South African Church Railway Mission.

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Light for the Line.

Subscriptions, 2/- per annum, 2/6 post free, can be paid to the Editor or to any of the Mission Staff or Local Agents, or sent to the Diocesan Office, P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown.

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.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

March 16th, 1917.

The almanacs have arrived at last. It is useless looking for somebody to "strafe" on account of the late arrival: our friends, the enemy, are entirely to blame as everything was ready for shipping quite early in November; considering the circumstances of the times we may think ourselves fortunate to get them even by the middle of March. The issue is limited and will be sent out with this number of Light for the Line: any copies left over will be at the Office, P.O. Box 133, Grahamstown, and can be obtained on application.

News of Miss Beckwith arrived by last mail: she is a victim of the new order of things—no longer can we do what we like or go where we like—she writes to say she is quite ready to come out to her duties here but finds that at present the Government is not issuing passports for women or children: the decision is polite, but firm. Let us hope things may so improve that before long all these restrictions may be withdrawn; we shall be very glad to welcome her back when she is able to sail.

Another big loss—we are thankful to say it is only for a time (i.e. duration of the War)—is the going of Miss Holmes to do Military Nursing with the British Red Cross at Pretoria. For a long time Miss Holmes has been feeling more and more that it is up to her to do her bit and, knowing her special qualifications for such work, we were compelled at last to agree to her going. We trust "duration" does not mean a long period. We are very sorry to lose her, even for a time, but glad to make the sacrifice: we must, before all else, first win the War, by God's help and mercy, and according to the sacrifices made can we then claim our share of victory.

Mr. Esdaile, we rejoice to say, is very much better—it looks like real progress this time—but still the doctor keeps his foot down and forbids his return to his beloved S.W.A. before the later part of April. It has not been possible to keep him entirely quiet: for the last three months he has been doing "light duty" at S. Saviour's, East London; for the present he is helping at Port Alfred.

Mr. Ingram is a real brick: seeing our difficulty he has very nobly offered to stay on for the present in spite of his time being up, his real need for rest and the special reasons which at
the present time attract him to the Homeland; it is only just and right that we should acknowledge his generosity and disinterestedness, for, if he simply decided to fulfil his engagement, it would mean that the whole of our work north of the Falls, right up to the Congo, must stop: the last mail brings the suggestion of good news and possibly Mr. Ingram’s successor may be sailing before the end of the year: we are quite sure Mr. Ingram would rather this than anything else we could say.

Mr. Harries has found it necessary to sever his connection with the Mission.

We would remind our friends “along the Line,” who are needing the help of a nurse, that Nurse Deeks is with us now and is anxious to be of as much use as possible to them; her address is c/o Mrs. Loscombe, Cradock.

It is a little difficult to see what is going to happen at Naauwpoort: Mr. Lejeune has had notice that his house—the only one available—is wanted by the landlord himself, and he has to turn out. The future of the Church life in Naauwpoort is another matter demanding our prayers: we cannot expect Mr. and Mrs. Lejeune to continue on there if it means living in the street.

Our old friend Mr. Bickerdike was ordained to the priesthood by the Bishop of Grahamstown, surrounded by his people to whom he has been ministering for nearly two years, in S. Saviour’s, East London, on Sunday, March 11. I was very glad to be able to be present with him then and so to represent the Mission officially when he received his full commission in the Church. The previous night the new Rector, the Rev. A. Cardross Grant, was instituted and inducted: Mr. Grant was at one time, for a short period, connected with the Mission. With such a backing and the efforts of Mr. Esdaile we are hoping to have quite a strong body of friends and supporters of the Mission there.

Our old friend Mr. W. F. Savage kindly arranged a meeting of our supporters at Port Elizabeth for Monday, March 5th, in Holy Trinity Schoolroom. Archdeacon Wirgman was in the chair and there were present Mr. Savage, Mrs. Grant Robertson, Miss Stella Smith, Miss Hannam and many old as well as some new friends of the Mission. As a result of the meeting we are looking for renewed interest in, and help for, our work. We hope to be able to do more to justify our claim in future.

R. THORNELEY JONES.

GRAHAMSTOWN
DIOCESE.

NAAUWPOORT.

I wrote last just before Christmas. We had a very happy Christmas as far as the Church is concerned. On Christmas Eve we had a really good congregation, and a very good service, with Christmas carols and Christmas hymns. After Evensong we went round the camp carol singing—a revival of an old custom. There must have been
about forty of us in the carol-singing party. On Christmas Day there were quite a good number of communicants. Again on the last day of the old year there were big congregations for Even-song and the Watchnight Service.

