Light for the Line,
THE SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION MAGAZINE.

No. LXIV., QUARTERLY. JULY, 1914. 2/- PER ANNUM. 2/6 POST FREE.

South African Church Railway Mission.

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

The Vicarage,
Germiston,
Transvaal.

My dear Friends,

By the time that this reaches you Mr. Faunce will be on his way to England, and the Rev. G. A. Lejeune and Mrs. Lejeune will have settled down at Naauwpoort.

Mr. Ooles was ordained deacon on Palm Sunday, and is now at work at St. Barnabas’, Capetown, where he will be very pleased to see any old friends who happen to be passing through.

Mr. Coombs has settled down at Germiston to work amongst the coloured people, and hopes to be ordained before long. His address is the Vicarage, Germiston, and he too will be very glad to see old friends whenever they are up that way.

For the rest our staff will remain as it is until Michaelmas, and I cannot quite say what may happen after that. I have felt for some time that ten years of life as a Railway Missioner was enough for most men, and happy as I have been in the work, I felt that for my own as well as for the work’s sake, the time had come when I ought to be thinking of moving. I said something of this to the Bishop of Pretoria last November, and when at Easter he asked me to become Archdeacon of Pretoria I accepted his offer, and hope to take up my new work in October. Unfortunately this involves my going home first for a few weeks, and I am expecting to spend July and August in England, my place being taken as before by the Rev. O. W. L. Skey, the Vicarage, Germiston.

I do not propose to enter into a detailed account of what my feelings are on giving up the work, but you will, I know, believe me when I say that in most ways it is with very great sorrow that I do so.

The future of the Mission lies in the hands of the Archbishop and Bishops of the Province, and I hope that whatever arrangements they may make, the work amongst our scattered English people will be done more effectively than it has been in the past. I sometimes feel that the Bishops do not realise how much you need and value the ministrations of the Church because you have no churchwardens to complain when you are neglected; if this is so you should write straight to the Bishop of the Diocese and tell him what you want.

I hope to be able to tell you further news in October when I shall have to bid you farewell.

Yours very sincerely,

F. A. Rogers.
NURSES' SALE.

Open letter to Nurse Brownlow from the Head of the Mission.

Bishopsbourne Cottage,
Grahamstown,
June 8th, 1914.

Dear Miss Brownlow,

I feel that before the preparations for the Nurses' Sale have gone any further, I ought in common fairness to all those who have kindly promised to help, to make it known that there is the possibility of our being unable to get a Nurse to replace you in the Cape Province.

I wrote home in February asking that every effort should be made to find one, but so far no one has offered. I will, however, do the best I can while I am at home, but I think it should be clearly understood that if I fail, the proceeds of the Sale shall still go to the Nursing Funds of the Mission as a whole as there is every hope that Nurse Wardale will be working in the Transvaal for the next two years.

We have had nurses on the Mission for the last ten years and the Mission has from time to time spent considerable sums of money upon this work.

With this explanation I hope all the supporters will understand the situation and will do all they can to make the Sale a success.

Yours very sincerely,
F. A. Rogers.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

NAAUWPOORT.

Good Friday was, upon the whole, well observed at Nauwpoort, and it was a great joy to note that many of our churchpeople made use of the quiet time of prayer and meditation upon the Seven Words from the Cross, known as the Three Hours' Service.

We were fortunate in having Mr. Rogers (the Head of the Railway Mission) with us on Easter Day, who, after celebrating the Holy Eucharist at St. Agnes'—the native Church—at 6 a.m., assisted at the Choral Eucharist at All Souls' at 8 a.m. and preached at Matins and Evensong.

The Church, decked in white and resplendent with flowers (thanks to those who worked so willingly and lovingly on Saturday afternoon, Easter Eve), by its very appearance alone—apart from the glad hymns and bright festal services—proclaimed the glory and joy of the greatest day in the year—the Day of our Lord's Resurrection, of His triumph over death and the powers of evil.

On Easter Day 27 Communions were made, and 45 in all were present at the Altar, as against 33 Communions and 43 present last Easter. Disappointing? Yes; but experience shows that figures are misleading, and disappointments inevitable, at such seasons as these. One must allow for the many gaps made in our ranks during the past year, and be very thankful that practically all communicants in this place tasted the fulness of Easter joy in sacramental union with their Risen Lord.

At Matins the Te Deum, and at Evensong the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis were very creditably sung by the choir, and the same may be said of the Anthems: "I am He that liveth" and "If we believe that Jesus died."

The Easter Vestry Meeting, held on April 14th, passed off very happily. Messrs. Odoire and Hitchcock were elected as churchwardens, and Messrs. Viney, Saunders, Leggett, Lemon, Van Eyssen and Orton as sidesmen.

