District 10

Bethnal Green East and

Mile End Old Town East.

Nonconformist Churches

& Missions.

XLI.

From Charles Booth,
9, Adelphi Terrace,
Strand, London, W.C.

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District 10 - Book XLI

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Rev.d Wm Thomas
Grove Road Baptist Church

GHA
Dec 31/97

District has deteriorated

Change of Congregation

Area worked

10/4 (2)

Rev.d Wm Thomas, Pastor of Baptist Church, Grove Road, Bethnal Green. Seen at his residence: 5 Cawley Road, South Hackney.

Wm Thomas is a fair, portly ~~stout~~ man of about 40. A ready ~~conversation~~ talker and I should think a fluent preacher. From the manner in which he dealt with the questions, I gathered that he was methodical in habit yet ~~impulsive~~ impulsive. He has been here 10 years.

During these 10 years, the deterioration of the district has been very rapid and has been accompanied by a almost complete change in his church & congregation. When he came the diaconate included 3 employers of labour, one in business, ~~a~~ & a manager of a city printing establ.t: now diaconate is composed of working men earning £1 a week or so. Congregation now was working class, some very poor who have to be supported and some middle class from South Hackney.

The district worked extended from Warley Street on the west to Hewlett Road on the east and from Victoria Park

~~to~~ Park to the Railway. This includes the group of dark blue streets west of the Canal, where they have a Mission. Mrs J. says that the streets of the east of the canal are ~~quite~~ as poor and avers that when the Boundary Street area was cleared the people came to these streets - Thus Kenilworth Road (back of Chapel) was ~~occupied~~ inhabited by ~~to~~ one family in each house. Now about half the houses have 2 families - one on each floor + the remainder have more + filled with one room tenants. Grove Road is changing in the same way, though pink + red on map.

He confirms the accounts given of the change in South Hackney and instanced Cawley Road as an example. In the next house (No 4), 3 families lived + most of the others were let in the same way, the exceptions were the old inhabitants, schoolmaster + others like himself who were obliged to remain in the neighbourhood.

Ten years ago the people were middleclass, earning £120 to £200 a year: many able to keep a servant.

South Hackney

Mr Thomas is the only paid worker. He has a large number of voluntary workers, including 8 deacons,

Persons Employed

Membership of Church

Buildings Used

Services Held — At Grove Road

a committee of 16, & 69 sunday schol teachers. Gave a tea to (Queens 20 at Green Street)
the workers & was surprised at the number. 280 about.
[Will fill up & return form]

Church membership is 350 (Dec. 1896); strict baptists in the sense that all members must have been immersed. Hence has Christian workers, who are not church members.

Chapel seats 493, schoolroom under and vestries at back. Mission Hall 222 Green Street seats 250. Hall is at back of shoemakers shop: ~~only~~ reached by passage at side.

Sunday. Service 11 & 6.30. Congregation largest in evening. Many come twice a day.
Sunday school 9.45 & 2.30. Teachers 49. Scholars on Books, 815, Average attendance. 602. Some are very poor but well dressed and cared for.
Monday. 7.45. Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 7.45 Service.
Saturday 8 – Prayer Meeting. Over 100 attend.
Thursday 8.30 Y. P. S. C. E. Nearly 80 members.
Mostly workers (young men & women) at mission or tract distributors.

Services Held (cont^d)

At Mission Hall

At Mission green Shed.

Sunday School 3 PM and 6·30 PM. Twenty teachers. 8 afternoon + 12 evening. Scholars on Books 300. Attendance. Aft 75. Ev^g 148. Children poorly dressed. Quite different to those at chapel.

" 8 PM. Evangelistic Service. Average 150. Plenty of singing. Choir from chapell goes to Mission after chapel service. Poor people come: mothers bring their babies + children. Some men but not a large proportion.

Tuesday (8 to 9) Evangelistic Service

Social Agencies

At Chapel

Mothers' Meeting (Monday 2·30) Average about 40 poor class women - People who have to be helped. Savings Bank + Clothing Club - 1^d in ½- brooms.

Band of Hope (Tuesday 7) About 100 regular attendants.

Temperance Mtg " 8·30. Like others funds this difficult to maintain. Intends to stop it during the summer in 1898.

Maternal ~~Guild~~ Society meets monthly, ~~and have~~ Several other working societies + meetings. Two ladies have their girls meet to work for the poor. etc.

~~Mothers~~ Sewing Meeting (Tuesday 7·to 8): similar to Mothers Meeting: followed by a service.

At Mission

Band of Hope (Thursday). About 50 attendance.

Had a Savings Bank in 1896. People deposited £11 4 4 in 1896 + Mr T. thought that they should use the Post Office

Visitation

Nursing

Charitable Relief

Office Bank and so he closed the bank at the beginning of the year, hoping to get the people to go to the P.O. He will however recommence in 1898 as he is certain that the people have not gone to the P.O. but have spent the money instead.

Pastor visits constantly. Is often called up at night to visit people: some he has never seen before. ~~Some~~ An old lady, Mrs Stevens, 20 Auckland Road) also visits constantly & has done so for many years. We should see her. Deacons & Elders also visit members. District is also thoroughly visited by Tract distributors (68). Each takes part of a street and goes from door to door on Sundays.

Send for Dr Barnardo's Deaconesses.

Cannot give much relief as they have no funds. Need is great, greater than before Archibald Brown went. He used to get about £6000 from outside & this has gone with him. Some of their cases come from the East London Tabernacle but they cannot help. Mr T. was specially emphatic about the need of this

Charitable Relief (cont^d)

district & the impossibility of getting any help from outside. He had made an appeal this Christmas but had not ~~had~~ received any response from it. the Most of the papers would not insert it. The Church owing to the changed neighbourhood had greater difficulty in carrying on its work and the green theed Missions took all they ~~coy~~ could give beyond actual support of church. Sends his worst cases to Mr Atkinson (Latimer Chapel) who is very kind & takes them up. He also gives Mrs Thomas, hospital tickets for his people. Naturally Mr T. has a high opinion of Mr Atkinson.

Amount Given

A small benevolent society in connection with the Tract Distribution. Gave £1.13.4 in groceries & bread in 1896. £7.11 from the Communion fund was given to poor members & Mrs Stevens appears to have a little sent to her privately by friends. "Poor Sewing Class" makes & distributes garments. Cost in 1896 £1.2.6. The Maternity & Dorcas Society lents "bags" to maternity cases - about 50 each year. Besides the clothes etc they contain tea & sugar and other necessaries & each mother receives the first 'short' suit for the babe. Each case is visited by two ladies each of whom

Other Religious Agencies

Congregational

St James the Less

Poor Law

whom can give 4/- out of the funds. Society spent £6 in 1896.

Mrs T. is very careful in giving relief. Every case is visited & they make enquiries from people in the street to supplement their own knowledge.

Congregational Church in Approach Road is doing a good deal of work.

Mentioned the advent of Mr Ditchfield to St James the Less and thinks he is going to do something there. Evidently Mr D. is being talked about. Mrs T. had been told that the women at his mothers meeting were given 6d to make a flannel petticoat & then allowed to buy it for 2d. (This had drawn some of the women from his Mothers Meeting.) Under the previous vicar "Poor old Moon" the church had done comparatively little ~~before~~. He appears to have been a very broad minded man, who did not mind whether the people went to church or chapel. The caretaker of his mission was ~~a dis~~ in the habit of attending chapel & has been superseded by Mr D.

Thinks the Guardians might give more out relief to old decent folk but not much to complain of. They have always attended to any cases he has sent.

Says there is a class of cadgers, who have a strong objection to applying to the Guardians & rather try to cadge from Christian people, upon whom they think they have a claim. Will come to a prayer meeting to try & get relief.

In the Mile End Road. Live in Warley Street district.

Prostitution

Has noticed increase of drinking amongst women, especially among young women. Do not mind going into the public houses.

Drinking

Not many marriages & those mostly their own people. Not much illegitimacy or early marriage.

Marriage

Some of the houses are very bad. and should be razed to the ground. One of his deacons is a decorator & told Mr T. that he took down a wainscot in a house & it was a mass of bugs ½ inch thick at back. Had to burn it. Some of the worst houses are off Green Street.

Housing

Mr Thomas is very hopeful about the work, although

although he realises that difficulties will not decrease & especially that from the exodus of the better part of the population. He has helped many to go to Enfield & realises that it is better that they should go. Dunn The financial difficulty, not of supporting the church, as he carefully pointed out, but of maintaining and extending their missions work is the other great drawback. "I have plenty of workers & machinery but not the funds".

(Will send the statistical form & Manual for 1897.)

Rev^d J. W. Atkinson

'Latimer' Congregational Church

GH
Jan 3/98

Yours Sincerely
J W Atkinson

Relief Work.

Extent of.

(2)

Rev^d J W. Atkinson Minister of Latimer Congregational Church, Bridge Street, Stepney. E.

Seen at his residence; Claremont, Cawley Rd: S. Hackney

Mr Atkinson looks about 45 but is probably nearly 10 years older. He lives in a nice detached house adjoining Victoria Park and is apparently a man of some means as he does not receive a salary but as he puts it:" Our entire effort is made con amore"

The interview was hurried as Mr A. had to go in half an hour so I did not attempt to get details as to the work of the Mission Halls but confined myself to the Latimer Chapel & the Relief Work.

The Relief work overshadows everything else and has grown to gigantic proportions the expenditure for 1897 (year ending Nov 14) being £ 3608, whilst the value of Hospital letters, Clothing Provisions & books distributed is estimated at an additional £ 2500 or £ £6100 in all.

This ~~great~~ money is entirely derived from subs^n and donations, few of the amounts given exceed £ 5 and the bulk are ~~under~~ 10/- or under, some being

Balance Sheet of
Relief Work

being as low as 3d. The number of donations acknowledged in the Report for 1897 – e.g. Nov 1896 to Nov/97. are 4694 and occupy 67 pages of the Report. The list of persons giving Hospital letters, clothing etc contains 1171 names & occupies 17 pages. The

Balance sheet is published as under:

THE REV. J. W. ATKINSON'S EAST LONDON MISSION & RELIEF WORK.

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE, for the YEAR ENDING 14th NOVEMBER, 1897.

Dr. 1897.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Nov. 14.	To Donations and Subscriptions (as per list)	3075	8	1			
	,, Loans repaid	21	7	0			
					3096	15	1
	,, Balance				511	10	7
					£3608	5	8

Cr.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By	Balance	215	15	6
,,	Groceries, Provisions, Meat, Bread, &c.	477	9	1
,,	Coal, Wood, &c.	260	18	4
,,	Christmas Gifts and Dinners	391	16	7
,,	Free Meals, Soup Distribution & Free Entertainments	231	19	1
,,	Tools and Furniture, (Purchase and Redemption of) purchase of Stock-in-Trade, Clothing, Club Subscriptions and Saving Homes	97	14	9
,,	Loans	115	17	0
,,	Surgical & Medical Aid, Diphtheria and Fever Fund, and Gifts in Money	65	4	9
,,	Country Holidays, Excursions and Boarding out	362	4	9
,,	Maintenance in Convalescent Homes at Bexhill, Bognor, Brighton, Broadstairs, Eastbourne, Hastings, Littlestone, St. Leonards, Ramsgate, Southend, and Walton, and Travelling Fares	341	14	11
,,	Assistance in obtaining Employment and Aids to Emigration	131	0	10
,,	East London Mission and Branches at Ernest Street, Hackney Road, and The People's Hall, Salary of Missionary, Disbursements by District Workers, Rent, Gas, Cleaning, &c.	434	7	8
,,	Christian Instruction, including Books, Tracts, &c.	70	6	0
,,	Carriage paid for parcels of Clothing &c.	7	10	8
,,	Advertising, Printing and Sundries	156	9	11
,,	Clerical Work and Audit Fee	96	0	0
,,	Stationery, and Postages for General Relief Work and obtaining Hospital, Maternity, Convalescent Home Letters, Parcels of Clothing, Provisions, &c. (estimated at £2500 value, as per Memo. on other side)	151	15	10
		£3608	5	8

MEMO. In addition to the above Amounts, it is estimated that the value of Hospital Letters, Convalescent Home Letters, Maternity Letters, and Parcels of Clothing, Provisions, and Books distributed, amounts to £2500.

We have compared the above items of Expenditure and Receipts with Relief Work, as kept by the Rev. J. W. ATKINSON, and we certify the Books, Records and Vouchers of the East London Mission and the same to be in accordance therewith. The above items include the Expense of making the Special Appeals.

80, COLEMAN STREET, E.C.
19th November, 1897.

A. H. ERNST CHAMPNESS & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.

Persons Employed

The work is managed by a Committee of 30, not including two other members of the Atkinson family: Wm S. B. A. of Trinity College, Cambridge & Miss Atkinson of Girton College. Two paid Missionaries: Wm Wellsden L.C.M., 49a Eglinton Road, North Bow; Wm Hoare L.C.M., 107 Goldsmith Road Leyton (Visits Bancroft Road Workhouse). also Wm Matcham L.C.M., Mission Hall, 224 Hackney Road. 53 Sunday school teachers at Latimer. Does not know how many voluntary workers; can get all he wants: could get 20 from Burdett Road if he wished tomorrow.

Buildings Used

Latimer chapel seats 700. Peoples Hall at back (500) and 8 or 10 rooms.
Mission Hall, Ernest Street, seats 300.
" " 224 Hackney Road 120 & 140.
See Missionaries as to these.

Services Held. At Latimer Chapel

Sunday Services. 11 am & 6.30 pm. Congregation about 300 in morning & full (700) in evening. At first, Mr A. said they were middleclass but modified this. Good working class & clerks, warehousemen &c working in the City.

Services held (cont^d)

P. S. A. Sunday afternoon. also Bible classes.
Sunday School. Morning & afternoon. 794 scholars
on books. Average attendance. Morn. 97. Aft^n 620
Children's Service. evening. 100 attendance.
Children are decently dressed and as a rule
well fed. ~~+ cared~~. Ordinary working class.

~~At~~

Social Agencies

Social activities are numerous, the Hall
at the back of the chapel being used every night.
Band of Hope, Christian Endeavour, Sisters Society (271 members)
Mother's Meeting, 60 members, Penny Bank, Sewing Classes.
The Mothers' Meeting is large (400 members), an address by
the missionary each week. ~~Drapery~~ Prizes for regular
attendance. Drapery & Coal clubs. 1^d in /- & buy
things wholesale. Coal club people get 25% discount.
Woman have a day in the country & report adds some
of their husbands! & all have a "bountiful Dinner
& Tea provided (as in former years) by our President"
For the young there are also "Children's Happy
Evenings", the Working Lads Society with its
Bible Classes, Social, Athletic, Cricket & Football
clubs & Gymnasium. The Society for Working Girls

also

Church membership

The Church District

Charitable Relief

also has a gymnasium in full swing.

The ~~people~~ Church membership is about 500. A great many people move away but we don't know their names off. They appear to come occasionally. Body of chapel is full at the Sacramental servic. ~~Has~~ Admitted 10 or 12 members last Sunday (1st in Jan.)

The district worked by the Mission ~~Church~~ is endosed by the Mile End Road, Whitehorse Lane, the Bethnal Green ~~&~~ boundary & the Regents' Canal. This area they work regularly but the Relief work embraces a much wider ~~space~~ area as will presently appear.

The large charitable work, Mrs A. says is quite unsectarian. He gives to Jews & Catholics as freely as others and as a instance mentioned a tea given a short time since to a 'crowd of young jews." The Report "From Darkness to Dawn" deals almost exclusively with the relief work. In the first four pages, which are from Mrs A's pen, she says that "our aim in all cases is not to pauperise but to help the poor to help themselves"

Copy of Bill sent with Annual appeal

REV. J. W. ATKINSON'S
EAST LONDON MISSION = = AND RELIEF WORK.

President:
Rev. J. W. ATKINSON.

New Mission Hall,
ERNEST STREET.

LARGE HALL,
BRIDGE STREET.

Executive for 1897.

Manager of Mission—
MR. C. MCCARTHY,
294, Mile End Road. E.

Secretary of Mission—
MR. J. LUCAS,
21, Rockmead Road, South Hackney.

Secretary of Committee—
MR. T. CLARK,
"Homeleigh," White Hall Rd., Woodford.

Superintendent of Sunday Schools—
MR. G. W. DAVIS,
1, Gainsborough Road, Bow.

Christian Instruction Department—
MR. STEGO,
Third Avenue, Manor Park.

(For List of Names of Committee, see Annual Report)

Summary for Year.

Services, Lectures, Entertainments, Free Meals, Gymnasium, etc., all the year round.

5,000 CHRISTMAS DINNERS PROVIDED.

3,000 TAKEN FOR DAY IN COUNTRY.

550 SENT TO CONVALESCENT HOMES, for 2, 3, or 4 weeks each.

10,000 FREE MEALS PROVIDED.

4,000 Grocery & Provision Parcels Distributed

6,000 Sacks of Coal.

Influenza and Fever Fund Disbursed.

10,000 GARMENTS, BOOTS, &c., GIVEN.

Surgical and Medical Aid rendered.

Tools, Stock, Mangles, Furniture purchased.

Lodgings provided & Homes saved from Brokers

OPEN AIR MISSION. FLOWER MISSION.

Employment found & Emigration Cases assisted.

Pure Literature Provided and Circulated.

Small Temporary Loans to Struggling Tradesmen.

4,000 Hospital Letters Disbursed among the needy poor.

For further information see Annual Report and Balance Sheet, price Sixpence to non-subscribers, Audited duly by Chartered Accountants, as under:

We have compared the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure with the books and Vouchers of the East London Mission and Relief Work, as kept by the REV. J. W. ATKINSON, and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.

20th November, 1896. A. H. ERNST CHAMPNESS & Co., Chartered Accountants, 80, Coleman Street, E.C.

All Gifts of Money, Food, or CLOTHING, should be sent to the Rev. J. W. ATKINSON "Claremont," Cawley Road, London, N.E.

Cheques should be crossed "London and South Western Bank, Bow Branch."

Hospital Letters

B

The methods employed are enumerated as under.

Our methods during the past year have in the main been the same as in former years, each branch of the Mission having been admirably sustained. Our agencies have embraced as usual Day in Country and Country Holiday work; Distribution of Food Parcels; securing suitable Employment for the industrious Poor; redemption of honest Workmen's tools, and often even Bedding from pawn; Paying up Club Subscriptions; Sending poor Convalescents to Sea-side and other Homes; Providing outfits for Seamen; Coal and Bread Tickets for industrious Unemployed; Clothing, Boots, &c, for poor little Children who are frequently compelled to attend School without a meal; and General Mission work carried on in two large Halls, and one smaller Hall, by devoted Voluntary Committee and two Missionaries. Both the Indoor and Outdoor Services have proved a blessing to many.

In addition nearly 4000 Hospital Letters have been given of which about 2000 were for hospitals in N.E. London & the remainder for more distant institutions. The latter or many of them are sent to ministers in other parts of London, Mr A. mentions that he had recently sent 100 to Rev J. B. Meyer Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Rd, 100 to Rev J. Hasting, Chelsea, others to Rev Hugh Price Hughes (Wesley) &c. In the East End, distribution of these as well as of other relief is made through other ministers, missionaries and district visitors. The Committee of

& the Christian Instruction Society "devote themselves to this work". Mrs A. states that they know the people, the relief being given on the result of visitation & personal inquiry.

They have tickets (1/+6d) ~~made~~ for groceries, coal, wood meat, bread etc &. These are available at a particular shop. Mrs A deals with about 6 local men in each line of business. For coal he has a contract for supply at at 20/6 a ton all the year. &c.

So far as I can gather from Mrs A. & the Report the enquiry as to cases depends upon those visiting the cases and these include all kinds of workers. 42 pages of the Report is occupied by the reports from Missionaries and others thanking Mrs A. for help given, occasionally containing fuller details of cases assisted — ~~The others~~ and, also, short letters from persons assisted. The assistance is in many forms: a shoeblack & a hawker have their licences renewed. another man has his club sub" paid. others are supplied with spectacles, trusses, air pillows (on loan), elastic stockings, ~~&c~~ loans etc. Amount of relief see page 25.

No nurse. If they have a cases that needs treatment, generally get them into the Hospital.

Rev. J. H. Coad, the Primitive Methodist Minister, who feels so many letters away, is amongst those writing to thank Mrs A. (See Book VIII. p 225)

Nursing.

The hospitals for which letters are most sought are the London, N. E. Children's, Shadwell, Victoria Park.

Approbos of these letters, when I went into W.H.'s, the first person I saw was his father, a hale old gentlemen of 70 or so. Talking of the letters, he said they were continually receiving requests for 'letters' & some of the people did not enclose stamped envelope, so that they had to pay postage as well as give the letters. Had had 3 application that morning (this was 11.30). One girl said "Mother always ~~comes~~ gets her letters of you": an observation that rather tickled the old gentleman.

Visitation

Missionaries visit on their districts. The Christian Instruction Society has 16 workers going from house to house. & they distributed over 35000 religious book & 50000 tracts in the years.

Co-operation with Non-cons.

Mr Atkinson is willing to work with anybody & does work with other non-cons. The Church people stand aloof & don't appear to care to work with the Mr A.

Time did not suffice to go into the local questions

District has deteriorated

Ernest Street Mission

Persons to see

questions, nor did Mrs A. appear to be much interested in them.

He thinks that the people have gone down socially & in general respectability during the 30 years he has been there "fully 50%" They are a different order of people – not so vigorous.

At Ernest Street the people are two grades lower than those attending Latimer – Poor labouring class. as are the Sunday school children. A large Mothers' Meeting here. Mrs McCarthy, the manager, ~~in hats~~ reports good success & says "Tickets for Food, Firing & Meat have been freely distributed in cases of sickness & distress."

We should see.

Mrs Willesden (Missionary) 49a Eglinton Road. N. Bow
Miss Orchard (Visitor for Rev. Daniel, Coverdale Chapel) c/o Rev. W. Daniel. Tredegar Sq.
Mrs Hoare (Missionary) 107 Goldsmith Road, Leyton. E.
Mrs Malcham " } 224 Hackney Road. E.
Mrs Carnell "
Mrs Thos R. Pitt (Schoolmaster) 49 Cawley Rd S. Hackney.

Referring to other agencies, Mr A. said that the "East London Tabernacle" was on its beam ends, owing to the removal of Archibald Brown & that scores of the people formerly assisted by him A.B. came to him. The Secretary also of the Christian Instruction Society also makes an appeal for additional help on this ground.

Harley Street Chapel Benevolent work has also been largely curtailed & this also causes increased demands on Mr A's fund.

On the whole I was rather dissatisfied with the results of the interview. Mr A was in a hurry and somewhat on guard. I left him with an understanding that another interview might be desirable after the missionaries have been seen. To me the work is unsatisfactory in that the relief that is given through other agencies than Mr A's church ~~would~~ might be much better applied if sent direct to those agencies. Mr A. evidently receives more than he can use effectively in the district he & his workers know.

10/11

GA Jan 7/98.

Rev J. Rolfe Fisher
Congregational Minister

Rev^d W.J. Rolfe Fisher, Minister of Burdett Road Congregational Church. Interviewed at his residence: 7 Cottage Grove, Bow. E.

Mr Fisher is a vigorous, well developed man, rather above middle height. Good forehead; clear strong thoughtful face. Looks about 35, but is probably over 40 as he has been 18 years in his present charge.

District is becoming poorer

The whole district has gone down since he came, and even since our inquiry. The streets around his church are comparatively correct, Josephst the nest of streets east of Burdett Road being the poorest. In Burdett Road, many of the houses were occupied by sea captains. Nearly all gone now & 3 or 4 families living in the houses. One of his members (a man at the docks & his wife) occupied the top floor of one of these houses. Address, entrance & the people looked respectable but people were undoubtedly poor. Cottage Grove (where Mr F lives) is 2/3rd poorer than 10 years ago. Only professional & middle class

Burdett Road

people

Jews increasing & growing richer

people remaining are those whose duties or interests keep them ~~there~~ in the neighbourhood.

Jews are also increasing & whilst the gentiles are growing poorer, the jew is becoming richer. This is bad for local tradesmen etc except for doctors, as whilst the jew ~~a~~ deals almost exclusively with his own people, he prefer a gentill doctor. Dr ~~Slyman~~ Slimon (566 Mile End Road). the principal doctor in this district, had told him this – ~~at~~ we might see this doctor..

Persons Employed

Minister and a missionary (female) are the only paid workers.. Have 8 or 10 other visitors etc beside 27 Sunday school teachers. In the winter of 1896 Mrs T. had about 40 visitors but this winter, Mrs T. frankly said he had neglected this work. His daughter had been suffering from blood poisoning & he had been away a good deal in the country on her account. (She came home on the evening I met Mrs T. & I waited nearly 2 hours for them. Train was late)..

Church Membership

Have 216 church members

Buildings Used

Have a fine block of buildings. Chapel seats 900, two school rooms seating 400 & 500 respectively. Also several classrooms.

Services Held

Sunday Services 11 am. & 6.30 pm. Congregation almost entirely poor working class. Perhaps half a dozen better off. One of his deacons is earning 6d an hour. Congregations 150 & 400.
Sunday School Morning & afternoon. Scholars on Books 429 Attendance Mnt. 14 afternoon. 303. All come from immediate neighbourhood. Cannot get them in the morning & many of the girls (especially) late in afternoon. People like abed in the morning or are cooking the dinner, which is always late.
Wednesday. Preaching service.
Thursday. Christian Endeavour Society. Gone down a little owing to cause previously mentioned. Was the second best in East London. 60 members

Social Agencies

Social agencies are numerous:
Monday. Band of Hope. Vigorous. 100 members

Social Agencies (cont^d)

Monday. Sick & Benefit & Burial Society. 60 to 80 members.
Building Society. Not very prosperous.
Musical Instrument Society. For obtaining instruments at wholesale prices etc.

Tuesday. Entertainment or special meetings. Generally have something on.

Thursday. Ladies Dorcas Society. Twice a month.

Friday. Junior Dorcas Society for Girls. Teach them to make garments. Club in connection through which they can purchase the garments.

Mothers' Meeting on Monday. About 120 mothers or families. Usual clubs.

Had a cricket club but the lads introduced some doubtful characters into it. - swearing etc. Of course this could not be permitted & they deacon attempted to alter it but "purified the club out of existence"

The Church's District

When Archibald Brown was at Burdett Rd. a district was arranged and they undertook to relieve the cases within their area. This however became an intolerable nuisance & had to be abandoned.
Used to have all the old women in the place knocking

Charitable Relief

knocking at his door. He would have been in the workhouse if he had attempted to relieve all. Now they have the district for working purposes but not for philanthropic relief. Nearly everybody is poor and he has been obliged to reduce his general visiting because the people are in want & he would be ashamed to leave without giving them something" & he cannot do it.

Mr Fisher's position as to relief has apparently changed within recent years. They give less than formerly & he has not made any appeal for outside help for two years. The families of the women attending the mothers' Meeting are looked after and beyond this Mr F. confines his relief almost exclusively to feeding children & providing cheap meals for adults & assisting a few old christians. "You can't go far wrong in doing this". Last winter they gave about 40000 meals - about half to children selected from the board school, & the other half being halfpenny dinners at their soup kitchen for poor men. For the ½d they have a bason of soup, followed by a slice of currant bread as a second course. Next week

Commenced

Mrs Atkinson's Relief Work

commence giving 100 free breakfast to children from Argyle Street & South Grove Board School (Mrs T. is a manager of this)

Missionary gives a little relief to sick. They have £50 a year for Christmas gifts & about £2 a month for poor of church from Communion fund. Also get other small sums. In cases involving money he always personally investigates "You can't trust these poor people with money!" Occasionally lends money. £10 to a struggling tradesman etc.

Speaking about Mrs Atkinson's Relief work, he said that he should not like the responsibility of such a ~~work~~ distribution. It is diffused over a wide area & Mrs A. cannot trust others to investigate. Mrs A. very good hearted. He would be the first man he would go if, as Secretary of the Ministers Assn, he wanted to obtain help for a poor minister & he would be sure to come away with £2 or £3 in his pocket. Money would not appear to come from the Relief fund as Mrs T. never gave a receipt in such cases, whilst for other relief he would sign the official receipt.

Does not think the charitable relief helps in the religious work. Year before last only one person out of 54 families, who receive Christmas gifts came to services. Expects it to be the same this year.

Visitation

Visitation by missionwoman and pastor. Former visits mothers' meeting women & house to house when she has spare time

Nursing

No nurse. Missionwoman will sit up with sick people. They often get a poor woman to help. These poor folk are very kind to each other.

Other Religious Influence

The two large Missions, Barnardo's & Charringtons, are run like shops. Dr. B's deaconesses would not attend people of this church. Mr F. has evidently a poor opinion of these Missions: speaking of Barnardo's he said "No one can say anything against the children's work but I am close to Dr Barnardo and see the weak spots. Would not speak about the Church of England. Rev Plumptre is doing good work. Did not say much if Rev Wallace, St Lukes.

Burdett Road Baptist not doing much now.

Thinks the responsibility connected with the publicans is too great for the Police. They are bribed.

Police

Drinking

People are poorer because of drink but Mr F does not think the amount of drinking has increased

Prostitution

Marriage

Housing

General Notes

Not much prostitution. Has only been accosted twice in the years he has been there.

Does not believe half of the young people living together are married & some of the latter only marry when obliged to do so. Church is licenced for marriages but they only marry their own people. It is easier to get married at Church. Parish clerk can do every thing for the young people. Mrs F. would have to send them to the registrar & they would have to arrange for his presence & for the chapel service.

Housing is improving

Change of district has affected the churches injuriously. People have no sense of independence or gratitude. Don't come to the services for what they can get, for those assisted stay away. Apropos of this Mrs F. says that in Rev Evan Hurndall's time the old women supported by his relief fund had attendance cards, which were marked at the week & night service!

As I talked with Mr F. I liked him the more & more. A frank, manly earnest fellow & quite unaffected and altho' the change of the district must have made his position more difficult he did not utter a word of complaint or regret on this matter.

Mr F. Wickers
East London Tabernacle
(Baptist)

GA
19/1/95

Neighbourhood improved

Mr F. Wickers. 3 Coburn Sheet, Bow Road E.
Senior Deacon of East London Tabernacle.
Burdett Road. E.

Mr Wickers is an old man, ~~60+~~ 70 or thereabout, & has been connected with the Tabernacle for 40 ylars as Deacon & he is now the senior deacon. Altho' somewhat weak physically, he is mentally vigorous.

The Church does not issue a Manual, ~~the~~ only a List of accounts for members & Mr Brown used to issue an Annual Letter to the subscribers to his Mission & Relief Work ("A Letter to my helpers") which was quite distinct from the Church work. Mr W. gave me a copy of the last but one of these - issued March 1895. It is a booklet of 76 pages.

Within the past 10 years the district has improved or rather the condition of those attending the Tabernacle, with whom Mr W. comes directly in contact. As a proof of this, he said that the need for Christmas relief amongst the Church poor had greatly declined. Edwards Road (at back of chapel) is better than it was: & Brantridge Street has been cleared of prostitutes so that altho' still poor, it is

Persons Employed

Buildings Used

Ales Lane Boy's Home in Harley St.
Girls " " Cotham Street.
and Christian Bldgs in Devons Rd.
(See Charitable relig[illegible])

Services

it is better than formerly. In the neighbourhood of Bow Common a large number of Roman Catholics have come.

Pastor (Position now vacant by resignation of Rev A. G. Brown after a 30 years ministry. They are now about to call a new minister from Liverpool). 14 deacons, 95 Sunday school teachers. Over 100 other voluntary helpers. Had two missionaries but these were paid out of Mr Browns' fund. Have none now.

East London Tabernacle seats 3200. Large schoolroom below hold 1200. 2 class rooms & vestries.

Mission Hall Devonport Street, Commercial Rd. (District 8)

See Mr Bennett, 33 Tavistock Road as to this.

Uses Albion Street Board School for Sunday school.

Had Marnham Hall, Cambridge Heath Rd. Now handed over to the L. C. M. Have a Jews Mission there. Mr Rengerowitz Bridge Street.

Sunday Services. 11 am & 6.30. ~~Get~~ 2000 in the morning and 2500 in the evening. Congregation consists of ~~a~~ working class people, shopkeepers and a few business men. The ~~effect~~ result of Mr Brown's departure has been the loss of the people living at a distance.

Services (cont^d)

These are now being transferred to suburban churches.

Congregation has dropped about 500. Was 3000 in Mr Bs time.

Monday. 7.30. Prayer meeting. Only 300 now. Has declined.

Thursday. 7.30. Service. About 400. Used to be 500 to 600.

Saturday 8 – Prayer meeting. 600 to 800. Has not declined. Is a united meeting. Members of other churches come.

Sunday Schools. At Tabernacle. 1152 scholars on books with average attendance Morn^g. 160. Afternn 784. Teachers. 69

At Albion St. B School. 366 scholars on books. Av. attendance morn^g. 65, evening 267. Teachers. 26.

Very good class of children at Burdett Rd Poores at Albion Road.

Christian Band on Tuesday evenings. 250 members.