On February 17th the Bishop of Grahamstown held a Confirmation at Hanover Road, and two from Naauwpoort were confirmed. The service was held in the schoolroom, and a very impressive Service it was, and few of us who were present will forget it for a long time, nor can we forget our Bishop's wise and kindly words. Next day the Bishop celebrated at the eight o'clock service at All Souls. We were very glad to see the Bishop and Mrs. Phelps, and grateful to them for visiting us again so soon after the Confirmation in August of last year.

Mr. Mrs. and Miss Craddock have left for Mafeking. We shall miss them very much. We wish them good luck in their new home.

Mr. Leggett has sailed for Europe, having joined the Overseas Contingent. For several years he was one of our Church officers and choirmen. A generous friend to myself and many others in Naauwpoort, we shall miss his cheerfulness and friendliness. We wish him every good wish, and a speedy and safe return from active service.

Mr. Viny, another of our Church officers and three times churchwarden of All Souls, is also leaving Naauwpoort. He is transferred to Grahamstown. To him also we extend our good wishes, and our gratitude for all he has done for the Church in Naauwpoort.

I would draw your attention once more to the new magazine for the Diocese of Grahamstown. It is called the News Letter, price 3/6 a year, issued monthly. The Bishop appeals to us to support him by taking it. The purpose of the magazine is that it may serve as a means of communication between the Bishop and the different parishes, and that we may learn what other parishes are doing, and so grow in a sense of fellowship with the rest of the Church in this diocese. In a small place like Naauwpoort we often feel isolated, and we are tempted to get narrow in our views and interests. The News Letter will in a measure help to counteract this. Mrs. G. Williamson is the local treasurer.

I would also appeal to you again to support the funds of our Church as generously as possible. With some self-denial and self-sacrifice, we ought, I think, to be able to increase our monthly subscriptions to the Church and the amount we give through the collection on Sundays.

I would also draw your attention again to the Archbishop's letter, and our own Bishop's letter, which I read out in Church the other Sunday, and which we have been considering on Sunday and Wednesday nights during Lent. I appeal to all who love the Church to join me in supporting our Bishop and the Archbishop, by joining in the preparation of prayer and Bible study and, when the time comes, in considering the Archbishop's questions and suggestions.

G. A. Lejeune.

I have visited this quarter Cookhouse (four times), Hanover Road (four times) and Taalbosch (once).

COOKHOUSE.

On Monday, February 19, the Lord Bishop of Grahamstown held two Confirmations at Cookhouse. The first was for Europeans in St. Paul's Church at 5.30 p.m. There were three candidates, and a very fair congregation of friends and acquaintances. In the evening, at 8 p.m., the second Confirmation was held in St. Barnabas' Native Church. There were 41 native candidates, and the little Church was absolutely packed with a congregation numbering nearly 300. I suppose one of the first things
to strike the attention of a stranger in a native church is the really magnifcent singing.

It was good to see several members of the St. Paul's Church congregation present at the native Confirmation.

We hope that the Bishop and Mrs. Phelps will come back again soon to Cookhouse.

Q. A. Lejeune.

N. RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

The present date finds me still at work on this section, and likely to remain so for some time, instead of being just on the point of handing things over to my successor. However, thanks to a brief but very enjoyable holiday at Port Alfred, it has not been nearly so difficult to settle down as I expected: and in addition to that various things have helped to encourage me, such as the approaching Confirmation of seven candidates, the very favourable reception of the first monthly Sunday at Elisabethville, and above all the great hope that now exists of seeing the Broken Hill Church scheme brought to a successful issue this year.

I shall no longer have the pleasure of writing any account of visits to WANKIE, as I held my last Service there on the morning of January 8th. I arrived there rather unexpectedly on the previous day, and it was not found possible to hold an Evening Service. I am sorry to part with many friends there, especially Dr. and Mrs. Sutherland, who have given us so much hospitality in the past: but at any rate one can always catch a glimpse of them, passing through. Mr. Seacombe now takes over the monthly Services there.

From now onwards, my works lies only north of LIVINGSTONE, in the Northern Rhodesian diocese, and the Congo. To take places in their order, I have spent quite a lot of time at KALOMO recently, not only to take Services, but to finish the preparation of four candidates, who will be confirmed (D.V.) by the time this is in print. The rainy season has been a great hindrance to large congregations: but at any rate one is always sure of a very reverent and helpful Service here, thanks to the keenness of those who are able to be present. The schoolroom can be made into a very seemly Church: and Miss Bayley gives me great help, both in this, and in the Confirmation work as well. We shall soon have a bigger proportion of communicants here to population, than in any other place on the line. Ash Wednesday was spent here also. As usual I am very grateful to her and Miss Goslin at the Boma, and Mr. and Mrs. Garrick at the station, for their hospitality.