Our Children's Outing, on Saturday in Easter Week (April 18th), proved a huge success, thanks mainly to the fine way in which the idea of a day for the children was taken up and carried through by the "grown ups."
Church officers, ladies of the congregation—always invaluable, but more so than ever on occasions like these—and the parents of the children concerned, all did their best to give the children a real good day, with the result that it was perfectly delightful! If food in plenty, cakes and apples galore, sweets, races, games, and nice prizes for all, with never a wrong word and plenty of fun do not make up a real good day for children, then they must be very hard to please, and not the sort that grow in Naauwpoort! In their name, I would like, here and now, once again to thank all those who worked so hard and unselfishly to make the day such an unqualified success.

On Whit Sunday we were glad to have with us the Rev. G. A. Lejeune, the new Priest-in-Charge of Naauwpoort, and his wife. Mr. Lejeune celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and preached at Evensong.

WORK ALONG THE LINE. During the past quarter Services have been held at TAAIBOSCH, HANOVER ROAD, DWAAAL and NORVAL'S PONT. ARUNDEL also was arranged for, but owing to the rain and other reasons, had to be abandoned. The rain again seriously interfered with the Services at Norval's Pont. However, in spite of disappointments such as these (and one dare not grumble at the rain in a country like this, where every drop is welcome), it has always been a great pleasure to go along the line, and the kindness one has met with everywhere has been wonderful.

As this is the last time that I shall write for Light for the Line, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all and sundry, both in Naauwpoort and along the line, for their goodness to one who is only too conscious of the many imperfections of his ministry among them, and to wish them, one and all, from the bottom of my heart, God's blessing.

T. de Laune Faunce.

ALICEDALE, COOKHOUSE AND MIDLAND SECTION.

ALICEDALE. The last quarter has been in many ways a full one; I find at least that there is much that needs recording.

On May 12th the death took place of John Ranulph Vincent, the Dean of Grahamstown. We at Alicedale felt that we were very closely associated with Dean Vincent; we were in his parish and, moreover, he was keenly interested in the place. Those who were privileged to take part in the Mission which he conducted in the camp in November, 1912, were more than ordinarily impressed; and yet when we come to ask what it was that impressed us we find it at first almost difficult to answer. There was nothing remarkable about his conversation, and his addresses in Church were extremely simple—just the Gospel story of the love of God for sinful man and the appeal to turn from sin and give ourselves to God. No; it was not the "hail fellow well met" manner nor the novelty of his message that impressed us,—it was surely the man that we felt him to be behind his words; it was the character of the Dean that impressed us, appealed to us, and was instrumental in converting some of us. It was this character that made him so sympathetic; we felt that he understood our temptations and difficulties in the religious life and just longed to help us. Dean Vincent came again to Alicedale last November, the anniversary Sunday of the Mission. We mourn his loss to the Church on earth, but we feel more than ever confident that such a life as his could not really die: his decease has only meant his removal to a wider and fuller sphere of service for his Master in Paradise.

The sad railway accident which took place on May 9th near Bushman's River, cast a gloom over Alicedale, resulting, as it did, in the death of the
local R.M.O., Dr. Smith, and a guard named Cameron from P.E. Nurse Brownlow, who was at Alicedale at the time, went in the “breakdown” train to render first aid. A “special,” from Grahamstown with two doctors, a nurse and ambulance corps, proceeded as soon as possible to the scene of the accident; the guard, however, died before their arrival. Dr. Smith was taken into the “special,” which returned to Grahamstown, but he passed away on being conveyed from the Station to the Hospital. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his widow and family. Dr. Smith, who has practised in Alicedale, Sandflats and district for very many years, was universally popular, as was evidenced by the large number of people who came into Alicedale to attend his funeral. Though in his 70th year, he enjoyed remarkably good health and was always bright and happy. The nature of his work—involving as it did many night calls—must often have proved trying to his years, yet he did not complain, and a conversation with him never failed to bring out his wit and good humour and made one feel the better for the time spent with him. A loving husband, a wise father, a true friend, he will be greatly missed not only by the relatives which he leaves behind, but also by the large Railway community among whom he laboured as well as by the many farmers who turned to him in their sickness.

At the Easter Vestry Meeting held after Evensong on May 24th, Mr. Bert Harvey was re-appointed Minister’s Warden and Mr. Jones People’s Warden. The Priest-in-charge announced that after careful deliberation in Conference, it had been decided by the Mission to hand over Alicedale to the Diocese in October of this year. Arrangements for the new ministration of St. Barnabas’ rest in the hands of the Bishop of the Diocese. When the time comes for the connection between the Mission and the camp to be severed, it will be indeed a great wrench, for this connection was made some 18 or 19 years ago; hence Alicedale is one of the oldest Railway Camps ministered to by the Mission.

A very pretty wedding took place at St. Barnabas’ on May 25th between Edward Charles Homan and Jane Margaret Morey. Miss Morey is the daughter of an old and highly respected Alicedale family. Miss May Pearce was bridesmaid and Mr. Ted Harvey acted as best-man, while Miss Harvey was at the organ and ably rendered the Wedding March. The bride was accompanied by a prettily dressed flower girl and page boy. A pleasant gathering took place at the bride’s house after the ceremony, when the usual toasts were drunk. Mr. and Mrs. Homan are settling down at Graaff-Reinet.