Social Agencies

Mothers' Meeting (Tuesday) About 100 attend. Clubs of usual kind in connection

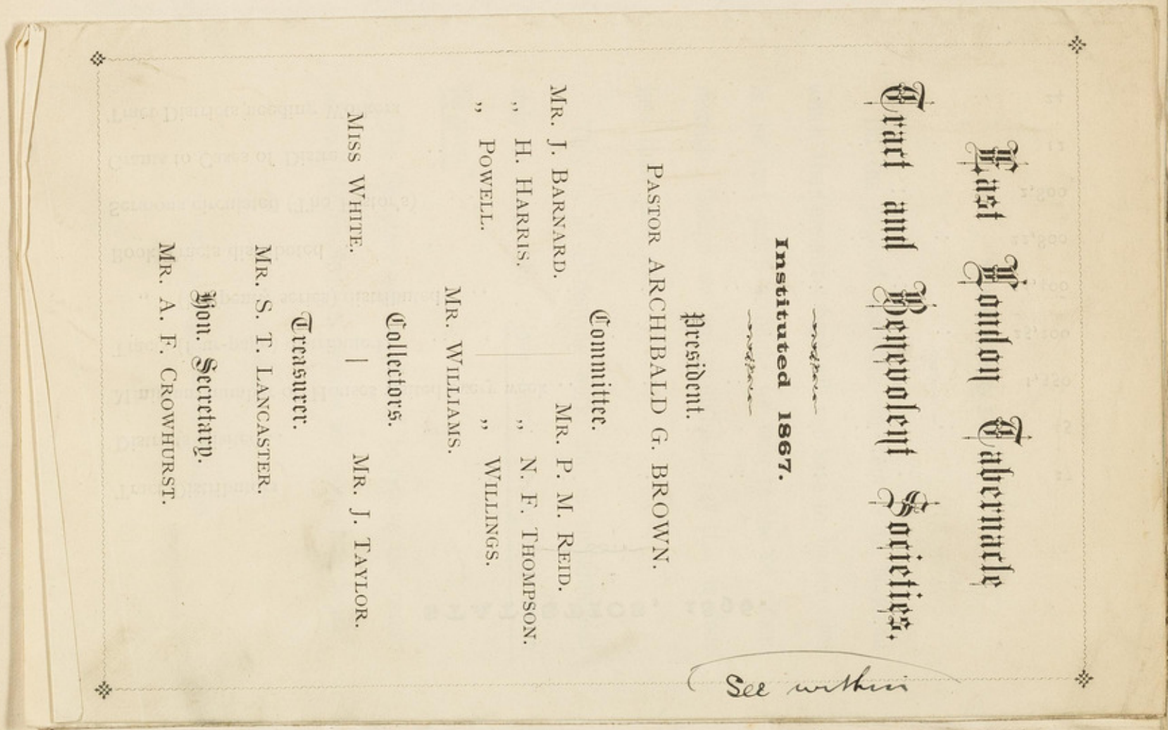
Band of Hope. at Devonport Street only.

Building Society
Foresters' Lodge } Both flourishing.

Have very few entertainments [Mr Brown's influence. He is strongly opposed to entertainments, concerts etc, in connection with a church. Wrote a booklet on the subject: The Devil's Mission of Amusement.]

Visitation.

Have a Sick Visiting Committee with 22 visitors.
Visits sick members of church & congregation & also distributes the Church relief for such cases.
Also Tract & Benevolent Societies. These are combined.
Distributes tracts in immediate neighbourhood & attends to the poor cases. The following report of this work was given me by one of the Tabernacle members whilst interviewing at Bow.



West London Tabernacle

Tract and Benevolent Societies.

Instituted 1867.

President.

PASTOR ARCHIBALD G. BROWN.

Committee.

MR. J. BARNARD. MR. P. M. REID.
" H. HARRIS. " N. F. THOMPSON.
" POWELL. " WILLINGS.
MR. WILLIAMS.

Collectors.

MISS WHITE. | MR. J. TAYLOR.

Treasurer.

MR. S. T. LANCASTER.

Hon. Secretary.

MR. A. F. CROWHURST.

See within

STATISTICS, 1896.

Tract Distributors	27
Districts Visited	45
Minimum number of Houses visited every week	1,350
Tracts (four-page) distributed	25,200
„ (halfpenny series) distributed	14,400
Book Tracts distributed	22,800
Sermons circulated (The Pastor's)	2,800
Grants to Cases of Distress	12
Tract Districts needing Workers	24

BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

RECEIPTS.

	£	s.	d.
Balance from previous year	15	12	1
Collection after Annual Sermon	27	10	4
Subscriptions	16	19	0
	£60	1	5

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of Tracts	26	2	9
„ Sermons	5	15	0
„ Printing	3	17	6
Annual Subscription to Religious Tract Society	0	10	6
Cases of Distress	2	14	0
Subscription to Victoria Park Hospital	2	2	0
Carriage of Tracts, Stationery, &c.	2	0	0
	43	1	9
Balance	16	19	8
	£60	1	5

Examined and found correct,

C. ELMES,
N. F. THOMPSON.

Please note that the Balance ONLY of each year is devoted to relieving cases of distress.

TO NON-SUBSCRIBERS.

The Committee would feel much encouraged by the addition of new subscribers, for though new names are added annually to our list, they are not sufficient to fill up the gaps caused by deaths and removals.

Apart from the privilege of participation in any work for God, the tears of thankfulness from breaking hearts are ample interest for all money thus invested. Besides this, our working expenses would be no larger were our income doubled.

All subscribers of 2s. 6d. and upwards, are entitled to recommend one case of distress within the radius of half-a-mile from the Tabernacle.

The following form can be given to any of the Committee, or forwarded to the Secretary, 26, Mornington Road, Bow.

I promise to subscribe the sum of _____ *Annually to above Societies.*

Name _____

Address _____

STATISTICS, 1896.

Tract Distributors	27
Districts Visited	45
Minimum number of Houses visited every week	1,350
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Grants to Cases of Distress	12
Tract Districts needing Workers	24

VACANCIES.

On the page of statistics an item is to be found which the Committee hope will not have to be recorded in the next year's account; we refer to the 24 vacant districts, though we are thankful to say this is four less than last year.

This is a self-denying work, and is recommended only to those who "love much, having had much forgiven."

The Secretary will be pleased to receive the names of any Church Members anxious for "something to do."

"Go ye also into the Vineyard."

Matthew xx. 4.

Nursing

Charitable Relief

Mrs Brown's Relief Fund

No nursing arrangements. Mrs B. used to keep a nurse.

The Communion Fund and the Benevolent Society. From these sources about £30 a month is spent on the Church poor. (I think this figure is rather over the mark as subsequently Mrs W. told me that the monthly communion collection was about £16 to £20). This is restricted to the poor of the church.

It is in the charitable work that the great reduction has occurred owing to Rev Archibald J. Brown's removal. This however was very large, second only to Mr Atkinson's. Thus in the Report ~~Stand~~ for 1894 the expenses are stated as under:

Mission Fund	£ 2137. 10. 11	
Orphan Home	629. 8. 1	
Thank-offering Fund	580 — —	£ 3347

and the Income:

Mission Fund. a/c	£ 1686.	
Orphan Home a/c	1090	
Thank-offering April 7/94	464	£ 3240

The thank-offering is the amount received by Mr B. on one day in his vestry.

Below The following pages are given from the Report to show how the money was spent. Details of the large items such as Sea side home are given separately:

Mission Fund Expenditure for 1894.

	£	s.	d.
To Sea-Side Home (Herne Bay)	354	12	10
,, Girls' Home (Coborn Street)	304	18	5
,, Devonport Street (Mission Chapel)	31	3	10
,, Marnham Hall (Mission Chapel)	54	18	11
,, Tryphena Mission Hall	82	17	1
,, White Thorn Street Mission	26	0	0
,, Soup Kitchen (The Denny) Working Expenses	36	5	5
,, Missionaries' Salaries	378	17	0
,, 5,120 Loaves of Bread	53	12	10
,, 1,100 lbs. of Meat	36	14	0
,, 1 ton 1½ cwt. of Rice	11	11	0
,, 281 lbs. of Tea	19	14	6
,, 1,373 pints of Milk and Eggs for Invalids ..	13	16	3
,, 22,138 Free Tickets for Soup and Puddings ..	92	4	10
,, 1,001 Tickets for Groceries	50	1	0
,, 80 Medical and 48 Maternal Cases	41	3	0
,, Weekly Pensions to Cases of Distress	165	14	0
,, Materials for Garments	71	5	8
,, Payments for Making Garments	32	18	10
,, Printing, Books, Tracts and Stationery	67	17	10
,, Emigration	66	13	6
,, Surgical Instruments	25	6	2
,, Boarding-out Children	20	11	8
Carried forward	2,038	18	7

phan Home Expenditure for 1894.

	£	s.	d.
.. ..	70	0	0
axes	30	17	2
.. ..	8	17	0
g and Salaries	312	4	1
.. ..	19	4	0
.. ..	17	13	7
ld Household Goods	4	7	9
	463	3	7
.. ..	68	3	4
to Trades and Emigration ..	35	0	0
.. ..	19	9	2
f Printing "Record," Account			
.. ..	16	1	6
xes	4	7	6
.. ..	18	13	0
.. ..	4	10	0
	£629	8	1

Dr. THANK-OFFERING FUND ACCOUNT. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance as per Audit, March, 1894	144	2	2	By Gift to Tabernacle	150	0	0
,, Thank-offering, April 2nd, 1894 ..	464	4	8	To Mission Fund	75	15	9

SEA-SIDE HOME ACCOUNT.

Dr. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Mission Fund and Special Donations	354	12	10	By Expenditure as per Statement on page 67	354	12	10

Below The following pages are given from the Report to show how the money was spent. Details of the large items such as Sea side home are given separately:

Mission Fund Expenditure for 1894.

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,, Printing, Books, Tracts and Stationery	67	17	10
,, Emigration	66	13	6
,, Surgical Instruments	25	6	2
,, Boarding-out Children	20	11	8
Carried forward	2,038	18	7

65 E

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	£	s.	d.
.. ..	70	0	0
axes	30	17	2
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g and Salaries	312	4	1
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.. ..	17	13	7
nd Household Goods	4	7	9
	463	3	7
.. ..	68	3	4
to Trades and Emigration ..	35	0	0
.. ..	19	9	2
f Printing "Record," Account			
.. ..	16	1	6
axes	4	7	6
.. ..	18	13	0
.. ..	4	10	0
	£629	8	1

69

Dr. THANK-OFFERING FUND ACCOUNT. Cr.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance as per Audit, March, 1894	144	2	2
,, Thank-offering, April 2nd, 1894 ..	464	4	8
	£608	6	10

	£	s.	d.
By Gift to Tabernacle	150	0	0
To Mission Fund	75	15	2
,, Poor Ministers and Members.....	49	4	0
,, Eglise Evangelique, Menton	5	0	0
,, Boyce Memorial Home, Italy.....	6	0	0
,, Victoria Home, Paris	4	0	0
,, Work in Berlin	3	3	0
,, Billingsgate Mission	15	0	0
,, Band of Hope	2	2	0
,, Books to Missionary	5	0	0
,, Tract Society	2	2	0
,, Mothers' Meeting Excursion	5	0	0
,, Richmond Street Misson	3	3	0
,, Pastors' College	5	0	0
,, Rev. R. Fisher for his work	10	0	0
,, New Baptist Chapels	50	0	0
,, Armenian Missionary	5	0	0
,, Help to Missionary for Turkey	5	0	0
,, Stepney Relief Society	2	1	0
,, Loans	5	0	0
,, Christmas Dinner to poor Members	10	0	0
,, Proportion of Printing, Year's Book-keeping, etc.	42	0	0
,, Work in France	10	0	0
,, £100 New Zealand 3½% invested for Orphan Home.....	101	18	6
,, Sundries.....	4	7	8
,, Balance	29	10	6
	£608	6	10

Examined, compared with vouchers and found correct.
March 26th, 1895.

W. G. BINER,
W. H. SCOTT, } *Auditors.*

Below The following pages are given from the Report to show how the money was spent. Details of the large items such as Sea side home are given separately:

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward	2,038	18	7
To Boots for Destitute Cases	17	0	9
,, Rent of Office, etc.	15	18	6
,, Helping to Purchase Sewing Machines	13	16	0
,, Sending to "Fresh Air and Convalescent Homes"	6	1	0
,, Saving Homes from Broker	3	10	0
,, Taking things from Pawn	3	15	9
,, Purchase and keep of Donkey	2	13	3
,, Clothing	2	8	4
,, Sending man to Scotland	2	3	7
,, Sending "Rescue Case" to Maidstone	1	1	4
,, 4 Pairs of Spectacles for Aged Poor	0	10	0
,, Carriage of Parcels	2	10	2
,, Help to purchase Mangle	1	0	0
,, Tickets for "Service of Song"	5	0	0
,, Sundries	21	3	8
Total	£2,137	10	11

66

Orphan Home Expenditure for 1894.

	£	s.	d.
To Rent	70	0	0
,, Rates and Taxes	30	17	2
,, Gas	8	17	0
,, Housekeeping and Salaries	312	4	1
,, Clothing	19	4	0
,, Boots	17	13	7
,, Mattresses and Household Goods	4	7	9
	463	3	7
,, Education	68	3	4
,, Apprenticing to Trades and Emigration ..	35	0	0
,, Outfits	19	9	2
,, Proportion of Printing "Record," Account Books, &c.	16	1	6
,, Collecting Boxes	4	7	6
,, Repairs	18	13	0
,, Sundries	4	10	0
	£629	8	1

69

Dr. THANK-OFFERING FUND ACCOUNT. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Balance as per Audit, March, 1894	144	2	2	By Gift to Tabernacle	150	0	0
,, Thank-offering, April 2nd, 1894 ..	464	4	8	To Mission Fund	78	15	0

SEA-SIDE HOME ACCOUNT.

Dr. Cr.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Mission Fund and Special Donations	354	12	10	By Expenditure as per Statement on page 67	354	12	10

OUR SOUP KITCHEN.

This has been open all the winter, and besides the sales of soup and puddings, thousands of quarts have been given away, also thousands of puddings. This place also has proved the meeting place of needy sinners and a full Saviour.

OUR CHRISTIAN BUILDINGS.

This noble block of building, containing nearly ninety rooms, is let to Christians irrespective of all denominational distinctions. It is inhabited chiefly by aged couples and widows. We let three rooms and a wash house for *two shillings* per week. Thus far this work has proved self-supporting.

OUR CLOTHING DEPARTMENT.

Thanks chiefly to our lady friends in all parts of the country, but very specially to those at Brixton and Bournemouth, we have been able to distribute the following garments to needy cases personally known to the workers.

GARMENTS DISTRIBUTED DURING 1894.

Underlinen ..	833	Stockings ..	256
Petticoats ..	1266	Vests	76
Frocks	356	Baby Garments	88
Dresses	60	Cuffs, Collars, &c.	74
Jackets	109	Coats	28
Ulsters	90	Trousers	30
Wraps, etc. ..	158	Waistcoats ..	24
Aprons	58	Shirts	86
Pinafores ..	119	Boys' Knickers	37
Stays	123	Boys' Jackets ..	48
Hats & Bonnets	129	Blkts., Quilts, &c.	113
Boots and Shoes	129	Total ..	4,290

A STREET ANALYSIS.

A. Number of Houses, 44, each containing 6 rooms.

,,	Adults	156	413
,,	Children	257	
,,	Professing Christians	12	

Of this work the Church has taken over the Boys Home in Harley Street, and the Girls Home in Coburn Street and they support 30 to 32 boys & girls in these houses at a cost of about £1000 per annum.

Christian Buildings (24 sets of rooms) are also carried on.

The outside relief work has been given up: the subs now being personal to A.J.B.

The missionaries are gone or going.

Mr Widdecombe (who was mentioned as a good man) has gone to, to Bartley Mount, Totton, Hants.

OUR GIRLS' HOME.

This was started much later than the former, and the girls are yet young and comparatively few have been settled out. We are not able, therefore, to speak of so much manifest fruit. At the present time, however, there are some about whose change of heart we have no doubt. It is a happy little home of nice healthy girls, and makes a pretty sister work to the former. Both Homes are within five minutes' walk of our own home, and we visit them every day.

OUR SEASIDE HOME.

There is nothing fresh to report about this. From Spring to Summer it was full of grateful visitors. Here also real spiritual good has been received as well as physical restoration. Facing the North Sea many a tired body has been braced up into health and facing Heaven in the seasons of family worship, many a languid soul has been revived. There are now members of the Church at the Tabernacle who found Christ when seeking health at Herne Bay.

B.	,,	Houses (6 rooms each)	27	
	,,	Adults	135	240
	,,	Children	105	
	,,	Professing Christians	9	
C.	,,	Houses (6 rooms each)	60	
	,,	Adults	238	546
	,,	Children	308	
	,,	Professing Christians	8	

SUMMARY OF THE THREE STREETS.

Number of Houses	131		
,, Adults	529		1,199
,, Children	670		
,, Professing Christians	29		

In meditating on these figures, remember that young persons up to the age of 16 are reckoned as children, and yet only twenty-nine out of all the hundreds are professed Christians—and this a district positively belted by sanctuaries!

How far is London from being a Christian city!!

Of this work the Church has taken over the Boys Home in Harley Street, and the Girls Home in Coburn Street. and they support 30 to 32 boys & girls in these houses at a cost of about £1000 per annum.

Christian Buildings (24 sets of rooms) are also carried on.

The outside relief work has been given up: the subs now being personal to A & B.

The missionaries are gone or going. Mrs Widderson (who was mentioned as a good man) has gone to, to Bartley Mount, Totten, Hants.

Church Membership

At present time have a little over 2200 members on the Roll. At the time when the return was made up for the Baptist Handbook (about Oct 1897) there were 2338. Loss due to transfers to suburban churches.

Other Religious & Philanthropic Agencies.

Mr Atkinson (Latimer) takes the whole burden of the poor now. Harley Shed is not doing much now.
Burdett Road Congregational (Rev K. Fisher) is improving.
St Luke's (Dr Wallace) not doing much.
St Stephens. does a great deal
Trinity is also working well.

Church Finance

As to the income & expenditure, Mr W. could not give me details. as all passes through Mr Hassock the secretary. It amounts to some thousands of pounds. The incidental expenses alone are over £500 a year.

As Mr W. had to go out at 10·30 am. I did not press him as to the general questions but contented myself with obtaining all the information

General Impressions

possible about the Tabernacle. Of the Missionaries who had worked with Mr Brown he spoke highly. Mr Adams the missionary at Tryphena Place, he especially commended. That Mission will probably be closed at March. It is now being maintained on the balance remaining from Mr Brown's fund.

The general impression left by the interview was that the Church work ~~was~~ had been maintained well, the falling off being in the charitable work & as this alone of the ordinary work comes under the view of outsiders the general report & other witnesses as to the decline is confirmed on that head and almost limited to that alone.

The Tabernacle still remains as it was in Mr Brown's day, the most important centre of non-conformity in the district & may under a new pastor become ~~more so~~ stronger than ~~it was~~ before in that the congregation will be drawn from the more immediate neighbourhood. During the interregnum the Sunday & week night services are being taken by well-known ministers from all parts of the country. Large bills giving the appointments for the month are posted outside the building.

Archibald Brown on Relief

(from his letter preceding Report

On re-reading Mr Brown's report I incorporate on the following extracts as showing his position ~~both~~ as to the relief work and the ~~teaching~~ character of his teaching at the Tabernacle: The letter was written about 2 months after the death of Mrs Brown & appears with a black border.

"Though necessarily often absent from home, the mission work has in no way suffered. My devoted

missionaries are not among those who only render "eye service." Indeed, I believe that, if possible, extra care is taken when I am away, that nothing shall be overlooked. The income for the work has been somewhat less than in past years. In this we have had fellowship with nearly every good work. I am glad, however, to be able to say that, as in the past, no debt of any kind has been incurred. What could not be paid for has been done without. During the first two months of this year the severity of the weather brought no little distress, and necessitated a considerable increase in the amount of relief given. This, however, does not belong to the expenditure of 1894, and consequently does not appear in the financial accounts of this Record.

Though things were bad, I think they were exaggerated, and hardly warranted the panic measures advocated. "Panic relief" is seldom, if ever, wise relief. The bold, bad, and unscrupulous make a good thing out of it, while the quiet but truly needy ones get overlooked in the rush. It behoves Christians to keep their heads on their shoulders even while they give away their hearts to the poor.

have been my privilege for about thirty years. I praise God that he lives still in his sons.

Looking abroad I see much to cause sorrow and holy fear. I know that I am counted a Pessimist by many in this matter, and a prophet of evil. Better, however, be a true prophet of evil than a false one of peace. If there be no danger, an alarm note will do no great harm, but if there be, silence may be fatal, and certainly criminal. The "downgrade" tendency in the Churches, deplored and denounced by dear Spurgeon, not only continues but gains accelerated speed. The Word of God is being undermined by those who are supposed to have no other work to do than to proclaim it. Satan's note of interrogation is being placed after nearly every book of the Bible. "Hath God said?" is fast taking the place of "Thus saith the Lord." The need of conversion is but little emphasized, and evolution is superseding regeneration. The growing worldliness of the Churches is beyond all question, and the theatre has its advocates in the pulpits. As the result of these things revivals are seldom heard of. Stagnation seems the order of the day. The

over

the true Church of God is hard pressed just now. There is need to pray "O Lord revive Thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy." Amid all these things the hope of my heart is the speedy personal return of the Lord Jesus. Nothing but the coming of the King can put things right.

Wm W. Willesden L. C.M.
Ernest Street, District

EBA
Jan 17/97

The Man

The District

Character of the District

Wm W. Willesden. London City Missionary CN (2)
49a Eglinton Road, North Bow. E.

Wm Willesden is working in the Ernest Street district under the superintendence of Rev J.W. Atkinson and practically is his missionary at Ernest St. Hall.

Wm W. is a stout man, rather under the middle height; fair, full, pleasant face. About 30. Has quite a jovial look when he laughs. "I always leave people so that I can go again" said he & his bright face & neatly dressed figure are certainly in his favour. He is probably not a Londoner. Has been 3 years on the district.

The district is a rectangular block on the South of the Mile End Road, which forms the northern boundary, the other boundaries being Whitehorse Lane, Shidmore Street & the Canal.

Earnest Street is the poorest street. A few respectable families near the canal, the street being poorer as Whitehorse Lane is approached where it is quite dark blue altho' our map makes it purple pink.

Visitation

Building Used

Meetings Held

purple Shidmore Street also poorest to west but not so bad as Ernest Street. & a similar remark applies to Ely Terrace (pink on map) but much not nearer light or dark blue. Jews are coming into this Terrace & they have practically captured Calverley & Floreston Streets (pink on map, now light blue & purple respectively)

Ernest. In this district Mrs W. visits house to house. Reckons that he has 1800 families of whom 300 would be jewish. They occupy between 400 & 500 houses. He goes round to each abt once in 6 to 7 weeks.

Beside Mrs W. the Latimer Christian Instruction Society visits on the ground and a Scripture Reader from St Benets. Mile End Road. Latter "does not do much".

Ernest Street Mission Hall (300) is Mrs W's centre.

The meetings held at this Hall are:

Sunday School. Morning & Afternoon. On Books. Scholars. Teachers. Average attendance.

Meeting-Field (cont[d])

Sunday
Children's Service 6 pm. About 100. Poor, would be in streets if not at service.
" 8 pm to 9. Gospel Service for adult. Get 40 to 50.

Monday. Thrift Club + Penny Bank
Tuesday aft[n] Mothers' Meeting. Average attendance 120. All come from within half a mile.
" Evening. Young Men's Social. Recreation etc. Have a membership - They belong to the Young Men's Bible class + Men use this room for social purposes.
Wednesday. Gospel Meeting. Attendance varies - about 25. All poor.
Thursday. Christian Endeavour Society (Junior). 250 members. Many attend Sunday school.
Friday. Young Women's Sewing Class.
Saturday. Social Meeting for Young Men. Same as Tuesday.

Charitable Relief

Rev W. reports all cases of distress + gets relief for them. Cannot say how many cases he has ~~relief~~ relieved. Enquires into every cases and only recommends if he believes them genuine. Most cases are sickness + out of work. Have a great many widows. Asked about poverty caused by drink, he replied "If I had my will

I

Charitable Relief (cont^d)

I should never assist a drink case, but they ~~are~~ may be so placed that you must help them. In cases of this kind I have gone and purchased what they should have". St Bene't's Church gives to very needy cases when the people attend their meetings and the Lycett (Wesleyan Mission) does the same. Great majority are helped from 'Latimer'. 'It ~~have~~ is the only place I have gone for relief". Give Christmas dinners. GDH. Do most of the people living in these streets get a Xmas dinner ~~from some~~ given them"? WW. "Not a half or a quarter of them. I only recommended 40 cases last Christmas". The list are compared at the Com^tee meetings & this prevents overlapping.

Does not ~~regard~~ use the relief as a means of bringing the people to the Hall nor does it have that effect.

Sickness

In cases of sickness, hospital letters are given and temporary relief. In-patients letters if necessary are given.

Drink

Drinking habits very bad. Women drink more than the men and they drink spirits chiefly.

Prostitution

Thrift

General Remarks.

A good deal of prostitution in a quiet way. Several bad houses owned by a woman. She has 6 in Crulst Street & she is always ready to take any house that is vacant.

The mothers are not thrifty. In many cases do not try to save.

Expressing his opinion about the work, Mr W. said that the relief gave him access & enabled him to get into homes he could not otherwise reach. "It opens the door: that is all". Does not think he has given to those who attend the meetings as he "does not like the practice"

The great difficulty is the general indifferance and that "nearly crushes me". Gets good conversations with the people but no decisions. Has had a few cases of conversion - about 12 - through the visitation. His gospel service has grown since he has been there. Only 3 or 4 attended when he came.

Gets to know more of the people every day. At first visit may only see the landlady. She may be afraid to offend those upstairs & will not let you go up.

He gets the name of the lodger & asks for her. If a lodger on the top floor, he can call at on the others as he comes down. In this way he gradually gets into touch with more & more of the people.

The people attending the Mission gradually pass from it to Latimer Chapel. Pass from the small hall to larger life of the Chapel so that he engaged in filling up the gaps and he regards it as a good and natural thing that this transition should take place.

Mr W. is an earnest sincere and sympathetic worker and doing good work in his visitation. He evidently does not value the relief of which he is the channel as very helpful in his spiritual work and regards the women as crafty — "more crafty than the men".

Jan. 26th.

10/3

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(2)

Interview with Rev W. George, Victoria Park Congregational Church, Approach Road.

This church has been for 18 months without a minister. Rev George is and has been a Deacon for 21 years, and wrote that he would be glad to help us.

Rev. G. is something at Somerset House, a Second Division Clerk I imagine. He is a man nearing 60. I had been before consciously met a Deacon in the flesh, but Rev G. was almost to a button what I had pictured the typical deacon: medium height, grey hair and full but trimmed beard and whiskers, plain but not unpleasant face; inclined to be stout; dressed in frock coat of thin black broadcloth, with waistcoat opening rather low and showing two gilt studs; black boot lace tie tied in bow. He saw me at his home in 58 Church Crescent, South Hackney: long narrow entry hideous and philistine with: large portrait of Spurgeon on the wall.

The Church draws mainly ~~from~~ from the more

Character of population.

respectable streets to the north of the Park such Road, Victoria Park Road etc. The district immediately surrounding the Chapel has gone down a good deal and that to the north is dropping with the natural resulting difficulty of keeping up membership and congregation.

Mr. S. knows well the poor district to the south of the church and has done philanthropic work in it for 20 years partly in connection with the church partly privately. He describes the condition of the people on both sides of Green St as very bad: their homes often "big holes" "you could grow mustard and cress on the walls". They work on burying at Victoria Park Cemetery till the coffins were literally bursting out of the ground: people living just on the other side of the wall.

Exclusive of the Minister there is a paid nurse and about 100 members of the Church doing voluntary work.

Church. Victoria Hall. Twigg Folly Sunday School

(Continued on Page 117

Persons employed.

Buildings.

Interview with Mr Edwin H Kerwin of the Town Hamlets mission at the Great assembly Hall on 19 Jany 1898—

1312 4

Mr Kerwin is general secretary, & no doubt hand for his services. He has worked with Mr Charington from the beginning. The mission was established in 1869. It began in a small way amongst boys & has gradually grown. It is now in effect a church gathering together an immense number to "hear the word" who come more or less regularly but are not known. & having an inner circle of communicants & workers "Our young men" as Mr Kerwin said. Who go out into the street & bring men in to the "men's own" Sunday afternoon. Who attend to the business Provident loan society (dealing over £6000 last year) & other similar undertakings There are women & girls also. Mothers meeting Dorcas Club. Staff of lady visitors, nurse Bible women &c
The young people have (practically among themselves) branches of the Y.M.C.A & Y.W.C.A but these are about to be turned out to find quarters elsewhere & the room devoted to sleeping accommodation for young men. There is a gigantic Sunday school which is held in the Assembly Hall itself with an attendance of 1000 children. & for these classes there is also a special hall where Children Services are held. In connection with the Sunday School there is a large Band of Hope. Thus there are all the usual efforts of religious Organization in London.
What is most remarkable about this particular effort is the enormous congregations gathered together

(2)

filling the great Assembly Hall which seats
nearly 5000 persons. The pulpit is supplied
month by month, or at any rate for successive
Sundays & week days, by ministers drawn from
all parts - paid I think £5.5/ a week - but
attracted no doubt by the opportunity it offers
& chosen for their eloquence or evangelistic powers.
This sort of thing undoubtedly attracts - people
like such services. What the spiritual results
are it may be difficult to say but at any rate
they come & some join as members. The
other more regular churches grumble - say they
are robbed - so far as attendance goes it no
doubt is true though who can say whether
if one individual had not come to the Assembly
Hall he would have been in his proper place
elsewhere? As to membership Mr Kerwin
asserts that they refuse to admit those who
belong elsewhere - won't have them at all.
Still great jealousy prevails.
The "men's own" is a more special effort to bring
in the working man, & those who don't usually
attend any place of worship. It is not a P.S.A
but a regular though simple service has worked
on the plan of attendance cards with prizes
& a distribution of books. Namely a weekly
penny payment - one book each quarter for which
therefore 13° is paid but which costs on the whole
about 1/7. the books are chosen from a long printed
list comprising all kinds of literature & recently to

Mr Kerwin have proved a great attraction & success in bringing together & holding the audience - which amounts to 400 or 500 & is held in the Small Hall. One shrewd that it is the novelty has something to do with it's success. but the deeper question is what the effect of the service & preaching is - The people come & they listen - what do they get? It is something that they do come & do listen & that in the main they come in order to listen. The other question is who are they? The inner circles of members & of workers seem to be the same here as elsewhere & to undertake exactly the same works. I do not gather that what they do has any connection with the gathering or maintaining of the congregation except so far as the young men according to Mr Kerwin bring in the working men from the street to the mens own after noon service.

There is further a great deal of relief given often quite indiscriminately - What can you do asked Mr Kerwin when you are besieged by a hungry crowd? They are hungry - give them bread to carry away - fill their vessels with soup or cocoa. They seek out poverty but mainly poverty comes to them & they enquire so far as they can. The giving is done as a religious duty & so far as I could make out not as a part of Evangelistic work at all.

I have not seen any accounts but undoubtedly large sums must be spent. (No accounts are published)

This Sketch of the Tower Hamlets Mission has kindly been compiled for us by a warm friend of the work, and I now venture to put in a word on our own behalf. As you will have gathered from the foregoing pages, our work is carried on in the poorest district of the world, and I need hardly say such an aggressive effort cannot be sustained *without outside help*. We have positively no rich people living in our midst. For those who can the best way is to come and live in the East End as we have done for

OVER TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS,

but when this is not possible, they can, by their liberal contributions, help those who are living and working among the people.

Our object in sending out the "ILLUSTRATED RECORD" is to try and make our work better known, as I am sure many more would help if they only realized the need for increased support. Although we have the

LARGEST MISSION HALL

in existence, our income is relatively very limited. "The poor ye have always with you" is terribly true in our case, so that we are compelled to care for the bodies as well as the souls of the destitute people around us. No one can describe the misery of the people in the poorer districts of the East End, especially during the severe weather in the winter, when it is no uncommon thing to find whole families

Without Food in the Cupboard,

blankets on the bed, or fire in the grate.

I therefore earnestly appeal to those who have perused these pages, to help us with large or small donations as they are able. As has been already mentioned, I have a sufficient income for my own wants, without taking a salary, so that the whole of the money sent to me is devoted to the Mission; and as we have had the experience of over

A Quarter of a Century

in the work, our friends may be sure that their money is wisely expended.

I earnestly trust that our friends will, as generously as possible, respond to this

Bitter Cry of East London,

and send a donation as soon as possible to

Yours most faithfully,
FREDK. N. CHARRINGTON,

Great Assembly Hall, Mile End Road, London, E.

Cheques crossed BARCLAY & Co., Ltd., 54, Lombard Street, London, E.C., and 1, Pall Mall East, S.W.

Post Office Orders made payable at the General Post Office.

Mr Richmond tells me that Charrington is an excellent man and says to get on with, and that Mr Kerrin is the contentmous party, always quarrelling with everybody. H.S.

Mr Kerrin admitted that they are regarded with hostility for various reasons by public authorities as well as other religious bodies. Mr Charrington seems to be a man who arouses hostility. Going head down at anything he thinks wrong - without any power of conciliation - not tempered - unyielding. It was only by his doing all the yielding (Mr K said) that he & Mr Charrington got on as they did. Mr Charington is a fanatic on drink - The Eldest Son of the great brewer he abandoned his place to his younger brother - receiving himself only a younger brother portion. Everything with him seems to take the guise of a question of conscience - & his nerves get wrought up & collapse alternately so that he is often ill - I think he is now over ill.

The large Hall is open very rarely for some purpose or other. They used to have, occasionally, very first rate Orations - charging for places. They were heavily rated & appealed & were put on the nominal poverty of charitable efforts - but were then refused a license for hall performances. The Town Council also now object to their exits - If they cannot resume the position they abandoned In connection with the musical performances there is a choral society. The Concerts given now are paid for by a voluntary collection - but this does not bring in enough

Lewis &c.

See Page 95 for beginning

Public Worship, Meetings, &c.

CHURCH.

SUNDAY..... *Divine Service*—Morning at 11, Evening at 6.30.
Lord's Supper—First Sunday in Month, after Evening Service.
,, ,, Third Sunday in Month, after Morning Service.
Baptism—Last Sunday in January, April, July, and October, after Morning Service.
Men's Bible Class—Church Parlour, at 3.
Christian Instruction Society—Front Basement, at 3.

MONDAY .... *Ladies' Dorcas and Maternal Societies*—Every alternate week—Church Parlour, at 3.
Mothers' Meeting—Front Basement, at 3.

WEDNESDAY.. *Prayer Meeting and Address*—Church Parlour, at 8.
Church Meeting—Wednesday before the First Sunday in the Month—Church Parlour, at 9.

VICTORIA HALL SUNDAY SCHOOL.

