 7.30 p.m. alternately.

The **School** consists of 30 classes, 18 classes for girls, 11 for boys, and the Infants' class. In addition to the large hall, there are four separate class rooms, for Senior Girls, Elementary Class for Boys, and Infant Class, containing in all 340 scholars and 34 officers and teachers.

The average attendance has been 245 scholars and 30 teachers, and in the Morning School 41 scholars and 8 teachers.

A Special Children's Service is held every Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, conducted by Mr. William Perkins and a band of able workers. These services, which are made very attractive by bright singing and short addresses, have supplied a need in the neighbourhood, and the friends engaged in the work are to be congratulated on the success which has attended their labour of love.

A **Teachers' Prayer Meeting** has been held on the last Sunday in each month.

The **Band of Hope** has been reconstructed, and has fortunately secured the services of Mr. Stoneman as conductor.

The **Bright Hour for Children** has commenced its useful work under the care of our energetic friend Mr. W. Perkins, Jun., and alternate meetings are held every Friday at 7.30 p.m. The attendance has been about 50.

A strong Joint Committee justifies the anticipation of future successful gatherings.

The **International Bible Reading Association** has a membership of 60, and as these daily readings have a direct bearing on the Sunday lesson, the Superintendent urges that all the teachers and scholars should become members, the local Secretary is Miss G. Edwards from whom all information can be obtained.

The Annual **New Year's Breakfast** was given in the Hall to 218 necessitous children from the district. The Superintendent and teachers have again to thank all those kind friends who have assisted with their generous contributions.

The Annual **Distribution of Prizes** took place on February 28th, when the scholars assembled in the hall for tea. The prizes were presented by the Superintendent in the absence of Mrs. Foster through indisposition.

The **Summer Excursion** took place in June, the School again visiting their favourite resort at Theydon Bois in the Forest. This was a very successful and happy gathering for teachers and scholars, the children much appreciating their long anticipated outing, the party numbering 258.

During the summer months 96 children under 14 years of age were sent for a fortnight's stay in the country, and our grateful thanks are given to the generous subscribers to the Fresh Air Mission, through Mr. Wm. Cook, the Treasurer of the Highbury Quadrant Branch. In the preceding year 78 children received this benefit.

Our **Library** has been increased by a grant from the Sunday School Union of 100 books, and has been well used by the scholars.

The collection this year in the class boxes for the London Missionary Society amounted to £9 11s. 8d., showing an increase of £2 1s. 6d. on last year's contributions. This result should please all who are interested in missionary work.

Our Eleventh **Anniversary Services** were held on Sunday, the 13th of December. At the morning service Mr. Foster gave the address, and in the afternoon we were again cheered by the presence of our President, Rev. W. J. Dawson, who spoke earnest and stirring words of appeal to the large number of children present, and encouraged the workers to continue their labour of love for the Master's sake.

The opening service was conducted by our Vice-President, Mr. Wm. Cook, assisted by Mr. Benjamin Smith, whom we were glad to welcome, together with many other friends interested in our Mission School.

By the good hand of our God we have been enabled to carry on the work He has entrusted to us for extension of His kingdom in the hearts of the children, and have been much encouraged by the spiritual growth in some of our senior scholars, who have professed their love to Jesus, and joined the communion of his followers.

During the year many friends have taken up the work, and we deeply regret that at its close we have to deplore the loss, through various causes, of several valued helpers.

We recognise our high privilege in this work, and pray for God's blessing to rest upon it, and ask for the practical sympathy and prayers of the Church.

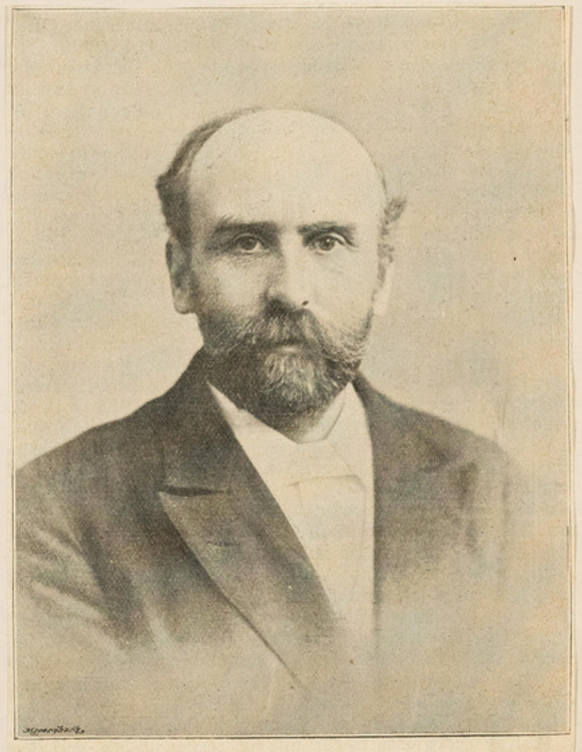
(*For Treasurer's Financial Statement see page* 22.)