CHOMA and PEMBA I have not been able to visit since my return. I have a Baptism to take at the former place: the child of my friend Mr. Watson.

In the MAZABUKA district I am still waiting for the weather to become more settled, before recommencing Services. I have been able to do some preliminary visiting, from LUBOMBO Siding: when I visited Messrs. Dent, Bateson and Bissett at the Kalaya Valley. The grass is very high, in places over one’s head: and it is sometimes difficult to see the road at all! Mr. Dent kindly offered his house for Services again, and I hope to go there next month.

At KAFUE, I found the mosquitoes in their usual form during the two days that I spent there. There was a Farmers’ Meeting in progress, but I held the Service, as, it turned out, on the wrong night: so did not get as many to Church as might have been. But it is always a difficult matter, when men only meet seldom and have much to talk about. Mr. Laurie has been moved here from Zimba, other-
wise the same little population carries on! The bridge guard is no longer here, and for a long time things have been very quiet at KAFUE, as they say: and it has been difficult to raise a congregation.

I have resumed the bi-monthly Services at LUSAKA: in fact, before Christmas, what with heavy rain and motors breaking down and missing trains, I saw more of Lusaka than I intended! From here I visited CHILL-ANGA Boma, and had a Celebration about Christmas time: then I visited Major and Mrs. Boyd Cuninghame, and Mr. and Mrs. Werner. Possibly a Sunday morning Service out here might be arranged later. The new school-room at Lusaka makes a splendid Church, though it is possibly a little remote in the evenings. On my last visit, Sergt.-Major and Mrs. Coote's little son was baptized at the Children's Service, and there was quite a large gathering. The Evening Service attendance has not been very good lately, chiefly owing to threatening weather. Everyone has been much distressed over the sad losses which Mr. and Mrs. Shelton have been called upon to suffer.

For various reasons I postponed my visit to BROKEN HILL till the first Sunday in March; it has been a busy but very encouraging visit. There have been considerable changes and additions to the population: there are now 175 people here. It has been good to be able to welcome such keen Church people as Mrs. Dorret, and Mr. and Mrs. Rawson: and to know that others like them are on their way here: also old friends from Wankie, Mr. and Mrs. Howten. The Services on Sunday were well attended, and in addition there have been three infants to baptize, whose names will be found elsewhere. One might enlarge if space permitted on the genial spirit which seems to prevail here, and makes everything so pleasant: but it would be best perhaps to state the present position of the Church scheme. As the result of the efforts of the Bishop and the Railway Mission, the fund started at £150: to this may be added the generous gift of the late Mr. Sing's parents of £69 for the interior: and as the result of my own personal approaching of individuals, it may be reckoned that at present the Fund exists on paper, in the form of payments and promises, to the extent of over £300. When we know in addition that there are still many Church people willing to contribute, and that we have the kind promise of assistance from the Mine, apart from what other companies may do, it will be seen that our hopes of success are high, and that we have reason to be very thankful. We shall still need every penny that people can afford to give us, for obvious reasons: as £500 is about the lowest figure that would be worth getting plans for: and the original scheme also contemplated rooms for the visiting chaplain: the "vicarage" in embryo! It might also be well to state that the present sum has been raised, it may be almost said entirely, by members of the English Church, in this place and at home. I shall hope to be able to report further progress in the next issue, and in the meantime the prayers and efforts of all are asked for the success of the undertaking.

BWANA MKUBWA is also shortly to be the scene of a Confirmation, on March 15th, when three candidates will be presented. It is a great encouragement to see the numbers of communicants slowly increasing. Services have been held here regularly in recent months: but the rain has been a great drawback: and the Evening Service has suffered greatly in consequence. Mr. and Mrs. Laurence have been very hospitable. We hope that Mrs. Morris will soon recover her health, which has not been at all good lately.

I find that it is possible also to hold a Service at NDOLA on the same Sunday morning: which both economises time, and seems to suit the people there.
better than the evening. For a wonder
the trains suit the arrangement admir­
ably!
Finally, we reach the CONGO: I
spent my first monthly Sunday at
ELISABETHVILLE on the second
Sunday in February, after an interval
of three months. It was with some
trepidation that I took up this task,
which was meant for my successor (!)
but I have found our venture well worth
the attempt. The Church Council met
again, and a lot of useful business was
done, and things put in working order.
The attendance at the Morning Service
distinctly improved, and altogether
there was a larger spirit of response
in the air. The rain robbed us of an
Evening Service, and incidentally of
most of the chances of tennis! But
the general impression of this first visit
was one of encouragement. To have
Church affairs put on a proper business
footing is a great gain: and it is to
be hoped that the machinery is now
formed which will eventually provide
Elisabethville with its own Church and
resident priest: which will certainly
be required for the Congo, if the popu­
lation increases to any large extent.