SUNDAY..... Morning at 10.15. *Children's Service* at 11 ; afternoon at 2.45.
TUESDAY .... *Young Men's Society*—Front Basement at 7.30.
FRIDAY..... *Band of Hope*—Front Basement, at 7.
Christian Band—Church Parlour, at 8.15.
Dorcas Society—First Friday in each month—Church Parlour, at 4.

TWIG FOLLY SUNDAY SCHOOL (Bonner Street).

SUNDAY..... Morning at 10.15. *Children's Service* at 11 : afternoon at 2.45.
TUESDAY .... *Young People's Christian Circle*, at 8.30.
WEDNESDAY.. *Band of Hope*, at 7.30.
THURSDAY.... *Singing Class* (Tonic Sol-Fa), at 7.

The Congregational Hymn Book, with Supplement, and the Chants and Anthems of the Congregational Hymnal are used at the Services on Sunday. The Tune Books adopted are the "Congregational Psalmist," and the "Bristol."

☞ *Persons desiring to be visited in sickness are requested to inform the Minister or any of the Deacons. Special requests for prayer can be handed to one of the Deacons any time previous to the Services or Prayer Meetings.*

Social Agencies.

Education.

Jun. S. would not give a direct answer as to the attendances, but said that they always had a good congregation, but he had suffered during the last year from the absence of a pastor. The number of Church Members is 436.

Literary and Debating Society
Bands of Hope. 2.
Mothers' Meeting.

Two Sunday Schools. The following Report of the Trigg Folly School gives some interesting and suggestive details:-

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Barratt	0	2	0
Mr. Bayless	0	2	0
Mr. Bellamy	0	2	6
Mr. Bersey	1	0	0
Mr. Brewer	0	2	0
Mr. Cakebread	0	2	6
Mr. Clough	0	2	6
Mr. Cook	0	2	6
Mr. Dabbs	0	5	0
Mr. Doree	0	2	6
Mr. Eickhoff	0	4	0
Miss Evans	0	2	6
Mr. Fisk	0	2	6
Mr. Forsaith	0	2	6
Mr. Galey	0	2	6
Mr. George	0	2	6
Mrs. Link	1	1	0
Mr. L. Newth	0	5	0
Mr. Roberson	0	2	0
Mr. Tanner	0	2	6
Mr. Villars	0	2	0
Mr. Wonnacott	0	2	6
Mr. Wood	0	2	0
Mr. J. Wood	0	1	0
A. B. C.	0	10	0
	£5	8	0

Mr. S. would not give a direct answer as to the attendances, but said that they always had a good congregation, but it had suffered during the last year from the absence of a pastor. The number of Church Members is 436.

Library and Debating Society
Bands of Hope. 2.
Mothers' Meeting.

Two Sunday Schools. The following Report of the Twigg Folly School gives some interesting and suggestive details:-

Twig Folly Sunday School.

Superintendent—Mr. J. DUNN, "Wilton House," Tudor Road, Hackney.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. J. S. FORSAITH, 31, Southboro' Road, South Hackney.

Assistant Secretary—Mr. F. SPARKS, 179, Richmond Road, Dalston.

Treasurer—Mr. B. E. LEE, 63, King Edward Road, South Hackney.

Collector—Miss LEE, 76, King Edward Road, South Hackney.

Committee—THE OFFICERS AND TEACHERS OF THE SCHOOL.

SEVENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.

ANOTHER year, with its varied vicissitudes in the round of school life and work, has closed, and we again lay before our subscribers and friends our Annual Report. We would humbly thank our Divine Master, whose kingdom it is our earnest desire to extend amongst the young souls entrusted to our care, for the measure of success which has attended our efforts.

The number both of teachers and scholars has remained at the same average as last year, for although some have left, others have stepped into the ranks and filled their places. The officers would be exceedingly pleased to welcome a few more teachers, both ladies and gentlemen, for in the neighbourhood there are hundreds of children and young people who go to no Sabbath School who would be glad to come in, but our classes are already too large; with additional help, however, we can easily accommodate double the number of scholars. We are thankful to record that our elder classes are becoming more consolidated, and it is from these classes we hope to draw efficient teaching help in the future.

Our Young People's Christian Circle still continues to be very helpful to our elder scholars, and the weekly meetings have been well sustained. We believe that the blessing of God is being realized by those who attend, as is evidenced by the great improvement in the attention given to the addresses of those friends who so kindly come and speak to us. Especially do we tender our thanks to Messrs. S. Bellamy, Athill, Hood, Smith, Morton, Mrs. Stopps, and others, for the part they have taken in the meetings.

The East London Auxiliary Sunday School Examination was held as usual, and four first class and two second class certificates were won by the scholars.

The New Year's Scholars' Entertainments were held in January, and were thoroughly enjoyed.

The Annual Parents' Tea was held in November, when our genial friend Mr. W. George presided, and both he and Mr. Sowerbutts, L.C.M., gave excellent addresses. Mr. Chipperfield and a choir of Scholars gave a capital rendering of a Cantata, entitled "The Crown of the Year," which was thoroughly appreciated by the large audience.

The Band of Hope joined us for the Annual Excursion in July, and there was a good attendance, the result showing the wisdom of amalgamation.

The teachers and elder scholars joined the Abbey Street Senior Band of Hope friends in a series of Saturday Afternoon Outings, and the visits to Greenwich (Painted Hall and Park), Highgate Woods and Hampstead Heath, were thoroughly enjoyed.

The Band of Hope report is appended.

The Missionary work has not been forgotten. A total amount of £3 0s. 9d. has been collected, of which £1 was sent to our friend Mr. Pells, who is training for the mission field. The balance was given to the London Missionary Society.

The Cricket Club, with its two teams, passed through a fairly successful season, and wound up with a Soiree, at which there was a large attendance of friends and teachers, who spent a very enjoyable evening.

Mr. H. Sparks, the energetic secretary of the Swimming Club, reports that the attendance at Bow Baths was not so large as last year. This is probably due to the fact that some of our elder lads have joined the Evening Continuation Classes at the Board Schools, which meet at the same time.

We regret to record that after five years faithful service our Superintendent, Mr. B. Lee, was compelled to resign that office in November, on account of removal to Leyton. We trust he may be spared to labour for the Master for many years in the new sphere to which he has gone. For a time this duty devolved upon our Secretary, who undertook it until the Annual Election, in January, 1897, when the choice of the teachers unanimously fell upon our friend and Senior Class Teacher, Mr. John Dunn, who has already thrown himself heartily into the work, and we hope that under his superintendence a great future lies before us.

We shall be glad to receive the name of any friends who may be willing to help us financially. Our balance sheet shows a deficiency this year, and we are very anxious to clear off our indebtedness to the Treasurer. Our Collector, Miss Lee, will be pleased to wait upon any friend who will become a donor, or better still an annual subscriber.

Visiting, Meetings, and Charitable Relief.

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Here these subjects bring us to the chief subject of my conversation with Mrs S. which was the

Christian Instruction and Benevolent Society.

Secretary and Superintendent—Mr. William George.

Assistant Superintendent—Mr. H. Brewer.

Committee—The Visitors, together with the Superintendents.

For twenty-seven years the Society has been enabled to do good, quiet, unobtrusive work amongst the poor, the sinful and suffering, living in the vicinity of the Church. Its members desire to record first of all their gratitude to Him who has kept alive in their hearts the love of perishing souls and bodies, and who alone has touched hearts to help by personal service, and by gifts in money and kind. They desire also to thank the large number of friends who for years have maintained a practical and loving interest in the good work, especially Mr. Golding, who, notwithstanding his failing health, has as keen an interest in, and as practical a sympathy with, the work as ever he had. His little annual books, so kindly and vividly written from personal observation, have been our great source of income for many years. May he experience the truth of the Word, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor," and if it be God's will, may returning health and strength soon dawn on him.

The prime object of the Society is to bring the Gospel to the homes of those who never enter the House of God, and this is done by means of tracts and by heart to heart conversation, and by practical Christ-like sympathy with distress in whatever form it is found.

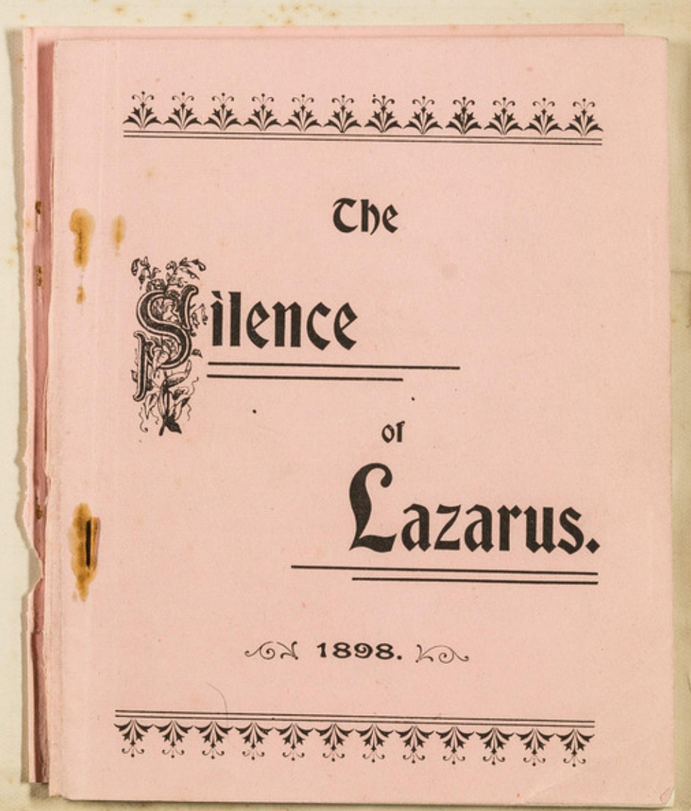
The work of the nurse, Mrs. Walker, is invaluable to this end. She is well-known and much sought after. Her bright, Christian disposition and her readiness to help even in the most distressing and loathsome cases have endeared her to many hearts, and a way has been thus prepared for the coming of Christ into dark souls. Testimonials, touching and tender, are received both from her and the visitors generally that Christ is seeing of the travail of His soul and is being satisfied in Bethnal Green.

In addition to monetary help when needed, the following have been distributed:—

Coals	320 cwt.
New and left off garments	1,089
Pillows for sickness	42
Sacks of Oatmeal	6
Pairs of Boots	325
Letters for various Hospitals	154
Bed Coverlets	4

There is an enormous field for labour available for those who desire in this way to testify as to the sincerity of their love for Jesus Christ. May God the Holy Spirit move mightily upon more hearts to render *personal* service, for this is the Society's greatest need.

It is this society which is Mrs S.'s chief interest: indeed he spoke of it rather as his society than the churches, and its connection with the Church seems to be slight: the pamphlet entitled "The Silence of Lazarus" which is most interesting and instructive gives no indication that the Society is connected with any church. Mrs. S. gave me an account of the Society almost in the words of the pamphlet which I insert here:-


The
Silence
of
Lazarus.
1898.

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The

Silence of Lazarus.

BY THE AUTHOR OF

"The Distance from Belgravia to Bethnal Green;"
"Quiet Sympathy with Silent Suffering;"
"British Interests in the East;"
"Silent Bitterness;"
"Poverty, Pain, and Patience;"
"The Gospel of Bread and Butter;"
"The Ministry of Mercy;" *"Down at the Heel;"*
"Dives and Lazarus—Specially Lazarus;"
"Social Salvage;"
"Hard Up;" *"A Capital 'W';"*
"The 'Near East';" AND *"Job Up To Date."*

1898.

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LONDON:
J. S. FORSAITH & SON, PRINTERS,
329, BETHNAL GREEN ROAD.
—
1898.

The Silence of Lazarus.

DOES the demand of Misery exceed the supply of Mercy?

In framing an answer to this searching enquiry, we must bear in mind that Misery is more or less in evidence, but that the supply of Mercy cannot be measured or appraised by subscription lists or announcements in the *Times*. There are a multitude of "right hands" doing kind, Christian deeds on the sly, of which the "left hands" have little conception.

Yet, for all the goodness, devotion, and giving on the part of people who are touched with "human gentleness and love," the amount of unattacked misery and want is enough to cause a Christian man to throw up his hands in despair. In Hall Caine's book, "The Christian," the Prime Minister sighs, "Ah, well!

the years bring me an ever deepening sadness, an everlasting sense of our impotence to diminish the infinite sorrow of the world."

My simple idea of the duty of a Christian man is not to sigh about our "sense of impotence to diminish the infinite sorrow of the world." That's the business of the Divine Master of men. Our obligation is to do the work near our hands, and having really performed our duty to leave the question of results to the settlement of a higher tribunal than human judgment.

But I am not going to preach. Sermons and prayers may be useful at times, but they put selfish people to no expense.

George Macdonald in "David Elginbrod," makes Miss Talbot describe the Christianity of Mrs. Appleditch, thus:—

"'But she's a true Christian for all that, and does a power of good among the poor people.'

"'What does she give them, Miss Talbot?'

"'Oh! she gives them—hm—m—tracts and things. You know,' she added, 'people's souls should come first. And poor Mrs. Appleditch—

you see—some folks is made stickier than others, and their money sticks to them, somehow, that they can't part with it—poor woman!'"

In their place tracts are well enough, but when a family are on the verge of starvation, 'tis not a leaflet, but a loaf which is essential. And this brings me to the object for which this little book is written, and the humble Society whose voluntary labour among the poor and broken-down I desire to make known.

I think it is twenty-two years since my first booklet was published, and after nearly a quarter of a century of personal experience of the self-denying work of this small band of kind hearted Christian people, I feel more than ever a justification for issuing another appeal. As my readers are not the same each year, perhaps a few words about the Society and its mode of operations may be of service.

Originally a few poor people living in the midst of a poor population used to visit their neighbours on Sunday afternoons. At that time they aspired to nothing higher than a

12

It is this society which is Mrs S.'s chief interest: indeed he spoke of it rather as his society than the churches, and its connection with the Church seems to be slight: the pamphlet entitled "The Silver of Lazarus" which is most interesting and instructive gives no indication that the Society is connected with any church. Mrs. S. gave me an account of the Society almost in the words of the pamphlet which I insert here:-

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tract, nor anything more filling than an exhortation. They were without funds or other resources, and therefore rendered the only service of which they were capable.

To-day they are in a better position, owing in some measure to the generous responses made to the appeals made from year to year in my little books.

They do not rent fine offices, flourish a large brass plate, or boast a titled chairman, and a paid secretary.

The Society—known as the "Christian Instruction and Benevolent Society"—meets on Sunday afternoons in one of the rooms in Victoria Hall, Bethnal Green. After a short devotional service the Visitors set out on their respective rounds. They go as Christian Visitors, but frequently discover cases where the need is bread—not a beatitude. These cases they report to the Secretary. And this brings me to the functions performed by that official.

Mr. William George is the Secretary—and he is something more than that; he is the life

and soul of the Society. His work is inspired and sustained by love of God and man. By hook or by crook he manages to supply food to the famishing, coals to the freezing, and succour to the ailing. He procures the needed hospital letter, the clothes or boots, a crutch, a wooden leg, a glass eye, an order for bread or coals, or whatever the Visitors report to be absolutely required by the sick and poor. This work goes on from January to December year after year. The *only* person paid for services rendered is a trained and qualified Nurse who devotes all her time to the work of the Society.

Mrs. Walker is the name of our Nurse. Her services are entirely at the disposal of our Society. She is supplied by "The Biblewomen and Domestic Female Mission"—a mission founded by the late Mrs. Ranyard, author of "The Book and its Story," and whose headquarters are at Adelphi Terrace, Strand. We subscribe £30 a year to the funds of the Mission, and in return the Nurse is stationed in our district; she is also furnished with many stores and medical comforts for her work

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among the sick poor. Of course our own little Society supplements these supplies with clothes, linen, pillows, &c., and also money for use in cases of extreme sickness where nutriment is urgently required. As to the payment of the subscription for the Nurse; this is managed by special donations for that purpose, and also a portion of the proceeds of a Harvest Festival Offertory in the Congregational Church, Approach Road, Bethnal Green.

I have gone into these details respecting Nurse Walker, and her cost to our Society, for the satisfaction of my many friends and helpers.

And a thoroughly cheap line it is, too! None but those who regularly visit the sick poor can truly realise what it means to have a Bible Woman and Nurse—a most blessed combination—in the slums attending to the needs of poverty-stricken, bedridden victims of misfortune and inherited disease.

In Nurse Walker we have a woman who is at once an efficient Nurse for the sick, and a good and sympathetic Christian friend to the

poor of her district. She is a helper where a gentle lady would be useless, and a success where the parson would often prove a failure.

* * * * *

This quiet unassuming little Society does in a real fashion demonstrate the truth that, "He most lives who lives for others."

These kindly Visitors do not take to "slumming" as a short lived fad, or because it is the "correct thing" to go down East. No! They *live* in the East; they *dwell* among the poor and sad; *their home* is in the midst of misery; and because all this sorrow and suffering is so real, so awful, so boundless, they give themselves up to this beautiful labour of love and self-sacrifice. Some of these merciful veterans are now past labour, but how nobly have they in the past given their time, their strength; yea, and as I have sometimes discovered, they have freely given from their own slender resources.

That is a fine and perfectly correct picture of the happiness obtained from a life of service

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for others, given by Dean Paget and quoted in Edna Lyall's "Wayfaring Men":—

> "A man who habitually pleases himself will become continually more selfish and sordid, even among the most noble and beautiful conditions which nature, history, or art can furnish; and on the other hand, anyone who will try each day to live for the sake of others, will grow more and more gracious in thought and bearing, however dull and even squalid may be the outward circumstances of his soul's probation."

A kind brotherly deed done to a fellow-being down at the heel, is a double-edged blessing. The truth of this is illustrated by the following pretty story told by the *Daily Telegraph*:—

> "In a Persian poem there is the story of an Arab merchant who dismounted from his camel to pluck a thorn from the foot of a poor pilgrim-boy limping along the desert-road. The merchant died upon his return journey, but the King of Balkh had a dream that night, and saw the man walking in Paradise between lovely clusters of musk-roses which shaded his happy brows and filled his glad senses with divine fragrance, and the King heard one of Allah's

> angels say to him, 'Ajib! that one thorn hath brought thee many a rose, my Brother.'"

And the same journal goes on to observe that—

> "The literature of fact and of fiction, the maxims of philosophy and of theology, are equally full of recognition of what one single kindly act, one sincerely compassionate giving, can effect. That 'cup of water' may prove a passport to the gratitude and acceptance of Heaven. That prison visit may turn out to have been the succour of the Son of God. That help borne to the sick, the hungry, or the fatherless may develop into deeds of homage and fealty done to the Divine in its disguises of the human."

We cannot help receiving good in doing good, but good done with a view to reward might be left undone.

The Church of England expresses a man's duty towards his neighbour.

> QUESTION: "What is thy duty towards thy neighbour?"
>
> ANSWER: "My duty towards my neighbour is to love him as myself, and to do to all men as I would they should do unto me."

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This duty devolves upon each one of us, and I rejoice to know that our daily press vies with the Church in preaching the grand truth that every man is, in his measure of ability, responsible for the condition and sorrows of his neighbour.

Charles Kingsley, in "Alton Locke," puts this question of responsibility into the mother tongue:—

> "If, on the other hand, they do *not* know these things, and doubtless the majority do not, it is their sin that they do not know it. Woe to a society whose only apology to God and man is, 'Am I my brother's keeper?' Men ought to know the condition of those by whose labour they live."

It is good to stand in the shadow of another man's cross, if we have no cross of our own.

The perpetual sunshine of prosperity is calculated to dry up the channels of pity for the unfortunate, and produce a condition of drought in the soul of a man.

The philosophy expessed in the following lines is not quite of the sort which commends

itself to a man who has a living faith in the Wisdom and Goodness which controls human lives:—

> "For every worry under sun,
> There's either a remedy, or there is none;
> If there is one, try to find it,
> If there is not one—never mind it."

Rather do I say Amen to these humane and beautiful lines of Tennyson:—

> "If life be heavy on your hands,
> Are there no beggars at your gate,
> Nor any poor about your lands?
> Oh, teach the orphan boy to read,
> Or teach the orphan girl to sew,
> Pray Heaven for a human heart,
> And let your selfish sorrow go."

The Silence of Lazarus! Some of my readers may question the meaning of the title of this book. They may say: "Lazarus died and his silence was compulsory."

Lazarus may have died. But Lazarus lives to-day. Yes; the Lazarus I mean, and the Lazarus I plead for, is the emaciated, sorrowful, sick, neglected, hungry, but withal Silent Lazarus.

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His silence is pitiful. In the quietness, darkness, coldness of his nearly empty room, with its bare shelf—there are no cupboards—he is silent in his misery and hunger.

Lazarus of the genuine sort retires out of sight to suffer silently and alone. He does not come forth and parade his trouble or his awful need. To be found he must be hunted for. This hunting is the pastime of the Visitors of our Society.

Although we visit these people all the year round, we make a special effort to import a little rejoicing into their miserable abodes at the festival of Santa Claus. And why shouldn't we? The *Daily Telegraph* writing of this festival of goodwill observes:—

"At this season of the year the spirit of goodwill grows up naturally amongst Englishmen and Englishwomen, like that little pale blue flower of the Alps which pushes its way through the mountain snows. An instinct to give; to bestow; and, as far as may be, to bless by bestowing—rises in many and many a kindly heart. It is an instinct having various reasons and roots; largely, no doubt, connected in all

pious minds with the celebration of the great Christian festival. And truly, from the religious point of view, it is certain that none will have observed the sacred anniversary of Christendom unworthily who shall have consecrated it by one or more deeds of brotherly love and neighbourly help."

Therefore it is that, with the aid of our friends, we provide and collect the constituent elements that go to the production of a Christmas Feast.

And here let me say that when we use the term "Xmas dinner" we *mean* Xmas *dinner*—not carols and coffee. We mean such Christian realities as beef, flour, bread, suet, raisins, currants, candied peel, tea, sugar, &c. We distribute these material tracts on Christmas Eve to the people at a school room, who then take them home where they may "mark, learn, and *inwardly digest* them."

These good things are not given to an impromptu crowd. The visitors go to the homes of those who really *need* a good square meal and say: "Mrs. Robinson, I have arranged to get a ticket for you. Be at the school room on Friday afternoon, 24th December, and bring

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a bag. Bring a bag! What nonsense! 'Tis many a year since the Robinson's owned or possessed a bag. Mrs. Robinson—sensible matron—will bring the pillow-case, or the family shawl, and get it stuffed with the outward and visible signs of Christian benevolence, and then as she staggers home under Mercy's burden there will dawn upon her senses the *meaning* of the word "Goodwill" which the waits were singing about last night.

And now a word as to providing funds for these Yuletide feastings.

First: There is a distribution of viands at the Victoria Hall. For these many kind hearted friends raise the money or give materials. Of such gifts it may be mentioned that the sons of our late friend—the poor man's friend—Mr. J. D. Link, give joints of meat and loaves of bread sufficient for 200 families, which certainly means 1000 persons. My friend, Mr. George, gives raisins, and other good-hearted people give other things, and thus it was that last Xmas about 1200 persons were enabled to attack a substantial meal.

Second: There is also a distribution of dinners in connection with the Abbey Street Schools. As these schools do not enjoy the immediate support of any church, and as they are situated in a dense population of poor people, I try and obtain for this centre of poverty, the means wherewith to provide the indigent folk (many of them blind) with seasonable fare. In this connection I tender my sincere thanks to the generous friends at Caterham and in the City, who helped us to help Lazarus, and whose names I record:—

	£	s.	d.
Collected by Master Ronald Soper, Caterham	4	10	4
Collected by W. H. Ashdown, Esq., Caterham	2	7	0
J. Burford, Esq., Caterham	0	10	0
Union Steam Ship Co.	2	2	0
Messrs. Donald Currie & Co.	2	2	0
,, H. Clarkson & Co.	2	2	0
,, Houlder Bros. & Co.	2	2	0
W. F. Savage, Esq.	1	1	0
Henry Grey, Jun., Esq.	0	10	0
Messrs. Berner and Nielsen	0	10	0
Mrs. Dudfield	1	0	0
"A Bounder"	0	2	6
	£18	18	10

I have only two causes for regret with reference to these dinners to the hungry poor: first, that we are limited as to our means; second, that our friends who provide the sinews of war cannot be present to participate in the pleasure and gratification of seeing the poor creatures waiting to have the stockings filled by the bounteous hand of Santa Claus.

A London daily paper remarks:—

"An honest man, a tender-hearted woman, will hardly relish the taste of Christmas fare unless the silent grace has been said 'before meat' of some deed of seasonable charity done on this or that hand towards somebody who had need of assistance."

It must have been a cynic who thus wrote:—

"Whene'er I take my walks abroad
The hungry poor I see;
I thanks the Lord that that there horde
Ain't no relations to me."

The poor are our relations—they are our brothers—and we shall be held responsible for the treatment accorded them.*

*NOTE.—It may interest our readers to know that amongst the recipients of a Christmas dinner last year

Of a nobler strain is the masonic interpretation of brotherhood:—

"O brother! fold to thy heart thy brother;
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
To worship rightly is to love each other,
Each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer."

"THE FEAST OF ST. GEORGE."

Not one of the youngsters who were regaled with tea, cake, entertainment, &c., at Victoria Hall, on Monday, 15th February, could have told that the previous Sunday was Septuagesima Sunday, but if any one of them had been asked on the Sunday what the Monday following was, would have readily replied, "The Feast of St. George." It is their only Saints' Day in the whole dreary year of misery, want and neglect.

was the Jarvis family, ten of whom were burned to death on Boxing Day of this year. And it may further interest them to know that 240 families were given a dinner each from the Princess of Wales' Jubilee Fund. All the cases were searched into by our good friends Mr. Forsaith, the Nurse and Miss Atwell, to whom we are much indebted for their labour of love.

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To be correct, perhaps I ought to say that there were three feast days, as the festivities were observed on the 15th, 16th and 19th of February. During these three days 1,500 boys and girls were fed, warmed and made for a brief period to forget their misery.

Mr. George, by some means or another, but very largely through the agency of children in the Sunday Schools, contrives to collect funds sufficient for two nights' entertainment. But last February a third celebration took place, in consequence of the kindness and generosity of Mr. Bersey, who gave £20 for an additional 500 little creatures to be made happy. I may here remark that Mr. Bersey was so satisfied with his investment last spring, that he has intimated his intention of giving £40, in order that 1000 poor half-clad children may be regaled with good things next February.

This is doubly gratifying, inasmuch as a thousand more youngsters will spend a happy evening, and also because Mr. Bersey resides in the immediate neighbourhood of the wretchedness I have tried to depict, and is

therefore in a position to form an opinion of the work carried on by my friends. Possibly my readers may be interested to learn the capacity of 1500 children to conceal provisions about their person.

In the process of making merry the hearts of 1,500 boys and girls of Bethnal Green the following disappeared:—

375	Half-quartern Loaves.	
381	Pounds of	Cake.
57½	,,	Butter.
13½	,,	Tea.
63	,,	Sugar.
14½	Gallons of	Milk.
187½	Pounds of	Sweets.
3,150	Oranges.	

A ticket of admission is sent to each child, on which this condition is printed: "Bring a mug." Bring a mug! This is simply Mr. George's annual joke, for he knows only too well that it is impossible for the poor children to comply with such a condition. But they do their level best. They appear at the Hall armed with an amazing and amusing variety

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of utensils—cans, jars, milk tins, cups without handles, small basins, galipots, &c.

And can't they sing grace! They, poor little wretches, have justification for singing and giving thanks, for with many of them it is a year since they were invited to such a spread. But Bethnal Green Junior is very businesslike. The moment serious work begins he ceases to talk or play, and gives his undivided attention and energy to the job before him; and that job is to get outside as much cake and bread and butter as possible before he is pulled up by the ringing of the bell as a signal for "returning thanks."

Having given vocal expression to their gratitude to Divine Providence, which doubtless they confound with Mr. William George, they settle themselves down to enjoy an exhibition of marionettes. After the show they prepare for departure, and each child as it files out receives a couple of oranges and a packet of sweets.

How short has been their time of plenty and their season of enjoyment! How long and

dreary is the coming spell of cold, dark and dirty empty rooms, with a rag bed on the floor, and studies at the Board School on a stomach innocent of any breakfast. God help them!

* * * * *

A PICTURE NOT SO CHEERFUL.

Tea, cake, bread and butter, oranges and sweets, with a dash of marionettes, do not by any means constitute the menu of the dining rooms in Bethnal Green Society. Oh, no! The chronic order of things in that district is quite the reverse. Hunger, poverty, cold grates and wasting sickness—these are the grim items in the bill of fare in vogue in the back streets and courts in the vicinity of the Old Ford Road.

On a week-end evening during December I met the Nurse and a small party of the visitors for the purpose of making a few calls at the houses, or rather rooms, of the sons of want. Unfortunately, my strength at the present time is very limited, but the prepared list of cases deserving and needing attention was unlimited. We had to cut down the

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programme, and even the reduced list was not exhausted. I managed to visit seven families that evening, and propose in a few simple words to attempt a description of a portion of what I heard and saw.

A Royal Certificate of Respectability.

VISIT No. 1. THE Nurse introduced me to an elderly widow, a Mrs. T . . . . . n, spending the balance of her years at 62, Old Ford Road. Her husband has been deceased these 20 years, leaving behind him a wife, children, no estate, but a good name and reputation. He, in the days of his earthly pilgrimage, was a collector of rates and taxes. It was during this period that he established a "good name," which, on high authority, we are assured "is rather to be chosen than riches." The result is that the widow is to-day in receipt of a small pension of 5*s.* a week, granted for three years, but recently renewed, from "The Poors Land Gift." There are only five recipients of this charity, and this deserving widow is one of them. The woman is very deaf, and it was with some difficulty that I got replies to all my enquiries. She herself has paid rates for twenty years. There are two sons. One brings home 9*s.* weekly; the other is, and has been, without employment. He has only had three weeks' full work since June, which

accounts for my visit to the poor deaf creature. The financial statement relating to this family would be clear and simple to the mind of a boy in the first standard—

	s. d.	s. d.
From "The Poors' Land Gift"	5 0	
Earnings of one son ..	9 0	
,, other son ..	Nil.	
		14 0
Less rent of two rooms ..		5 0
Balance available for food, firing, oil, clothing, and other civilized luxuries		9 0

Reckoning Sunday as dedicated to a strictly religious fast, 9*s.* yield 1*s.* 6*d.* per day for six days for three persons—or to put it in slang phraseology, a tanner a day per head. Most of my readers, I presume, indulge in four meals a day. Now 6*d.* a day means that each meal must not exceed 1½*d.* in cost. I fear it would sorely test the Christianity of some of my readers to have to "say grace" over a collection of viands which could be purchased for *three halfpence!* I put the case in this simple and homely fashion in order that my good friends and helpers may in some small measure realise what is the grim significance of those two short words, "Hard Up."

And in the midst of her penury, this deaf widow pointed with pride to a framed certificate suspended on the wall, as evidence of the respectability of her own parents. I took it off the nail, and read this—

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ROYAL ASSOCIATION.

For improving the condition of Laborers and others.

Mrs. P . . . . . s was awarded a prize of £1 10s.

19th June, 1856,

For having brought up her family in honesty, and sober and industrious habits.

(Signed) ALBERT.

Yes, the late Prince Consort certified that this poor widow was trained to be *honest*, *sober*, and *industrious*. The pension from the "Poors Land Gift" is further testimony that the effects of her early education have not abandoned the woman in her widowhood, poverty and old age. I am thankful that it has fallen to my chance to be able, in some measure, to assist this deserving family. Of a truth, "A good name is rather to be chosen than riches."

Opening the Door to a Dead Man.

VISIT No. 2.

I REMEMBER reading in the newspapers the report of an inquest on a man who had come by his death in a shockingly sudden fashion. Little did I imagine that a few months later I should visit his widow and family.

I found myself at No. 31, Russia Lane, where reside Mrs. Boswell and her seven children. The family history is short, simple, sad.

On Sunday, 7th February, Mr. Boswell partook of dinner with his wife and bairns. After the meal he left the small back room to join his wife in the front apartment. One of the children said, "Oh, mother, father is making funny faces!" The woman at once came to the door to find her husband leaning against the post—*dead*.

The widow at once faced her position and began to earn food for her little ones by mangling. But alas! she could not do this for long, as within nine weeks after the death of her husband she gave birth to a child. This necessarily caused her to lose the mangling connection, and up to the present she has not been able to regain her lost customers.

In some sections of society it is considered that seven children (including a babe) are quite sufficient for a woman to look after. But when to this is added the onerous burden of having to toil for their bread, some idea of this woman's hard lot may be imagined. Up to the time of my visit this brave British mother had not received help from the Parish. Relief from the Parish implies parting with three of her children to be sent to the Workhouse Schools, and she has not yet felt able to submit to this sacrifice.

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Her statement of accounts is more than simple ; it is simply horrible.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Rent of the whole home	12	0		
Rooms let off	5	3		
Actual rent			6	9

The actual revenue is difficult to ascertain. A trifle earned by the eldest son, and proceeds of sale of portions of the house, represent the income.

The woman has health and strength, and is confident of being able to provide for her family as soon as she gets back her mangling business, and that without the help of charity.

Assuredly this is a case for temporary assistance, offered in a kindly sympathetic spirit. I gave her coal, a little cash, and promised them some Scotch meal, and plainly hinted that she might deposit her stocking on the landing on Christmas Eve, as I had a strong impression that Santa Claus would leave them a Christmas dinner. If Santa Claus makes default I shall be very surprised.

"Hors de Combat."

Visit No. 3.

For a dirty, dreary, unlovely spot, Digby Walk will take a lot of beating. The houses consist of two rooms ; one on the ground floor and one above. The rent of one of these miserable tenements is 6s. per week. It

was at No. 12 in this unsavory back turning that I sought an interview with Mrs. McG . . . h, from whose lips I listened to a depressing narrative of misfortune and misery. The head of the family is in the Infirmary, where he has been for the past seventeen weeks. Meanwhile the wife has to do her best to find food for herself and children, and rent for the landlord. This is how she does it. When work is given out at the warehouse, she sometimes procures employment at binding slippers. For one class the pay is 6d. per dozen, the better class paying 8d. for twelve pairs. If orders be plentiful, she can earn 6s. a week.