Sunday, May 24th, being Empire Day, the National Anthem was sung at Evensong.

Little can be said about Holy Week and Easter. The Services of the former were fairly well attended as were also the Three Hours’ Devotion and Lantern Service on Good Friday. We were fortunate in having a glorious day for Easter—the Queen of Festivals. The Church was prettily decorated, the congregations good, and the singing hearty. It is difficult to make people realise the importance of the Festival of the Ascension, and though we had both a Celebration of Holy Communion and Evensong with address, the congregations at both were very poor.

The Head of the Mission paid us a much appreciated visit on Sunday, April 26th, celebrating at the Eucharist and preaching at Matins. We offer him our heartiest congratulations upon his appointment as Archdeacon of Pretoria.

COOKHOUSE. Here it has been decided that the Priest-in-charge of Naauwpoort shall, from October, give one Sunday a month to Cookhouse. The Rev. G. Lejeune will shortly be taking up his duties at that place. Mrs. Vin
cent—the wife of our genial church-warden—who has put in several years of useful work into the Church, acting in the capacity of hostess, sanctuary keeper, and collector of the Sustentation Fund, sailed for England with her family early in May.

We extend a welcome to the new churchpeople who have come to Cookhouse. Signs are not wanting of a revival of Church life. There is no reason why we should not make headway—but we must all pull together.

ALONG THE LINE. Quite the heartiest and best attended Line Service this quarter was held at Glen Connor on April 29th in the schoolroom, excellent arrangements being made by Mrs. and the Misses Ferreira. Mr. (relief S.M.) and Mrs. Hemming—old friends of the Mission—were here at the time.

I spent my last Sunday at De Aar on May 17th. In July, August and September I am taking duty one Sunday a month at Uitenhage.

SYDNEY R. GRIGGS.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

WATERVAL BOVEN DISTRICT.

Waterval Boven,
June 5th, 1914.

Since my last letter, to begin with WATERVAL BOVEN news, we had a most successful Social Evening on May 8th with the express purpose of welcoming new-comers in our midst. The ladies must have worked extraordinarily hard to produce the results that were pleasingly evident to all. There was a short musical programme, in which the Rev. F. Morris accompanied the singers and contributed a Chopin Polonaise. Songs were contributed by Mr. Cooper, Mr. Myerson and myself. The ladies were apparently too exhausted to sing. There was an interval for refreshments, and I ventured to make a few remarks on the uncomfortable feeling one has in the pit of the stomach when one gets to a place and finds one isn’t wanted, illustrated by a personal reminiscence, together with an exhortation not to allow anybody to experience a like sensation in Waterval Boven. The evening ended with a couple of hours’ dancing, and we were most grateful to Mr. Calvert for presiding at the piano.

Another bit of news is the rapidly approaching wedding of Mr. Bullen, our erstwhile postmaster, and Miss Sadie Dixon. In fact, it will have been accomplished before this comes into print. I am sure we all wish them every happiness. Mr. Bullen was a member of our Church Committee, and Miss Dixon has for some time been the sole solitary prop of our Sunday School. The children will miss her very much, and I am glad to think they have clubbed together to present her with a nicely-bound copy of Tennyson’s poems. I do hope someone will be forthcoming to take her place, as so much depends upon a regular weekly attendance.

The services on Good Friday and Easter were fairly well attended. The children attended very well on Good Friday and helped to decorate the Church on Saturday afternoon. It is sad to think how few men obey Christ’s dying command, “Do this in remembrance of Me.” Can it be true that we love Him if we do not keep His commandments?

A very sad fatality occurred in the early morning of Thursday, June 4th. Robert Murdoch, a truck examiner, was run over and killed by the shunting engine. The distressing duty of breaking the news to his widow devolved upon myself. He was a quiet, reserved man, who could always be relied upon, and was consequently respected though known well by very few. A considerable number of railwaymen paid their last respects to his memory and showed their sympathy for Mrs. Murdoch by following the bier from the house, where a hymn was sung, to the Church,
when the first part of the Burial Service was read, and then from the Church to the graveside. It is to be hoped that we shall all realise the uncertainty of our daily existence and see the necessity of living more in the presence of God, by the habit of daily prayer.

On May 28th there was a well attended service at KOMATI POORT, and I enjoyed a personally conducted stroll through the railway plantation by Mr. Gardiner, being surprised at the variety of fruit grown and delighted at the opportunity of sampling it.

On Whit Sunday I had my first Sunday at BREYTEN, and found everybody, including myself, missing the genial presence of the late station-master, Mr. Thomas, who, we hear, will not return to Breyten after his leave.

And I must not forget to mention the very well attended services at BRONKHORSTSPRUIT, where we tried the experiment of holding morning service in the Court-house in the township across the spruit, and at the Hotel Hall in the evening close to the station. It answered better than our wildest hopes, and so we must certainly try it again.