It only remains to say that in future
this magazine will be sent by post to
all subscribers: and that distributing
agents will be no longer necessary on
this section. This accounts for the dis­
appearance of their names at the end
of this issue: though as a matter of
fact, with the exception of Miss Thorne
of Pemba, they should have disappeared
long ago! This arrangement should be
much more satisfactory, both to me and
to the subscribers: and I am glad to
say that it has been possible largely to
increase their number up here, now
that the change has been made.

Details of collections, and the names
of children baptized, etc., will always
be found elsewhere in the issue.

There is much more that could be
said, but I have more than filled my
fair share of space.

E. F. WINNINGTON-INGRAM.
no room for them in the inn," and my proposal to hold Services in the goods shed on the 23rd was ruled out on the score of being too close to Christmas. So I went straight to FIGTREE, where we had quite a wonderful congregation on Christmas Eve, considering the weather: I was very sorry it was quite impossible for the Robertsons and other distant people to come in, but at the same time one could not grumble at the rain, which was most welcome. I journeyed through to FRANCIS-TOWN for Evensong, where we had a good muster of nearly thirty, but the Celebration on Christmas morning was most disappointing, only one white communicant from this place making his Communion: personally I felt this very keenly, as one was found to feel a bit lonely and eager for a crowd of fellow-worshippers on this great Festival. The goods train from the North arrived most gaily decorated, and I looked forward to a good crossing and a speedy trip to PLUMTREE, where I was due at a children's party; but the engine objected to Christmas Day work and resolutely refused every rise, so we arrived six hours late at 9.15 p.m., and, of course, no chance of Evensong. However, I think we all appreciated the beautiful decoration of the Chapel by the morning light, and the Celebration and Morning Service on Boxing Day were both well attended. ESSEXVALE produced sixteen communicants at the two Celebrations, and it was a privilege to be able to get back to this most cheering place for the Epiphany: I am glad to say that the Bishop has promised a visit in June, when the Postmaster and one of the Police hope to be confirmed. Then on to the Godwin and Bush Tick Mines, where I found most people away for the holidays, to GWANDA, where most unfortunately a dinner at the Hospital clashed with Evensong and prevented the singing of carols by the Gwanda Choral Society, to the Fred Mine, over the most appalling roads in a heavy drizzle and with a groggy ankle, only to find that more than half of the population was ill and in bed, back to the ELIZABETH on New Year's Eve, where I arrived at 12.40 a.m. in 1917, and had a Celebration that morning on the Botton's Farm, where we had a congregation of a dozen (two of them crossed the river in flood at night) and only two hymn books, and then an early morning drive to BALLABALLA for my last Christmas Celebration on January 2nd. I was able to carry through my full Christmas programme, but the bad weather very much upset the attendances, and I suppose one must always bargain for that at that time of the year out here: anyhow, the great heat was absent and that was a great blessing.

My first Services at HEANY JUNCTION were most encouraging, and I am only sorry I haven't held them before: it is quite a nice bike ride from there to ESSEXVALE, if I want to combine the two places in one day, and I don't think a week-day would be much use for Heany. On my return to Bulawayo Mr. Ingram met me and we found we could only get cheap tickets by Saturday's train, so I used the time to have my tooth broken out, and during my two days in bed I was most impressed by the attentions of my "reverend" nurse: it was a comfort to have it out even though it meant shaking its neighbour to its foundations, which still totter.

Port Alfred even exceeded by expectations, which were high, and a few days there soon made me as fit as I have ever felt: we were out of doors all day and every day on the links and in the sea, and we were favoured with most kind clerical assistance on the Sundays, our thanks being especially due to the Dean of Bloemfontein, who made himself responsible for all Services in the little Church on the other bank.

Since my return I have visited and held Services at FIGTREE, SAN-
DOWN, MARULA, RAMAQUABANE and the BARALONG STADT, WANKIE, MATOPPOS (no Service), NYAMANDHLOUVU, HEANAY, ESSEXVALE, GWANDA, PLUMTREE, FRANCISTOWN, LEIGHWOODS, WEST NICHOLSON, FRED MINE, ELIZABETH MINE and BALLABALLA.