But her income has been augmented during the last three weeks. The increase came about in this manner. "The gentleman across the way" buried his wife a month since, and as one of the results of his helpless condition, has been obliged to "put out" his washing. He has favored Mrs. McG. with his patronage, the said patronage increasing her financial resources to the tune of no less an amount than 1s. 6d. per week. The weekly rent of this house of only two rooms is 6s. but she lets one room, she obtains shelter for the difference, viz., 3s. a week. Certainly two of her children are in the Parish Schools at Leytonstone ; so that she has to procure food, &c., for herself and two young ones.

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A balance sheet will simplify the position.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
If by good luck a full week's work at slipper binding	6	0		
Washing for 'the gentleman over the way,' while it lasts	1	6		
			7	6
Less soap, starch, and fuel for washing ..	0	2		
Less rent of one room..	3	0		
			3	2
Grand total, or balance for food, light, firing, clothing, &c. ..			4	4

Four shillings and fourpence for three persons for a week of seven days (I am assuming that they are hungry on Sundays) figures out at about 7½d. a day, or to be particular as to details, it means nothing more nor less than that three human beings escape burial on an income of 2½d. each per day.

How *do* the poor live? is often asked, but with such dreadful poverty as detailed above, I candidly confess I do not know.

The Grandmother holds a Reception.

Visit No. 4.

Our next visit was to Mrs. N....n, whose address is No. 29, Digby Street, but as her seven children filled the small room on the ground floor, the interview came off in the upstairs apartment, in the occupation of the mother of Mrs. N. And what a reception room! A solitary chair, a very small table, and an ancient bedstead, constituted the entire worldly belongings of the grandmother of the seven noisy youngsters in the room below. The illumination was derived from a short piece of candle stuck on the mantel shelf.

In a few words, this is the story and state of Mrs. N. and her family. The husband, who is a carman, was kicked by a horse and, as a result, spent seven months in the hospital. He is out again, but has no employment at present.

As Artemus Ward would observe, "This family is about as low as it can get—by land." First of all there is a rent charge of 7s.; second, there are nine mouths to feed. This is how it is done! The woman works—no, slaves—at matchbox making. If there is any awful form of slavery which needs a Tom Hood to give us a song on the subject, 'tis matchbox making.

For making 144 boxes, the pay is nine farthings. And work is scarce at this price! As to this week, no work was given out till Wednesday, and as the boxes

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must be sent to the factory early on Saturday, there is work for two and a half days only.

I must resort to a financial statement in order to make the position clear.

	s.	d.	s.	d.
Making matchboxes on Thursday	1	6		
Ditto, Friday	1	6		
Ditto, Saturday (half-day)	0	9		
	3	9		
Husband (doing odd jobs)	9	0		
			12	9
Deduct for rent..			7	0
Balance for keep of nine persons			5	9

The above statement doesn't fully reveal the actual condition of affairs. The woman, driven by the want of bread, has kept the eldest boy from school several times, in order to lend a hand at the matchboxes. In consequence of this the School Board Authorities have haled her before a magistrate, who has imposed a fine of five shillings. Where the money is to come from, I know not, unless the grandmother overhead comes down with the coin. And she, poor soul, afflicted with bronchitis, "takes in washing" for a livelihood, and the linen having to be dried in the room, adds to her bronchial trouble.

Such then is the commercial and social status of this lame man, with his wife and seven children, plus the grandmother. I should hesitate to give a sovereign for all their belongings. And yet the dreadful problem endures. How *are* the poor creatures to exist? They must eat, they must have shelter. And all this wretchedness brought about by an accident which the man could not prevent, the kick from a horse.

"One Foot in the Grave."

VISIT No. 5.

THE above heading is not a mere quotation; as the following brief sketch of the family history of Mrs. G . . . . . t, of 28, Digby Street, will demonstrate. In days preceding the present Engineers' Strike, the head of the family earned food and clothing for his children by hard honest toil. He was a hammerman, but in consequence of the Great Strike has been without work for a long period. He was *not* a Union man, which means that he receives no strike pay. To-day the family is really hard up. At the time of my visit, the man had gone to bed to avoid a supper.

I may observe that the house consists of two rooms, one over the other, and a small wash-house.

The man, wife and three children lived and slept in the small down-stair room, while the apartment overhead was rented by a lodger—a single young lady. Of

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course it is implied that the young lady had to pass in and out of the down-stair room whatever the engagement or the condition of the family might have been. But a sailor bold wooed and won the young lady and took her away as his bride. The family now occupy the whole house, which means they have to pay *all* the rent.

I shall not soon forget my call at this house. As I entered the room the floor was almost entirely covered with match boxes. The woman and her three children were busy at the making of the boxes. A little child, five years of age, was pasting on labels as fast as his tiny fingers could move. The mother hopped about on one leg and with the aid of a crutch. I ascertained that when the hammerman took her to the Altar as a blushing bride, she was then missing a leg. It is a common saying, when a man is really driven into a corner, that "he hasn't a leg to stand on." The lady in question is not so thoroughly stumped as that. Still, her lot is hard enough and dismal enough, poor creature.

She, at the time of my visit, was at work at match boxes, those long narrow blue covered boxes for wax vestas. For these the pay is 5½d. per gross. In the making of one box there are 11 distinct and separate handlings; 11 multiplied by 144 gives 1588. Yes, *one thousand five hundred and eighty-eight* manipulations for *fivepence halfpenny*. And out of this miserable pittance paste has to be purchased. To make the dreadful reality

of this awful drudgery more apparent, let us divide the 1588 by the 22 farthings, and then we shall find there are 72 operations of tired fingers for *one* farthing.

It will not bear thinking over. In this desperate struggle to earn the price of a loaf, is it to be wondered at that the rooms are dirty, the children neglected, and the women unkempt? To look upon such abject dreariness and want, makes one feel it to be almost a sin to spend a shilling for personal comfort or pleasure.

"And wherefore do the poor complain?
The rich man asked of me.
Come walk abroad with me, I said,
And I will answer thee."

Providence in the disguise of a Sister-in-Law.

VISIT No. 6. MRS. H . . . . . d is to be found at 36, Cyprus Street, and when found it will be discovered that she is a clean, industrious, respectable young woman of 32 years, and withal a widow.

Her history, though like thousands of others, is painful enough in all conscience. Last June she, or rather her neighbours, buried her husband. Three months later she gave birth to a child. This little babe left a home of poverty for the Silent Land about a month ago, and I must admit that I am heartless enough to look upon the matter in the light of a blessing. Almost immediately after the birth of her child, the young

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widow was obliged to *take in washing* in order to pay the rent and procure food for her three living children, with the very natural result that she was soon seriously ill with pleurisy. From this indisposition she is only now recovering. She assured me that she would have died for the want of proper nourishment, but for the great kindness and assistance of her sister-in-law, who rents the front room and has to toil hard for her own livelihood.

Her financial statement does not make cheerful reading:—

	s. d.	s. d.
Income recently	Nil.	
Parish Relief.....	4 0	
Do. (Three Loaves)	..	
	——	4 0
Less Rent		3 0
Nett Revenue + Three Loaves		1 0

In addition to her financial difficulties, her eldest boy has been poorly. Here again I found that Mr. George had been on the scene before me. It appears that our ubiquitous Secretary had found out that Miss Ursula Baring keeps at her own cost a home of rest for little children, known as the "Sun Trap," at High Beech, one of the most beautiful and healthy spots in Epping Forest. To the "Sun Trap" Mr. George gained an entrance for the weakly son of the widow. In the

health resort the little chap sojourned for a month, and then returned to his home quite renewed in strength and full of praise of the kindness of Miss Ursula Baring and her very pleasant home for children.

———

"Early to Bed and Hungry to Rise."

Visit No. 7.

I had to wait on the landing in the dark while Mr. J. L . . g hurriedly donned his clothes, he having retired thus early from a consciousness that he would get no supper by remaining any longer out of bed. I have heard that a soldier's supper consists of "a smoke and go to bed," but our unfortunate friend was even minus the pipe. Once again attired, we entered his room. And what a vision was revealed!

The man is a jobbing labourer on buildings. He cannot procure regular employment, and it "follows as the night the day" that he is hard up. Added to the pecuniary weakness of this domestic establishment is the trouble resulting from the recent indisposition of the partner of his joys, or rather, I should say, sorrows. The woman has been in bed for three weeks with heart trouble, and is only just up again. She is extremely weak, and is urgently in need of good nourishing food; as a matter of fact, she cannot obtain sufficient bread. (I have just posted a ticket for a Christmas dinner to this troubled household, or rather roomhold.) There

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are two little ones, and these have to sleep in the same bed as their parents.

Let us see if we can strengthen their financial position by the aid of figures. This week the man has had 9½ hours employment:—

	s.	d.
Work—9½ hours at 7d.	5	6½
Less Rent of one room	3	9
Available for food, light, firing and delicacies for sick wife	1	9½

No; figures only reveal their position in a worse light. Their bills *could not* be discounted in the money market. Yet there is reason to believe that these are respectable people, and that the man wishes for nothing better than the opportunity of working for his wife and bairns.

Clearly they did not arrange the scene for the sake of effect. They did not expect my visit, and certainly were not prepared for company. Like another man I had visited that evening, they were going to bed thus early to forget that they were supperless, and to dream of an improbable breakfast. Those who are accustomed to gratify their appetites with a little porridge, ham and eggs, or a bit of fish, plus steaming hot coffee, for the morning meal, can form no idea of the feelings—aye, the sufferings—of those who have no occasion to say: "For what we are about to receive may the Lord

make us truly thankful." Where there is *not* even dry bread, there *cannot* be any excuse to say grace. I gave them coal and enabled them to purchase food, and may the Lord have mercy on them.

When I arrived at the bottom of the stairs the landlady met me with a beaming face, because she suspected me of good motives for turning her lodgers out of bed, and assured me that they were a worthy, honest couple. Said she: "The other Saturday he came home with 4s. 3d. as a week's wages, and he came straight to my room and gave me the rent, 3s. 9d. (if I wasn't poor I would not have taken the money), and I know they had no dinner on Sunday."

I cannot write a "Song of the Shirt," but I have endeavoured to give a plain and truthful account of the families to whom I paid visits during that damp and cheerless December evening. The grim facts require no word painting. They are sufficient to cause a thoughtful man or woman to ask: "Am I really living in Christian England: Am I doing my duty towards these my half starved brothers and sisters? And how Silent is Lazarus in his lonely room, how silently he

suffers and endures the pangs of famine! And yet for all his poverty how merciful, how generous he is to those who are in the same sad plight as himself. Says George Macdonald in his "Robert Falconer": "There is absolute divinity in their self-denial for those who are poorer than themselves." And then looking at another class, the same writer remarks in "Castle Warlock." "I suspect the man who leads a dissolute life, and the man who leads a commonly selfish life, will land from the great jump pretty nearly in the same spot."

Of a truth I do believe that a kindly deed done to, or for an unfortunate brother, yields a fuller harvest of satisfaction than any act of personal gratification. Doing good is a luxury. If anything can assist a man to digest a Christmas dinner, it is the thought that he has been the means of providing a seasonable meal for those, who, but for his intercession would have been obliged to nibble a hard crust. Such a brotherly office acts as a kind of moral pepsine.

While on the subject of a square meal perhaps it would not be inappropriate to refer to the qualities of round oatmeal. Several of my friends enable me to send sacks of Messrs. Keen Robinson's best Scotch meal for distribution among the poor, and especially the young.

A sack of meal can be divided in 70 bags of 4lbs. each, and means a thorough good breakfast for about 600 persons. Each of these bags is taken to the homes of the people by our visitors or the nurse. We therefore know who *needs* and who *gets* a dish of porridge for breakfast. Thirty shillings will pay for 600 breakfasts, and I tender my hearty thanks to the following friends who have assisted us in this branch of our ministry during this year :—

W. Soper, Esq.....	Caterham	2 sacks
A. C. Mathew, Esq..	Cape Town....	1 ,,
Messrs. Keen ..... Robinson & Co.	Garlick Hill ..	1 ,,
Messrs. Donald Currie & Co.	Fenchurch st..	2 ,,
C. Nichols, Esq.....	St. Mary Axe	1 ,,

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A good wholesome dish of porridge is worth a lot of preaching. I rejoice to think that practice is considered a twin sister of precept. As evidence I may quote a story told by Dean Hole at a meeting of church helpers at Rochester, although such a statement is enough to make Mrs. Jellaby turn in her tomb.

"An old woman told him that one day she was stooping over a saucepan in which she was boiling a cabbage, when an austere lady suddenly entered the door and said, 'Elizabeth Williamson, I am thankful for once to see you in that devotional attitude; here's a tract as your reward,' and away she went highly satisfied with her missionary exertions. Shortly afterwards another lady came in, and said, 'Well Betty, what are you doing now?' 'Why, I am boiling some cabbage,' she replied. 'Oh, are you,' said the lady; 'that's poor food by itself. I'll go and buy you a good piece of bacon to put with it.' Such a one would be recompensed at the Great Day, when actions would stand to the credit account, while tracts would not."

The moral pointed by the worthy Dean applies equally to coal as to cabbages. To visit a poor creature who is perishing from cold

and then leaving the freezing apartment with the non-apostolic injunction: "Be Ye Warmed" without leaving a sack of coal behind, is sheer cruelty and humbug.

Of this opinion must have been the author of the following:—

"At such a time, 'tis sure
All rich and generous souls
Should make up their mind
Some widow to find,
And give her a sack of coals."

It is a hopeful sign of the times that the care of the poor is not a patent right of the church. To-day the press vies with the pulpit in proclaiming the needs of the sick and indigent, and in plain language indicates what is the duty of society towards its poorer members. This state of things furnishes a true cause for rejoicing and thankfulness. Until such time as a remedy for poverty is in practice, it is the bounden duty of every man and woman professing Christianity to do their utmost to alleviate human sorrow and need.

Therefore I offer no apology for appealing for aid on behalf of Lazarus. Many of my

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readers cannot, or fear to go, into the squalid haunts of poverty and sickness and distribute relief. To such I would say: "I have introduced you to a little band of christian people, who will be your almoners; who with willing hands and hearts fired by the electric current of sympathy, will convey to the abode of hunger and misery, your gifts; be they money or meal, bread or boots, coal or clothing, or any other token of your kindly interest in the condition of the sons of want."

In that charming novel: "In exchange for a Soul" by Mary Linskill, there is a conversation between Damian Aldenmede and Barbara Burdas in which the following occurs:

> "But there is proof also that God himself had a special regard for the poor. David perceived that; and the mere fact of God's own Son *choosing* a life of poverty should reconcile some of us, who are very far from any true reconciliation. Still, it is a mystery. One might think, to read of the pauperism, the suffering of the poor of our own time, that God had forgotten them, or had, at least, forgotten to be gracious; but that can never be. *Why* He permits such suffering

> I cannot tell; but this I can tell, that it is the duty of everyone who is *not* suffering to do something for those who are; to think of them, and for them; to try at least to comfort them in their sorrows; to help them over their troubles; in a word, to show them some friendliness, some human loving-kindness."

Tis again winter, and the poor feel acutely the pangs of hunger and pinch of frost. Lazarus is hungry: help us to feed him. He is sick: help us to minister unto him. He is cold: help us to warm him. He is nearly naked: help us to clothe him. He sits in darkness: send a ray of light into his dreary abode. He is in despair: aid us to bid him hope. His hard lot drives him to atheism: help us to make him feel and know that God *is*, and that God is Love. He is dull and silent in his dismal back-room: help us to render him cheerful: help us to break

"THE SILENCE OF LAZARUS."

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GIVE HIM A LIFT.

Give him a lift! Don't kneel in prayer,
Nor moralise with his despair;
The man is down, and his great need
Is ready help—not prayer and creed.

One grain of aid just now is more
To him than tomes of saintly lore!
Pray, if you must, in your full heart:
But give him a lift—give him a start.

The world is full of good advice.
Of prayer, and praise, and preaching nice;
But the generous souls who aid mankind
Are scarce as gold, and hard to find.

Give like a Christian—speak in deeds,
A noble life's the best of creeds;
And he shall wear a royal crown
Who gives a lift when men are down.

"Kirkstone," Woodford, Essex.
Christmas, 1897.

The gifts, which are of great service in enabling the Visitors to continue their work of mercy and healing among the sick and poor, may be thus enumerated: —

Gifts of Money.	Oatmeal.
Left-off Clothing.	Medical Comforts.
Old Boots and Shoes.	Hospital and Dispensary Letters.
Coal Tickets.	

I desire also to detail some of the gifts we were enabled to make to hundreds of families during last winter:—

Of Coals were supplied.....	303 cwts.
Of New and Left-off Garments were distributed....	1355
Pillows for Sickness	21
Sacks of Oatmeal distributed in small quantities.....	7
Pairs of Boots.....	372
Letters for various Hospitals.	141
Bed Coverlets.....	6

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48

Treasurer's

Income.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand	2	10	3¾
Per "The Near East"	109	11	8
Donations and Subscriptions	9	19	0
Collecting Boxes	1	18	3
From Harvest Festival Collection, for Nurse Fund	5	0	0
Contributions for Treat to 1000 Poor Children (principally collected by Victoria Hall Sunday School)	38	19	9
Balance due to Treasurer	7	15	10¼
	£175	14	10

Audited and found correct,

J. A. Barrat, }
G. Morgan, } *Auditors.*

February 18th, 1897.

49

Account, 1896.

Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
Relief in cases of Sickness and Distress	61	10	0½
Coals	18	13	0
Subscriptions to Tract Society	1	1	0
£8 worth of Tracts (a grant)	3	0	0
Rent	10	0	0
Printing 1000 copies of "Near East"	6	17	6
Stamps	1	11	11
Repairing Mangles	3	17	6
„ Baby Carriage	0	1	0
Mangle Cloths	0	3	4½
Nurse's Salary, per London Bible and Domestic Female Society	30	0	0
Children's Treat:—			
254lbs. Cake	£4	6	0
9lbs. Tea	0	15	4
42lbs. Sugar	0	7	0
38lbs. Butter	1	7	0
36 quarts Milk	0	12	0
60 quartern loaves (a gift)			
60 „ „	1	0	0
2100 Oranges	3	13	6
Printing	0	7	6
Moving Piano	0	2	6
Attendance and Cleaning	1	10	0
189 pairs Boots	18	18	0
Marionettes	2	5	0
125 lbs. Sweets	3	12	11
Gratuities and Postal Orders	0	2	9
	38	19	6
	£175	14	10

D

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In Response to the Appeal in "Job Up to Date."

COLLECTED BY MR. GOLDING.

	£	s.	d.
W. Garland Soper, Esq., J.P., Caterham	10	0	0
Mrs. W. G. Soper, Caterham	5	0	0
Messrs. Griffiths & Co., Port Elizabeth	5	0	0
A. Hepburn & Co., Durban and Woodford	6	6	0
Hy. Beard, Esq., M.L.A., Cape Town	3	0	0
Mrs. S. A. Mathew, Cape Town and Brighton	2	0	0
Messrs. Mosenthal, Son & Co., 72, Basinghall Street	1	1	0
Campbell Cooke, Esq., Union Steam Ship Co.	5	0	0
J. R. Chapman, Esq. (Messrs. Donald Currie & Co)	1	1	0
Messrs. Forrester, Haslehust and Staley, Cape "Sail"	2	5	0
"A Won Bet," Cape "Sail"	1	1	0
E. Haslehust, Esq. „	1	1	0
E. Morgan, Esq. (Messrs. Houlder Bros. & Co).	0	5	0
Messrs. Ballard, King & Co. (Natal Direct Line of Steamers)	2	2	0
C. Nichols, Esq., St. Mary Axe	0	10	0
G. B. Lennon, Esq., Marine Insurance Co.	1	0	0
R. C. Cooke, Esq., "Lloyd's"	1	0	0
J. K. Davis, Esq., North China Insurance Co.	1	1	0
G. Smith, Esq., West India Dock	0	10	0
Jno. Burr, Esq., Kilmarnock	1	0	0
Messrs. Dewar & Webb, Bishopsgate Street	1	1	0
W. H. Ayres, Esq. (Messrs. Geo. Wills & Co., Chapel Street)	0	10	6
Messrs. J. & F. Howard, Bedford (Annual)	0	10	0

COLLECTED by Mr. GOLDING—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Watson, Gow & Co., Glasgow	1	1	0
Messrs. D. Bennie & Sons, „	0	10	0
Hy. Simon, Esq., Manchester	1	1	0
Messrs. W. H. & C. Peace, Sheffield	1	0	0
Cyrus Braby, Esq., 110, Cannon Street	0	10	0
Messrs. Doulton & Co., Lambeth	2	2	0
Messrs. J. Oakey & Son, Westminster Bridge Road	0	10	0
J. R. Roberts, Esq., Woodford	5	0	0
W. Stark, Esq., „	1	1	0
J. Stark, Esq., „	1	0	0
G. Stark, Esq., „	1	0	0
C. Griggs, Esq., „	1	0	0
Mrs. Griggs, „	0	15	0
G. H. Penton, Esq., „	1	0	0
S. Fuller, Esq., „	1	0	0
R. Billings, Esq., „	0	10	0
Mrs. Williams, „	0	10	0
Geo. Smith, Esq., W.U.D.C., Woodford	0	10	0
Mrs. Jago and Family „	0	4	6
Mrs. Potter, „	0	5	0
George Lane Congregational Church Sunday Schools, Woodford	1	3	2
Mrs. Hackett, Woodford	0	5	0
C. Montague, Esq., Woodford, for "Lemon Toffee," Visit No 5	0	5	0
Rev. C. B. Waller, M.A., Woodford Bridge	0	5	0
J. Butcher, Esq., Loughton	0	10	0
Y.P.S.C.E., per Miss Butcher, Loughton	0	2	0
Rev. P. Arthur, M.A., Tortworth Rectory, Gloucester	1	1	0
"C.," Fen Country, for Coal	1	0	0
"W." „ „	1	0	0
G. Frazer, Esq., Woodford	0	5	0
	£78	10	2

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Hospital and Dispensary Letters, &c.

PER MR. GOLDING.

Mrs. A. Potter, Woodford	6	East Ham Hospital
A. Schwartz, Esq., Woodford.....	2	Victoria Park Hospital
C. Schwartz, Esq., „	15	London „
Messrs. Houlder Bros. & Co., per G. Smith, Esq.	6	Victoria Park „
E. Haslehust, Esq., Billiter House ..	4	London „
„ „ „	3	Eastern Dispensary
C. Cooke, Esq., Union Steam Ship Co.	6	Hospital for Paralysed
W. Garland Soper, Esq., J.P., Caterham	3	Dental Hospital
Mrs. W. G. Soper, Caterham	3	Chelsea, for Women
„ „ „	6	The New Hospital for Women
„ „ „	3	Hospital for Paralysed
„ „ „	1	„ for Sick Children
G. Smith, Esq., West India Docks....	1	Victoria Park (Indoor)
	59	
Messrs. Barclay & Co., per G. W. Welton, Esq., Woodford	3	Orders each 56lbs. Coal
„ „	3	„ 1 4lb. Loaf
C. Montague, Esq., Woodford	3	„ 56 lbs. Coal
Mrs. Hackett, „	2	Large Parcels Clothing
Mrs. Hird, „	4	Parcels Clothing & Boots

Handed to Mr. Golding by Captain J. Dowdy, of the 'Castle' Mail Packets Co.

	£	s.	d.
Captain J. Dowdy, East India Docks.....	0	10	6
Portion of Proceeds of the Scotch Concert given at the People's Palace, 15th January	5	5	0
Captain G. LeSueur, s.s. "Lismore Castle".....	1	0	0
J. Searle, Esq., Port Elizabeth	1	1	0
	£7	16	6

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Gifts in Kind.

PER THE HON. SECRETARY.

Mr. Attwell, 83, King Edward Road	Eight Votes for Reedham Orphan Asylum
Mrs. Davey, 17, Walpole Road, Twickenham	Two Parcels Clothes
Mr. R. W. Reynolds, 20, Groombridge Road	Six Parcels Grocery
J. Burford, Esq., Caterham Valley	One Parcel Clothes and Boots
Mr. J. S. Forsaith, 31, Southborough Road	1500 Tickets of Admission to Children's Treat
W. H. Johnston, Esq., "Glenelg," Hadley Wood	One Parcel of Clothes and Boots
Mrs. Smyth, "Kilcarberry," Maybury, Woking	Two Parcels Boots and Clothes, and Scrap Book
H. L. Bramall, Esq., Somerset House	A Coat
F. Gilbertson, Esq., Somerset House	Four Coats
C. B. Griggs, Esq., 2, Old Broad Street	One Parcel Clothes
Mrs. Thompson, Bonner Road	One Parcel Clothes
Mrs. Wire, 22, Forest Drive West, Leytonstone	One Parcel Clothes and Boots
Mrs. White, 47, Chatham Place, Hackney	One Parcel Clothes and Boots
Mrs. Elliott, Tennyson Road, Harpenden, Herts	One Parcel Clothes and Boots
Mrs. Smith, 99, Dynevor Road, Stoke Newington	Two Parcels Clothes
J. A. Gosset, Esq., Somerset House ..	A Coat
Mr. Bellamy, 37, Gore Road	Some hundreds of Xmas Cards
Mrs. Fish, "Carlyle House," Balham Grove, Balham	One Parcel Clothes and Boots

GIFTS—PER THE HON. SECRETARY—*continued.*

Mrs. Bramall, 33, Burma Road, Stoke Newington, N.	One Parcel Clothes, Pillows, and Boots
Mrs. Hancock, 72, Tredegar Road ..	Four Parcels Clothes and Boots
Mrs. Peck and Misses George, Bury St. Edmunds	Parcels of Pillows, Garments, Coverlets, Pads, &c.
Charles Lee, Esq., "Heathfield," 108, Cazenove Road, Clapton	One Parcel Clothes
Mrs. Bayless, 329, Old Ford Road....	One Parcel Clothes
Miss Aurora Thomas, 200, Old Ford Road	Child's Bed and Bedstead
F. W. Rose, Esq., Somerset House ..	One Parcel Clothes
Anonymous	120 Half-Quartern Loaves for Children's Treat
Mr. Feist, 9, Banbury Road	500 Band of Hope and British Workman Almanacs
Mrs. Lee, 76, King Edward Road	One Parcel Clothes
Victoria Hall Juvenile Dorcas Society	Two Parcels New Clothes
A. Millard, Esq., 282, Dalston Lane..	Two Parcels Clothes, &c.
Mrs. Reay, 7, Rosemount, Wallington	One Parcel Clothes
E. West, Esq., Somerset House.....	A Coat
Mrs. Brewer, 134, Sewardstone Road	One Parcel Clothes and Boots
A Friend, per Mrs. Brewer.....	One Parcel Clothes and Boots
Mrs. G. Le Sueur, St. Helier's Villa, Foxbury Road, Stamford Hill	One Parcel Clothes
Mrs. Lenaan, 160, Sewardstone Road	Six Children's Petticoats
H. J. Wolfe, Esq., Somerset House ..	Hat, two Brushes & Gloves
Miss Dudfield, 14, Ashburn Place, Cromwell Road	Four Woollen Garments
Mrs. Latter Parsons, "Greenlands," Burgess Hill	One Parcel Pillows and Cases, Clothes and Boots
Mrs. George, 19, Church Crescent, South Hackney	One Parcel Clothes

It is this society which is Mr S.'s chief interest: indeed he spoke of it rather as his society than the churches, and its connection with the Church seems to be slight: the pamphlet entitled "The Silver of Lazarus" which is most interesting and instructive gives practically no indication that the Society is connected with any church. Mr. S. gave me an account of the Society almost in the words of the pamphlet which I insert here:-

"Job Up to Date."

COLLECTED BY HON. SEC.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. C. Sheppard, Peterborough	0	2	6
E. Pechey, Esq., "Fairfield House," Potters Bar	1	1	0
H. J. Parks, Esq., "Belmont," Bexley	1	1	0
Misses Hamshar, "Hilgay," Burgess Hill	1	2	6
A. H. Locke, Esq., Somerset House	0	5	0
F. W. Rose, Esq., "	0	10	0
J. W. Ruddy, Esq., "	0	2	6
W. A. Nathan, Esq., "	1	10	0
W. J. Allen, Esq., "	0	5	0
W. H. Jacob, Esq., "	0	2	6
"S. H." "	1	0	0
A. Craske, Esq., "	1	0	0
H. L. Bramall, Esq., "	0	2	6
A. Veasey, Esq., "	0	2	6
"J. A. G." "	3	0	0
"X. I." "	0	2	6
H. J. Wolfe, Esq., "	0	5	0
A. Gardner, Esq., "	2	2	0
A. W. Smyth, Esq., "	1	1	0
Mr. Wm. Tinker (Chas. Kinlock & Co.), Back Church Lane, Commercial Road	0	10	0
Walter Rowton, Esq., 223, Seven Sisters Road, N.	0	5	0
Mr. Blake, 17, Kenilworth Road	0	5	0
Mr. Point, 42, Groombridge Road	1	1	0
Miss Nicholls, 40, Bonner Road	1	0	0
Mr. Bellamy, 37, Gore Road	0	10	0
Mrs. Bellamy, "	0	5	0
Miss Partridge, "	0	2	6
Mrs. Fehr, "	0	2	6

COLLECTED by HON. SEC.—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Bayless, 329, Old Ford Road	0	4	0
Mr. and Mrs. King, Manchester House, 509, Lordship Lane, S.E.	0	10	0
Misses Harvey and Siggers, "Edmundsbury," Cecil Road, Boscombe	0	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. G. Eckhoff, 26, Rutland Road, N.E.	0	5	0
Miss Coe, 64, Gore Road	1	1	0
Mrs. Coe, "	0	10	0
Mr. E. Parr, 14, Bridge Street, Sunderland	0	10	0
Mr. James Townley, 12, Osbaldeston Road	0	10	0
Mrs. and Mr. Frank J. Govier, 103, Higham Hill Road, Walthamstow	0	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Crow, "Thorneycroft," Derby Road, South Woodford	0	10	0
Mrs. Hunt, 17, Loddiges Road	0	5	0
Mrs. Cranston, 77, Queen Elizabeth's Walk, Stoke Newington	0	10	0
Miss Lottie Stevens, "Broadhill," Keymer, Sussex	0	5	0
Edward Eastwood, Esq., J.P., Chesterfield	1	1	0
Mr. Jager, 72, Gratton Street, Mile End	0	5	0
Mrs. Galsford, "Dunedin," Colworth Rd., Leytonstone	0	5	0
Messrs. Murley Bros., Brushfield Street, E.C. (per Mr. Wm. Tiedeman)	0	5	0
The Clothing Company, 47 & 49, Moor Lane	0	10	6
Joseph S. Watson, Esq., Beckingham, near Gainsborough	7	0	0
Mrs. Latter Parsons, "Greenlands," Burgess Hill	0	5	0
Mr. John Wood, 100, Gore Road	0	5	0
Mr. Bull, 101, St. Thomas's Road	0	7	6
Mr. F. Pendrill, 206, Victoria Park Road	0	2	6
Mrs. Oldman, 23, King Edward Road	1	0	0
Mr. Tiedeman, 49, Locksley Street	0	7	6
Mrs. Holding, 22, Forest Drive West, Leytonstone	0	10	0
Mrs. Wire, Jun., " "	0	10	0

It is this society which is Mrs S.'s chief interest: indeed he spoke of it rather as his society than the Churches, and its connection with the Church seems to be slight: the pamphlet entitled "The Silver of Lazarus" which is most interesting and instructive gives no indication that the Society is connected with any Church. Mrs. S. gave me an account of the Society almost in the words of the pamphlet which I insert here:-

COLLECTED by HON. SEC.—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Galey, 91, Gore Road	0	5	0
Mr. Sparrow, 26, Groombridge Road	0	2	6
Mr. Cakebread, 34, Gore Road	0	10	0
Misses West, "Pendennis," Spring Grove, Isleworth	0	4	0
George A. Hasler, Esq., J.P., Penshurst Road	0	10	0
Mr. Leonard Newth, 35, King Edward Road	1	1	0
W. H. Johnston, Esq., "Glenelg," Hadley Wood	1	1	0
Chas. Cleare, Esq., "Westfield," Cazenove Road	6	3	0
Mr. and Mrs. Peck, Bury St. Edmunds	0	5	0
Per Mrs. Peck and Misses George, Bury St. Edmunds	6	6	6½
	£53	10	6½

Hospital Letters, &c. (82)

PER THE HON. SECRETARY.

Mr. Bellamy, 37, Gore Road	9 London
Rev. T. Evans, The Manse, East Cliff, Bournemouth	Letter of Admission to Hahnemann Convalescent Home, West Cliff, Bournemouth
J. J. Griffiths, Esq., J.P., Highbury Quadrant, N.	6 Adelaide
Miss King, 70, Queen's Road, Dalston	1 German
Mr. Harverson, 10, Well Street	6 Ditto
Mr. Pickard, Teignmouth Terrace, Victoria Park	2 London and 1 Adelaide

HOSPITAL LETTERS—PER HON. SEC.—*continued.*

Mr. W. Dabbs, 31, Shore Road	2 Outdoor, Victoria Park Chest
Mrs. Leach, Mowlem Street	1 Indoor ditto
W. M. Cross, Esq., 1 Change Alley	1 Surgical Aid Letter
Mr. Newth, 35, King Edward Road	2 Letters of Admission to Walton Convalescent Home
Mr. Hughes, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill	6 Outdoor, Victoria Park Chest
Victoria Park Congregational Church, Approach Road	18 Adelaide, 4 Outdoor, Victoria Park Chest, and 3 Royal Maternity Charity
Mr. C. W. Cranston, 30 Southborough Road	1 Adelaide and 1 Outdoor, Victoria Park Chest
Mr. S. Roberts, 19, Antill Road	4 Outdoor, Victoria Park Chest
Harry Punt, Esq., 131, Brooke Road, Stoke Newington	2 Ditto
Mrs. Fish, "Carlyle House," Balham Grove, Balham	2 Letters for "Santrap" Convalescent Home, High Beech
Mr. Edward Storrar, 42, Southborough Road	1 Outdoor, Victoria Park Chest
H. J. Waterlow, Esq., 24, Birchin Lane	12 Royal General Dispensary
Mr. Reynolds, 20, Groombridge Rd.	1 London

It is this society which is Mrs S.'s chief interest: indeed he spoke of it rather as his society than the Church's, and its connection with the Church seems to be slight: the pamphlet entitled "The Silver of Lazarus" which is most interesting and instructive [illegible] no indication that the Society is connected with any Church. Mrs. S. gave me an account of the Society almost in the words of the pamphlet which I insert here:-

Donations, Gifts of Left-off Clothing, or Boots and Shoes, Coal or Bread Orders, and Letters for Hospitals or Convalescent Homes, may be forwarded to the Secretary,

Mr. WILLIAM GEORGE,
19, Church Crescent,
South Hackney, N.E.;

Rev. THOMAS EVANS,
The Manse, East Cliff,
Bournemouth;

Captain J. DOWDY,
c/o Messrs. Donald Currie & Co.,
Blackwall, E.;

Or to the Author,
H. T. GOLDING,
c/o Davis & Soper,
54, St. Mary Axe,
London, E.C.;

or Woodford, Essex.