I shall not have room in this letter to thank all the kind friends who have put me up during this last quarter; I owe them a deep debt of gratitude, as owing to the continued absence of my coach, which is now in the repairing sheds, I have been more than usually dependent upon hospitality—a clerical tramp, in fact! I must just conclude with a list of the places visited during the last quarter: Machadodorp, Zevenfontein, Bonneton, Davel, Bethal, Kinross, Endicott, Silverton, Hatherley, Pienaarspoort, Rayton, Elands River, Wilge River, Balmoral, Pan, Wonderfontein, Dalmanutha, Airlie, Godwan River, Elands-hoek, Xelspruit, Crocodile Poort, Malilane, Crown Douglas and Prairie.

F. G. K. ESFAILE.

P.S.—Mrs. Murdoch asks me to convey in my letter her appreciation of the great sympathy and kindness of many friends in Waterval Boven shown to her in her trouble, and her regret that she cannot thank them personally.

—E.G.K.E.

BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

The new Chaplain for this section left Germiston for the scene of his labours on Ash Wednesday last: a most suitable and helpful date in one respect, but it must not be thought to indicate that the work is penitential in its character. On the contrary, this section seems to be one of the brightest and most encouraging fields for the work of the Mission: which makes it the more disappointing that the Bishop of the Diocese finds that he will not require the services of the Railway Missioner after the end of August. It is not "ours to reason why": the Railway Mission exists to fill up gaps, and it must be taken as "all in the day's work," if one of its members happens to be made more of a "stop-gap" than the others. Nevertheless such a termination of our work in the Protectorate is bound to be disappointing to the Missioner, and to those who have appreciated the work of the Mission.

It would be quite impossible to give all the details that an importunate editor demands in the way of Services, Collections, Baptisms, Marriages, etc. The Protectorate would require a whole issue of Light for the Line to itself. It must suffice to give a few notes of interest concerning the work at different centres. It will interest old readers to know that old friends of the Mission have turned up recently on this section from other parts: Mr. and Mrs. Williams are now at Ramaquaban, and Mr. and Mrs. Willsworth at Figtree, and both have been visited by the Missioner recently.
Beginning from the south, LOBATS'I seems to be developing into a place worthy of Sunday Services, thanks to the pioneer work of Mr. Rogers a few months ago. There are two communities of farmers living within reasonable distance, at Woodvale and Hildavale, who are very pleased to have a Celebration and a Service, and turn up well. The station itself does not as yet furnish a demand for anything but an Evening Service, which is generally well attended.

GABERONES is the next place of importance, though the Chaplain has visited Ramotsa once, and baptised the ganger's infant, and made the acquaintance of Mr. Jowett, the S.M., and his wife, who are both churchpeople, and living in a lonely spot. At Gaberones, Services have been held in the camp, at the station, and a Celebration in the coach, on two occasions. And by the time this article is in print, the Bishop will also have paid a visit, to confirm three candidates on St. Barnabas' Day —Dr. Macrae and the two Miss Nettletons, who have been preparing for the Gift for some months.

MOCHUDI and ARTERIA are places of hateful memory to most travellers, on account of the fine dust, which they are forced to breathe and swallow in their vicinity. Nevertheless, they are pleasant spots to the Missioner, who can say of them, what can be said of few others, that every living soul in the place, over the age of six, and including visitors, attended the Services he held. At Arteria, a kind of family prayers in the ganger's house seemed to meet best the needs of that small and isolated body of people.

Passing from these sandy pleasure resorts, one has to endure a temporary suffocation from dust and heat, before emerging into the pleasant and balmy surroundings of MAHALAPYE: a place of good water supply, and beautiful gardens. All trains stop here for the engines to get a wash and brush-up, and the travellers need it even more. Here the Chaplain has always received the best of welcomes from all, a comfortable home to turn into, with Mr. and Miss Giles, the souls of hospitality, an excellent attendance at Services, Confirmation candidates, and a Sunday School. The Communicants here have had the privilege of a Celebration on Christmas Day, Easter Day and Ascension Day, and they have had almost monthly visits. Easter of course is the time of the great Protectorate meeting at Mahalapye, of which the Chaplain has many vivid memories. The attendance at Services was a little disappointing, compared with the numbers of people assembled; but the holiday spirit is strong, and the police force are rather inclined to hide their light under a bushel.

PALAPYE ROAD showed great appreciation of a Service held there, though the Chaplain's inaugural visit was on a sad occasion, to bury a little child that had taken poison accidentally. This is the starting point for SEROWE, Khama's capital, which the Chaplain was enabled to visit through the kindness of Capt. Hanney, when the European population turned out to Service astonishingly well, over fifty being present. Space forbids further description of this delightful and interesting place.