RALPH S. SEACOME.

PRETORIA DIOCESE.

Waterval Boven,
Eastern Transvaal,
March 12th, 1917.

My dear Editor,

The time for writing the Quarterly letter seems to have come round again very quickly; in fact, in the crowded life of a Railway Chaplain the months seem to slip away at quite a terrific pace. Many a time I catch myself wishing that each day were twice its present length. There is indeed so much to do that often one is inclined to attempt impossibilities, never, be it said, with really satisfactory results to anyone concerned!

This quarter I have managed to visit one or more of the greater number of the regular centres, holding Services at AKMAAR, KOMATIPOORT, MACHADODORP, WATerval BOVEN, RAYTON, BRONKHORSTPRUUT, BONNEFOI, TOMANGO, HATHERLY, KINROSS, SILVERTON, ELOFF, DELMAS, WONDERFONTEIN, PAN, Balmoral, Crown Douglas, Cairn, Tzaneen and Malelane, while ELAND'S RIVER, ZOEKMAKAAR and DUIVELSKLOOF were visited, but no Services held.

One of the noticeably encouraging things this quarter is the way in which congregations at the smaller places have increased. At ELOFF, for instance, the ordinary seating accommodation in the "outside" waiting room at the station, where we held Service, was quite insufficient. In fact, even after packing cases, sacks of potatoes, the weighing machine and sundry other useful things had been dragged in and duly sat upon, quite a number of people had to stand outside in the open air through-out the Service. Nobody seemed quite to know where all the people came from! Mr. and Mrs. Rothero kindly put me up and next morning we had a quiet family Celebration at their house.

Again at WONDERFONTEIN, quite a tiny place consisting of a store and some ten or a dozen houses, we had a crowd of between fifty and sixty people in the schoolroom for a weekend Service.

At SILVERTON, too, where I was glad to be able to spend a Sunday, we had a good congregation in the morning with twelve communicants at Mrs. Schuch's house, while in the evening, when we held Service outside on the verandah, our congregation of the morning more than doubled itself and the Mission hymns which we sang went with a real swing and a heartiness that did one good to listen to.

At Tzaneen, where we held Service in the old Railway Construction buildings, kindly lent by Mr. Morgan, in spite of the threatening weather outlook, more than three times as many people turned up as on the occasion of my last visit there. This result was chiefly due to the kindness of Mr. Coad in sending round my notices and generally doing all that was possible to ensure a good attendance.

Turning to other centres, the Christmas Services were divided between WATerval BOVEN and MACHADODORP. After an early Celebration at the former place I was fortunate to find a train running for Machadodorp, and so was able to have Matins and a late Celebration there. After Service I spent the remainder of the day enjoying the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. de Graeff. What with the presence of several children, a proper old-fashioned Christmas dinner and plenty of crackers, etc., it was just like being
in the Old Country again and was most enjoyable.

At TOMANGO on the last day of the old year I held Service at Mr. Hall's farm. The majority of the congregation, as is usual in that most hospitable and commodious of homesteads, came overnight, some from quite long distances. Little did any of that cheerful company realise the tragic suddenness with which, only two days later, one of the number, Mr. Watkinson, of CAIRN, was to be called away to his rest. On the following Tuesday he went out to kill a particularly troublesome snake which had been destroying his stock. His gun, however, went off accidentally, and the charge entering his body, within five minutes he breathed his last.

Mr. Watkinson was a man most highly respected by everyone who knew him, and he certainly was one to whom his religion meant a great deal, never missing the opportunities he had for making his Communion. The sympathy of the whole district goes out to Mrs. Watkinson and her children in their terrible loss.

It is always a pleasure to go to BRONKHORSTSPRUIT, a really keen place which showed its keenness on the occasion of my last visit by starting a brand-new Sustentation Fund, which will be a great help. I am very grateful to Miss Enid Kidd and Mr. Anderson for so kindly undertaking to act as collectors. We had a record morning congregation on that particular Sunday with about a dozen communicants. Good attendances have always so far been the rule at Bronkhorstspruit in my experience. Though the British community is really quite a small one, yet each family seems to make a point of being represented at the Services, and in some cases every member of the household turns up without fail on each occasion. This always encourages one tremendously.

The Services at BALMORAL and CROWN DOUGLAS were somewhat interfered with by the very heavy rains. The downpour at Balmoral in the morning was terrific and I hardly expected to have anyone at all, but several braved the elements, one driving in some seven miles. That sort of thing also is most encouraging.