P.S.—For convenience, parcels may be sent to the Hall-keeper,

Mr. LUNNUN,
76, Bonner Road,
Bethnal Green, N.E.

It should be noted that the pamphlet is not written by Mr S. and though I fear he approves and admires it he is a much better fellow than this fact would lead one to suppose: indeed as he talked about the Society the Elders and Commonplace Deacon became to some extent transfigured and glowed with what I feel sure was a genuine enthusiasm for philanthropy. He said "There is too much mere church going most of it utterly selfish; churches ought to be barracks and training grounds to send men out to work for Christ ... Do what you can and leave the rest: don't simply sit and do nothing because you can't do all" He went on to speak of the beauty of much that he saw among the lives of the poor and told me one story which as he told it in his transfigured state sounded wonderfully beautiful: "A woman whom I visited one day took me into an upper room to see a man who was dying of consumption: she ministered to him like a nurse and spoke to him with perfect tenderness: she smoothed back his hair: I thought he was her own son: but he was a blacksmith who some months before had come up to London

with 30/ in his pocket to look for work. Work he could not find, and the horrid disease gripped him. He called at this woman's house to ask for bread: she took him in, nursed him for weeks, and buried him when he died. Yet she was a very poor woman with nine children to keep."

Asked as to his charitable methods Mr S. said he endeavoured "to combine sympathy with discrimination". People frequently come to his house to beg, but "I know the imposter in a moment". The C.O.S. he thinks is too hard and makes no allowance for sentiment, and instanced a case where they had insisted that a man should sell a clock which had belonged to his father before he could be helped.

Rev Clark Hallam
Primitive Methodist

GA Jan 27/48

10/9 CA (2) 131

Interview with Rev. Clark Hallam. Primitive Methodist Minister of Stepney Green Chapel (Tabernacle) Seen at his residence. 111 Stepney Green, E.

Mr Clark Hallam is quite different to the ordinary Primitive Methodist minister. A cultured, well-dressed man of about 40. Fair, wavy hair, trimmed whiskers, gold spectacles. Spoke deliberately, evidently weighing each question before he replied.

Character of Population

As to the population, the Jewish element is gaining rapidly but does not think that poverty has increased. The jew is never poor. His house adjoining the Stepney Green Bldgs, which are built for 178 families, of whom only about 12 would be christian. Jews are noisy. quarrel with their tongues and not with their fists. If they were English they would fight & all would be over in half an hour; as it is it is fortunate that he never wants to go to bed before midnight.

Buildings Employed

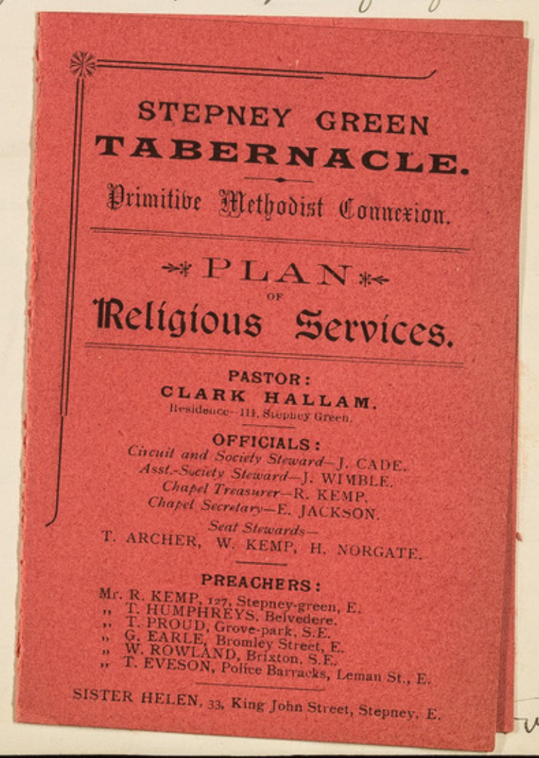
Chapel holds 1000. Schoolroom, lecture hall & 7 other rooms.

Persons Employed

Services Held.

Minister and a Sister of the people (paid)
28 Sunday School teachers and 19 other workers

Sunday School.. On Books. 281 children.
Average attendance. Morn.ᵍ 146, Afternoon 166.
- Class Meeting 10 am
. Services 11 am & 6.30. Working class congregation
2 or 3 families in better circumstances. Thin in
morning. If 100, do very well. on 250 to 300 in evening.
All come from neighbourhood except a few from Leman
Street & Shadwell.



STEPNEY GREEN
TABERNACLE.
Primitive Methodist Connexion.

PLAN
OF
Religious Services.

PASTOR:
CLARK HALLAM.
Residence—111, Stepney Green.

OFFICIALS:
Circuit and Society Steward—J. CADE.
Asst.-Society Steward—J. WIMBLE.
Chapel Treasurer—R. KEMP.
Chapel Secretary—E. JACKSON.
Seat Stewards—
T. ARCHER, W. KEMP, H. NORGATE.

PREACHERS:
Mr. R. KEMP, 127, Stepney-green, E.
" T. HUMPHREYS, Belvedere.
" T. PROUD, Grove-park, S.E.
" G. EARLE, Bromley Street, E.
" W. ROWLAND, Brixton, S.E.
" T. EVESON, Police Barracks, Leman St., E.

SISTER HELEN, 33, King John Street, Stepney, E.

Persons Employed

Minister and a Sister of the people (paid)
28 Sunday School teachers and 19 other workers

Services Held.

Sunday School. On Books. 281 children.
Average attendance. Morn.ᵍ 46, Afternoon 166.
- Class Meeting 10 am
Services 11 am & 6.30. Working class congregation
2 or 3 families in better circumstances. Thin in
morning. If 100, do very well. on 250 to 300 in evening.
All come from neighbourhood, except a few from Lemon

You are cordially invited to any and all of the Services

SERVICES.

SUNDAY.—
11 and 6.30, Preaching Service.
10 and 2.45, Sabbath School.
10 a.m., Class Meeting. Leader, R. Kemp.
3 p.m. ,, ,, ,, C. Barker.
MONDAY—
8.0, Senior Band of Hope.
TUESDAY.—
8.0, Class Meeting. Sister Helen.
8 0, Y.P.S.C.E. Prayer Meeting.
WEDNESDAY.—
7.0, "Junior Christian Endeavour" Meeting.
8.0, Class Meeting. Leader, The Pastor.
8.15, ,, ,, ,, Mr. W. Leigh.
THURSDAY.—
2.30, Penny Bank, Thrift Club, &c.
3.0, Meeting for Women.
7 0, Band of Hope.
8.0, The People's Service.
FRIDAY.—
7.30, Young Men's Association.
8.0, Young Women's Association and Friendly Society.
SATURDAY.—
Boys' Guild.

Mr. J. D. Kemp meets a Class at Parkfield, Grove Park, S.E.

Bible Classes for Men and Women are held on Sunday afternoon, at 3 p.m.

A Hearty Welcome awaits you

COMING EVENTS.

Jan. 30.—Rev. W. E. Crombie.
Feb. 10.—Ticket Renewal Service.
,, 13.—Rev. R. Robinson (Belvedere).
,, 27.—Mr. T. Carter in the evening.
March 7.—Quarterly Board Meeting.
,, 13.—Rev. G. Rudram (Stratford).
,, 27.—Mr. T. Proud in the evening.
April 3.—District Meeting Sunday.
,, 17.—Mr. MacDonald.

Church Membership

Visitation

Charitable Relief

Mothers' Meeting (Thurs) 70 or 80 mothers. No Clubs. Deprecate the "coal & blanket business". Believes some of the women attend other meetings. Mrs Hallam has seen women at different meetings she goes to take part. Women are distinctly poorer than the congregation.

Band of Hope – 55 members.

Guild for Boys under 16. meets on Saturday.

" Girls " 16. Games etc.

Churchmembership – 125 – e.g. members of classes.

Sister visits 2 or 3 streets from house to house each week. Confine their visitation now to the district allotted by the Free Church Council, of which Mrs H. is secretary. Extends westward to Jubilee Street. but not east of the Green. Mrs H. also visits but does not have much time for this work.

Relieve their own poor. Have no special fund but makes appeal to friends as the need arises. Lives £30 to £40 a year. Finds out that they are not aided by anybody & having ascertained that, he would give to any ~~class~~ cases of affliction.

Drink

Poor Law

Relation of Sexes

The Free Church Council

Drink is bad. Don't think the Jew is worthy the name he has. He can drink as hard as anybody but can stand it better

Poor Law is fairly well administered.

Large amount of indiscriminate cohabitation and young women get into trouble. See many young girls carrying babies

The Free Church Council has a large area – bounded by the City bounds, the Thames, Lea & the G.E. Rly. Maps are made out showing the areas allotted to each church, except for Bow. When this is done they will be published. Thinks the area is too large. A free church council had been started for Poplar but had fallen through, and they had to take the area into their ~~com~~ jurisdiction. He is hopeful that they may be able to revive the Poplar Council & then Mile End, Stepney &c will form a workable district.

The influx of the jews is making it difficult to get people to replace those going to the suburbs.

Those moving out are not lost to the Connexion. At Ilford & Forest Gate, churches have been practically formed from Stepney. Many of the Stepney people are officers. Does not think this migration is all good. The people lose the stimulus and associations of the old place. and also that personal influence which long residence had given them.

Pt I was favorably impressed with Mr Clark Hallam both as man and minister. He is a capable & thoughtful worker and withal enthusiastic. He practically started the Free Church Council and altho' his ~~church~~ congregation is small the people are alive and doing good work.

Mr Jas. Clark
Hope Baptist Church

GA
Jan 28/98

Congregation
mostly from a distance

Buildings Used

Persons Employed

Services Held

CA (2)

Mr James Clark, Pastor of Hope Baptist Chapel.
Norton Sheet, Bethnal Green. E.
Seen at ~~the~~ his residence: 194 Victoria Park Road. E.

Hope Chapel is situated in the dark blue patch to the north of Green Sheet. The population is ordinary labourers & very poor with here & there one or two better off.

They get some of these very poor folk but most of their people are "lower middle class and nearly all come from a distance." The people will not come ~~unless~~ unless to have no thought or care for their eternal interests".

Chapel holds about 250. Also a schoolroom.

Minister paid. 15 sunday school teachers. 8 or 10 open air preachers. About 12 voluntary workers beyond the S. S. Teachers.

Sunday. Services at 11 & 6.30. ~~Get~~ Get 200 in the evening. 150 morning – "not more".

over

Services held (cont^d)

Thursday - Preaching Service.

Monday. Cottage prayer meeting at 27 Frampton Park Rd. South Hackney.
This shows the direction from whence the people come.

Saturday. Children's meeting. Get over 100 of those from the neighbourhood. Have lantern lectures etc.

Sunday School. 180 scholars on Books. Average attendance 150 to 170. People will send their children to school. but not come themselves.

Have open air meetings during the summer to try and reach these people.

No social agencies

No social agencies. Young people cannot get home in time for meetings. Children's meeting held on Saturday because young men cannot get home soon enough on Wednesday the usual day.

Visitation

No organised visitation. Visit cases as required.

Charitable Relief

Charitable relief £20 to £25 a year. Give to members of church + congregation in cases of sickness or distress of any kind. Have personal acquaintance with the people. Much imposition now-a-days - almost leads you to steel

No Co-Operation

Membership

"Hope Baptist Chapel,
Norton Street, Queen Street,
Bethnal Green."

194, Victoria Park Road,
South Hackney, N. E.
4 February, 1898.

Dear Sir,

I am afraid there is one item of information I did not make sufficiently clear to your Secretary on Friday last, and as I wish all details to be strictly accurate I write you a line that you may take special note of this item. It is this - "All persons employed in connection with the Cause are unpaid, their work being free and voluntary. I have the pastor, and he receives a salary from the Church. Thought I had better make this quite clear. I am glad to say the interview was of a very pleasant character, that the Lord may abundantly bless you in your work and service. I am, yours sincerely in Jesus,

James Clark

I insert this letter as characteristic of the man. He evidently thought I was Pastor of the Church. I did not understand that he was paid

Mr. Charles Booth,

Clark 2

still your heart against the people. Have collections at Christmas. Investigate & deal out money to each case as they think best. Mostly cases that we have confidence in.

No co-operation with other bodies and do not come into contact with their work.

Have a membership of 97. This is an increase of 8 upon the previous year.

Mr Clark did not care to go into the general questions as he had not lived in the district long. He has known the chapel for a number of years, visiting it from time to time before he became pastor.

He is an old man, about 60, white hair & whiskers. Quiet mode of talking. Not a strong character but a good man with whom it would be difficult for anyone to quarrel. His influence must be entirely in his ~~char~~ good nature. He is a Strict Baptist and was evidently much distressed because the people of the neighbourhood live such godless lives and ignore all the churches.

10/3 C15 (2)

Interview with Mr E. T. Gladwin
(Late Hon Sec. Sydney St. Congregational
Chapel. Battersea Green) at the Office
of Mr J. E. Cheetham, 11 Queen Victoria St. E.C.
Jan. 21. 98.

The appointment was with Mr Cheetham the present Hon. Superintendent & Sec. but in his absence Mr Gladwin gave the following information.

The Chapel is now called the Sydney St. mission Church. There is no Pastor, because there are no funds. There is a debt of £80, & the financial difficulty increases as the latter of continue to exist.

At present the wife and Branch of the Y.M.C.A. unofficially is responsible for the Sunday Services, about 12 members of the congregation giving miscellaneous kinds of help during the week viz a Boys Club, a Visiting &c. But as is clear ~~not~~ but little is being done.

The Chapel holds 350, the Council underseats 200.

The Sunday morning congregations "very bad"

– under 20, + the evening perhaps averages 60 –
poor + working women. There are 70 church
members.

The mothers' meeting has been given up; +
there is no temperance work. Mr Cruickshank is
to have particulars of the Sunday School &c.

The visiting district is carried on in certain
streets adjacent to the chapel consists mainly of the
distribution of tracts + invitations to the chapel.

About £13 – yearly is given away. Mr Atkinson
augments this by £10 yearly, the London Obstetric Society
kindly giving £3.3.0 a year. They miss Mr
Hunt who's help a great deal.

No visiting is attempted.

They work quite independently, + attempt
co-operation with Grove Road Chapel but
both seem through the absence of relations that
has existed between the
minister + congregation of that place.

Mr Glennie is formerly closely connected

with the Compact. It is also to give the above particulars because the correspondence only in Queen Victoria's + proof would through his hand. There is no reason to think that the writ of injunction. The decree + a charter has not been avoided by any form + minion refused. The Justice has given me the warrants for 1884. 1885. 1890. 1896. 1897 + although they indicate decline, there is no indication that the compact has ever been an important factor. The following rules appear in the + earlier with slight alterations warrants dated as:-

RULES.

1. That the only official persons recognized in the Church are the Pastor and Deacons; and that the duty of the former be to preach the Gospel, to administer the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; to visit the sick, and to edify the Church; and of the latter, to distribute the bounty of the Church to its poor, to manage its secular affairs, to aid the Pastor in his duties, and generally to be an example of Christian excellence to the Church.

2. That the Church meet for public worship on the morning and evening of the Lord's-day, and on one evening during the week, and that the Lord's Supper be administered once a month.

3. That in the week preceding the administration of the Lord's Supper, a meeting of the Church be held after the usual service (to be confined to the Church members only), for the purpose of admitting members to the Church, exercising its discipline, and generally for conducting such Church business as may be necessary, but no member under the age of 16 be allowed to vote.

4. That in the event of the Pastorate of this Church becoming vacant, the Deacons may only introduce for that office Ministers of the Calvanistic Independent Pædobaptist Denomination, and whose tenets agree with the Articles of Faith prefixed to these rules. That the election of Pastor shall take place at a special meeting convened for that purpose, not earlier than Thursday in the week. That such special meeting shall be convened by public notice, specifying the purpose thereof, given twice on each of the two Lord's-days next preceding such meeting, at the usual time for giving notices during Divine Service. That at the meeting for the election, one of the Deacons shall preside, and all members of the Church who have been six months in full communion, and who are above 16 years of age, be entitled to vote; but no Minister shall receive a Call from the Church unless he has the votes of two-thirds of the members who are personally present at the said special meeting, and who are eligible to vote. The voting may be by ballot or otherwise, as the Church may direct. The tellers to be appointed by the Church on the day of election.

5. That the number of Deacons be decided by the Church, and be elected for life; that they shall be elected by the same mode as the Pastor.

6. That all persons desirous of fellowship with this Church shall be proposed by the Pastor; and if he report favourably as to their piety, the question of their reception shall be put to the vote, and decided by a show of hands; none to be admitted without at least two-thirds of the members present being in their favour.

7. That any member being absent from the Lord's Supper more than six months, unless from unavoidable circumstances, shall be considered no longer a member of the Church, except determined to the contrary by the votes of at least two-thirds of the members.

8. That all matters of reproof and Church discipline be exercised in strict conformity with the directions on that head contained in the New Testament, and that no Deacon or member be dismissed from office, or membership, except at a special meeting convened to consider the matter, and by the votes of at least two-thirds of the members present.

9. That no member be allowed to bring a charge or accusation against the Pastor, Deacons, or fellow-member, without having given one month's notice of the same, in writing to the Pastor or Deacons.

10. That all new business must be brought under the notice of the Pastor or Deacons, before being submitted to the Church.

11. That no alteration be made in the fore-going Rules, except two months' notice be given of such proposed alteration, and it be agreed to by at least two-thirds of the members present at a special meeting convened for the purpose.

SIDNEY STREET MISSION CHURCH,

Green Street, Bethnal Green, London, E.

COMMITTEE:

PASTOR ARCHIBALD G. BROWN
MR. J. T. JACKSON.
MR. EDWARD LEE. MR. EBENEZER LOCK.
MR. GEORGE NOKES. MR. W. A. SHEPHERD.
MR. JOHN SHORT.

All communications to

HON. SUPT.: MR. J. ERNEST CHEETHAM,
11 Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.

HON. SUPT. AND SECRETARY:
MR. J. ERNEST CHEETHAM.

HON ASSISTANT SECRETARY:
MR. J. HERBERT JOHNSON.

TREASURER:
MR. J. T. JACKSON
234 GREEN STREET E.

SIDNEY STREET MISSION CHURCH,

Green Street, Bethnal Green, E.

11, Queen Victoria Street,
London, E.C.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure to hand you herewith Balance Sheet. The Church is in *much need* of your kind sympathy and help, and I trust to be again favoured with your support. Donations may be addressed to the Treasurer, Mr. J. T. Jackson, 234, Green Street, Bethnal Green, E., or to myself.

Members of the Church and Congregation are invited to continue their aid to the Benevolent Fund and the Church Debt Fund, by payment of such weekly or monthly sums they can afford to Miss Nott, the Church Collector. Fresh subscribers are much needed.

I remain,

Yours in the Master's Service,

J. ERNEST CHEETHAM,

Hon. Secretary.

BALANCE SHEET of Sidney Street Mission Church, Green Street, Bethnal Green, London, E.

January 1st to December 31st, 1896.

Treasurer—Mr. J. T. JACKSON, 234, Green Street, Bethnal Green.
Secretary—Mr. J. ERNEST CHEETHAM, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
Assistant Hon Secretary—Mr. J. HERBERT JOHNSON.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Weekly Offerings, including amount for Communion Fund	29	11	4½
Members Quarterly Subscriptions	7	18	6
Church Anniversary Collection	3	0	0
Collections at various Social and other Meetings	3	9	8½
Endowment	12	12	0
For Hire of Schoolroom and Piano	4	13	6
Collected by Miss Nott in small sums	2	0	7½
Amount Collected in small sums	0	5	8
Collected,—Cards and Boxes	7	5	0½
Contribution from School for Gas and incidentals	4	0	0
Annual Thanksgiving Meeting	4	7	0
Donations and Subscriptions:			
Coward Trustees	10	0	0
Pastor Archibald G. Brown	10	0	0
J. T. Jackson, Esq.	5	0	0
G. F. White, Esq.	3	2	0
J. J. Colman, Esq., M.P.	2	2	0
Mr. J. E. Cheetham	2	2	0
E. Lock, Esq.	2	2	0
J. Short, Esq.	2	0	0
Self-Denial	2	0	0
Messrs. Petty & Son	1	1	0
Alderman Evan Spicer	1	1	0
John Dawson, Esq	1	1	0
Samuel Smith, Esq., M.P.	1	0	0
Wm. Keiller, Esq.	1	0	0
C. Derry, Esq.	1	0	0
Rev. E. Brown	1	0	0
W. R. Fox, Esq.	1	0	0
E. Lee, Esq.	1	0	0
W. H. Cliffen, Esq.	1	0	0
T. Bowick, Esq.	0	10	0
E. F. James, Esq.	0	10	0
H. M. Burt, Esq.	0	10	0
Capt. Clarke	0	10	0
Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett	0	8	0
E. T. Gladwin, Esq.	0	5	0
G. T. Congreve, Esq.	0	5	0
	130	12	5½
Due to Treasurer	19	19	9
	£150	12	2¼

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Due to Treasurer	29	3	0
Support of Ministry	45	10	0
Wages, Chapel Keeper	17	4	8
Gas Account	12	8	6
Organist	6	1	0
Fire Insurance	0	15	6
Builder for repairs	9	3	6
Water Rate	0	15	0
Church Poor and Cost of Communion Wine	6	1	6
Expenses of Social Meetings	3	14	7
Postage and Sundries	5	2	5
Printing and Stationery, including cost of Manuals and Appeals	10	5	10
Mottoes and Communion Cards	0	13	9
Paid School, half Mr. Short's Contribution	1	0	0
Sundry Repairs, &c.	2	12	11¼
	£150	12	2¼

Audited and found correct, W. A. SHEPHERD, *Auditor.*

Donations and Subscriptions are earnestly requested to carry on this work in East London, where it is so much needed.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Treasurer: Mrs. CHEETHAM, 41, Driffield Road, North Bow, E.
Secretary: Mr J. E. CHEETHAM, 11, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.
Assistant Secretary and Collector: Miss NOTT.

BALANCE SHEET FOR 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. J. T. Jackson	1	0	0
Mr. E. Lock	1	1	0
Mr. W. A. Shepherd	0	10	6
Mr. E. Lee	0	10	6
Mr. Short	0	10	0
Mr. J. E. Cheetham	0	10	6
Mrs. Cheetham	0	5	0
Mrs. Waters	0	5	0
Mrs. Waters	0	2	6
Mr. Nott	0	2	6
Collected by Miss Nott:—			
Mr. Bartlett	0	6	0
Mrs. Cheetham	0	4	0
Mrs. J. E. Cheetham	0	6	0
Mr. J. E Cheetham	0	4	0
Mrs G. R. Cheetham	0	2	0
Mr. G. R. Cheetham	0	1	2
Mrs. Connew	0	4	4
Mr. Cox	0	4	0
Miss M. A. Cox	0	2	0
Miss Connew	0	1	0
Miss Collin	0	1	10
Miss K. Connew	0	1	8
Mr. Cole	0	3	0
Mr. Coulson	0	6	0
Mrs. Coulson	0	6	0
Miss Deal	0	2	0
Mr. Foyson	0	2	0
Mrs. Foyson	0	1	9
Miss Harrison	0	2	1
Miss Halstone	0	1	0
Mrs. Idenden	0	2	0
Miss Idenden	0	1	2
Mr. Johnson	0	5	6
Mr. P. Johnson	0	1	0
Mrs. Juster	0	2	0
Mrs. Kitchen	0	4	2
Mrs. Lee	0	2	6
Miss Leach	0	6	0
Mrs. Masters	0	4	0
Mrs. Martyr	0	2	5
Mr. Morris	0	3	4
Mrs. Morris	0	2	0
Mr. Meek	0	1	6
Miss Nott	0	1	0
Mr. Nott	0	2	0
Mrs. Nott	0	2	0
Miss E. Nott	0	1	0
Mrs. Papps	0	1	8
Mr. Parfit	0	2	8
Sunday School (Donation)	0	5	6
Sunday School (Collection)	0	2	6
Miss Williams	0	12	0
Smaller Sums	0	3	0
	£11	10	3

BALANCE SHEET, January 1st to December 31st, 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Donations and Subscriptions	11	10	3
Annual Collection	0	11	6
Collected for Special Case	0	14	6
	£12	16	3

	£	s.	d.
Balance due to Treasurer	1	9	1½
Relief Tickets and Cash distributed, including Donation and Communion Fund	5	12	10
Outfit for Special Case	0	18	6
Christmas Gifts	3	12	0
Balance in hand	1	3	9½
	£12	16	3

Examined and found correct, W. A. SHEPHERD, *Auditor.*

MATERNAL SOCIETY.

Secretary and Treasurer: Mrs. CHEETHAM, 41, Driffield Road, North Bow, E.

BALANCE SHEET FOR 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Mrs. Castleden	0	5	0
Mrs. Cheetham	0	5	0
Mrs. J. E. Cheetham	0	9	0
Mr. G. R. Cheetham	0	4	4
Mr. Connew	0	4	4
Mr. Cousell	0	4	4
Mrs. Leach	0	5	0
Mrs. Nott	0	4	0
Mrs. G. R. Cheetham	0	4	4
Mrs. Gladwin	0	5	0
	£2	10	4

	£	s.	d.
Due to Treasurer	0	9	3¼
Distributed by Society	1	0	0
Grocery	0	10	0
Drapery	0	7	5¼
	2	6	8¼
Balance in hand	0	3	7¼
	£2	10	4

Examined and found correct, W. A. SHEPHERD, *Auditor.*

SIDNEY STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL.

(Established May, 1853)

President—Mr. J. ERNEST CHEETHAM. *Superintendent*—Mr W. NOTT. *Librarian*—Mr. W. R. HOLLAND.

Secretary and Treasurer—Mr. T. J. COX, 19, Sherrard Road, Gipsy Lane, Forest Gate.

The Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, April 28th, 1896, presided over by J. Short, Esq.

Balance Sheet for the Year ending December 31st, 1896.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance in hand		3 10 2½
Teachers' Subscriptions		1 12 5½
Xmas Tree Entertainment		1 5 3
Anniversary Services		3 11 6
Excursion Account, Donations—		
Miss Lees	1 0 0	
Rev. J. Viney	0 10 6	
Mr. H. Chappel	0 10 0	
Mr T. Connew, Jun.	0 7 6	
Mr Bartlett	0 1 0	
Mr. Foyson	0 1 0	
Readers of *The Christian* per Morgan & Scott	1 0 0	
Collected by—		
Mr A. W. Lee	6 12 6	
Mr. A. Connew	0 2 3	
Miss Emily Nott	0 3 6	
„ M. A. Cox	0 2 0	
„ S. Harrison	0 1 6	
„ S. Leach	0 2 0	
Tickets sold	10 1 5	
		20 15 2
Donations to School—		
Mr. J. Short	1 0 0	
Miss Emma Connew	0 2 0	
		1 2 0
Collected by Mrs. Coulson		0 10 0
Collections		3 16 3
From Library		0 1 1
From Church		0 2 6
		£38 6 5

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Subscription to Sunday School Union	0 10 6
Xmas Tree Entertainment	1 13 3½
Anniversary Expenses	2 11 7
Excursion Account	18 19 10
Subscription to Church Funds for Gas, Cleansing and Incidentals	2 10 0
Donations to Church	2 3 6
Table for School	0 7 6
Donation to Sidney Street Cricket Club	0 5 0
Hymn Books, Postage and Incidentals	3 4 2
For Home Missions	1 0 0
„ British and Foreign Bible Society	0 7 6
„ Sailors' Society	0 2 6
„ Sidney Street Tract Society	0 5 6
„ Hospitals	0 5 0
„ Religious Tract Society	0 10 0
„ Benevolent Society	0 8 0
„ Cleaning School	0 5 0
Oranges for Xmas Day	0 3 6
	35 12 4½
Cash in hand	2 14 0½
	£38 6 5

Audited and found correct,

J HERBERT JOHNSON, } *Auditors.*
W R. HOLLAND, }

January 11th, 1897

Mrs Thos Miller
Ashley Mission

GH
Feb 4/98

A children's

10/1

17

Mrs Thos Miller. 104 Well Street, Hackney E.
Hon. Supt. of Ashley Mission, Peel Grove, Bethnal Green.

I met Mrs M. at the Mission at 1 o'clock, when the children (233) had just taken their places for dinner. They ~~were~~ ranged from 5 to 13 years of age, the number at the upper limit being small. Boys slightly preponderated. With exception of a few little girls, all were poorly dressed and ill nourished. Some were barefooted + A peculiarity of the Bethnal Green children (said Mrs Miller) is that, however poor they are, some fool covering is worn, it may be in holes + simply absorb the wet but something they will have, a pair of mothers boots &c. One boy, I noticed as they filed out, had a pair of ladies dress slippers on - pointed toes + high heels - they were tied across the ancle.

Beside Mrs M. there was the caretaker (an old man) and 5 or 6 girls 13 to 15 years old + upon them the whole of the work fell. Mrs M. subsequently told me that these girls had been trained for this work + he preferred them to older people, who got in each others way. The dinner consisted of a thick soup with bread - two slices - the soup being

being given ad lib. . A second course, consisting of a slice of currant pudding, was given to each child as it left the building.

After grace was sung, the distribution of the soup was commenced. It was ladled out of the copper into large enamelled iron jugs by the caretaker & these were taken round the tables by the girls. This necessarily took some time - (3 minutes or so) & whilst it was being done the children who were waiting were rapping the tables with their spoons the noise beingterrific. Gradually the spoons were diverted to their proper use. Some twenty minutes were occupied in consumming the food. Then grace was sung; & three cheers given for the dinner, and the children filed out of the door, each receiving a slice of currant pudding and an almanac or booklet, when passing through the porch. The latter addition caused considerable excitement & pushing, some of the lads having to be sent back to the rear of the queue.

The tickets are distributed by the teachers of the local elementary schools and a certain number by the workers of the Missions. The whole proceeding was a violent contrast to the quiet decorum observed at the dinner I witnessed at the King Edward Schools.

—R. S. U.—
ASHLEY MISSION,
PEEL GROVE, BETHNAL GREEN.
Hon. Supt. ... ... T. MILLER,

ADMIT BEARER
—TO—
A FREE DINNER,
On FRIDAY, at 1 O'clock.
No person is allowed to buy or sell this ticket.

The Building

The Workers

Services & Social Agencies

Afterward when talking of the work, Mrs Miller said I could not have come at a worse time as they were in a muddle owing to the fact that a Robin Dinner had been given the previous evening to nearly 500 children. Most of those present on Friday had been present on the previous evening as was eliciting by a show of hands.

"R" ROBIN "S" DINNER "U"

(Offices: 37, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.)

Given by the readers of "Home Words" publications through the kindness of the Rev. Charles Bullock, B.D.

A Applegate

is invited to a

ROBIN DINNER,

WHICH WILL BE GIVEN IN THE

ASHLEY MISSION, PEEL GROVE, BETHNAL GREEN,

ON

Thursday Evening, February 3rd, 1898,

At Seven o'clock.

*** Please bring a knife and fork with you. JOHN KIRK, *Secretary.*

The mission seats about 600. Beside the Hall there are 2 small rooms below the gallery.

No paid workers except caretaker. About 35 voluntary workers, mostly drawn from the poorer class & many trained in the school.

Sunday Service. 11.15. Mostly children average about 55.

School. 3. On books nearly 800. Average attendace about 250. Teachers 22.

6 pm. Children's service

7.30. Adult service. About 170, mostly young people.

Services &c could

Monday. Mothers' Meeting. On books. 150. Average attendance 60 to 65. Clothing club. All are poor: include a number of old people receiving parish relief: wives of bootmakers & cabinet makers.
Choir practice.

Tuesday Band of Hope - junior & Senior: 75 & about 30 average attendance.
Drum & Fife Band practice.

Wed. Young Men's Bible class - about 12.
Sewing Class. About 40 girls
At 7 pm. Gospel service for elder girls

Thursday. Service. principally for children. Adults dyed to come where the children are and Mrs Miller's policy is not to neglect the children, the result being that here as in other engagements the young people almost monopolise everything

Friday. Free Dinner for about 250 children during the winter. Provided by School Dinners Assoc[n]. Costs about 1½d per head.
Senior Sewing class (8 to 9). Working girls over 14.
Drill Choir 8 to 9.30 About 40 elder girls. Attendance 30. "One of the finest in existence." Mrs H. is very proud of these girls - those who got the drums belong to the choir. They give entertainments etc occasionally

Visitation

Charitable Relief

Saturday prayer meeting – mainly workers.

No regular visitation – visit the cripples &c.

Much relief is given, mainly in food & clothing to children. Clothing and boots ~~are~~ loaned to people, these being supplied from the R.S.U. ~~Thes~~ The weekly dinner to children, occasional Robin dinners, a free christmas dinner for children – to this no child would come who had a dinner at home. Last christmas they gave 19 christmas dinners & half cwts of coal to poor families; relieved 52 cases – mostly poor old people; a tea for workers – about 30; and on Boxing day a soiree for 100 young people. Have the usual excursions in the summer and also send children to Holiday homes. Most of their relief is given to the children merely on the ground of their need. It did not appear to me that any definite inquiry was made as to the condition of the people but the relief especially the food was given mainly on the knowledge of the teachers.