FRANCISTOWN, of course, is paid a monthly visit by the Missioner, who looks forward to holding Service in the only Anglican Church in the Protectorate. It is a place that seems to be always full of excitement: there have been two weddings in a fortnight—hearty congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. Williamson; when there is not a wedding, there is a delightful baby of someone's to be baptised; or there is a tennis match, or a golf tournament, or a Vestry meeting, or some other form of violent and exciting exercise. And it is a great thing to be able to say that they are keen on their Church too, and turn up well, and are always devising some
means of improving or beautifying it. The Robert May Memorial is to take the shape of a fence round the Church property and two handsome gates. Mr. Williamson makes a splendid secretary of the Church Council, and the town owes a debt of gratitude to Major Daniel, who reads Service every Sunday night when no Priest is available, and to all those who work for the Church and conduct the Sunday School.

The Chaplain has just made the acquaintance of TSESSEBE and RAMAQUABANE, and hopes to hold Services there soon. The latter place seems to be particularly hopeful.

Crossing the border, PLUMTREE is another Sunday centre, and the School Chapel is a great boon. We are glad Mr. Wilson, the S.M., has returned; we hope his health is restored. It is a pity that more outside people do not make an effort to attend Services, which are held here regularly, and which the School values. From there the Chaplain has visited most places and houses on his bicycle, almost as far as FIGTREE. This also is a place full of promise, and will be given a Sunday as soon as possible.

North of Bulawayo, NYAMANDHLONYU receives regular visits on a Sunday. Here again, the outside farmers have got a little slack about coming in to Church, but we hope that will improve. The station staff are very keen, and do everything to make the Services go well, though no one seems to have the courage to play the organ, and the unfortunate Chaplain’s stock of hymns is running dry!

Here this account must close; enough has been said to show the Railway Mission, in losing this section, is losing a lot, and is bound to feel pain at so doing.

E. F. WIXTON INGRAM.

Advertisers are reminded that this Magazine is read in every diocese from the Zambesi to the Cape.
before Easter and the others during a coach trip immediately afterwards. At COOKHOUSE the attendance was very poor considering that it was the only service of the kind to be held there. ALICEDALE had the lecture on the evening of Good Friday, when Mr. Griggs spoke, so finishing a beautiful series of services which had indeed drawn us into touch with the Sacrifice and Victory of the Cross.

My coach trip took me up the Alexandria line then as far as ROODEHOOGTE and back to LE ROUX on the Oudtshoorn line. I paid first visits to OATLANDS and VLAGTEPLAATS and found at Le Roux old friends of Miss Ramadge, who received me with open arms when I arrived, unheralded and minus the coach, at about 7 p.m. There certainly is no mistake about S.A. hospitality, no matter when or where you arrive. Alicedale expects me every month and so I was back again on the sad day of Dr. Smith’s accident. What was more important, Nurse Brownlow was also there and was able to go up in the relief train and give such assistance as was possible until the arrival of Dr. Drury. The tragedy has cast a gloom over the whole camp, and all up and down the Line one hears expressions of sorrow and sympathy with his family. The Doctor was such a familiar and genial figure and everyone liked him. He will be long missed.

Sorrow and joy tread closely together and my next visit to Alicedale was for Miss Morey’s wedding, when the little Church was filled with friends to witness the ceremony; afterwards, at the house, we wished her and her husband all future happiness.

All ideas of an entertainment in aid of the Church have been set aside for the present and so we are free to concentrate our energies on the Sale for the Nursing Fund, which is to be held at Cookhouse only, as Miss Holmes has explained in her letter. I shall be able to set the work forward again after my holiday to the Falls, starting next week. P. Glasier.

ORANGE FREE STATE.

A whole quarter has gone by, and even now I have not seen all my friends nor been over my whole section, and yet I do not seem to have had many stay-at-home days. But I hope by the time this gets printed and distributed I may have been to see nearly everybody, and while I think of it, let me say that subscriptions are now due.

I am very glad to find that so many children are keen and eager to go in for the Victoria Bible Examination this year. If there are any who have not yet been asked, or told about it, and would like to know the subjects, etc., for next year, I should be very glad if they will write to me, at the same old address, 7, Monument Road, Bloemfontein, and I will send them or bring them full particulars. I should like to have a great many more children to take it up this year; the examinations will not be until next May.

It is also very encouraging to find the children so much more diligent about Sunday School. I think that nearly everywhere the Sunday School classes are larger than they used to be and the scholars more regular in attendance. The praise for this probably belongs largely to the parents, to whom it often means a considerable sacrifice to spare the elder children, especially on Sunday morning. I wish they would also use their influence with regard to the children’s morning prayers; so many of the Guild children tell me that they say their prayers at night but not in the morning, and they are naturally disappointed when I tell them they cannot have badges unless they have kept the whole rule. So please let there be a “grand combine” of example as well as precept, to help each other.