At WATERVAL BOVEN the Sunday School shows a very steady increase. We have been unfortunate in losing no less than three teachers within a very short space of time owing to their having removed from the camp. The problem as to how to replace them was no easy one, but was finally settled by Mrs. Wright and Miss Gladys Harrison kindly undertaking to assist. We are very grateful to them as with their help, together with that of Mrs. Russell, who, of course, has been associated with the School for many years past, we shall be able to keep three classes going. With our increased numbers and the varied ages of the children this is really essential. We hope to hold our Prize-giving on the 24th of this month.

Confirmation classes have been re-started in many of the centres and some twenty candidates have either just begun or are just about to begin their course of instruction.

The rains have been rather heavier than usual in the far eastern country and the fever much worse in consequence. One particularly sad case was that of Mr. Travers (Senior) of GRAVELOTTE, who died of some form of blackwater fever far from any doctor, and was laid to rest in the bush in that wild and desolate spot. I was only sorry not to have been able to be present to take the funeral, but at the time was hundreds of miles away in another direction and did not know of the sad event till some time afterwards. Old Mr. Travers was a fine specimen of English manhood, and one's sympathy goes out to the son who is left to mourn
his loss in that lonely outpost of civilisation.

Vernon Rossborough.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.

28, Milner Street,
Kimberley,
Feb. 27th, 1917.

My first letter to Light for the Line will be, I fear, a very unimpressive one, the reason being that most of the time since my arrival in Kimberley last November has been spent there, and not on the Line at all! And no one wants a description of the dump-heaps and head-gears of Kimberley!

I had one trip north to Bulawayo before Christmas, where my friendship with Canon Jones, already made in England, was renewed, and where I made the acquaintance of our two northern missionaries. On this journey I had my first experience of our work proper, giving services at Mahalapye and Palapye Road. The Evening Service at the latter place was extra-typical of Railway ministrations, for we had it on the platform, the waiting-room being on the warm side! Thanks to the kind people at these places who made my first visit such a happy one for me, and much gratitude to Francistown too, where I spent several days trying to tire out the hospitality of the Williamson, but left in despair of doing so!

Then came the appeal of the Diocesan authorities of Kimberley to the Railway Mission to spare me from the Line for a few weeks to take charge of the Location Church here; it is a big work and was in a bad way for want of a priest. The Railway Mission showed its Christian spirit well, and answered the appeal for help. They lent me, and here I have been for eleven weeks—bar one week’s trip north for a Sunday at Plumtree and Francistown.

(That is a fine school for boys at Plumtree; it would be a credit to any country.)

Well, I am hoping to start my work properly with the beginning of next month. I would just ask a prayer from those who read this, that the Light of the World would allow me in some little way to be a bearer of His Light for the Line.

A. C. Hobson.

LETTER FROM THE REV. E. G. K. Esdaile.

Port Alfred,
March 20th, 1917.

My dear Editor,

I have just completed three months in East London, filling the gap at St. Saviour’s till the arrival of the new rector. It was a great pleasure to see and work with Mr. Bickerdike, and still greater to have taken part at his ordination as priest in his parish church, an inspiring Service at which our Head was also present. Mr. Bickerdike is not the first and will certainly, under God’s blessing, not be the last to test his vocation for Holy Orders in the work of our Railway Mission. We will hope that many a layman will follow the same path.

I have been doing my best to persuade the doctors to send me back to S.W. And with one consent they have been postponing the day. However, after spending Easter at Port Alfred, which does not seem quite the same place without our friend Dr. Schloesser, I have some hope of getting the required permission. It has been a disappointment stopping away so long, especially with the Ovambo Expedition taking one of our chaplains off and leaving the Protectorate short-handed as regards the services of the English Church.

I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
E. G. K. Esdaile.
WOMEN’S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

We have to face still another quarter without Miss Beckwith. This means a good deal of sacrifice for us all in her Section. But we have, I am sure, young and old alike, all learnt the meaning of that word Sacrifice during the past two years, so that we ought to be able to join in the giving up of many things we have been used to enjoy and to regard as our due.

It is not possible at present to do nearly all that one would like to do along the Line. However, since Christmas I have been able to visit DE AAR, HANOVER ROAD, ROSMEAD, STORMBERG, CYPERATURE, COOKHOUSE, BLANEY, TOISE RIVER, TYLDEN and STERKSTROOM.

At Hutchinson I made many new friends and am looking forward with much pleasure to my next visit there, when I hope to find the school open and to see how the Sunday School is progressing. It is always very cheering to find some good people in these small places who are willing to give up an hour on Sunday to the children. If this were done quite regularly (as I believe it is done at many places) a really valuable bit of work for the Church of God would be accomplished.