Mrs E. Henderson Smith

Devonshire Sq. Baptist Church

South Hornsey

GBA



THE REV. G. P. MCKAY

St Faith's parish.

16/

CN (2) 71

Devonshire Square Baptist Church, Stoke Newington Road.

Interview with Mrs E. Henderson Smith. 49 Cazenove Rd.

The pastor Rev Geo. P. McKay, handed our letter to Mrs S. who is a deacon & was for many year supt of the Sunday School. He sent a copy of the Church Manual & offered to give further information. The following notes ~~are~~ combine the particulars obtained in the interview & given in the Manual.

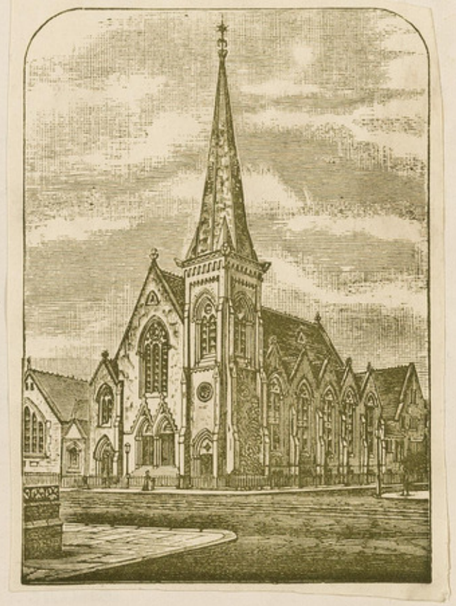
The pastor, Rev Geo. P. McKay is a Glasgow man & had had churches at Lincoln (7 yrs) & at Yarmouth (5 yrs) before he came to Stoke Newington in 1891. He was President of the London Baptist Assn in 1895. A short biographical sketch, written by Mrs S. of his life is given in this months "Footsteps of Truth" contained the following personal notes.

... Sunday and week-day the doors of Devonshire Square Chapel are rarely closed. At most of the meetings in the week Mr. McKay presides. He finds time for Teachers' and Christian Endeavour gatherings, and many of the other Society meetings which some say they are too busy to attend. The Monday prayer and praise meeting, as he conducts it, is always inspiring, and the Thursday preaching service is well-prepared for, and as spiritually and mentally helpful as the Sabbath services. These latter are always well attended. The chapel seats 1,050, and very few seats are vacant in the morning, and none in the evening.

Mr. McKay's preaching is expository and extemporaneous. He always carefully prepares written notes of his sermons, but generally leaves these in his study. Only on very special occasions is a note brought into the pulpit. He has a marvellous memory, and is so in the habit of depending upon it, that it rarely fails him. He is a most reverent and earnest student of Scripture. His Bible is a model of useful, methodical marking. His early business training has influenced this, and all his ministerial arrangements. They are

Persons Employed.

Buildings Used.



Meetings Held

all *methodical*. Indeed, it has been said more than once that he ought to have been a "Methodist." His heartiness, the fervour of his appeals, the life and earnestness with which he conducts the devotional meetings, his own leading of the people in prayer, are eminently characteristic of some sections of the Methodist body.

A salvation through simple faith in a crucified Saviour is fully and clearly preached, but at the same time Mr. McKay's is very far from being an "only believe" Gospel. He continually reiterates the need of works to reveal faith. He leads in all good works among his people. He neither spares himself, his time, or his money in his sympathetic assistance to any in trouble. Young and old are sure of his help. Many a sadly tangled skein he has, in his tactful way, helped to unravel, and not a few of his members in Stoke Newington, as well as in the scenes of his former pastorates, have found in Mr. McKay a truly Christlike friend and helper.