M. E. Watson.
I am writing this month at the close of a fortnight’s delightful holiday, looking forward to the usual routine of work next week. The last three months of work seem to have had nothing particular to mark them, and we are still awaiting the results of the Bible Examination. I very much hope that next year more children will enter and that Kaffir River school will be represented as well as Wolvecloek, which is the only school which has sent up any considerable number of candidates this year.

Eliza and Eveline Straw were confirmed by Bishop Balfour at Coalbrook in May, and we are hoping that seven or eight candidates scattered along the Line may be presented at Kroonstad in October. I find an increasing amount of my time goes in trying to prepare Confirmation candidates; many of them I try to reach twice a month, for they have had little opportunity previously of receiving definite instruction.

C. Maud Heddy.

"The Thanksgiving of Women after Childbirth, commonly called the Churching of Women."

This is the title of one of the services in our Prayer-book, but it is a service that has less attention paid to it than it ought. The Prayer-book takes it for granted that members of the Church regard themselves as belonging to a family in which every other member is deeply interested, and which owes certain duties to God as our Father. One of these duties is certainly gratitude, and every mother ought to wish to express her gratitude to God for the greatest earthly blessing which He bestows on women, namely, the blessing of motherhood.

In the Jewish Church it was the custom for a woman after childbirth to go to the Temple for the rite of purification, and in the second chapter of St. Luke's Gospel we read how the Blessed Virgin Mary came to Jerusalem for this service and there presented our Blessed Lord in the Temple. The Church keeps up this idea in the service of the Churching of Women, partly to remind us of the duty of gratitude, and partly that we may publicly acknowledge that our children are a gift from God, and therefore dedicated to His service.

You will find the service just before the Psalms in our Prayer-book. It is very short, and must be taken by a clergyman, if possible in Church, before a celebration of Holy Communion; but where this is impossible the clergyman may take it in a private house, and it seems natural that it should take place at the same time as the baptism of the child. It is usual for the mother to make some offering of money, not as payment to the clergyman, but as an expression of her gratitude to God, and therefore such gifts should be put into an almsbag during the service or at the end of it, and they are then used for the spread of the Gospel. It is well to remind ourselves of the first object of Holy Matrimony as set forth in our marriage service: "It was ordained by God for the procreation of children, to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord, and to the praise of His Holy Name." If we remember that, we shall want to thank God for them, and to dedicate them to His service.

VICTORIA BIBLE PRIZE EXAMINATION, 1914.

Report.

I have followed the Rev. R. E. Thomas' system of marking in 1912. Successful candidates are tabulated as follows:—

(1) Those who have passed with Honours in two Classes, and in order of merit;
(2) those who have passed, but have not gained sufficient marks to
obtain Honours, also in order of merit.

To all those who have obtained first or second class Honours a prize will be granted; to all those who have passed, whether with or without Honours, a Certificate will be granted.

Thirty-four senior papers and sixteen junior were sent in and the great majority showed evidence of a careful reading of the selected Bible passages and a very fair grasp of the selected portions of Catechism. I was sorry to see that three children belonging to Standards IV and V had done the Junior paper, which, of course, disqualified them, viz., James Brown, Isabella Brown, and Charlie Williams.

Very few of the seniors had the self-restraint to begin the story of the Prodigal Son in the middle, as they were asked, and though I tried in asking for the context of eight passages in question 7 to make it quite plain what I wanted, I found that quite a few children mistook my meaning and wrote a mere paraphrase. I should be glad in future if those invigilating would make it clear that when asked to explain a text the children were meant to write down: Who said it? to whom? when? where? etc.

Amongst the Seniors the paper of Clement Rippon of Sweet Kloof stands out as by far the best paper sent up, full marks being obtained for the Catechism questions and the answers on the Bible questions being very well written; altogether an excellent piece of work. The other two papers in Class I, Olive Pearl Wilmot of Spring Vale and Annie Naudé of Wolvehoek, were also very good, and I think the latter stands a chance of being still higher next year, if she makes sure of her Catechism.

In Class II very readable papers were sent in by Wilhelmina Ferreira of Glenconnor, Annie van der Watt of Wolvehoek and Louisa Elizabeth Schuch of Laws C. College, Pretoria. Considerable promise was shown by Gertrude Skinner of Wolvefontein, Herbert Roberts, Thomas Ferreira, of Glenconnor, Olive Morgan of Amabele and John Whitehead Knipe of Wolvefontein, and they will do still better next year.

Amongst the Juniors I was amazed to find children of eight not only passing, but obtaining first and second class honours. In the first class Victor Knipe of Wolvefontein (8) obtained full marks for the first eight questions, and over 90 per cent. for the whole paper, which I consider a remarkable performance. I think the fact that children of eight can do so well should encourage more children to go in for the examination, which is nothing to be frightened at when you sit down to it. Gertje Weller of Wonderkop and Casper Knoetze of Wolvefontein also did excellent papers. The whole of the second class was good, perhaps the greatest promise being shown by Jeannie Brown (8) of Baroda, Harry Robert Skinner (8) of Wolvefontein and Rachel Straw (9) of Wolvehoek.