At HANOVER ROAD the Confirmation of February 17th was an event that will, I feel sure, remain in the minds of many as an inspiring influence.

At COOKHOUSE, too, the solemn rite administered by the Bishop to 41 native candidates was most impressive. The Bishop’s fluent use of the native language throughout the Service added greatly to the dignity and beauty of it.

At STORMBERG the Railway Mission has many friends, and the advent of Canon Thornely Jones himself to take three Services on February 25th gave great pleasure. With the kind help of Mrs. Roberts the schoolroom was made as much like a church as could be, and the people responded well to the call. The Canon preached most helpful sermons at both Morning and Evening Services, urging upon all the need God has of the work of every one of His people. The Celebration of the Holy Communion was attended by all the communicants except two. At CYPERATURE Canon Jones held Services on February 24th and there also received a very hearty welcome from Mr. and Mrs. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Hogg, Mrs. Macleod, Miss Hind and others.

It is always refreshing to visit TYLDEN. The children there are brimming over with intelligence. I thoroughly enjoyed the class Miss Cameron kindly allowed me to take there. The answers to my questions
about the Season of Lent and its uses were really splendid.

Thanks for hospitality and all sorts of kindnesses to Mr. and Mrs. Eve at Cookhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Hogg and Mr. and Mrs. Wood at Cyphergat, Mrs. Ramage at Blaney, Miss Cameron at Tylden, and the Rev. and Mrs. Goodwin at Queenstown.

The G.F.S. classes at Cradock, Rosmead and Naauwoort I hope to meet sometime in April and I will try to give plenty of notice before my visit.

A. Burt.

DIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

At the end of three months I feel I have got a grip on my work on this Section and know most of the children. As there are over 100 in the different places it really takes some doing. At least everyone knows me now and I no longer feel a stranger among them.

Sunday centres are: WOLVEHOEK first Sunday in the month, NATAL SPRUIT and KLIP RIVER second Sunday, BRANDFORT third, and KOPJES fourth. At each place the children turn up fairly well. The Christmas lantern pictures were shown at a good many places in spite of the heat, and now I am just starting to show the Passiontide pictures.

As Miss Holmes did not take up Miss Watson’s section I sent the magazines out according to her list, also the M.U. Magazines, and will be glad if subscriptions can be sent in to me. If anyone on the Grahamstown section has devotional books with my name in which have been lent them I should be glad to have them back. I want especially, “Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer” and “The Mind of the Master.”

P. Glaster.

CHILDREN’S PAGE.

My dear Children,

Just a word to you all to remind you that we all at this time of war have to go without some things we have at other times. And this year we find it is not possible to arrange for the usual Bible Examination, as so many of you have not had the chance of getting the help you have had before. So you are asked to keep the papers you have and use them for next year—there is plenty on them and you will have none too much time to read all the chapters and get to know them thoroughly in a year’s time.

Some of you in my Section of the Line have been studying with the help of notes that I have sent you. So I will myself set a paper for those children who have been working with the notes, because they may like an opportunity of showing what they have been doing.

And I will give prizes to those who answer best. The subjects are:

- S. Luke, chapters 1 to 11 inclusive,
- The Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, The Ten Commandments, Psalm 23,
- The Magnificat, The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon).

There are five papers of notes. Any of you who have not yet had these can write to me for them, and so have a chance of going in for the examination, if I find arrangements can be made for the supervision of the candidates. So send in your names, ages, and addresses by April 30th and I will try to manage for you to write the examination.

Miss Beckwith sends love to all the children on her section. She is ready to return as soon as she is allowed to come, but you know that just as present no women and children are permitted to sail in any boats. Very soon we hope things will be better, and then we shall have several more workers and you will all see us round more often.

Your friend,

The Editor.

(Address: Miss Burt,
The Hermitage,
Grahamstown.)
BAPTISMS.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.
At Waterval Boven: Jan. 14, 1917.—Cora Alida Frederica Wibuter.
Feb. 11.—James Heber Gibson.
At Bronkhorstspruit: Jan. 21.—John Keay Smith.
At Koedoesport: Feb. 3.—Johannes Stephanus Matthias Walkinshaw.
Feb. 11.—James Heber Gibson.
At Pan: Feb. 15.—Lukas Marthinus Johannes Nel.
At Tzaneen: Mar. 3.—Janet Florence Grace Meeser.
Norah Winifred Peche.
At Cookhouse, on Feb. 19:
Mar. 4.—Mary Hunt, at Broken Hill.
John Royston McGregor, at Broken Hill.
Mar. 6.—David Peter Marais, at Broken Hill.