The pastor is the only paid worker. (£450). 14 Deacons. 84. S.S. teachers & a large number of other workers.

The Church seating 1050. Large schoolroom below vestries & Class rooms.

Sunday.

PUBLIC SERVICE.—Morning at 11.
Evening at 6.30.
SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Morning at 10; Afternoon at 2.30.
YOUNG MEN'S CLASSES at 2.45.
YOUNG WOMEN'S „ „ 2.30.
MEN'S BIBLE CLASS in Lecture Hall Vestry at 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S „ in Deacons' Vestry at 3.15 p.m.
COMMUNION SERVICE on the First Sunday in the Month, at close of the Evening Service (and Third Sunday at the close of the Morning Service).

Childrens' Service 11 AM

WEEK-DAY.

MONDAY.—Prayer and Praise Meeting at 8 p.m.
Pastor in the Vestry for conversation at 7 p.m.
Mothers' Meeting at 2.30 p.m.

TUESDAY.—Second Mothers' Meeting at 3 p.m.
Literary Society at 8 p.m. (Winter Months).

WEDNESDAY.—Choir Practice at 8 p.m.
Christian Endeavour Society at 8 p.m.
Junior „ „ 7 p.m.
Dorcas and Work Meeting at 3 p.m.

THURSDAY.—Public Service at 8 p.m.
Church Meeting at 8.45 p.m. Second Thursday before the Monthly Communion Service.
Baptismal Service, First Thursday, before Communion Service, or on last Sunday Evening of Month.

FRIDAY.—Band of Hope, 7.30; Temperance Society, 8.30 p.m.

SATURDAY.—Prayer Meeting at 8 p.m.

Open Air Meeting Sunday evening after Service & Meeting in Lecture Hall during Winter.

Notes as to Congregation
& Services

Statistics from S.S.U Report
On Books Teachers 84. Scholars 720
Average attendance " A. 64 " A 600

Congregation Sunday morning 800, evening 1000. Largely a family congregation; lower middle class, tradesmen, etc Don't get the poor people of the neighbourhood.. Locally about midway between Mr Cuff's Shoreditch and Mr Gibbons, Stamford Hill.

Sunday School 10 + 2.30. 700 on books. Attendance Avg 180
Children's service 125. Afternoon 600. Children belong to the neighbourhood. Many teachers have been scholars. 54 joined church last year. International Bible Reading Union has 4 60 members. Library 600 vols.
£112 collected for Missions.

Christian Endeavour Society (Wed 8) 86 members.

~~fellowship during 1898~~. Several needy families have been regularly visited and helped by gifts of the In-as-much Committee.
In connection with the Children's Country Holiday Fund we were able to afford the pleasure of a fortnight's holiday at the sea-side to 14 poor children. Twelve parcels of clothing, groceries, and toys were distributed at Christmas among needy families. Our Missionary committee are in communication with Mrs. Teichmann of Perezpoor, India, and have sent out a large number of New Year Motto Cards for distribution

Junior Society has 50 members.

Social Agencies

& many agencies at work. Every night something going on.

Two Mothers' Meetings. Monday & Tuesday afternoons. 110 on books. Average attendance 70 per week. Really get the poor women from South Hornsey & the courts off Stoke Newington High Street. Judging from the receipts of money from the women the Tuesday meeting is much larger than the Monday one £3 2 to £8.

Social Agencies (cont^d)

Literary Society

THE high standard attained during the previous Session was well kept up throughout the 13th and 14th Half-Sessions, October, '95, to April, '96. In point of membership the numbers showed no signs of falling off, and the excellent programmes prepared were fully entered into. The meetings themselves proving of great interest.

The aim of the Society is not so much to secure talent from outside, but rather to develop the latent genius of those who constitute the membership; hence in reviewing the gatherings held during the Session it will be seen that debates and discussions and members' evenings occupy by far the larger part of the programme. Lectures are delivered

Band of Hope Choir Friday 6·30.

Band of Hope (Friday). 38 meetings in the year: average attendance 94. 136 members.

Temperance Society (~~Sab~~ Friday) does not appear to be very successful. Night changed from Saturday to Friday. A strong temperance feeling in the Church: regard it as a christian duty to abstain but thinks the folk ~~do~~ feel that they do not need convincing on the point & so do not attend the meetings.

Cricket, Lawn Tennis, Football & Cycling Clubs. The pastor a cyclist & goes out with the club.