May I call the attention of teachers to the inability of children to spell "Apostles' Creed" at all correctly, and to the confusion in their minds between "ascended" and "descended"?

E. G. K. Esdaile.
Annie van der Watt ... Wolvemoek ... 17
Cornelius Knoetze ... Wolvefontein ... 17
Gertrude Skinner ... Wolvefontein ... 11
Kathleen Roberts ... Glenconnor ... 14
Herbert Roberts ... Glenconnor ... 12

Passed without Honours.
Thomas Ferreira ... Glenconnor ... 12
Gertrude Georgina Young ... Theunissen ... 17
Eveline Hancock ... Amabele ... 14
Johnny Vermaak ... Glenconnor ... 14
Olive Morgan ... Amabele ... 13
John Whitehead Knipe ... Wolvefontein ... 12
Elizabeth Mary Skinner ... Wolvefontein ... 16
Elizabeth Wells ... Wolvemoek ... 15
James Molteno Skinner ... Wolvefontein ... 13
Jacobus van der Watt ... Wolvemoek ... 12
Douglas Manson ... Wolvemoek ... 11
Jeannie Burnett ... Wolvemoek ... 10
Frances Haymes ... Springs ... 15
George Ferreira ... Wolvemoek ... 10
Christophel Johannes Vermaak ... Wolvefontein ... 14
Norman Straw ... Wolvemoek ... 11
Martin Trulse Manson ... Wolvemoek ... 10

Failed.—7.

Juniors.

Class I.
Victor Knipe ... Wolvefontein ... 8
Gertie Weller ... Wonder Kop ... 14
Capet Knoetze ... Wolvefontein ... 12

Class II.
Annie Weller ... Wonder Kop ... 11
Jeannie Brown ... Baroda ... 8
Dorothy Ferreira ... Glenconnor ... 12
Harry Robert Skinner ... Wolvefontein ... 8
Susie van der Watt ... Wolvemoek ... 1
Jacoba Kleinhans ... Glenconnor ... 12
Rachel Straw ... Wolvemoek ... 9

Passed without Honours.
Winnie Burnet ... Wolvemoek ... 1
Alice Heath ... Middleton ... 12

Failed.—1.

Three were disqualified, being above Standard III.

Nurse Brownlow's Sale of Work, etc.

It has been decided to hold the Sale of Work for the Nursing Fund of the Railway Mission at Cookhouse on September 8th. Please note that all articles sent in will be sold. None will be returned. Will you all please help us and work for it in the following ways:
(a) Make things yourselves and send them to us; or
(b) Let us know that you are willing to work and we will provide you with
material and garments to be made; or
(c) Let us know certain definite things you want and will buy and we will have them made for you.

If we can get enough competitors, we should like a Baby-show. This is in two divisions:
(a) All Nurse Brownlow's babies to enter in a class by themselves, and as these are all so scattered, this will have to be done by photographs.
(b) A general competition for any baby under two years old; for this the baby will have to be present at Cookhouse.

If any of you are willing to "exhibit" babies please let Nurse Brownlow know as soon as possible.

COMPETITIONS.

Prizes according to number of entries. Decision of the judges to be final. All articles to be for sale and to reach Cookhouse by September 1st.

Entrance 3d. each exhibit.
Best baby's bonnet, crochet or knitting.
Best knitted jacket.
Best knitted vest.
Best knitted socks.
Best crochet jacket.
Best crocheted doyley.
Best fancy tray cloth.
Best home-made sweets.
Best article made of handkerchiefs.
Best loaf of home-made bread.
Best cake, home-made.

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION. Entrance 1d.
Best hand-made pinafore.
Best dressed doll (doll not to cost more than 6d.).

CHILDREN'S PAGE.

Dear Children,
Those of you who have sent in answers to the Bible Examination questions will read with very much interest the Examiner's remarks upon your papers. A large number have done very well. But I do think that lots more of you ought to have been ready to write the papers. It is a sad fact that such a few children could go on steadily all the year through reading and thinking over one or two verses every day. Perseverance is a long word, but it means going on through difficulties. You children have not many very hard things to go through, but if you try to go on doing what you know you ought to do every single day you will find the hard things getting easy and your life getting happier every day.

I see Louisa Schuch's name on the prize list and she deserves to be congratulated for she has gone on steadily trying and through more difficulties than most children have. I wish her all success in the useful work for which she is now preparing and I know she will go on reading her Bible daily as she has done now for many years.

Clement Rippon too has deservedly gained a high place on the lists this year. He pays me a visit now and then and I am always very glad to see him. Olive Wilmot is another member of the Bible Reading Union who does excellent work. Both she and Clement gave us a splendid contribution for Christmas gifts. I have seen these two children, but there are lots of others whom I know by name whom I congratulate upon their success this year. It is good to find the same names year after year upon the list.

Let us all take for our motto this quarter—PERSEVERE.

Your friend,

The Editor.

