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.

The Editor regrets that the "Church Standard" has not come and cannot be included in this issue.

LETTER FROM THE HEAD.

The best of good wishes to you all for the New Year. After three-and-a-half years of War it seems natural that the wish of everyone would be for peace, but is this right? It is certainly the easy and pleasant way, but until the end is accomplished for which our Empire went to war in 1914 our desire, prayers and efforts should rather be for victory: not that we may boast or have any advantage for ourselves—God forbid that any such thought or desire could be possible with any of us, in face of the price being paid in blood and suffering—but that by God’s help and guidance, through suffering, we may accomplish that for which the sword was drawn. It was so manifest a call that there was very little division among the millions of our people; on no outstanding question has there been such unity in the Empire, and if we are not prepared to “see it through,” whatever the cost, we certainly have no justification for having accepted the challenge. As Mr. Lloyd George has pointed out so often, there is only folly in the suggestion that we should enter into new treaties with a nation which with the coldest deliberation ridicules the idea that it is bound by old treaties however sacred: if we accept peace it must be an honourable and abiding peace, so that the blood which has been and is being shed may not have been shed in vain. Mr. Lloyd George, in his last speech, appealed to us all to hold fast to our hope and stop the grumblers. He said: “The nation can help in another way, namely, by discouraging the grousers; the enemy’s propaganda is fed with grumbles.” Let us then, each one, do what we can to help in this great cause, forget about peace for the present, hope, work and pray for victory, and at all times remember the old motto:

“Ask God for all you need,
Thank Him for all you have,
And never grumble.”

So then, may the New Year bring victory, if it be God’s will, and following in its train a lasting and abiding peace.

We are very glad to welcome back Miss Beckwith safe and sound after all she has gone through on the voyages...
Home and back and while she was in the Old Country, certainly looking none the better for the trip but as full of energy and plans as ever. We trust that she may long be spared and have health and strength to continue the good work to which she has given so much of her life and interest.

News has been received from Mr. Rossborough to say that he is now in harness, and hard at it: he has been appointed Chaplain to the 2nd Horse Transport, stationed at Greenwich—not, of course, the job he wanted (everybody worth his salt wants to be "in it"), but this is the time to do the job you are given, and not to bother about something else you think you would like. His address is: "Captain, the Rev. Vernon Rossborough, Officers' Mess, The Rangers House, Greenwich, London, S.W. 10."

By the time this issue of Light for the Line is in your hands I hope that our new Chaplain will have taken up his work on the Naauwpoort Section. We are fortunate to get a Chaplain of Mr. Willmott's experience and we are most grateful to him for coming to us, and to the Archbishop of Capetown for making it possible for him to come. I ask those of you living on the Naauwpoort Section to make a point of giving him a real hearty welcome and doing anything and everything in your power to help and support him. For the present Mr. Willmott will be at Naauwpoort for the first and third Sundays of each month, Cookhouse for the second Sunday, and various other places such as Norvals Pont and Stormberg on the fourth. We are grateful to the Railway Authorities for renting us a house at Naauwpoort for Mr. Willmott's headquarters.

So far there is no news of the Almanacs, except that they are ordered and we shall get them as soon as possible: at a time like this it takes many, many months to get things out, and I know you will fully understand if you have to wait some considerable time for them; on the other side everything possible is being done.

As you know, we do not attempt to collect and distribute toys during the War as we did previously, but it seems only right that something should be done for the children who have gone with their parents to keep things going in South-West Africa: they are one and all taking their share and doing their part, which involves being cut off even from joys, none too many, of those living along the more settled parts of the Railway. We offer our grateful thanks to our good friends at S. Aidan's, Yeoville, for again helping us to provide for the children at present in the Protectorate. We are grateful, too, to the Authorities for so kindly arranging to carry these toys free to their destinations.

Our good friends at Pretoria and Port Elizabeth still continue their most kind and welcome help: such active interest at this time is especially welcome and helpful.
We offer our sincere thanks to that venerable society, the S.P.C.K., in England, for making a grant of £50 to the fund Mr. Winnington Ingram is collecting for building a church at Broken Hill, in far Northern Rhodesia.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Dr. Mallinson, Rector of Port Alfred, for his continued care of the "sick and lame" among our Staff: fortunately there is no need to speculate as to what we should do without his most generous and ready help, as we have it whenever needed, but we do appreciate his kindness; the life our men have to live is most exacting (as will be noted by the breakdowns recorded from time to time), in spite of their being so fit when they join us; such kindness and attention as we receive from Dr. Mallinson is a very real help in our Mission work.

On behalf of the Church Railway Mission I sent an expression of our sympathy with their Excellencies Lord and Lady Buxton—Lord Buxton is our President—on the receipt of the news of the loss of their only son during the fighting on the Somme, and a kind acknowledgment has been received.

News has been received from Miss Holmes, and her many friends along the Line will be glad to hear that she is still very happy in her work, caring for the sick and wounded, and as busy as ever: she is now up in German East Africa and is stationed at No. 2 General Hospital, Dar-es-Salaam. We hope she may have health and strength to finish her work there and then to come back to her old job, after a much needed rest.