Visitation

Not much appears to be done. The Ladies Society has 17 visitors, calling at the houses in the poorer street of the district. The seats in the Church are subdivided between 12 deacons, who are supposed to notice the absence of regular worshippers, so that they may be visited. Referring to this, Mr McKay in his letter to the members says:—

~~affliction, visited~~. Our congregation is so very large that no one man can miss every absentee, and it has occasionally happened that friends have been on beds of sickness and the Pastor has not even known that they were not in their accustomed seats. Perhaps they have been disappointed at him not calling to see them; but they ought, first, to have made sure that he was

Charitable Relief

Another notice in the yearbook also deals with visitation:

VISITATION.

When a Member is in affliction, a communication to that effect should at once be made to the Pastor, or to one of the Deacons.

Members will be kind enough not to expect a visit until this has been done.

If any Member finds another in poverty, and in consequent need of pecuniary aid, it is requested that the case be reported to the Pastor, or to one of the Deacons.

W.S. Smith terms the scheme "Theory & not practice".

~~Clean~~ The Communion Fund collections amount to £66.

About ~~70~~ 20 poor members receive a regular allowance whilst special gifts are made in other cases as needed.

The Benevolent Society distributed £43 in coals, provisions & Christmas gifts. The members recommend cases to the deacons & the onus of inquiry is thrown upon the members recommending. Mostly outside cases. The Mothers' Meeting funds also gives a little & the Dorcas & Maternity Society distributes a large number of garments (paid £20 for materials)

In presenting the report of the above Societies, the Committee are pleased that the past year has been prosperous, there have been good meetings and earnest workers. The poor of the Church have been helped, also the Mother's meetings, large parcels have been given to each Subscriber for personal distribution, and a great number of Maternity cases have been relieved. Our desire is that these meetings may be well

Church Membership

Finance

X

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

Number on Roll, 31st December, 1895		783
Received during 1896—		
By Profession	44	
„ Transfer	39—	83
		866
Lost during 1896—		
By Transfer	30	
„ Erasure	25	
„ Death	12—	67
		799

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Church Balance Sheet	945	9	7
Communion and Poor Fund	75	14	4
Renovation Fund	50	0	0
Baptist Missionary Society	64	11	1
Benevolent Society	36	0	0
Choir	6	4	1
London Baptist Association	13	17	2
Aged Pilgrims' Friend Society	40	9	0
Sunday School	128	18	2
Sunday School Missionary Fund	112	4	6
Band of Hope	20	10	2
Christian Endeavour Society	34	5	10
Dorcas and Ladies' Work Meeting	24	15	5½
Mothers' Meetings	55	0	10
Tract Society	19	19	5½
Literary Society	48	2	2
Cycling Club	9	16	3
Cricket Club	22	17	9
	£1708	15	10
Less by items appearing in more than one Balance Sheet	81	6	6
	£1627	9	4

this Church in ... Vice-

The work of the Church is mainly amongst the middle class and with these its power is increasing. During the 5 years Mrs McKay has been here 542 persons have joined the church - 319 by profession & 223 by transfer from other churches. Mrs Smith says that the subject of Mission work has ~~often~~ often been before them but they have never seen an opportunity to start a mission without interfering with some already at work. He thinks the locality is amply supplied now. They have consequently confined their efforts to providing funds for others. The Report shows £131 collected for Home Missions & £64 for foreign missions & £112 by the Sunday Schools

Mr Smith is a man nearing 50. Cheerful & with a merry twinkle in his eye; His knowledge of the general work of the church was good but weak as to detail except as to the Sunday school & children's meetings, with which he had been associated many years. Of Mr McKay & his work he naturally has a high opinion, doubtless shared by his colleagues on the diaconate as they are now improving the entrances, making new doors etc for the church.

Mrs E. Widdowson

Victoria Grove United Methodist Church

South Hornsey.

GHA
20/12/47

* Buildings used.

St Faith's parish.

78

Mrs E. Widdowson, 37 Brownswood Road
Clissold Park N.

~~I~~ Early in October I wrote to Mr Lisle, the Secretary of the U. Methodist Free Church in Victoria Grove but receiving no reply, had given it up as unimportant. A few days ago I received a card making appointment with Mr W. ~~He~~ is a man of about 60, with grey-ish hair & beard: carefully dressed, gold spectacles etc. ~~He~~ A commercial traveller by occupation, he formerly lived in the Victoria Grove district & has been connected with the chapel for 26 years as lay preacher, trustee etc.