DAILY READING papers can be had from Miss Burt, The Hermitage, Grahamstown.

Readers are asked to deal with advertisers and so help the Railway Mission,
BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Mar. 15—Mabel Rose Casten, at Alicedale.
April 26—Ruth Winifred Harvey, at Alicedale.
30—Evelyn Frances Elliott, at Nauwpoort.
24—Edith Marjorie Outram, at Nauwpoort.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Mar. 16—Hilda Rachel Carpenter, at Pienaarspoort, Hatherley.
20—Lorna Campbell Scott, at Crown Douglas.
21—Patricia Eleanor Kaufmann, at Machadodorp. Natalie Maude Watson, at Machadodorp.
April 22—Winifred Florence Marshall, at Kinross.
May 3—Kathleen Enid Mary Inglethorp, at Bronkhorstspruit.
12—Margaret Ann Scott Sampson Keen, at Loopfontein, Elandshoek.
15—Herman Henkelman, at Airlee. Received into the Church.
May 3, at Cookhouse, Katie Soise Nunwana.

CONFIRMATIONS.

April 26—At Middelburg, Transvaal (from Waterval Boven), Harry Oswald Friggens.
May 19—At Kinross, Hester Paulin Bartrable.

MARRIAGES.

April 16—Henry Mitford Duthie Bowker and Alice Dorothy Distin.
May 25—At Alicedale, Edward Charles Homan to Jane Margaret Morey.

BURIAL.

June 4—At Waterval Boven, Robert Murdoch.

COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.

Waterval Boven, £14/9, 14/-, £1/8/3, 13/7, £1/7/2; Machadodorp, £1/6/3, £2/12/-, £1/9/2, 13/-; Zwenfontein, 2/-; Pienaarspoort, 5/-; Crown Douglas, 12/6; Rayton, £1/1/6, £1/1/3; Hatherley, 13/8, 10/3; Silverton, 6/-, 10/-; Bronkhorstspruit, £1/2/9, £2/14/6; Pan, 6/4, 11/3; Wonderfontein, 11/6, 10/-; Dalmanutha, 10/6; Kinross, 17/-; Davel, 4/-, £1/6/11; Breynet, 18/9, 19/9; Nelspruit, £1/7/1, 7/3; Malelane, 19/-, 5/-; Komati-poort, 10/-, 17/3; Prairie, 3/-; Bonnelieu, 6/3; Elands River, 1/-; Wilge River, 7/6; Balmoral, 12/9; Airlie, £1/0/6; Bethal, £1/18/6.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

Bushman's River, 4/1; Witmoss, 2/4; Barkly Bridge, 4/8; Middleton, 5/3; Commadagga, 5/1; Glenconnor, 13/6; Sherborne, 6/11; per Miss Glasier, 5/-; Sandflats (part), 8/9; Kipon, 5/10; Commadagga, 2/10; Kenkelhoesch, 8/-; Roode Hoogte, 3/-; Uniondale Road, 4/6; Barroe, 8/0.
Collecting Boxes: Sandflats, 3/-.
Children's Entertainment, Sherborne (omitted last time), 4/6.
Fees (only), per S.R.G., March to May, £14/18/3.
Collections and fees, per Rev. T. de L. Fannce, £7/3/10.
Donation, Mrs. Linnon, 5/-.

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Subscriptions, 2/- per annum, 2/6 post free, can be paid to the Editor or to any of the Mission Staff or Local Agents.
Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address.
Local Agents are asked to send names and new addresses of any removals from their list, or change in numbers required, to the Editor, The Hermitage, Grahamstown, also to apply at once to the Editor if the Magazines do not reach them duly.
Members of the Staff are asked to send in to the Editor, every quarter, names of new members of Guild of Good Shepherd, Mothers’ Union, and G.F.S. for insertion in Light for the Line.

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Intercessions.

You are asked to remember all the members of the Staff of the Railway Mission.

Frederick Rogers, the Head of the Mission, that he may be guided in his consultation with the London Committee as to the future of the work.

Laurie Skey, the Vice-Head, that he may have wisdom to direct the affairs of the Mission during the next three months.

Edwin Holden in North Rhodesia, that he may have health and strength for the work.

Edward Winnington Ingram in the Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Everard Esdaile in the Transvaal.

Thomas de Laune Faunce during his voyage (July) and his time in England.

Gustav Lejeune, starting new work at Naauwpoort.

Sydney Griggs in the Diocese of Grahamstown.

Mary Attlee at Germiston.

Mary Watson and Maud Heddy in the Free State.

Eirene Holmes and Pearl Glasier in the Diocese of Grahamstown.

Mary Beckwith during her holiday in England.

Sylvia Browulow and Mary Wardale in their work as nurses.

Arthur Austin and Agnes Burt in their work at Headquarters.

Pray also that the Archbishop and Bishops may decide as God wills as to the future of the work.

Remember too to thank God for all the opportunities of worship, for the Sacraments and other help you have had through the Railway Mission.

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