No co-operation

Finance

~~No~~ co-operation with other Missions or Churches. "The ~~Rev~~ Reverend gentlemen never take any notice of Wm Fuller". Later he said that he had neither help or sympathy from the local churches. He thought they reckoned that the R.S.V. was going beyond its work when it undertook the working of the Ashley Mission. As the Hall was bound to be ~~used~~ worked on non-sectarian lines, he regarded ~~it~~ the R.S.V. as the proper agent to do the work. Wm Fn. was omitted from the Princess's local committee & entirely left out of the distribution, except that as a result of his protest some tins of Australian meat were sent from the Central Com.

The following balance sheet is taken from the R.S.V. Report.

general plan, all subscrip
ed, if desired, to a specifi
efit of Poor Children" ar
hn Kirk and Arthur J. S
on and Westminster Bank

ASHLEY MISSION. Balance Sheet 1896-7.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
...				2	3	11	By Clothing, Material, etc., for Mothers' and Girls' Meeting, Children's Dinners, Teas, Relief, etc. ...	98	5	4			
...	22	5	6½				„ Caretaker, Gas, Cleaning, etc.	50	17	9			
...	103	16	1				„ Cost of Excursion	40	7	3			
..	38	15	3½				„ Ground Rent	9	0	0			
...	34	6	0								198	10	4
				199	2	11	„ Balance				2	16	6
				£201	6	10					£201	6	10

Practically the Mission is a children's mission. It draws the bairns from the poor district with a quarter of

No co-operation

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Finance

The following balance sheet is taken from the R.S.V. Report.

ASHLEY MISSION. Balance Sheet 1896-7.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance last Annual Audit		2 3 11	By Clothing, Material, etc., for Mothers' and Girls' Meeting, Children's Dinners, Teas, Relief, etc. ...	98 5 4	
„ Collections	22 5 6½		„ Caretaker, Gas, Cleaning, etc.	50 17 9	
„ Donations and Subscriptions	103 16 1		„ Cost of Excursion	40 7 3	
„ Mothers' and Girls' Meeting	38 15 3½		„ Ground Rent	9 0 0	
„ Collection for Excursion	34 6 0				198 10 4
		199 2 11	„ Balance		2 16 6
		£201 6 10			£201 6 10

Practically the Mission is a children's mission. It draws the lambs from the poor street with a quarter

of

a mile, amongst others Mr M. mentioned Russia Lane, Lewis's Bldgs and Gale's Gardens: whilst from the east side they come from Globe Road & Jagg Street. To these poor waifs, the Mission brings some hours of enjoyment in a wretched life but except the few attending the Drill class & the Band, its permanent influence is but slight.

Mr Miller is between 40 & 50; an active, nervous man, rather shabbily dressed. Photography is one of his hobbies & he has numerous pictures of the Mission and its frequenters. Another and stronger interest is the Ashley Mission, to which he must devote a great deal of time. He is not, I should say, a good organiser and his work suffers in consequence.

Rev^d. T. B. Stephenson D.D.
The ~~Boys~~ Childrens Home, Bonner Road.

GEA
Feb. 7/98

REV. DR STEPHENSON, FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL.

Wesleyan Buildings
in East Bethnal Green

2

Rev^d. T. B. Stephenson D.D. Founder & Principal of the Boys Homes, Bonner Road, Victoria Park ~~E.~~

D^r Stephinson has a pleasant manner and nice voice. Speaks deliberately and makes a pause ~~between~~ before answering a question, evidently framing his reply. When he spoke his sentences came freely in well chosen words & he never hesitated as to the choice of a word.

He did not wish to enter into any account of the church work, concerning which he preferred that M^r Gregory should speak, his connection with the Circuit being an honorary.

The Buildings connected with the the circuit are:

Church & Schools in Approach Road
Gordon Hall, Globe Road.
Mission Hall, Bonner Street
} See M^r Gregory

Childrens Mission do do (Twigg Folly) - M^r Williams Supt.

The other buildings belonging to the Wesleyans are:

The Deaconesses Institute, Newburn House, 84 Bonner Road.

The Wesley Deaconess Institute

The Influence of the Children's Home

Character of People

The Children's Homes, which include the greater part of the block bounded by Approach Rd, Bishops Rd, Albert Rd and Bonner Rd except the houses fronting Approach Rd
The Children's Hospital, Bonner Road.

The Wesley Deaconess Institute has usually 9 or 10 deaconesses in residence. They are being trained for work in all parts of the world. It is independent of the Church but is practically worked in connection with it. The deaconesses visit in the district under the direction of Mrs Gregory.

The Children's Home is not a powerful local influence. It secures for them the good will of the people; arouses sympathy and makes approach to them easier, but apart from this it is not a local influence except that the officials work in the neighbourhood. The Children's Home has (9 see) 31 members of the Wesleyan Church: this would ~~gauge~~ gauge its power in this direction.

The people, Dr S. regards as exceedingly poor: a large part lying quite outside religious influence. Poorest south

No co-operation with
Anglican Church

Nor with in Charitable Work

The C.O.S.

Charitable Relief

of Old Ford Road. Victoria Park forms a natural division.

No formal co-operation except with the neighbouring non-conformists in the way of religious intercourse, interchange of pulpits &c.

A similar remark applies to the charitable work but the isolation is more complete. Have a representative on the local C.O.S. Dr S. does not regard the C.O.S. very favourably. Whilst they are doing some good things they are not able to act promptly, nor so advantageously and effectively as is desirable.

Do a good deal of relief work, mostly thro' a Social Agencies Committee connected with the church. Give people work; provide dinners for poor workhouse folk on Sundays this the result of a rule of the house by which paupers going in to dinner on Sunday were compelled to remain in. This resulted in many of them sitting about in Victoria Park hungry rather than give up their holiday.

Their principle is necessity — cases of

sickness

Local Govt.

Police

Drink

sickness, out of work, or absolute poverty. Endeavouring to obtain a fuller idea of what Dr S. meant by 'necessitous cases' the Dr told me of a young woman in one of Mrs Stephenson's classes, who for a whole week only had a piece of bread.

All in a perpetual difficulty owing to the overcrowding of the workhouse. The new infirmary now being built may relieve this. Real reason is that the guardians are an inferior sort of men: constant petty squabbles and the few men who might be expected to take up that work are over head & ears in other work. He, his wife & daughter had been asked to ~~take up~~ take up this work but they could not give the time.

Police equally good & bad as the rest of London. No flagrant scandals but on other hand, they are bribed by the publicans.

Drink is perfectly dreadful - It is the head & front of the offending. Replying to a question, Dr S. said that directly or indirectly

Prostitution

Crime

Marriage

Thrift

Health

two thirds of the children in the homes were injured by drink. In many cases the parents were respectable until degraded by drink.

Prostitution does not prevail extensively.

Crime – nothing definite except brawling of which there is a good deal.

Many people living together unmarried. An enormous proportion of early marriages; not so much amongst the people attending the church. Does not think they are forced marriages but attributes it to sheer recklessness – want of thought.

Thrift is growing. Two large state clubs – one been working 15 yrs. It is easy to talk of recklessness and want of thrift amongst the people. Often it is want of judgement and want of experience. ~~and ma is~~ The girls have had no training in domestic matters.

Nothing definite to say as to health except that a low vitality is general arising from the want of sufficient food.

The Results of
27 Years changes

Social

Religious

Educational

Prospects of Church Work

During the 27 years the Dt has been here, there has been improvement - not attributable to one cause but the general movement has been in favour of more decent conditions of life - A general up lift of the standard - partly due to the work of the County Council. more open spaces &c. Doubts very much whether the people are more religious, but it is very unfair to judge by the standard of religious life & observance. "We have between 500 & 600 women who attend the mothers meetings. A great many dont go to church on Sunday yet to say that they were entirely without religion would be a slander." As a result of the School Boards work, they do not get so many cases of crass ignorance but does not think that the effect of education upon the youths & maidens has been what was hoped. They have not been to continuation schools and much they had learnt has slipped from them. May be remedied in the rising generation.

As to the prospects of Church work, there is no special element of hopefulness. Certainly all our Churches (Wesleyan) & largely the Church of England are adapting themselves

themselves more to the social needs of the people and therefore is likely to be more powerful. They are preparing for greater usefulness. The churches are turning themselves to this work because of increased interest in the people ? ~~not~~ rather than because the people are demanding it. Does not know of any great religious movement amongst the people.

Dr Stephenson gave me a copy of "Into the Highways & Hedges" a monthly magazine issued by the Homes & also the 28th Report. From these I have taken the following extracts.

Statistics of ~~Boys~~ Homes

STATISTICS FOR 1896-7.

Total number passed through the Home	3079
Total number now resident	964
Total number received to 31st March, 1896	4043

Disposals.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM—

To Situations, or the care of Friends, &c.	1392
Adopted	57
Died	114

...General Fund, the London Bran...
...untants, 103, Cannon Street, E.C.
...nch by Messrs. Ferguson & Coop...
Branch by Messrs. W. F. Bridg...
...by Mr. J. C. Looney, Accountant
...ch by Mr. Greene, Accountant, of

themselves more to the social needs of the people and therefore is likely to be more powerful. They are preparing for greater usefulness. The churches are training themselves to this work because of increased interest in the people; ~~not~~ rather than because the people are demanding it. Does not know of any great religious movement amongst the people.

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Disposals.

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM—		
To Situations, or the care of Friends, &c.	1392	
Adopted	57	
Died	114	
		1563
BY EMIGRATION—		
To Canada	1470	
To Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, &c.	46	
		1516
		3079

Resident 31st March, 1897.

London Branch	374	Bonner R?
Edgworth ,,	209	
Milton ,,	141	
Birmingham ,,	136	
Ramsey ,,	45	
Canadian ,,	25	
Emigration ,,	34	
	964	
Additional Children resident during the year	169	
Other Children and young women benefited by the Agency Home during the year	49	
At the Holiday House, Edgworth	52	
Total dealt with during the year		1234

The following is a statement of children admitted and sent out during the year:— to Bonner Road Branch —

Admitted	114
Sent out—	
To situations, friends, etc.	52
To Canada	9
Adopted	13
Died	2
	76

The following summary Dr S. mentioned as giving a fair short account of the Home.

The Income of the Homes is about £24000 a year and in the year ending March 1897 was slightly exceeded by the expenditure.

THIS day—**January 1st, 1898,**—"The Children's Home" is sheltering more than **One Thousand Children,** in its **thirty-eight houses,** and **four hospitals.** These houses are grouped, forming **Colonies** or **Villages,** of which there are Six in England and One in Canada. At **three** of these Branches there are **Farms,** which with all the work incidental to them, give training in many useful employments to the boys. At other Branches, **indoor occupations** are provided for the boys, and the girls are trained in ways suitable to their sex and strength. Most of them become **domestic servants,** a few become **sempstresses** or **teachers.** To the religious training constant and earnest attention is given, as **personal religion** is held to be the best foundation and support of a well-ordered, happy, and useful life. **Religion, Home Life, Industrial Training,**—these are the three corner-stones of the system. About **one-eighth** of our children—chiefly the youngest—are **"boarded out"** in villages. About **one in three** of the children **emigrate,** nearly all to Canada, where our own agency for the care and supervision of them is maintained. One house is devoted to the reception and help of Epileptic Children, a peculiarly trying and difficult task. The children are **"orphan,"** by the loss of one or both parents; or **"outcast,"** through the helplessness, the vice, or the neglect of their relatives. These last, however, are not received until every effort has been made to bring such relatives, if they can be found, to a sense of their duty. **The children are received on the one ground of their need. Neither age, sex, locality, denomination, or nationality, is suffered to shut any child out.**

Non conformist Children
in the Workhouses

Our Missions.

THE Children's Home has always been a Home Missionary enterprise, and growing out of its life there have been several missionary enterprises. Indeed, each Branch, in its own way, is a Home Missionary centre. Amongst the scattered farmhouses of the Lancashire Moors, many a helpful message has been carried by the workers at the Lancashire Branch. The Princess Alice Branch supplies a centre of religious life and influence to a considerable neighbourhood. At Alverstoke we sustain the only Nonconformist services within reach of the people. And all this is good—good for those who are constantly at work within The Children's Home, as well as for those who are reached and benefited by our efforts.

District missionary work is, however, carried on in London. At Gordon Hall much blessing has attended the work during the year, especially in the conversion of a large number of intelligent workingmen. New elements of life and power are, by the grace of God, appearing in this Mission which will probably secure for it a strong and vigorous future. Our Children's Mission at Bonner Lane is still faithfully carried on by Mr. Williams and his helpers. Many hundreds of the poorest children of the East End are gathered habitually for services, and in various ways are helped to a better life. Many interesting proofs of the value of this effort are constantly appearing. Some of the lads there are already reaching positions of comfort, and even distinctions in life, but this very fact renders it undesirable that, at present, the details of their history should be given.

In co-operation with the Church at Victoria Park and the Wesley Deaconess House, we are also carrying on very successful meetings at our Bonner Lane Hall. In addition to the services, a large amount of visiting in the neighbourhood regularly takes place by the Sisters, and classes for young women have been remarkably successful during the winter. Here again there is much ground for encouragement and hope. It should be mentioned that in connection with these missionary enterprises we find admirable practising schools for our young men and women who are connected with The Children's Home, especially those who are retained, for some extra years, in our several industrial departments. By this means of introduction to Christian work, several have already reached responsible positions in the Church of God. There is nothing which is so likely to attach young people to the cause of Christ as getting them practically interested in Christian work. Anything that does this is not only a gain to the cause of Christ, but a valuable carrying forward of the training work which is done for the children in The Children's Home.

Non conformist
in the Workh

Our Girls' Helpful Society.

OUR Girls' Helpful Society still does its quiet and unobtrusive work. The necessity for it is not less than when it was commenced. It will be remembered that it sprang out of the uprising of moral feeling occasioned by the horrible disclosures which led to the enactment of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. Now that the excitement and horror of that time has much passed away, it may be supposed that the necessity for special measures to protect girls and young women has become less. On the contrary, it is greater; for when the public mind is inflamed with indignation against wrong, it is on the alert against that wrong. When there is no such strong feeling, the wrong can be perpetrated more easily. The very fact that many eyes are now closed which were open makes it necessary that some should continue to be specially vigilant. We greatly regret that this department of our work cannot be wrought with much greater vigour, but this could only be accomplished by a much larger expenditure, both of money and strength, and for this the pressing demands on our work amongst the children have hitherto given us no opportunity. But so far as it is carried on the work is of the highest value. We have several groups of lady associates in different parts of the country with which we can correspond, and who can correspond with each other in behalf of any girl who is, in any way, in peril. Enquiries are made confidentially as to the character of situation offered. Girls are met and safely guided through dangerous points of travel, and in scores, and even hundreds of cases yearly we see the advantage of having such an agency at hand. It costs but little. The net expenditure last year was only £158 12s. 7d. The good that it accomplishes, and the evil that it prevents, is an abundant justification for the labour and cost that it involves.

Our Old Boys and Girls.

ONE more department of work. We have always felt it to be our duty to keep in touch with our old boys and girls. They greatly need it. When they leave our care they are at once thrown into new conditions of life, they form new acquaintances, they are exposed to many new temptations, they greatly need advice, guidance, help.

It is now a good many years since we formed our Corps of Honour, which consists of those who have left our work for situations in England, and who from the age of seventeen years to twenty conduct themselves honourably in accordance with the rules

20

The following is from Dr Stephenson's notes preceding the Annual Report. As the subject is being taken up largely & may be carried out soon I include this summary here fs

XIV. Perhaps the most important and fruitful incident of the year, however, has been the commencement of an effort to provide for those children of Christian parentage who are found in the workhouses of this country. We do not mention here children belonging to the Church of England, for, being the Established Church, it has a recognised position in all workhouse schools, for its clerical and other representatives, and an opportunity of training its own children according to its mind in religious matters. Moreover, it is wealthy enough and willing enough to do for its own children what it believes to be its duty. I speak, therefore, only of Nonconformist, and specially of Methodist children. I have long held it to be a dishonour to our Christianity that any child of Christian parents should be allowed to sink into the pauper ranks, and wear the pauper uniform; but it is only within the last two or three years that I have dared to dream it possible that every Nonconformist child should be taken out of the workhouse schools, and none in the future be permitted to enter. I am now speaking for myself, and represent only generally the sentiment of the Committee, which has not yet considered the details of the scheme, though it has accepted the principle involved; and we are already, on a small scale, giving some effect to it. I have taken pains to estimate carefully the probable number of Methodist children—that is, children who by hereditary attachment to our Church, or by connection with our Sunday Schools, or for other reasons, may fairly claim to belong to the several Methodist Churches in this country who are in the workhouse schools. There are no statistics which enable anyone to fix accurately these numbers. My estimate is, therefore, but an estimate; yet it is a very careful one, and the processes by which it has been made are being published, and will be gladly put into the hands of anybody who is interested in the matter. I can only now give the result and not the processes. I believe that there are in the workhouse schools of this country about 1,500 children belonging to the various Methodist Churches, and about 2,000, if the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist Churches are added. I cannot here give you the reasons why in my belief the Methodist children in workhouse schools exceed in number those claimable by the sister denominations. I will only say that the reasons are not in any way discreditable to Methodism. Now let us for the moment deal with the fact! 1,500 Methodist children in workhouse schools! A child in The Children's Home costs, let us say, £15 a year each, for the cost per head would be less if the numbers were larger. If we were to undertake at our own charge to receive these 1,500 children into our care, we should have to spend

£22,500 a year. But do not be alarmed. The Methodists are ratepayers, they pay their full share of the rates, and they have a right that their children in need shall benefit from the public funds as much as the children of the rogue or the vagabond. Now there exists a law which makes it possible for the Guardians of the Poor to contribute, within certain limits, to the support of children who would be resident in the Union Schools, if they were not received, as they may be, into Christian institutions certified as suitable by the Local Government Board. The average amount likely to be received from Boards of Guardians may be taken at £10, that sum being well within their powers. At once £15,000 of the cost is provided, leaving £7,500 only to be subscribed by the Christian public. Do you see what it means? It means that if you will put £7,500 a year additional into the hands of Mr. Vanner, we will take every Methodist child in England out of the workhouse schools, we will receive every child into our care, surround him with the Christian atmosphere in which his parents delighted, free him from the pauper taint and brand, and start him forth in life to serve the God of his fathers. Make it £10,000, and we will so deal with every Nonconformist child who is in a workhouse. £10,000! The sum is ridiculously small in comparison with the purpose to be achieved.

****

There is, however, one other element to be considered. We should need for these children, 1,500 of them, 120 cottages, to cost £500 each. I have carefully examined this matter and taken advice, and I know it can be done. We have room for many of these cottages already on our estates. Then, surely, other estates would be given to us for such a purpose, on which we could establish other Branches of our work. One hundred and twenty people to give us a cottage at £500 each? Are there not fifty towns in England in which people would put together their gifts for the erection of one such cottage? £60,000 in five years for the erection of one hundred and twenty cottages, in each of which a dozen children of Christian birth may be saved from the brand of pauperism, and trained in the love of God and man, and, as a consequence, no Methodist child, no Nonconformist child, ever hereafter allowed to be brought up under the workhouse *régime!* Do not tell me about difficulties; I know them better than you do. Do not worry me about details; patient thought and care will grapple with and conquer them. But look at the object to be achieved. Think of the honour done thereby to Christianity. Think of the appeal in such a fact as this to the conscience of the nation. Think of the evidence of Christianity which

Mr Williams
Children's Mission, Bonner Street.

G.H.A.
Feb 7/98

C/A (2)

H.C.
Mr. Williams, Supt of Children's Mission,
Twig Folly Schools, Bonner Street.

Mr Williams is a young man holding some position at the Homes, ~~probably~~ to whom Dr Stephenson passed me on after the interview. He shewed me over the Homes, - Thin & energetic - about 24 years old. Was brought up in the Homes. As we passed through the Laundry he said that one of the rooms used to be his bed room.

The Building

The Childrens Mission is held in Twig Folly Schools, which are shared by the Wesleyan & Congregationalists (See Interview with Mr George p. 119). There are two halls holding 250 & 150 respectively. They (Wesleyans) meet in Sunday evening & 2 night (sometimes 3) a week. Have a small chapel adjoining holding 250 when adults meetings are held - Mr Gregory will speak of this

Persons Employed

Besides Mr W. there are about 12 workers. Come from the Home or Gordon Hall.

Meetings Held

Hold a Children's Service on Sunday 6.30. Both rooms nearly full, juniors in smaller Room.
Average 350.

Meetings held (cont^d)

Tuesday. Boy's Club for elder boys attending the Service 12 & 20. attendance
Thursday. Girls Guild - Games & social intercourse. Average 25.
On Fridays Magic Lantern entertainment occasional. Room full.
About to start a Boy's Brigade.

The Children

A few of the children go to Sunday School in the afternoon but many belong to an indifferent class, and "go nowhere". They can get into the Park during the day. Girls are fairly clean, the boys more ragged but not the regular dirty children they had a few years ago. There has been an improvement in the children.

Draw the children from Tagg Street, Hessel Place, Complete with the Ashley Mission and St James's school in Stewardstone Road. e.g. if children are away for a few weeks, they generally find they had been attending one of these places. Practically all the children come from the north side of Green Street.

St James the Less Parish

Mrs Ditchfield has been successful so far as men are concerned.

Rev^d Arthur E. Gregory.
Victoria Park Wesleyan Church.

Gilt
Feb 10/98

Impressions on Returning to District

Hostility to Religion declined

10/1

(2)

Rev^d Arthur E. Gregory, 33 Gore Road. N.E.
Minister of the Wesleyan Victoria Park Circuit.

I found Mr Gregory confined to his bedroom, suffering from a bad cold. He had been unwell but kept at his work until he was forced to keep his room. Evidently he did not believe in being idle. He was seated in an easy chair with a small table by his side cumbered with several books and on the bed lay a bundle of proofs.

Mr G. is a tall fair man of about 40. Very pleasant face, light beard, keen bright eyes. Speaks decidedly and somewhat rapidly. Evidently a keen active and cultured man.

He was connected with the district 20 years ago and on his return several things impressed him very strongly. He had visited it occasionally in the interim on work connected with the Home &c.

One was the extraordinary failure of the Bradlaughite element. At that time there was a much more robust hostility to religion. In Sheep Lane almost every man attended the Hall of Science, Old Street on Sundays. He took a great interest in that street, visited

from

from door to door. Had been pelted there and hoo-ed at by the young women. People were mostly bootmakers. Canon Ingram at the Church Congress said "there is no atheism in Bethnal Green" & he could endorse the statement. Now there is a dead level of coarseness but not the villeness of conduct that characterised the past. The deaconesses can go anywhere. Attributes change partly to the increased poverty. - they regard you as a general helper - and also to the consciousness they have that the visitor is a friend, and this makes them more friendly.

Another thing was the number of people living lonely lives - one woman in one room etc. Has instituted a gathering for the lonely and generally have from 60 to 80 present. He was secretary for the Princess of Wales' Fund for East Bethnal Green. They distributed 1400 dinners e.g parcels; of these 900 were small parcels intended for one or 2 persons - majority were for one. Widows, deserted wives (many) & some young men. The elder men go to lodging houses.

Number of "Lonely People"

Buildings Used

In connection with the circuit they have:
Approach Road Chapel (1000). Double school room at back with infant school beneath - used for day school.

Services Held

Gordon Mission, Globe Road. Holds 500 to 600.
Small Hall, Bonner St.

Plan fo

TIMES AND PLACES.		2
Morning Lessons		Deut. xxvi. Romans xii. Num. ix. 15-2 Luke xix. 1-5
Evening Lessons		
Psalms		
200 to 500		
VICTORIA PK. CH.	11	Stephenson Curnock Week of Prayer.
	6½	
Tuesday	8	
Fri., Public Service	8	
CHILDREN'S HOME CHAPEL..	9½ 3	Pendlebur
GORDON HALL ..	11	Thom Gregory Week of Prayer.
	7	
Wednesday	8	
Saturday	8	
BONNER STREET (Children's Mission) ..	6½	Pamment
SMALL HALL ..	7	Nicholls
80		
150 to 200.		
GUARDIAN ASYLUM.	11	Filmore
	6½	
Tuesday	7	Sis. Rita
ALVERSTOKE ..	11	Stone
	6½	Stone

B. Sacrament of Baptism.
S. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

HEAD MISTRESS: Miss L. HAYWOOD,
Certificated Mistress by the Committee of Council on Education, by the Science and Art Department, and First-Class Kindergarten Teacher.
ASSISTANT MISTRESS: Miss E. HYETT,
Certificated Teacher.
VISITING MASTERS:
FRENCH—MONSIEUR LOOMAN.
SINGING—MR. W. C. HARRIS.
SHORTHAND—MR. GEORGE WELLS.

Both Schools earn the highest possible Grant in all subjects. The Rev. F. Synge, M.A., H.M. Senior Inspector, says:—
"The discipline, attention, and condition of the School are very satisfactory. The instruction is intelligent, and the Staff are giving good assistance to the Head Master."

The Upper School

FOR SCHOLARS OVER SEVEN YEARS OF AGE.

In this Department the Course of Instruction is designed to prepare the Pupils for the Practical and Commercial duties of life, and comprises the elements of a sound MIDDLE CLASS EDUCATION.

TERMS: 3d., 4d., and 7d. per Week, according to Class, or 2s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 6s. 6d. per Quarter.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE:
Mornings 9 to 12. Afternoons 2 to 4.40.

Infants' School.

The Course of Instruction in this Department is adapted to the capacity of Children between the ages of three and seven, and is intended to prepare them for the Upper School.

TERMS: 2d. per Week, or 1s. 9d. per Quarter.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE:
Mornings 9.30 to 12.15. Afternoons 2 to 4.15.

Full Prospectus on application at the Schools.

THE
henson" Slate Club
the WESLEYAN SCHOOLROOM,
oad, Victoria Park, N.E., every Mon-
ay Evening, from 8 to 9.30.
Night, MONDAY, January 3rd, 1898.
, 6d. per Week. Benefits in Sickness:
LINGS per Week for Eight Weeks;
Eight Weeks. (See Rules.)
T of money in hand a week before
Applications to join should be made
e Secretaries.
. HUMPHRIES,
proach Road, Victoria Park, N.E.,
C. SNOAD,
, Bishop Road, Cassland Road, N.E.

WESLEYAN
r Grade Schools,
CH ROAD, VICTORIA PARK, N.E.
ined by Her Majesty's Inspectors, and in
h the Science and Art Department, South
Kensington.
. B. STEPHENSON, D.D., LL.D.
NT: REV. ARTHUR E. GREGORY.
E. H. TEMPLE, ESQ.
JAMES A. WALKER, ESQ.
R: MR. HENRY M. WELLS,
ss Certificated Master by the Committee of
on Education, and by the Science and Art
ent.
ASTER: MR. W. HUMPHRIES,
Certificated Teacher.

The Children from the Home attend the services at Victoria Park Church. Apart from these, the congregation is purely middle class - clerks and shopkeepers &c.. A few very well to do. Congregation: Morning 500, of whom 200 adults Evening 600 to 700, of whom 350 to 400 are adults. Have separate service for younger children in the morning.. Improving

Gordon Mission, Globe Road. Holds 500 & 600.
Small Hall, Bonner St.

Plan for Divine Worship of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Victoria Park Circuit.—1898.

TIMES AND PLACES.	JANUARY.					FEBRUARY.				MARCH.				NAMES AND ADDRESSES.
	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27	
Morning Lessons	Deut. xxvi. Romans xii. Num. ix. 15-23. Luke xix. 1-27.	Isaiah li. Matt. v. 33-48. Isaiah liv. Acts v. 17-42. Psalm cxxxv.	Isaiah lv. Matt. ix. 18-38 Isaiah lxi. Acts ix. 23 43.	Isaiah lxii. Matt.xiii. 24-52 Isaiah lxv. 5. Acts xiv. Ps. cxxxvi.	Job xxvii. Mt. xvi24-xviii13 Job xxviii. Acts xviii. 1-23	Gen. i. & ii. 1-3. Rev. xxi. 1-8 Gen. ii. 4-25 Rev. xxi. 9 to xxii. 5.	Gen. iii. Matt. xxiv.29-51 Gen. vi. Acts xxvii 18-44 P. cxxxvi-cxxxviii	Gen. ix. 1-19. Matt.xxvii.27-56 Gen. xii. Romans iv.	Gen. xix 12-29 Mark ii. 13-35 Gen. xx. 1 19 Rom. ix. 19-23. Psalm cxxix.	Gen. xxvii. 1-40 Mark vii. 1-16. Gen. xxviii. Rom. xv. 8 33.	Gen. xxxvii. Mark xi. 1-11. Gen. xl. 1 Cor. vi. 1 12. Psalm cxl-cxli.	Gen. xlii. Mark xiv.53 65. Gen. xliii. 1 Cor. xi. 17-29.	Ex. iii. Luke ii 21-40. Ex. v. 1 Cor. xvi. Ps. cxlii-cxliii.	REV. T. B. STEPHENSON, D.D., LL.D., The Children's Home, N.E.
Evening Lessons														,, A. E. GREGORY, 33, Gore Rd., N.E.
Psalms														,, N. CURNOCK, Southend.
VICTORIA PK. CH. 11	Stephenson	Gregory	Burden	Gregory	Stephenson	Gregory	Geden	Stephenson	Hodge	Stephenson	Lofthouse	Gregory	Gregory T	MR. E. HYDER, 33, Strahan Rd., Grove Rd.
Tuesday 8	Curnock	Gregory	Gregory	Gregory	M. C. B.	Stephenson s	Gregory	Thom	Stephenson	Gregory s	Gregory	Gregory L.	Stephenson T	,, J. PENDLEBURY, M.A., 7, St. Agnes Terrace, N.E.
Fri., Public Service 8	Week of Prayer.	Gregory †	Gough	Barber	Stephenson	Gregory †	Gregory	Gregory	H. M. M.	Chase	Gregory	Gregory	Bird	,, W. T. GOUGH, Bonner Road.
		Gregory	Stephenson	Gregory		Gregory	Stephenson		Stephenson	Gregory	Stephenson	Gregory	Stephenson	,, H. BOTTRILL, 82, Bonner Rd, N.E.
CHILDREN'S HOME 9½														,, J. FERGUSON, 2, Cornwall Road, N.E.
CHAPEL.. 3	Pendlebury	Student	Gregory Burden	Horner	Gregory	Stephenson	Geden	Stephenson Gregory	Hodge	Horner	Lofthouse	Gregory Bottrill	Stephenson	,, W. W. RHODES, 25, Bonner Rd., N.E.
														,, F. HORNER, 39, King Edward Rd., N.E.
GORDON HALL .. 11	Thom	Student	Gregory	H.C.Williams	Gregory	Rhodes	Gregory	Chase	Bottrill *	Gregory	Gough	Horner	Hyder	,, A. E. BIRD, 56, Gore Road, N.E.
7	Gregory cs	Student	Bird	Filmore	Stephenson s	Gregory	Geden	Ferguson	Gregory s	Stephenson	Lofthouse	Sis. Mildred	Gregory L.	,, H.C.WILLIAMS, The Children's Home.
Wednesday 8	Week of Prayer.	Temp. Mtg.	F. M.	Deaconess	Bottrill	Gregory	Gregory †	Gough	Bird	Hyder	Chase	Filmore	Gregory	,, J. THOM, 2, Beulah Cottages, N.E.
Saturday 8		Land	Parker	Sis. Mildred	Housman	Pamment	Violen	White	Deaconess	Parker	Housman	Sis. Mildred	Chase	,, G. FILMORE, 1, Kenton Road, N.E.
BONNER STREET (Children's Mission) .. 6½	Pamment	Deaconess	H.C.Williams	Bird	Thom	Brown								,, J. CHASE, 1, Devonshire Street, E.
						W. R. Horner	Deaconess	Horner	Clements	Bird	Filmore	Deaconess	H.C.Williams	ON TRIAL.
SMALL HALL .. 7	Nicholls	Hyder	Burden	Ferguson	Pamment	Gough	Giblett	Hayes	Filmore	Phillips	Chase	Bottrill	Hu. Williams	MR. J. G. PAMMENT, Russia Lane.
GUARDIAN ASYLUM. 11	Filmore		Chase			Bottrill		Sis. Caroline		Wrigley		Sis. Rita		FROM OTHER CIRCUITS.
6½		Horner	Sis. Edith					Thom			Horner	Pilmore		MR. W. FORSTER, 36, Narford Rd., Clapton.
Tuesday 7	Sis. Rita	Mrs. Cave	Gregory	Mrs. Horner	Sis. Annie	Mrs. Davis	Sis. May	Deaconess	Chase	Sis. Edith	Deaconess	Mrs.Steph's'n	Wrigley	,, J. T. BURDEN, Hendon.
ALVERSTOKE .. 11	Stone	Rhodes	Riley	Stone	Sis. Annie	Bird	Upson	Bottrill	Stone	H.C.Williams	Local *	Stone	Horner	DEACONESSES:
6½	Stone	Rhodes	Dixon s	Stone	Sis. Annie	Bird	Smith	Bottrill	Stone	H.C.Williams	Supply	Stone	Horner	SISTER RITA HAWKINS.
														,, MILDRED HOMER.
														,, JEANIE BANKS.
														,, MAY WATKINS.
														,, CAROLINE GREGORY.
														,, ANNIE PAUL.
														,, EDITH PEARSON.

REFERENCES.

B. Sacrament of Baptism.
S. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
T. Collections for Church Trust Funds.
L. Lovefeast.
† Leaders' Meeting.

The Offerings at the Sunday Services are devoted as follows: Usually two in the Quarter for objects specially indicated; one for the Church Trust Funds; eight for the support of the Ministry; and two for the Connexional Funds of The Methodist Church, viz: The Fund for the Education of Ministers' Children; The Theological Colleges; The Fund for Training Christian Teachers, supporting Sunday Schools and other Educational objects; The Fund for Retired and Aged Ministers: and The General Chapel Fund. The balance of these Incidental Offertories is devoted to Circuit Purposes.