It is a small cause & has had many vicissitudes: when he went the congregation was 11 in morning & 17 in evening: later they became full & overflowing and now they are again waning owing to removals. People going outwards to Crouch End & Harringay.

Chapel holds [illegible] person. Schoolroom. & class rooms.

No stated minister. In London First Circuit. Supplied by local preachers - two of whom belong here.

Services held

Sunday 11 & 6.30. Average attendance. Mr. 40. Evens 60.
Thursday 8 -
Sunday School. 2.45. On Rolls 70 teachers, 119 scholars, Average attendance 88.
" Childrens Service. 10.30. About 35 children.
" " " 6 PM Juniors About 40
7.15 Seniors " 35. Elders
Childen of clean, respectable poor. Girls & boys.

Childrens meetings are conducted by two young women, who also hold a Christian Endeavour Meeting on Thursday & Social on Fridays for these elder scholars. Having 25 to 50 at each meeting.
Two Class Meetings (Tu & Wed) 55 members.

Congregation is very poor as a whole. Only about 6 families comfortable. Could not pay their way but for outside help.

Visitation

Have 4 visitors & congregation is divided between them, each taking a particular area. Outside cases in the each area would be attended to by the visitor for that area.

Charitable Relief

Not much relief. Collections at love feasts and communions - About £10 a year.

The work of the Church

As to the work of the church Mrs W. claims that it is "educational rather than ~~evangelistic~~ evangelistic". They send out more workers than other churches. Their young people go to the large churches in the neighbourhood & become workers in them. Many have gone to Devonshire Square (Mr McKay's), others to the Wesleyan. Told of a story of a Minister at Stoke Newington Wesleyan, who expressed a hope that the place would not be shut up as he got some of his best workers from ~~it~~ that "little shop". Mrs W. thinks this movement of the young people is quite natural & does not regret that they seek "the larger life".

South Hornsey 25 yrs ago

As to the district, 25 years ago that block of South Hornsey was occupied by city people earning £120 to £160 a year - Men who could pay 6d a day bus fare into town. One family in each house. Now the district is poor, especially the "poets' roads e.g. Spencer, Shakespeare, Milton, Cowper. In these roads

roads, there are usually 3 families in a house. To show the poverty of the district, he said that he is on the Committee of a South Hornsey Coal charity (parochial) which distributes sacks of coal at Christmas. They had just met & distributed 630 cases and still had some cases to adjudicate. All are said to be "clearly deserving cases." Of these 630, about 550 would go into the "Poets' roads block and but few into Victoria Grove & that part of the district.

Other Religious Influences

The other churches do not recognise them: "we are so small that they forget our existence".

The Welsh church (Barrett's Grove) was a small affair when Mr W. first knew it and is not doing much now.

Devonshire Square is very active. Has a number of well to do men.

Mr LeBlas Church (Cong[l]) only the P.S.A now. In Dr Aveling's time it was the great church in North London both for prestige and wealth.

St Mary's Stoke Newington. Mr Jackson, (Shelford's

Housing

predecessor) was a pervert from Wesleyanism. He did a great work: built the new church. Mr S. entered into his labours. Gives a good deal of relief.

The houses in the old part J.S. Horsey he regards as good. When built they were in advance of their day and quite equal to the sanitary requirements. Substantially built, fairly large & lofty rooms.

Mrs W. knows a good deal about the other churches on the United Methodist First Circuit:-

The Harbour Light, Goldsmith Road is a new Mission, which has superseded a little hall in Brandon Street. It was built 18 months ago, largely through the efforts of Stephen Gee, 57 Parkholme Road, Dalston. Since its opening, most of the meetings have doubled & trebled their numbers. At at meeting on Saturday night they take 17/- in pennies for refreshment.

Willow Street Finsbury the second church in the circuit & under the charge of the supt. Rev J. Whittles, is in difficulties, due to removals & the pressure of a heavy ground rent £80 a year

they however have some industrial dwellings (freehold) adjacent by which they are able to make ends meet.

Mr W. was very pleasant in his manner & was familiar with Life & Labour & the maps. Offers to give any further information respecting these chapels or any other points with which he is familiar.

this Church