I should like to thank all who have, in any way, helped us to "carry on" during the year, and especially those living along Mr. Rossborough's Section: it needs a good deal of "back" to carry on while the Chaplain is so far away; but most of all I should like to express my deep gratitude to the members of the Staff for their unceasing and loyal help; it would be impossible to get a better lot of workers together, small in number, but magnificent in quality, than it is my privilege to lead. I would ask for a continuance of your prayers, sympathy and help.

R. THORNELY JONES.

NOTE.—Since the above was in type the Almanacs have arrived and are being sent out with this number of the Magazine. Extra copies can be obtained from any of the Chaplains and workers.—R.T.J.

EXTRACTS FROM LETTER FROM THE REV. V. ROSSBOROUGH TO THE REV. CANON JONES.

Officers' Mess,
The Rangers House,
Greenwich, S.E. 10,

I have been here not quite a fortnight. The Chaplain-General sent me here as Chaplain to the Horse Transport Depot.

As far as work among the troops goes there is ample scope for that in this
Depôt. Our full strength is about 4,000 men. . . . Until I was sent here they have never been able to get a ‘padre’ of their own since the war started. There certainly is need of chaplains working with the troops stationed at home though naturally all have been inclined to go to the Front. After all, I suppose one has to admit that it is very largely one’s own personal desire to be “in it,” which work at the Front satisfies more than anything else. As far as actual personal influence with the men is concerned the padres at home have tremendous chances which the conditions abroad to a certain extent preclude. . . . One must therefore not be too cast down at the thought of being at a home base where there are at any rate real chances for spiritual influence, which will bear fruit, one hopes and prays, when the men get overseas.

Besides my work in the Depôt I have to look after the blind soldiers at S. Dunstan’s Hostel. It is an Annexe of the main centre in Regent’s Park.

I am looking forward so much to hearing from you news of my Section. I have received quite a number of letters from various people all up and down the Line, and the work is never long out of my thoughts. With all good wishes and prayers for the dear old R.M.,

Yours ever,

V. Rossborough.

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**DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.**

Marula.

December, 1917.

Lateness of posting for the October Quarterly and commendable promptitude on receipt of Miss Burt’s “demand card” this morning narrow these notes down to the months of October and November. And what months they have been! All sorts of unexpected difficulties and trials—it is only the wonderful Divine help and strength that keep one going: I have never realised before the depth of comfort in the Comfortable Words.

By way of contrast, the kindness of my railway people has been most marked: Mr. Bell, the P.W.I. on the Falls-Wankie Section, gave me a most enjoyable two-day trip through the Section and we were most cordially welcomed at every cottage. Our host for the first night assured us that he had only one mosquito and he was quite tame, although subsequent experiences rather belied this statement! We were fortunate in having two cloudy days with only occasional bursts of sunshine, as after experiencing a temperature of 100 at midnight at Wankie, I was rather dreading the midday heat on the Line. Many of the Gangers are members of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and I hope the day is not far distant when reunion will allow me to minister more fully to them. Lower down the Line I was disturbed to hear after a 9 o’clock Baptism that the ganger and his wife were accustomed to retire at 7.30 for the night, but it was nearer midnight when we went to bed and I realised that their visitors must be very few and far between. At the risk of making an invidious comparison, the isolation of many on the Line and the warmth of their welcome brings back very forcibly prison days at Portsmouth!

On the West Nicholson Line, through the kindness of P.W.I. Hill I have been able to do quite a lot of trolleying, which is a much safer proposition there than on the Falls Line, with its multidudinous trains running at all hours. Balla-Balla is now a real railway centre with two cottages within easy distance and keen Church-going families in both. I was glad to be able to baptize the infant son of my old Malindi friends, S.M. and Mrs. Wage-
naar. West Nicholson has become impossible on train-night for Service and now that I can trolley back to Gwanda things there go much better. Mrs. S. M. Jones lent her dining-room for our last Celebration and I am looking forward to our Christmas Communion there when Dorothy will be home from school. The Long John Mine quite forgave my long absence and turned up in great style for so small a community. Through the kindness of the Director of Public Works we have been granted the use of the old post-office at Esse­vule subject to a month’s notice, and I am sure that the local faithful will turn it into quite a beautiful little Church. We had a really beautiful Baptism Service at Gwanda when the sons and heirs of the Stationmaster were made members of the Church: the singing of the Sunday-school children was excellent and reflected the greatest credit on their teacher, Miss Gradwell.

The South Line has been rather badly treated these last few months, Pulmtree and Francistown having no Service in November and Plumtree only a weekday Celebration in October; however, it is possible to work in Christmas Services on the Sunday before Christmas, as well as last Sunday’s Services, and perhaps the Day of Intercession may be divided between these two places. If this number reaches you before January 6th will you make a special point of joining in the stream of thanksgiving and intercession which will be ascending to God’s Throne on that day from all parts of the Dominions? Ramaquabane was not so responsive as usual on my last visit owing to the absence of the Dutch population, but Norwood proved a real haven of peace to me when I was suffering from a terrific Falls cold and two days on the farm put me quite right.