NORTHERN RHODESIA & THE CONGO.
At Kolomo: Mar. 13.—Alfred James John Garisch.
Hester Francina Garisch.
Johanna van Eyk.

CONFESSIONS.

(BY THE LORD BISHOP OF GRAHAMSTOWN.)
At Hanover Road, on Feb. 17:
John Robert Henry Pechè.
Georgina Julia Pechè.
Norah Wimfred Pechè.
Amy Schoonwinkel.
Susan Willett.

At Cookhouse, on Feb. 19:
Mrs. Hermon.
Mrs. Lemon.
Mrs. Mylon.

COLLECTIONS, &c.

DIOCESE OF PRETORIA.
From Dec. 11th to Mar. 11th inclusive.
Water Boven, £6/4/9; Machadodorp, £2/3/6; Bwana Mkubwa, £2/6/9; Alkmaar, 11/-; Komatipoort, 9/6; Kinross, 10/3; Rayton, £2/3/6; Bronkhorstspruit, £4/0/6; Cairn, 9/6; Tzaneen, £1/13/-; Malelane, 14/6; Bonnefoi, £2/19/3; Tomango, £2/12/9; Heatherly, 7/5; Silverton, £1/14/3; Eloff, 18/10; Delmas, 13/5; Wonderfontein, 9/2; Pan, 8/6; Crown Douglas, £1/3/-; Balmoral, 10/9.

At Godwan River (Pretoria Diocese): Jan. 10.—William John Reading and Rosaline Amelia Cox.

BURIAL.

At Naauwpoort (Pretoria Diocese): Jan. 4, 1917.—Mary Jane Mew.
tree, £2/8/9; Bush Tick Mine, £1; Fred Mine, £1/16/-. January.—Elizabeth Mine, £1/14/9; Heany Junction, 18/9.
February.—Figtree, 18/9; Sandown, 9/3; Marula School, 13/6; Ramaquabane, 11/6; Wankie, £1/8/9; Matopos, 10/-; Heany Junction, £1/5/3; Essexvale, £1/9/-; Gwanda, 12/6.

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Bethlehem—Miss M. Hyslop, Railway Book Stall.
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Thaba 'Nchu—Mr. Davidson.

**DIOCESE OF S. RHODESIA.**
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**NORTHERN RHODESIA & THE CONGO.**
Rev. E. F. Winnington Ingram, Bulawayo.

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Kimberley—Rev. A. C. Hobson.
East London—Lady Crewe.

**CHILDREN OF THE VELD**

**Secretaries for South Africa.**

**General Secretary in South Africa—Miss Burt, Grahamstown.**
**Johannesburg—Mrs. Callow, Houghton Ridge.**
**Pretoria—Mrs. Christie.**
**Port Elizabeth—Mrs. Edward Brown; Miss H. Hannam, Park Drive.**
**Bloemfontein—Miss Howell, S. Michael’s School; Mrs. Martin.**
**Grahamstown—Mrs. Seale, Hill Street.**

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That God will guide those who are responsible for the future of the Railway Mission.

That God's Blessing may rest upon those who are responsible for the new Church scheme at Broken Hill.

For past and present members of our staff who offered their services in the war:—Eustace Hill (wounded); George Knapp Fisher, chaplain to H.M.S. Chatham; Arthur Austin.

For all on Active Service, especially:


For the Missing, especially: Humphrey Jamieson (Rosmead), missing in Europe since Oct. 18th, 1916; Arthur Spence (Cradock), — Austin (Stormberg).

For Sergeant Hunt, killed in action.

PRAYERS IN TIME OF WAR.

For our Empire.

O Thou who hast said, If ye shall ask anything in my Name I will do it, hear our prayers for our empire. Many of us have forgotten thee and never worship thee or pray, and we want to come back to thee. Set us right where we are wrong. We want to love thee more. Give us grace to know thee better, to love thee more, and to work our best for thy sake. Amen.

O God, who lookest down in thy fatherly love upon the nations of the earth, assuage the pains of warfare, restore the sick and wounded, relieve those that are in anxiety, comfort the bereaved, and in Thy mercy forgive the sins of all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

N.B.—Friends and relatives of men "along the Line" who are serving their king and country are asked to send in names that they may be added to those who are specially remembered in our intercessory prayers. Names may be sent in at any time to the Editor for insertion in the next issue of this magazine. In this way all friends have an opportunity of joining in prayer for their comrades, for those who are missing, prisoners of war, or who have laid down their lives in the great cause of justice, freedom and right.