The Children from the Home attend the services at Victoria Park Church. Apart from these, the congregation is purely middle class - clerks and shopkeepers etc. A few very well to do. Congregation: Morning 500, of whom 300 adults Evening 600 & 700, of whom 350 & 400 are adults. Have separate service for younger children in the morning. Improving

Society Classes.

CLASSES FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

Leader.	Time.	Place.
VICTORIA PARK CHURCH, Approach Road—		
Mr. G. Filmore, 1, Kenton Rd.	Sun. 9½	No. 3 Vestry
Mr. Hyder, 33, Strahan Road..	„ 3	Min. Vestry
Mrs. Williams, 2, Penshurst Rd	Mon. 7	No. 7 „
Mr. T. Martin, 24, Gotha St. ..	„ 8	No. 7 „
Mrs. Lock, 142, Bishop's Road.	„ 8	No. 2 „
Mrs. Gathercole, 4, Beulah Cot.	Wed. 3½	Min. „
Mrs. Childe, 43, Lauriston Rd.	„ 2½	Own House
Mr. Nicholls, 40, Bishop's-rd .	„ 8	No 8 Vestry
Miss E. Wrigley, 21, Holcroft-rd	„ 8½	Ch. Parlour
Sister Annie Paul	„ 8	No. 8 Vestry
Sister Minnie Wildman	„ 8½	No. 1 „
Rev. A. E. Gregory	Thu. 8	Ch. Parlour
Mr. Horner, 39, King Ed. Road	„ 8½	Own House.
Sis. Rita Hawkins, Mewburn H.	„ 8	Lo. Sch-rm.
Mrs. Lock, Bishop's Road ..	„ 8	No. 2 Vestry
THE CHILDREN'S HOME—		
Miss McDougall	Tu. 7	Chil. Home.
Dr. Stephenson	Thu. 8	Ch. Parlour
GORDON HALL—		
Sister Mildred Homer	Sun. 3½	Gordon Hal.
Sister Kate Thompson ..	Tu. 8	„
Mr. Housman, Leatherdale St	Tu. 8½	„
Sister Phyllis Pendlebury ..	„ 8½	„
Mrs. Housman	Wed. 3	„
Mrs. Bothwell	Thu. 8	„

23

JUNIOR CLASSES.

Leader.	Time.	Place.
APPROACH ROAD—		
Mr. Pamment	Mon. 7	ClassRoom
Sister Caroline Gregory	Wed. 7	No. 1 Vestry
THE CHILDREN'S HOME—		
Mr. Stone	Tu. 7	The Home
Sister Dora Stephenson	Tu. 7	„
Miss McDougall	Tu. 7	„
Sister Margaret Collier	Tu. 7	„
Sister Minnie Wildman	Tu. 7	„
Sister Annie Pendlebury	Tu. 7	„
Sister Theta Stormer	Tu. 7	„
GORDON HALL—		
Mr. A. Bird	Wed 7	

For Bible, Catechumen and Singing Classes, see page 2.

Church Membership

At Gordon Hall, a entirely working class congregation of which the men are the feature. Have 3 or 4 men to one woman at the morning service. Morning 50 to 60 Evening 150 to 200.

At Small Hall (Bourne St) Evening service (60 to 80) Get a fringe of very poor. Mr G. has never been there without some drunken person in the congregation - sometime more than one.

Beside the ordinary services, a large number of classes are held: Of Society classes there are 23 for adults & 10 for juniors - See list at side. The membership of these classes at December was as follows:

In adult classes.

At Victoria Park Church	339	
Gordon Hall	96	
The Children's Home	31	466

In addition there are 29 members on trial and 94 members of Junior classes, making a total of 589 persons in the Church fellowship of the Circuit.

Beside the above, a list of other classes & meetings is given in the quarterly paper "Now & then". The following is from the January number

January "Now & Then"

BIBLE, CATECHUMEN AND OTHER CLASSES.

			LEADER OR SECRETARY.
Sunday at 3.0	Victoria Park Ch.	Men's Bible Class	Messrs. Athill & Clements
,, at 3.0	Bonner Street	Women	Mrs. Davies.
,, at 3.0	33, Gore Road	Bible Class	Sister Annie Paul.
Monday at 2.30	Bonner Street	Mothers' Meeting	Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Mehrer,
,, at 2.30	Gordon Hall	Mothers' Meeting	Miss Horner, Sister May. Home ladies, Sisters Mildred and Kate.
,, at 6.30	,, ,,	Junior Girls	Misses Darby and Burrows.
,, at 7.0	Bonner Street	Junior Girls	Mrs. Hy. Williams.
,, at 8.0	Gordon Hall	Men	Sister Mildred.
,, at 8.0	Bonner Street	Girls' Parlour	Sisters May and Edith.
,, at 8.30	Bonner Street	Boys' Club	Sisters May and Caroline.
Wednes. at 3.0	Victoria Park Ch.	Men	Sister Rita.
Wednes. at 8.30	Bonner Street	Women's Social	Sister Caroline.
Thursd'y at 8.0	,, ,,	Women's Bible Class	Sister Edith.
	,, ,,	Boys' Club	Mr. Alec. Fiddian, B.A., and Mr. Hayes.
Thursd'y at 3.0	Gordon Hall	Women's Social	Sister Mildred.
Friday at 9.0	Church Parlour	Theological Class	Rev. A. E. Gregory.
Saturday at 8.0	Bonner Street	Gospel Temperance Meeting.	Messrs. Wrigley & Rhodes

Thursday 8.30 Gordon Hall. Girls Guild

The girls meetings are of the nature of clubs. Get the factory girl type. Started by inviting half a dozen to house for an evening & then encouraging these to bring a friend for whom they would be responsible. Have a membership of about 80 now & 17 have joined the church. They gradually improve in manners, dress etc Boy's Club on similar lines. Learn wood carving. The boys have a committee, look after the refreshments etc. Come mainly from the immediate district – neighbourhood of Cypress Street.

Mothers Meeting at Bonner Street nearly 200 members. At Gordon Hall, 150. To the latter the people south of Green Street come.

Sunday Schools

Bands of Hopes at Approach Road (125 members) & at Gordon Hall (55 members). Get very good temperance meetings at Bonner Street.

Social agencies include Slate Clubs (2), Swimming Club (The Ivanhoe) and a number of agencies carried on by the Social Committee.

~~Sunday Schools~~ morning & afternoon.

At Approach Road. Teachers 37. Scholars on Book 346, Average attendance Mr. 118, Af. 264

At Gordon Hall Teachers 28. Scholars on book 324

Attendance 67 and 248.

A Ragged School has been started at Bonner Lane. It arose out of a habit of Mrs. G's. of walking about the district at all sorts of times. She noticed that large numbers of children were playing during the Sunday school hours. The deaconesses were employed to go into the streets & bring these strays in. Get about 12 a week. Once brought in they continued to come & after about 3 weeks, they would appear fairly well dressed; clean pinafores etc. They will not go into the ordinary school. Supposed they think the other children would shrink from them. Can get as many as they want. Difficulty is to control them.

At first had them in a vestry at the Church but had to
shift to the Bonner Street Hall. Mrs G. thinks the
Sunday schools have not such a hold on the
children as formerly – so many children are found
in the streets (The Approach Rd school for instance
is only 2/3rds what it was years ago). In an
hours walk on Sunday afternoon, he passed 1200
children but then he went into Quinns Bldgs..

Personnel Employed

Two ministers (only one paid by the Circuit). A
deaconess; the Head of Newburn House (Sister Rita) and 6
Sister may.
or 7 other deaconesses and 50 to 60 voluntary
workers beside the S.S. teachers.

Education

Day School – Upper + Infants. 2d. to 7d. per
quarter. Very superior class of children; many
are Jews. Come from Green Street, Bishops +
Bonner Road. As a rule they go to the
Parmiter School (across the road) to finish.
Earn the highest possible grant in all subjects.

Visitation

District is divided into sections and a deaconess
appointed

VICTORIA PARK WESLEYAN CHURCH.

SOCIAL WORK.

Sister.....

Case: Name.....

Address.....

.....

REPORT:

appointed to each section. The visitation practically covers the East ward of B.G. - Cambridge Road & the G.E. Eastern Rly forming natural boundaries.

They have a directory with the names of all persons in any way connected with the Circuit - members of Mothers' Meeting, parents of children etc. These are first considered but they go from house to house occasionally. Have a form on which all special cases are reported to M.G. & once a week he meets the deaconesses & goes through the cases.

Also has a band of voluntary visitors who visit about 300 houses weekly - close to Old Ford Road & Bonner Street.

By these means, he thinks they come in contact with the great majority of the people within the inner ring. The Sisters take up a large number of cases that are merely begging applications as well as new cases. One of his difficulties is with the sisters in training, with whom a battle is constantly fighting a battle. Their tenderness of heart would lead them to consider cases too favourably & he has had to make it a rule that they do not give money.

Charitable Relief

Co-operation

Other Religious Influences

St James the less.

Sisters also go to the factories – have list of all where girls are employed.

Have the Communion Fund for members £20 about. The Social Work Committee is responsible for the general relief. Mr G. says that its efforts are directed to set people on their feet. He is opposed to doles in any form & tries to establish small pensions in place of them where needed. They would buy a mangle for a woman; to one man they gave a hawker's licence. Sick cases give orders on tradesmen. Out of work, nothing, but find places. Send sick cases to seaside and this is the "expensive part of the work". Christmas dinners about £30 a year. Reckons that total relief would amount to £80.

No. co-operation amongst the churches except occasional interchange of pulpits amongst the non-cons. Absolutely none with the Church of England.

Nothing doing in the parish until the advent of the new vicar (Mr Dilkfield). Rev^d George Nixon, last late

vicar

The C.O.S

Poor Law Administration

vicar was a feeble old man and, rather prejudiced in favour of old ways. At his farewell meeting he said that they wanted several things but "he was too old to learn any new tricks". He was liked personally. altho' he did not get the people to church.

Other agencies are the Congregationals - very active - and the the Ashley Mission and the Parmiter Street Mission.

Does not work with the C.O.S. "Sick & tired of them". Worked with them at Lewisham but here they emphasise the worst point of the society. "Impudent treatment of the poor and readiness to throw over a case". They will take pains to make enquiries and then at the last moment throw over the case. He would not term it 'hardness' but want of judgment.

Upon Poor law administration, Mr G. was very emphatic.

About as bad as it can be. There is a want of proper over sight. The Guardians declined to allow a visiting committee - the real reason being that they cannot bear inspection. As an example of stupid regulations he cited the case of the old folks, who

who must be in to dinner by 12.15 on Sunday & then remain in; with the consequent foregoing of dinner by the old people who prefer holiday to the meal. 5/- to dine at the chapel every Sunday. Another charge was that paralysed men have to pay the ward man (another pauper) ½d to be turned in bed. GHA. But is this known to the Guardians? ASG. I have mentioned it to several people, the reply being "That is well known".

"The fact is the place is too big for the men, who are engaged at it". The conduct of the some of the relief officers is scandalous and "everybody knows it." MrG. has seen one of them the worse for drink.

Prostitution

Not very much prostitution.

Marriage

Juvenile marriages are frequent: also the preliminary courtships which begin at 13.

Crime

Very little crime

Thrift

Thrift in the form of the slate club increasing. Most of the members are employed in the city. Young men under 25 count on the clubs most frequently.

Housing.

Prospects.

Impressions

NOW AND
AN OCCASIONAL

No. 19. Edited by T. Bowman Stephe

NOTES OF THE QUARTER.

The Week o

The Church Anniversary.

THE Harvest Festival and Church Anniversary were celebrated at the beginning of October, and proved very successful. In connection with the Annual Meeting, Dr. and Mrs. Stephenson were cordially welcomed on their safe return from Canada. At the Meeting, Mr. George Corderoy, of Kentish Town, presided, and addresses were delivered by Dr. Stephenson, Mr. Gregory, Sisters Rita, Mildred, and May. Mr. Temple presented the following list of

Freewill Offerings.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. and Mrs. Lock - - - - -	5	5	0
Mr. and Mrs. Meherer - - - - -	5	0	0
Mr. Temple - - - - -	2	2	0
Mr. Webster - - - - -	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. Stephenson - - - - -	1	1	0
Rev. A. E. and Mrs. Gregory - - -	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Horner - - - - -	1	1	0
Mr. Wilkie - - - - -	1	0	0
Mr. Walker - - - - -	0	10	6
Mr. Wilsdon - - - - -	0	10	0
Mr. Bersey - - - - -	0	10	0
Mr. Roberts - - - - -	0	6	0
Mr. and Mrs. Henbry - - - - -	0	5	6
Mr. Phillips - - - - -	0	5	0
Mr. Gathercole - - - - -	0	5	0
The Misses Wilsdon - - - - -	0	5	0

The first week of the Ne
as a time of special and u
day, January 2nd, the a
Renewal of the Covenan
Church at 3 p.m., and at
We trust that as far as po
will be present at this s
service.

Throughout the week n
be held at Gordon Hall
beginning each evening at
and Tuesday Dr. Stephe
services, Mr. Gregory takin
The following subjects for
Monday: For Ministers
Church-workers.
Tuesday: United Circu
Schoolroom, Approach Ro
Wednesday: For the C
gations, of the Day and S
Children's Home, and fo
Streets.
Thursday: For Young
Friday: For Mission W
Saturday: Meeting fo
Testimony.
The meetings last year
our Gordon Hall friends
of the Church and con
Road were present at any
hope that this year the

Housing is better than it was, "bad as it is now.

As to the future, Mr G. believes the neighbourhood will be taken possession of by the Jews. There is a steady influx of the better class jews from the west part of the district. This will affect their work. At present they are steadily increasing in numbers, but this is due to the purely mission work. They are becoming poorer - yet the seat rents were £17 more last year than in 1896. Offertories are good but best workers, who come across the Park are going, and it is difficult to get substitutes.

My general impressions from the interview are that the Circuit reaches 3 distinct classes of the people: Approach Road chapel appeals to the older type of Wesleyan: the respectable folk: Gordon Hall is a better class working men's gathering, whilst at Bournelane, the children & the poorer element are reached.

Mr Gregory is an earnest christian, with heart & soul in his work, and has a band of earnest workers around him, who have some of the same enthusiasm.

NOW AND THEN:

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSPAPER.

No. 19. EDITED BY T. BOWMAN STEPHENSON AND A. E. GREGORY. PRICE ONE PENNY.

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Mr. Webster	2	2	0
Rev. Dr. Stephenson	1	1	0
Rev. A. E. and Mrs. Gregory	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. Horner	1	1	0
Mr. Wilkie	1	0	0
Mr. Walker	0	10	6
Mr. Wilsdon	0	10	0
Mr. Bersey	0	10	0
Mr. Roberts	0	6	0
Mr. and Mrs. Hendry	0	5	6
Mr. Phillips	0	5	0
Mr. Gathercole	0	5	0
The Misses Wilsdon	0	5	0
The Misses Haines	0	5	0
Mr. Wrigley	0	5	0
Mr. A. Helyer	0	5	0
Mrs. Williams	0	4	0
Mrs. and Miss Davies	0	3	0
Miss Payne	0	3	0
The Misses Tilly Allen and Lizzie Gray	0	3	0
Mr. Richards	0	2	6
Mr. W. T. Gough	0	2	6
Anon.	0	2	6
Mr. and Mrs. Banks	0	2	6
P. P.	0	2	6
Mrs. E. Barrett	0	2	6
Mrs. Cave	0	2	6
Mrs. Amos	0	2	0
Mrs. Monteith	0	2	0
Mr. A. Witney	0	2	0
J. G. P.	0	2	0
Mr. Barnet	0	2	0
Miss Mary King	0	1	6
Miss Doughty	0	1	0
Mrs. Sanders	0	1	0
Miss Wells	0	1	0
Mr. Riddle	0	1	0
Miss Lowen and Miss Barrett	0	1	0
A Friend	0	1	0
Mr. Jenkin	0	1	0
Mr. Suter	0	1	0
Mrs. Reeve	0	0	6
Mr. Boston	0	0	6
	£24	15	0
Collection at Meeting	5	2	1
	£29	17	1

	£	s.	d.
Church Deaconess Fund	10	0	0
Church Trust Fund	5	0	0
Circuit Fund	5	0	0
Sunday School	2	10	0
Piano Fund	1	1	0
Tracts for Public-Houses	1	0	3
Social Work Committee	0	17	1
Expenses: Printing, etc.	4	8	9
	£29	17	1

The Week of Prayer.

The first week of the New Year is to be observed as a time of special and united prayer. On Sunday, January 2nd, the annual service for the Renewal of the Covenant will be held in the Church at 3 p.m., and at Gordon Hall at 8 p.m. We trust that as far as possible all our members will be present at this solemn and impressive service.

Throughout the week meetings for prayer will be held at Gordon Hall (except on Tuesday), beginning each evening at 8 o'clock. On Monday and Tuesday Dr. Stephenson will conduct the services, Mr. Gregory taking the rest of the week. The following subjects for prayer are suggested :—

MONDAY: For Ministers, Office-bearers, and all Church-workers.

TUESDAY: United Circuit Meeting at the Lower Schoolroom, Approach Road.

WEDNESDAY: For the Children of the Congregations, of the Day and Sunday Schools, of The Children's Home, and for the Children of the Streets.

THURSDAY: For Young Men and Women.

FRIDAY: For Mission Work and Workers.

SATURDAY: Meeting for Prayer, Praise, and Testimony.

The meetings last year were greatly blessed to our Gordon Hall friends, but comparatively few of the Church and congregation at Approach Road were present at any of the gatherings. We hope that this year the week will be really observed as one of UNITED Prayer.

The December Quarterly Meeting.

This important Church Council met on December 20th, in the Church Parlour, Dr. Stephenson presiding. There was a good attendance, and the tone of the Meeting was distinctly encouraging. The return of membership was :—

Victoria Park Church	339
Gordon Hall	96
The Children's Home	31
	466

To these should be added 29 members on trial, and 94 members of Junior Classes, making altogether 589 persons in the fellowship of the Church in this Circuit.

The financial statement made by Mr. Temple, showed an income of £5 more than the expenditure. The debt carried forward from the last quarter was £44 odd, and this was reduced to £39 13s. 1d. At a subsequent stage of the Meeting, Mr. W. J. Webster, who to the great regret of all has gone to live at Woodford, most generously offered to pay off the balance of the debt, before severing his connection with the Circuit. We are thus for the first time for many years, entirely free from debt on the Circuit Account, and it is earnestly hoped that this happy condition may be continued.

The Offertories in the Church during the year showed a very satisfactory increase, but there has been a falling off of £8 in the class contributions. Mr. Gregory and Mr. Wilkie bore testimony to the wonderful generosity with which many of our poorer members contribute to the support of the work; but it was felt that some in better positions, largely no doubt through carelessness, neglect to take their part in the work of God by contributing regularly in their classes. The Leaders were requested to call the attention of their members to this matter.

Mr. Temple was unanimously re-elected as Senior Circuit Steward, an office which he has filled for some years with singular faithfulness and ability. Mr. Horner was as unanimously elected to take Mr. Webster's place, to the great satisfaction of ministers and laity alike.

A most cordial vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Webster for his services during the last four years, and it was resolved to enter on the Minutes a resolution expressing the high regard in which Mr. and Mrs. Webster and their family are held, and of sincere regret at their removal from the neighbourhood. We are glad to know that our friends will still take an interest in our work, and that Mrs. Webster's connection with the Bazaar and the Sewing Meetings will continue.

Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Hugh Williams, and Mr. Filmore spoke of the good work being done at the Mission Hall on Sunday evenings, and Mr. Gregory referred to the improvement in the after-meetings at the Church since the young people had begun to take an active part in them.

An important step was taken by the unanimous resolution to engage a Deaconess for regular work at the Church. Through the kindness of the Council of the Deaconess Institute, this has been arranged on terms very favourable to the Circuit, and our friend Mr. Lock, with his usual generosity, has promised a contribution of £10. Excellent service is rendered by the Probationer-Deaconesses during their year of training; but it is essential to preserve the continuity of the work, and indeed, to have at least one Sister able to devote her whole time to the Church and its many organizations. Sister May Watkins has already won the hearts of all our people, and she will be most cordially welcomed as a regularly appointed Deaconess in the Circuit.

The Boys' Club.

The great and continued prosperity of the Girls' Parlour has led to the establishment of what bids fair to be an equally successful Boys' Club. The Club was started at Sister May's suggestion, and with the help of Sister Caroline and the hearty co-operation of the members, she has been able to get it into good working order. John Nicholls makes an excellent secretary, E. Garrard is Church-steward, and other offices are well filled by members of the Club. Sister Minnie Wildman has been good enough to form a class for wood-carving, and Mr. A. Fiddian, B.A., has promised to act as Drill-Instructor. Our good friend Mr. J. Hayes, the active and popular sergeant of The Children's Home Division of the St. John Ambulance Association, has engaged to give help in the New Year. We are anxious to form a drum-and-fife band in connection with the Club, and to provide a simple uniform for Church-parade and other public appearances. But all this will cost money, and we venture to appeal to our friends to help the boys in this effort. The Club already numbers about forty members, and many others are waiting for admission.

Temperance Work.

Temperance Sunday was observed on December 5th. The procession was an unusually large one, and it was excellently marshalled by our good friend Mr. Boston.

The attendance at the Church services was very good, and a number of pledges were taken. On the following day an effective Temperance Address was given by Sister Annie Paul at the Mothers' Meeting, and sixteen pledges were taken. The Annual Temperance Meeting was held on the Tuesday, in pouring rain which kept many from the Church who would otherwise have been present. However, admirable addresses were given by Dr. R. T. Smith and Rev. J. E. Watts Ditchfield.

Foreign Missions.

Our missionary anniversary this year has been

unusually successful. An afternoon meeting was held in the Home Chapel. Mr. Lock presided, and Mrs. A. H. Bestall gave a most interesting account of her work in Burma. At night Mr. Temple presided; the report was presented by Mr. E. Childe, and a fine address was given by Rev. Owen Watkins. The financial result was £7 better than last year.

The Missionary Prayer Meetings continue to be well attended. We have been favoured with the presence of several missionaries, including Revs. A. H. Bestall, W. Hoad, W. H. J. Picken, and W. T. A. Barber.

Asleep in Jesus.

The news of the death of Mrs. Stone came to us all as a surprise. We had received such good accounts of her improved health since her removal to Alverstoke, that we had hoped the Heavenly Father would restore her entirely ere long. But with what seemed almost terrible swiftness the end came. Those who knew Mrs. Stone, her gentle, firm, intelligent Christian faith, will know that she was ready for the call. With beautiful resignation, she left all to God's will, and without fear committed herself to the Saviour's care. In such a departure, all is well. Mrs. Stone loved our Church and its services, she delighted in the class-meeting, and was always ready to speak of Christ's love and grace. The last needlework she did was for our Bazaar. We have all mourned with our dear friend Mr. Stone, and with his children, yet we cannot doubt the wisdom and love of God.

An aged member of Sister Rita's class—Mrs. King—has also been called home. She was an earnest, unaffected Christian, who through a long life had glorified God.

THE SWIMMING CLUB.

THE Ivanhoe Swimming Club "At Home," held in the Schoolroom, Approach Road, on November 27th, was quite a success. The usual pictures and diagrams on the walls were replaced by more pleasing photographs and water-colours; these with the addition of a carpet to the floor, gave the room a homely appearance. Mr. Pickard received the guests, and acted as chairman.

Through the kindness of several friends, who lent their microscopes, photographic albums, and stereoscopes, the interest of the visitors was well sustained.

A capital musical programme was provided. Pianoforte duets by Mrs. Hicks and Miss Blanche Hicks. and solos by Miss Pickard, Mr. Hicks and Mr. Eades. Sister Evaline gave two of her charming recitals. One of the hits of the evening was the ambulance display, by a squad of the Children's Home Divison, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Privates Sidney J. Fisk, B. Audus, Joseph Bullock, and Arthur W. Fisk, under Sergeant Hayes. During the evening the Rev. Arthur E. Gregory distributed the prizes to the successful competitors in the recent races, after which the captain, Mr. W. Hudson, made the usual speech. The secretary's report was gratifying. The happy gathering concluded with family prayer.

A. W. Fisk.

JOTTINGS BY THE SISTERS.

MR. BURDEN'S ANNUAL TEA.

OUR good friend Mr. Burden, of Hendon, has most kindly just given a nice tea to the united members of my Women's Society Class and Men's Bible Class.

There were between fifty and sixty present. Tea was followed by a good old-fashioned testimony meeting; there was an absence of all formality, and simple heartfelt testimonies followed each other rapidly. Some told of the life of sin they had been saved from. In their homes and the streets they live in, they are now bearing their witness to the power of Christ's salvation. Their very faces tell the story of "the changed life."

Some have known better days and passed through deep sorrow, but they do not enlarge on their troubles unless to thank God for His deliverances. Sister Rita Hawkins.

POVERTY AND DEATH.

HOUSE-to-house visitation does not show for much in a report, but it is in this work that we get into actual touch with the people. Visiting from house to house in one street, a woman asked me to go and see her daughter, who was dying of consumption, but did not know it. I went, and found a refined-looking young woman in a pitiable condition, in deep poverty, in the last stages of consumption and dropsy, but without a ray of hope and without Christ. She could scarcely speak, and could not lie down, but sat propped up in bed, her poor feeble fingers trying to put a few bristles into a hair-brush. She was in a very weak condition, constantly fainting, and then, bravely struggling against her weakness, going on with her work to try and get bread for her four little children. She told me that before her illness she worked with her husband at the brushes; wiring the bristles, putting them in, and finishing the brushes ready for use. For this they got fourteen pence a dozen, for these were brushes of a good quality.

Work! work! work!
Whilst the cock is crowing aloof,
Work! work! work!
Whilst the stars shine through the roof.

Working from early morning, they could never earn more than ten shillings a week between them. Her physical needs were very distressing, and I attended to them first, explaining to the mother the treatment of bed-sores, showing her how to dress them; also, how to make beef-tea, gruel, etc. Then I told her of the Great Physician. I visited her constantly, but 'twas all dark, so dark. At last the Light came, and she passed away happily and peacefully, trusting in the Saviour. This is only one case. Visiting from house to house, we see the real needs of the people. Their physical sufferings and temporal needs are tremendous. We constantly wonder at their patience and heroism. Sister Annie Paul.

GORDON HALL.

TAKING a retrospective view of the work at Gordon Hall during the past year, we are greatly encouraged, and praise God for the manifestations of His presence and power in our midst. Steady progress has been noticeable in all our classes, both as regards numbers and the growth of spiritual life among the members.

In our Mothers' Meeting, too, which has always been a good one, we have, especially of late, been cheered by the increase of spiritual influence which has constantly cheered us in speaking to the mothers. Many of them often speak of the help they get in these meetings, and are living true Christian lives in their homes, which is the best evidence of their sincerity.

The results of the visiting have appeared to us exceptionally good this year; a number of conversions having taken place in the quiet of the home.

We are very thankful to be able to report an all-round success. Yet we are not satisfied, but look for greater things in the coming year, knowing "our God is able."

Sister Kate Thompson.

Special Announcements.

THE CHURCH.

Friday, December 31st.—
11 p.m., UNITED WATCHNIGHT SERVICE at the Congregational Church, Approach Road. Address by Rev. Dr. STEPHENSON.

Sunday, January 2nd.—
11 a.m., Rev. Dr. STEPHENSON. "A Motto for the New Year."
3 p.m., Annual Covenant Service.
6.30 p.m., Rev. N. CURNOCK.
8 p.m., NEW YEAR'S TESTIMONY MEETING.

Sunday, January 9th.—
8 p.m., Address to Men by Mr. CHARLES HARRISON, M.P., on "London's Past and its Expansion."

Tuesday, January 25th.—
8 p.m., LANTERN LECTURE on CHINA. By Rev. W. T. A. Barber, M.A., B.D.

Tuesday, February 1st.—
8 p.m., Annual Meeting of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund. Lecture by Rev. WALTER HAWKINS.

Sunday, February 13th.—
3 p.m., Address to Men by Rev. ARTHUR E. GREGORY, "Does God answer Prayer?"

Sunday, February 27th.—
3 p.m., Juvenile Missionary Service. Address by Rev. S. R. HODGE, M.R.C.S., Medical Missionary from Hankow.

Tuesday, March 1st.—
8 p.m., HOME MISSIONARY MEETING. Address by Rev. F. TUNBRIDGE, of Bow.

Sunday, April 3rd.—
6.30 p.m., Rev. MARK GUY PEARSE.

Sunday, April 24th.—
DEACONESS ANNIVERSARY.

GORDON HALL.

Friday, December 31st.—
11 p.m., WATCH-NIGHT SERVICE. Addresses by Rev. ARTHUR GREGORY and Mr. J. FERGUSON.

Sunday, January 2nd.—
11 a.m., Mr. JOHN THOM.
6.30 p.m., Rev. ARTHUR E. GREGORY.
8 p.m., Covenant Service.

January 3rd to 8th.—
WEEK OF PRAYER. MEETINGS each evening at 8.

BONNER STREET HALL.

January 9th to 11th.—
EIGHT DAYS' MISSION.

Every Saturday.—
8 p.m., GOSPEL TEMPERANCE MEETING.

BIBLE, CATECHUMEN AND OTHER CLASSES.

			Leader or Secretary.
Sunday at 3.0	Victoria Park Ch.	Men's Bible Class	Messrs. Athill & Clements
,, at 3.0	Bonner Street	Women	Mrs. Davies.
,, at 3.0	33, Gore Road	Bible Class	Sister Annie Paul.
Monday at 2.30	Bonner Street	Mothers' Meeting	Mrs. Stephenson, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. Mehrer, Miss Horner, Sister May.
,, at 2.30	Gordon Hall	Mothers' Meeting	Home ladies, Sisters Mildred and Kate.
,, at 6.30	,, ,,	Junior Girls	Misses Darby and Burrows.
,, at 7.0	Bonner Street	Junior Girls	Mrs. Hy. Williams.
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Friday at 9.0	Church Parlour	Theological Class	Rev. A. E. Gregory.
Saturday at 8.0	Bonner Street	Gospel Temperance Meeting.	Messrs. Wrigley & Rhodes

QUARTERLY VISITATION
OF THE CLASSES.

IT may be necessary to make a few alterations in the dates fixed, but it is hoped that in the main this Plan will be adhered to. Leaders are earnestly requested to urge their members to be present at the Quarterly Visitation.

This quarter the offerings are received in the Classes on behalf of the Home Mission Fund. These offerings are, of course, entirely voluntary. Members who can afford to contribute sixpence or more should mention the amount to their Leader at the Quarterly Visitation.

LEADER.	DATE.
Miss McDougall	Feb. 8
Mrs. Childe	,, 9
Sister Minnie Wildman	,, 9
Mrs. Lock (Thursday)	,, 10
Mr. Horner	,, 16
Mr. Nicholls	,, 16
Sister Rita Hawkins	,, 17
Mrs. Lock (Monday)	,, 21
Mrs. Gathercole	,, 23
Miss Wrigley	,, 23
Rev. A. E. Gregory	,, 24
Rev. Dr. Stephenson	,, 24
Mr. Filmore	,, 27
Mr. Hyder	,, 27
Mrs. H. Williams	Mch. 7
Mr. Martin	,, 7
Sister Annie Paul	,, 9
Sister Rita Hawkins	,, 14
Mrs. H. Williams	,, 17
JUNIOR CLASSES.	
Sister Caroline Gregory	Mch. 9
Mr. Pamment	,, 14

THE
"Stephenson" Slate Club

Meeting at the WESLEYAN SCHOOLROOM, Approach Road, Victoria Park, N.E., every Monday Evening, from 8 to 9.30.

First Club Night, MONDAY, January 3rd, 1898. Subscription, 6d. per Week. Benefits in Sickness: TEN SHILLINGS per Week for Eight Weeks, FIVE SHILLINGS per Week for a further period of Eight Weeks. (See Rules.)

SHARE OUT of money in hand a week before Christmas. Applications to join should be made at once to the Secretaries.

MR. W. HUMPHRIES,
Approach Road, Victoria Park, N.E.,
MR. C. C. SNOAD,
26, Bishop Road, Cassland Road, N.E.

WESLEYAN
Higher Grade Schools,
APPROACH ROAD, VICTORIA PARK, N.E.

Annually Examined by Her Majesty's Inspectors, and in connection with the Science and Art Department, South Kensington.

CHAIRMAN:
REV. T. B. STEPHENSON, D.D., LL.D.
CORRESPONDENT: REV. ARTHUR E. GREGORY.
TREASURER: E. H. TEMPLE, ESQ.
SECRETARY: JAMES A. WALKER, ESQ.
HEAD MASTER: MR. HENRY M. WELLS,
First-Class Certificated Master by the Committee of Council on Education, and by the Science and Art Department.
ASSISTANT MASTER: MR. W. HUMPHRIES,
Certificated Teacher.
HEAD MISTRESS: MISS L. HAYWOOD,
Certificated Mistress by the Committee of Council on Education, by the Science and Art Department, and First-Class Kindergarten Teacher.
ASSISTANT MISTRESS: MISS E. HYETT,
Certificated Teacher.
VISITING MASTERS:
FRENCH—MONSIEUR LOOMAN.
SINGING—MR. W. C. HARRIS.
SHORTHAND—MR. GEORGE WELLS.

Both Schools earn the highest possible Grant in all subjects. The Rev. F. Synge, M.A., H.M. Senior Inspector, says:—

"The discipline, attention, and condition of the School are very satisfactory. The instruction is intelligent, and the Staff are giving good assistance to the Head Master."

The Upper School

FOR SCHOLARS OVER SEVEN YEARS OF AGE.

In this Department the Course of Instruction is designed to prepare the Pupils for the Practical and Commercial duties of life, and comprises the elements of a sound MIDDLE CLASS EDUCATION.

TERMS: 3d., 4d., and 7d per Week, according to Class, or 2s. 9d., 3s. 6d., and 6s. 6d. per Quarter.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE:
Mornings 9 to 12. Afternoons 2 to 4.40.

Infants' School.

The Course of Instruction in this Department is adapted to the capacity of Children between the ages of three and seven, and is intended to prepare them for the Upper School.

TERMS: 2d. per Week, or 1s. 9d. per Quarter.

HOURS OF ATTENDANCE:
Mornings 9.30 to 12.15. Afternoons 2 to 4.15.

Full Prospectus on application at the Schools.

Victoria Park Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School.—Teachers' Plan.

Each Teacher is expected to fulfil his own appointment, or to procure an Accredited Substitute.

He loveth the gates of Zion	JANUARY.					FEBRUARY.				MARCH.			
JUNIOR SCHOOL opened by the Supt. at 10	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27
Opening .. 2.30	Pickard	A. Fisk	Pickard	S. J. Fisk	Pickard	Pamment	S. J. Fisk	Horner	Pickard	Watts	S. J. Fisk	Fisk	Pickard
Address, &c. . 3.30	Athill	Thom	P.M.	Filmore	Horner	A. Helyer	P.M.	A. Fisk	Dr. Hodge	Gregory	Deaconess	P.M.	Bellamy
INFANTS' ADDRESS. 11	Athill	Jenkins	Pickard	Thomas	A. Fisk	Fillmore	S. J. Fisk	Amos	Fisk	M. Horner	Williams	Pamment	Bullock
Girls	Wrigley Bullock	Monteith Bide	Read Thomas Amos	Wrigley Wilsdon	Monteith Bide Bullock	Read Thomas Amos	Wrigley Bullock	Monteith Bide	Read Thomas Amos	Wrigley Bullock	Monteith Bide	Read Thomas Amos	Wrigley Amos
TO SIT WITH THE SCHOLARS IN THE CHURCH, 11 a.m.													
Boys	Watts Jenkins	A. W. Fisk Horner	Hendry Pamment	S. J. Fisk	Watts Jenkins	Fisk Horner	Hendry Pamment	S. J. Fisk	Watts Jenkins	A. W. Fisk Horner	Hendry Pamment	S. J. Fisk Webster	Pickard Hendry

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."

Representative to Wesleyan Sunday School Union—Mr. S. J. Fisk and Miss Read. Representatives to East London Auxiliary L.S.S.U.—Miss Wilsdon, Mr. W. Horner, Mr. Athil
Teachers' Prayer Meeting the fourth Sunday in the Month, from 4 p.m. to 4.30. Teachers' Meeting, Saturday, February 5th.
Teachers are kindly requested to be present with their Classes in the Church, on Sunday Mornings.

A. PICKARD. *Superintendent.*
ARTHUR W. FISK. *Secretary.*

Gordon Hall Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School.—Teachers' Plan.

Teachers are Requested to Fulfil their own Appointments, or to procure Accredited Substitutes.

	JANUARY.					FEBRUARY.				MARCH.			
"Go and Teach."	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	6	13	20	27
Open School .. 9.45	Violen	Housman	Brown	Housman	Parker	Brown	Housman	Violen	Fillmore	Housman	Brown	Parker	Housman
Infants' Address.. 11	Burrows	Violen	Tregenza	Parker	Fillmore	Violen	Parker	Darby	Underhill	Burrows	Wright	Fillmore	Phillips
Open School .. 2.45	Williams	Parker	Violen	Housman	Bird	Parker	Housman	Violen	Phillips	Bird	Brown	Williams	Housman
Address 3.30	P. M.	P.Alliance	Gregory	Supply	Williams	P. M.	Phillips	Morgan	Smith	P. M.	Williams	Ferguson	Bird
Infants' Address, 3 30	P. M.	Bird	Housman	Brown	Parker	P. M.	Violen	Williams	Parker	P. M.	Housman	Brown	Parker

Teachers' Prayer Meeting, Third Sunday in the month at 8.45 a.m. **Penny Bank:** Saturday, at 6.15 —Sec.: Miss E. TREGENZA; Treasurer: MR. H. BOTTRILL.
Band of Hope: Thursday at 7.—Secretaries: MR. A. E. BIRD, MR. C. M. MAYNARD; Treasurer, MR. JOHN SMITH.
Girls' Guild: Thursday, at 8.30.—Leader: Miss MORRIS. **Boys' Club:** Thursday, at 8.

THOMAS HOUSMAN, *Superintendent.*
EDWD. O. OWENS. *Secretary.*

Plan for Divine Worship of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Victoria Park Circuit.—1898.

TIMES AND PLACES.	JANUARY. 2	JANUARY. 9	JANUARY. 16	JANUARY. 23	JANUARY. 30
Morning Lessons	Deut. xxvi. Romans xii.	Isaiah li. Matt. v. 33-48.	Isaiah lv. Matt. ix. 18-38	Isaiah lxii. Matt.xiii. 24-52	Job xxvii. Mt. xvi24-xviii13
Evening Lessons	Num. ix. 15-23. Luke xix. 1-27.	Isaiah liv. Acts v. 17-42.	Isaiah lxi. Acts ix. 23-43.	Isaiah lxv. 5. Acts xiv.	Job xxviii. Acts xviii. 1-23
Psalms		Psalm cxxxv.		Ps. cxxxvi.	
VICTORIA PK. CH. 11	Stephenson	Gregory	Burden	Gregory	Stephenson
6½	Curnock	Gregory	Gough	Gregory	Gregory
Tuesday 8	Week of	Gregory †	Stephenson	Barber	M. C. B.
Fri., Public Service 8	Prayer.	Gregory		Gregory	Stephenson
CHILDREN'S HOME 9½			Gregory		
CHAPEL.. 3	Pendlebury	Student	Burden	Horner	Gregory
GORDON HALL .. 11	Thom	Student	Gregory	H.C.Williams	Gregory
7	Gregory cs	Student	Bird	Filmore	Stephenson s
Wednesday 8	Week of	Temp. Mtg.	F. M.	Deaconess	Bottrill
Saturday 8	Prayer.	Land	Parker	Sis. Mildred	Housman
BONNER STREET (Children's Mission) .. 6½	Pamment	Deaconess	H.C.Williams	Bird	Thom
SMALL HALL .. 7	Nicholls	Hyder	Burden	Ferguson	Pamment
GUARDIAN ASYLUM. 11	Filmore		Chase		
6½		Horner	Sis. Edith		
Tuesday 7	Sis. Rita	Mrs. Cave	Gregory	Mrs. Horner	Sis. Annie
ALVERSTOKE .. 11	Stone	Rhodes	Riley	Stone	Sis. Annie
6½	Stone	Rhodes	Dixon s	Stone	Sis. Annie

TIMES AND PLACES.	FEBRUARY. 6	FEBRUARY. 13	FEBRUARY. 20	FEBRUARY. 27
Morning Lessons	Gen. i. & ii. 1-3.	Gen. iii.	Gen. ix. 1-19.	Gen. xix. 12-29
Evening Lessons	Rev. xxi. 1-8	Matt. xxiv.29-51	Matt.xxvii.27-56	Mark iii. 13-35
Psalms	Gen. ii. 4-25 Rev. xxi. 9 to xxii. 5.	Gen. vi. Acts xxvii 18-44 P. cxxxvii-cxxxviii	Gen. xii. Romans iv.	Gen. xxii. 1 19 Rom. ix. 19-23. Psalm cxxxix.
VICTORIA PK. CH. 11	Gregory	Geden	Stephenson	Hodge
6½	Stephenson s	Gregory	Gregory	Stephenson
Tuesday 8	Gregory †	Gregory	Thom	H. M. M.
Fri., Public Service 8	Gregory	Stephenson	Gregory	Stephenson
CHILDREN'S HOME 9½			Stephenson	
CHAPEL.. 3	Stephenson	Geden	Gregory	Hodge
GORDON HALL .. 11	Rhodes	Gregory	Chase	Bottrill *
7	Gregory	Geden	Ferguson	Gregory s
Wednesday 8	Pamment	Gregory †	Gough	Bird
Saturday 8	Brown	Violen	White	Deaconess
BONNER STREET (Children's Mission) .. 6½	W. R. Horner	Deaconess	Horner	Clements
SMALL HALL .. 7	Gough	Giblett	Hayes	Filmore
GUARDIAN ASYLUM. 11	Bottrill		Sis. Caroline	
6½			Thom	
Tuesday 7	Mrs. Davis	Sis. May	Deaconess	Chase
ALVERSTOKE .. 11	Bird	Upson	Bottrill	Stone
6½	Bird	Smith	Bottrill	Stone

TIMES AND PLACES.	MARCH. 6	MARCH. 13	MARCH. 20	MARCH. 27
Morning Lessons	Gen. xxvii. 1-40	Gen. xxxvii.	Gen. xlii.	Ex. iii.
Evening Lessons	Mark vii. 1-16.	Mark xi. 1-11.	Mark xiv.53 65.	Luke ii 21-40.
Psalms	Gen. xxviii. Rom. xv. 8-33.	Gen. xl. 1 Cor. vi. 1 12. Psalm cxl-cxli.	Gen. xliii. 1 Cor. xi. 17-29.	Ex. v. 1 Cor. xvi. Ps. cxlii-cxliii.
VICTORIA PK. CH. 11	Stephenson	Lofthouse	Gregory	Gregory T
6½	Gregory s	Gregory	Gregory L	Stephenson T
Tuesday 8	Chase	Gregory	Gregory	Bird
Fri., Public Service 8	Gregory	Stephenson	Gregory	Stephenson
CHILDREN'S HOME 9½			Gregory	
CHAPEL.. 3	Horner	Lofthouse	Bottrill	Stephenson
GORDON HALL .. 11	Gregory	Gough	Horner	Hyder
7	Stephenson	Lofthouse	Sis. Mildred	Gregory L
Wednesday 8	Hyder	Chase	Filmore	Gregory
Saturday 8	Parker	Housman	Sis. Mildred	Chase
BONNER STREET (Children's Mission) .. 6½	Bird	Filmore	Deaconess	H.C.Williams
SMALL HALL .. 7	Phillips	Chase	Bottrill	Hu. Williams
GUARDIAN ASYLUM. 11	Wrigley		Sis. Rita	
6½		Horner	Filmore	
Tuesday 7	Sis. Edith	Deaconess	Mrs. Steph's'n	Wrigley
ALVERSTOKE .. 11	H.C.Williams	Local	Stone	Horner
6½	H.C.Williams	Supply	Stone	Horner

NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

REV. T. B. STEPHENSON, D.D., LL.D., The Children's Home, N.E.
,, A. E. GREGORY, 33, Gore Rd., N.E.
,, N. CURNOCK, Southend.
MR. E. HYDER, 33, Strahan Rd., Grove Rd.
,, J. PENDLEBURY, M.A., 7, St. Agnes Terrace, N.E.
,, W. T. GOUGH, Bonner Road.
,, H. BOTTRILL, 82, Bonner Rd, N.E.
,, J. FERGUSON, 2, Cornwall Road, N.E.
,, W. W. RHODES, 25, Bonner Rd., N.E.
,, F. HORNER, 39, King Edward Rd., N.E.
,, A. E. BIRD, 56, Gore Road, N.E.
,, H.C.WILLIAMS, The Children's Home.
,, J. THOM, 2, Beulah Cottages, N.E.
,, G. FILMORE, 1, Kenton Road, N.E.
,, J. CHASE, 1, Devonshire Street, E.

ON TRIAL.
MR. J. G. PAMMENT, Russia Lane.

FROM OTHER CIRCUITS.
MR. W. FORSTER, 36, Narford Rd., Clapton.
,, J. T. BURDEN, Hendon.

DEACONESSES:
SISTER RITA HAWKINS.
,, MILDRED HOMER.
,, JEANIE BANKS.
,, MAY WATKINS.
,, CAROLINE GREGORY.
,, ANNIE PAUL.
,, EDITH PEARSON.

REFERENCES.

B. Sacrament of Baptism.
S. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
T. Collections for Church Trust Funds.
L. Lovefeast.
† Leaders' Meeting.

The Offerings at the Sunday Services are devoted as follows: Usually two in the Quarter for objects specially indicated; one for the Church Trust Funds; eight for the support of the Ministry; and two for the Connexional Funds of The Methodist Church, viz: The Fund for the Education of Ministers' Children; The Theological Colleges; The Fund for Training Christian Teachers, supporting Sunday Schools and other Educational objects; The Fund for Retired and Aged Ministers: and The General Chapel Fund. The balance of these Incidental Offertories is devoted to Circuit Purposes.

OFFICERS OF THE
WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH
IN THE
Victoria Park Circuit,
LONDON.

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, 1898.

Circuit Stewards:

MR. E. H. TEMPLE, 92, Victoria Park Road, N.E.
MR. F. HORNER, 39, King Edward Road, N.E.

Church Stewards.	*Society Stewards.*	*Stewards for the Poor.*
VICTORIA PARK—		
Mr. E. H. Temple, 92, Victoria Park Rd.	Mr. Wilkie, 258, Bethnal Green Road.	Mr. Wells, 36, Gore Road.
Mr. Ed. Childe, 43, Lauriston Road.	Mr. Lock, Bishop's Road.	Mr. Wrigley, 16, St. Thomas' Road.
GORDON HALL—		
Mr. Bottrill, 82, Bonner Road.	Mr. Housman, 51, Leatherdale St.	Mr. White, 48, Grafton St.
	Mr. Bradshaw, 3, Alderney Place.	Mr. Parker, 171, Finnis St.

Notices for the Pulpit must have the signature of a Steward.

CLASSES FOR CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP.

Leader.	*Time.*	*Place.*
VICTORIA PARK CHURCH, Approach Road—		
Mr. G. Filmore, 1, Kenton Rd.	Sun. 9½	No. 3 Vestry
Mr. Hyder, 33, Strahan Road..	,, 3	Min. Vestry
Mrs. Williams, 2, Penshurst Rd	Mon. 7	No. 7 ,,
Mr. T. Martin, 24, Gotha St. ..	,, 8	No. 7 ,,
Mrs. Lock, 142, Bishop's Road.	,, 8	No. 2 ,,
Mrs. Gathercole, 4, Beulah Cot.	Wed. 3½	Min. ,,
Mrs. Childe, 43, Lauriston Rd.	,, 3½	Own House
Mr. Nicholls, 40, Bishop's-rd .	,, 8	No 8 Vestry
Miss E. Wrigley, 21, Holcroft-rd	,, 8¼	Ch. Parlour
Sister Annie Paul	,, 8	No. 8 Vestry
Sister Minnie Wildman	,, 8¼	No. 1 ,,
Rev. A. E. Gregory	Thu. 8	Ch. Parlour
Mr. Horner, 39, King Ed. Road	,, 8¼	Own House.
Sis. Rita Hawkins, Mewburn H.	,, 8	Lo. Sch-rm.
Mrs. Lock, Bishop's Road ..	,, 8	No. 2 Vestry
THE CHILDREN'S HOME—		
Miss McDougall	Tu. 7	Chil. Home.
Dr. Stephenson	Thu. 8	Ch. Parlour
GORDON HALL—		
Sister Mildred Homer	Sun. 3½	Gordon Hal.
Sister Kate Thompson	Tu. 8	,,
Mr. Housman, Leatherdale St	Tu. 8½	,,
Sister Phyllis Pendlebury ..	,, 8½	,,
Mrs. Housman	Wed. 3	,,
Mrs. Bothwell	Thu. 8	,,

JUNIOR CLASSES.

Leader.	*Time.*	*Place.*
APPROACH ROAD—		
Mr. Pamment	Mon. 7	Class Room
Sister Caroline Gregory	Wed. 7	No. 1 Vestry
THE CHILDREN'S HOME—		
Mr. Stone	Tu. 7	The Home
Sister Dora Stephenson	Tu. 7	,,
Miss McDougall	Tu. 7	,,
Sister Margaret Collier	Tu. 7	,,
Sister Minnie Wildman	Tu. 7	,,
Sister Annie Pendlebury	Tu. 7	,,
Sister Theta Stormer	Tu. 7	,,
GORDON HALL—		
Mr. A. Bird	Wed 7	

For Bible, Catechumen and Singing Classes, see page 2.

The Victoria Park Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Children's Home Chapel and Gordon Hall are duly Licensed for the Solemnization of Marriages.

The Sacrament of The Lord's Supper is administered in the Church on the first Sunday evening of the month, and in the Chapel at 9.30 on the third Sunday morning.

The Mission Bands are appointed to assist in the after Meeting at the Church, and at the Small Hall, in Bonner Street, and in the open air.

At the Prayer Meeting on Friday evenings, the following will be the principal topics of prayer. F.M., Foreign Missions. C., The Children of our Families, Sunday Schools, and the Home. S.L., The Spiritual Life of the Church. M.B., Mission Band Prayer Meeting, followed by a Short Meeting for Testimony.

General Notices.

N.B. Each Preacher should fulfil his own appointments or if unavoidably prevented, *himself* provide an accredited supply.

1. Quarterly Meeting on Monday, March 21st, in the Church Parlour, at 8 precisely.

2. Local Preachers' Meeting, in the Ministers' Vestry, on Tuesday, March 15th, at 9 o'clock.

3. Class Leaders will kindly pay in their moneys to the Society Stewards on or before Friday, March

4. A Bible Class for Men is conducted on Sundays in the Vestry by Mr. W. T. Gough, at 2.45.

5. Bazaar Sewing Meetings, fortnightly on Mondays, at 3 o'clock.

6. A Mothers' Meeting is held in the small Hall, Bonner Street, every Monday afternoon.

7. Band of Hope, Approach Road, in the Lower School-room, every Tuesday, at Seven o'clock.

8. Deaconesses from Mewburn House, 84, Bonner Road Victoria Park.

9. Quarterly Fast, Friday, April 1st, 1898.

10. Methodist Publications may be had of the Church Keeper.

Printed at THE CHILDREN'S HOME, Bonner Road, London.

Staff.

Revd Bishop.

Feb. 10th.

10/11

Interview with Mr S. E. Barnes, Edinburgh (2)
Castle, Rhodesmill Road.

Mr Barnes is a man of about 40, who has for five years been the Mission Secretary in charge of the Evangelistic work carried on by Dr Barnardo at Edinburgh Castle. A good many of the facts and figures in connection with the work will be found in the Report on the following page.

Working actually under him in ~~direct~~ direct connection with the Mission there is only one lady, but Mrs B. looks upon the various small missions in the Cowgate district (see Miss Hurst. Book II. Page 8.) as really branches of the Castle. It appears that though Dr B. is giving up his Deaconesses' Homes, and some of his Deaconesses, at least six will be kept on, and the work of these Missions carried on as formerly. The Deaconesses are always at Mrs B's command for any work which he wishes done

Coffee Palace. Large Hall. St. Mary's Hall. Gymnasium etc.

34.—The People's Mission Church, Edinburgh Castle, Limehouse, E.

The Hall of the Edinburgh Castle, which for many years has been an influential centre of evangelical preaching and religious effort, is one of the largest in the East End of London, being capable of seating 3,200 persons. Attached to the Castle is a Coffee Palace, while in connection with it are worked thrift and temperance societies, sick visiting and other organisations, in which the ladies of the Deaconess House actively co-operate. Originally a gin shop and music hall, the Edinburgh Castle was captured for nobler work in the service of Christ, under circumstances exciting and even romantic. Its record is thus exceedingly inspiring and full of encouragement. Since that time it has been rebuilt and enlarged, having been opened in the first instance by the late Earl of Shaftesbury, on 14th February, 1873. For a quarter of a century the Gospel in all its simplicity and power has been preached here in the ears of an audience which, each Sunday evening, usually quite fills the hall. The religious aspect of the work here, as elsewhere exhibited, is wholly unsectarian and interdenominational, and the preachers include representatives of every evangelical section of the one Church, clerical, ministerial and lay. The boys from the Labour House, from the Home at Stepney, from Leopold House and from Sheppard House regularly attend these Mission services each Sunday morning at Edinburgh Castle, and their bright faces and hearty singing are attractive features. There is a well-trained adult mixed choir and a good organ, besides an orchestra consisting of over 30 performers on stringed and brass instruments, and co-operating most effectively with the choir. P.S.A. meetings are held every Sunday afternoon, some details concerning which are appended. In the evening we are always sure of the attendance of a very large congregation, and this fact alone will serve as a sufficient answer to the familiar sophism that "Christianity fails to attract the working-classes." But it must be remembered that these Sunday services are but a portion of the operations

conducted by the Castle for the welfare of the people. During the fine weather there are three open air services every Sunday, which have been productive of much good alike in sowing seeds of truth by the wayside, and in enabling young sowers to gain experience for extended effort in Evangelistic work. In order to give some little idea of the scope and comprehensiveness of the work connected with the Edinburgh Castle, it may be mentioned that, as a rule, no fewer than 12 distinct services are held every Sunday. On week nights 6 distinct services, evangelistic, open-air, or Bible Class take place. Apart from these distinctively religious efforts, each evening sees the Gymnasium, Bands of Hope, Lecture or Concert Hall largely attended by hard-working toilers, for whom intellectual and moral culture as well as healthful recreation are thus provided after a hard day's work.—The Saturday evening Prayer Meeting under the leadership of the Mission Secretary at the Castle, Mr. S. E. Burrow, fitly brings to a conclusion as busy a week as can be found in the life of any Institution seeking solely the welfare, spiritual and general, of the masses. Temperance pledges have also been taken throughout the year; Hospital letters given away, and visits paid, and tickets for Convalescent Homes supplied to poorer members of the flock.

The following statistics show, as far as figures can, how much and how highly the work at the Edinburgh Castle is appreciated by those for whose benefit the building has been provided.

Number of Religious Meetings held	866
Aggregate attendances at same	369,320
Number of Temperance, Social, and Educational Meetings	238
Aggregate attendances at same	81,160
Total number of Meetings	1,104
Total attendances at same	450,480

The **Pleasant Sunday Afternoon** movement continues to be one of the most remarkable and helpful factors among the various agencies carried on for the religious welfare of the East End. Now in the fourth year of its existence, the P.S.A. movement

at the Edinburgh Castle has advanced with that steady progress which is always the sure sign of real work and well-applied effort. Our first and chief aim is the extension of Christ's Kingdom, and at every service the Gospel message of God's way of salvation is proclaimed with "no uncertain sound." Every gathering is marked by a fervent and reverential spirit, and each audience has placed before it a clear exposition and whole-hearted declaration of the eternal truths of God's word. As a society the P.S.A. is carried on by its own Committee of management, controlled by definite rules and supported by regular weekly payments on the part of Members to defray the expenses.

At the close of 1896 the number of paying members was **983**: 773 men and 210 women. These numbers, however, do not represent the full total of those who have, from time to time, attended these Meetings. There is always a constant leakage owing to removals, and of the 1,049 members enrolled 276 have lapsed within the twelvemonth. A visiting Committee does excellent work in keeping "lukewarms" in touch with the Society, and preventing indifference. Practically the whole of the membership are on the side of total abstinence. The Benevolent Fund in connection with the P.S.A. has proved a real boon, and over 30 members have been relieved in time of need. By means of a well-organised Book Fund, standard works of biography, history, travel and religion are obtained by the members on exceptionally favourable terms, and the quality of books in demand shows an increasing appreciation of the best literature. The total number of books purchased by the members during the year was 3,135. Since the P.S.A. was established four years ago, a total of 11,409 volumes have been purchased by the members.

A new feature for 1896 in the shape of a Provident Loan Club has been a marked success. Already some 625 members have joined, and their investments in the Post Office Savings Bank reached the respectable total of £554 18s. 10d. R. H. Hodge, Esq., barrister-at-law, has most kindly continued to place his services at the disposal of the "Poor Man's Lawyer" branch.

A **Women's Branch of the P.S.A.** meets each Sunday afternoon under the superintendence of Miss M. E. Stent, in the Iron Hall at the Castle. The roll of membership contains 210 names.

attendance from 250 to 300

34.—The People's Mission Church, Edinburgh Castle, Limehouse, E.

The Hall of the Edinburgh Castle, which for many years has been an influential centre of evangelical preaching and religious effort, is one of the largest in the East End of London, being capable of seating 3,200 persons. Attached to the Castle is a Coffee Palace, while in connection with it are worked thrift and temperance societies, sick visiting and other organisations, in which the ladies of the Deaconess House actively co-operate. Originally a gin shop and music hall, the Edinburgh Castle was captured for nobler work in the service of Christ, under circumstances exciting and even romantic. Its record is thus exceedingly inspiring and full of encouragement. Since that time it has been rebuilt and enlarged, having been opened in the first instance by the late Earl of Shaftesbury, on 14th February, 1873. For a quarter of a century the Gospel in all its simplicity and power has been preached here in the ears of an audience which, each Sunday evening, usually quite fills the hall. The religious aspect of the work here, as elsewhere exhibited, is wholly unsectarian and interdenominational, and the preachers include representatives of every evangelical section of the one Church, clerical, ministerial and lay. The boys from the Labour House, from the Home at Stepney, from Leopold House and from Sheppard House regularly attend these Mission services each Sunday morning at Edinburgh Castle, and their bright faces and hearty singing are attractive features. There is a well-trained adult mixed choir and a good organ, besides an orchestra consisting of over 30 performers on stringed and brass instruments, and co-operating most effectively with the choir. P.S.A. meetings are held every Sunday afternoon, some details concerning which are appended. In the evening we are always sure of the attendance of a very large congregation, and this fact alone will serve as a sufficient answer to the familiar sophism that "Christianity fails to attract the working-classes." But it must be remembered that these Sunday services are but a portion of the operations

35.—St. Ann's Gospel Hall, Edinburgh Castle, Limehouse, E.

This iron building has a seating capacity of about 500. It was originally erected for temporary use while the Edinburgh Castle Hall was being enlarged. It has proved of very great value for overflow meetings and special gatherings. Each Sunday morning it is used for Children's Meetings, and in the afternoon the Women's branch of the P.S.A. meets in it. Two large and successful Sales of Work for the benefit of the Homes have also been held in it each year for some time past. During 1896 it has done excellent service as a temporary schoolroom for the children attending Copperfield Road Schools while the latter were in process of reconstruction.

36.—Cabmen's Shelter, Burdett Road, E.

During the year this Shelter has had to be removed, greatly to my regret. The Mile End Vestry introduced certain alterations at that end of Burdett Road, and decreed the abolition of the Shelter, despite a numerously-signed petition by a large number of cabmen who certified to the benefit they had received. Henceforth, therefore, this useful little branch will disappear from our Annual Report. It has done capital service for many years. It was the very first Shelter to be opened in East London.

37.—The Edinburgh Castle Coffee Palace, Rhodeswell Road, E.

When the Edinburgh Castle was established after a memorable struggle the story of which reads in some respects like a romance,

it was the first Coffee Palace in the kingdom. Its pioneer efforts were highly successful, not only in proving that such an institution could be conducted profitably, but by way of pointing out the right lines to imitators, and it has been well and widely imitated! Its turreted bastions and its tall flagstaff are landmarks throughout the neighbourhood. The Castle is mentioned in local Guide Books as one of the objects of interest which East London has to show. The Visitors' Book shows that friends from all parts of the world visit the Palace to inspect its arrangements. The Castle is a real Workmen's Club without the drink, and supplies powerful incentives to temperance, thrift, and right living.—The Gymnasium attached to the Castle holds its meetings twice a week, and it has proved highly successful in winning the attendance of many young men in the neighbourhood. The members of the Gymnasium have just completed a most successful season, under the direction of Mr. Frank H. Gelling, M.B.C.P.E. The membership shows a decided increase over the last two seasons. During the year two displays have been given in the large Hall of the Castle both being very well attended. Six medals have been presented for competition by Mr. Knightsbridge.—Meetings in connection with various Clubs and Societies take place in the Castle, every evening in the week except Wednesday. Numerous Temperance Pledges are taken in the course of the year. The total receipts of the Edinburgh Castle Coffee Palace during 1896 amounted to £942 12s. 3d.

38.—The East London Tract and Pure Literature Depot, Rhodeswell Road, Limehouse, E.

This little Depôt has continued during 1896 to fulfil its purpose, the supply and distribution of literature of wholesome quality. The year's sales have realised £83 14s. 8d. The publications of the Protestant Truth Society sell well, and there has been an increased demand for religious weeklies such as *The Christian*, *The English Churchman*, and *The British Weekly*, and for such periodicals

39.—The Peoples Mission Church, Edinburgh Castle, Limehouse, E.

The Hall of the Edinburgh Castle, which for many years has been an influential centre of evangelical preaching and religious effort, is one of the largest in the East End of London, being capable of seating 3,200 persons. Attached to the Castle is a Coffee Palace, while in connection with it are worked thrift and temperance societies, sick visiting and other organisations, in which the ladies of the Deaconess House actively co-operate. Originally a gin shop and music hall, the Edinburgh Castle was captured for nobler work in the service of Christ, under circumstances exciting and even romantic. Its record is thus exceedingly inspiring and full of encouragement. Since that time it has been rebuilt and enlarged, having been opened in the first instance by the late Earl of Shaftesbury, on 14th February, 1873. For a quarter of a century the Gospel in all its simplicity and power has been preached here in the ears of an audience which, each Sunday evening, usually quite fills the hall. The religious aspect of the work here, as elsewhere exhibited, is wholly unsectarian and interdenominational, and the preachers include representatives of every evangelical section of the one Church, clerical, ministerial and lay. The boys from the Labour House, from the Home at Stepney, from Leopold House and from Sheppard House regularly attend these Mission services each Sunday morning at Edinburgh Castle, and their bright faces and hearty singing are attractive features. There is a well-trained adult mixed choir and a good organ, besides an orchestra consisting of over 30 performers on stringed and brass instruments, and co-operating most effectively with the choir. P.S.A. meetings are held every Sunday afternoon, some details concerning which are appended. In the evening we are always sure of the attendance of a very large congregation, and this fact alone will serve as a sufficient answer to the familiar sophism that "Christianity fails to attract the working-classes." But it must be remembered that these Sunday services are but a portion of the operations

Xmas &c.

the Report.

In the morning there is only a Children's Service. At the Evening Service the large Hall is full, about 3000 in all: these are drawn from a very wide area, practically the whole of East London and Stratford: they are exclusively middle class and the upper stratum of the working class. Mr B. (who was absolutely frank throughout) admitted that probably ~~there was not one~~ all of them ~~who~~ if not at the Castle would ~~not~~ be at some church or chapel, that this in fact is not a Mission but a large Congregational Church drawn from other churches. "People" he said "come from other parts of London to see our Services expecting to find the poor in rags and tatters, and are astounded & to find themselves among a Congregation such as they might almost find in the West End." As to the really poor, the people of Bow & Limehouse Fields - for whom the Castle and the Missions were intended they go nowhere: it is no better at the Missions: Evening Meetings are held at Dorcas House and the East London Mission Halls on

Sunday night with attendances of from 40 to 130: "but" said Mr D. "I often step out from here in time to deliver the address at one of these Halls and find exactly the same class of people as here." The only chance they ever get of addressing any spiritual instruction to the poor is at certain suppers which are given occasionally at the Mission Halls: then c's in connection with the congregation at the Castle a band of 'Onwards' composed of about 40 young men and women of the better working class: these young people put by a penny a week and during the winter have two or three suppers: for two or three days previously to the supper they go about giving away tickets, but such is the aversion to being preached at that they have the greatest difficulty in getting the tickets accepted: but usually finally manage from 80 to 100. tickets. of the effect of any results from these suppers Mr D. said "no": but he had been told by the leader of the Onwards of the conversions traced to them.

Many members of the congregation at the Castle are Church people who have been driven out of

the Churches of Ritualism. "I know many" said Mr B. "who have come here in despair after trying almost every church in East London: with the exception of Mr Richardson's church there is practically nowhere they can go". Mr B. then went on to speak of the incident mentioned in the interview with Mr Llewelyn: it appears that some of the boys from the Homes were sent to St Matthews while their chapel was under repair, but on Dr B. going to the church he found "lighted candles everywhere and not less than nine crosses scattered about the church." Mr B. thinks the older generation of churchgoers to be strongly Protestant but is less comfortable about the younger people: "the high church people are tremendously active: I meet them everywhere: they point us to shame: the non-conformists are only equally active things would be very different; but they don't visit as they ought to"

Of the P.S.A. Mr B. said "I think you may find there some who are not otherwise churchgoers, and to that I think we can trace distinct cases of conversion". The P.S.A. is run on very strict-

Social Agencies.

Visiting.

Relief.

Gospel lines: "Many P.S. A's are little better than secular meetings, run no doubt with the good motive of leading men to the Gospel; but we doubt whether in that sort of thing: we hold that the Gospel can and will attract of itself." A great feature however is made of the music and singing: an admirable choir and quintette soloists.

The classes in the castle are carried on on the "supply" system: "all the most prominent Evangelists are invited in turn". The present Vicar is the attraction.

Mothers' meetings at the castle and each of the missions.

Gymnastics for lads twice a week.

Band of Hope: large and flourishing

The Lady Workers and Mr Dawson spend a large part of their time in visiting, but confine themselves to members of the congregation.

Mr D. has nothing to do with the finances

Temperance Work.

which are managed by two members of the congregation deputed by Dr B. He knows however that a good deal is given: this again is confined to their own people: he believes that some £3 or £4 is given weekly in pensions.

Though the Band of Hope is vigorous, Temperance work generally is at a terribly low ebb. "Temperance workers" said Mr B "seem to me to have completely lost heart: they have never recovered the blow of the General Election. Five years ago I could fill the Small Hall for a Gospel Temperance meeting without advertising and without any special attraction; but now I may have an attractive programme and put out the largest bills and no one will come". The evangelists too lay much less stress on it than they used to: "often for a month together I don't hear it mentioned in their addresses". As a result Mr B. thinks there is a decided increase in drinking up not among the ungodly then certainly among the godly who are quite shameless about sending out for beer directly

The work at the Castle.

Personal.

they get home from service.

Mr B. looks upon the Band of Hope work as rather futile: "directly the children go out to work they will be men and women and they drop their pledge".

A report was spread last year that Dr B. was going to give up his Evangelistic work and that the Castle had been sold to a brewer. This however is quite untrue: there is still seven years of the lease to run and Dr B. has said that for that time at all events the work will be carried on; and then if Dr B. should have to drop it from want of funds he has said that there is no doubt that others would take it on. "The whole of religious London would be roused", said Mrs B. "if the work were dropped".

Mr Burrows struck me as a shrewd capable man: probably a first-rate organiser. He will be seen from the report of the interview he is remarkably 'straight'.