Mr. Ingram is kindly taking a Christmas Service for me at the Falls on his way south: the attendance there on the part of all connected with the Railway and hotel is most satisfactory and makes it worth while to brave the ferocity of the local mosquitos.

Every best wish for the New Year to everyone on the Section, and may 1918 be ever remembered as the first of many years of peace.

RALPH S. SEACOME.

N. RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.

The end of this quarter finishes another year which I never expected to spend on this Section. History repeats itself fairly consistently and things are encouraging up to a certain point, and then one seems to reach the limit of development and can get no "fortrader."

There is not much of outstanding interest to report.

The Line between LIVINGSTONE and KALOMO is very sparsely populated, and I can only just keep in touch with the Railway people, and no more. I am glad to say that KALOMO still keeps its good name: the Sunday-school has been ably continued by Mrs. Hindle, to whom I am very grateful. Confirmation work still occupies a good deal of time here: but it is not time that is grudged. On my last visit I was fortunate enough to be taken ill: which may sound a strange sentiment, unless one knows what it means to be nursed back to health under the hospitable roof of Mr. and Mrs. Goslin!

The Section between KALOMO and MAGOYE is the part which I seem to know least about. Of course from time to time I visit PEMBA and CHOMA, the two stations, and have quite well-attended Services: but the intervening sidings I always seem to be passing at night time or on my way to some Sunday centre. I should be really glad to have more time to devote to it, as I fear the gangers here see little of me.
At MAGOYE I recently baptised Mr. and Mrs. Hastzenberg's little daughter and through various train failures was able to enjoy quite a little stay there: and as the Boma is at the siding and a small nine-hole course belonging to it, time passed very pleasantly. The only drawback was that the reed-bush would not stand quite long enough!

MAXABUKA is a place to be avoided rather than otherwise at this season. The farmers are up to their eyes in work: and the mud is up to the eyes also! Before the rains I managed to hold a Service for a faithful remnant: and also had the great privilege of staying with Mr. Bell for a day or two's shooting.

For some reason I seem to have failed to have stopped at KAFUE lately: it is really not because of the mosquitoes, but chiefly through having special calls upon my time, just when I should have normally been paying a visit there. I hope to get down there for Christmas night.

LUSAKA, where I am now visiting, has had more than its bi-monthly Service lately. Last month the Bishop held Services and also a Confirmation at which Harold Cooke and Arthur Philip were presented: the latter I managed to bring down from Sakania with me, having got over the difficulty of leave: but the mail train nearly let us down, and only some very fast running between Broken Hill and Lusaka made it possible to arrive in time for the Confirmation. Everything went off well. On the whole the Lusaka people show a laudable zeal for such Services as we hold here. Last night we anticipated Christmas by a week, in our hymns and sermon!

I have been to BROKEN HILL each month, as usual: and hope to be there on Christmas morning. On the last occasion the Bishop was with me, and spent a few days there before starting out for Fort Jameson. Some useful work was done by the Church Building Committee: revised plans of the Church were accepted: the whole question of the site is now settled satisfactorily: and the financial position is such as to justify a start with building operations directly after the rains, and the inclusion of the house as well. Money is coming in quietly, and Home sources have been very generous to us. The Committee is very grateful to Mrs. Gordon for undertaking the work of collecting in Broken Hill itself in the New Year. There remains a good deal still to be done in this direction. The Evening Service shows a distinct falling off: for various reasons this is not surprising: in any case, with us, it is the Blessed Sacrament that matters.

As usual, there have been a good many changes in the Mine and on the Railway, and new people always take a little time to settle down and join in with others, in what is going forward.

North of Broken Hill, the stretch to Sakania is as well known to me as the old bit between the Falls and Wankie! It is practically solely a Railway population until we get to BWANA MKUBWA and NDOLA: I usually combine the two places on one Sunday, giving Ndola a Service in the morning: whether this will be possible in the rains remains to be seen. It is a long way to go over and the results are not always very encouraging.

BWANA MKUBWA is a really bright spot: everybody seems cheerful and pleased with everybody else: it is really quite a treat to go there. I hope nobody's head will be turned with this exceptional praise, but to come down to earth again, it is getting really quite difficult to find room for the many excellent meals, I should say invitations, that are showered upon one! I am bound, on the other hand, to say that some excellent intentions to attend public worship are not always kept: but when one looks upon a congregation
through rose-coloured spectacles it is apt to seem larger than it really is!

This brings me to the CONGO; there has been no time this quarter for any trips north of ELISABETHVILLE. As the result of a year's work there, the Church Council has met the guarantee they gave Canon Jones: has paid for a good supply of Church books, and has a small balance in hand. The disappointing thing has been the small number of contributors that has achieved this result; and there were some misgivings as to the future outlook. However, it was decided to continue on the same footing for a time, and to renew our efforts to obtain a more general response to the appeal. It is very natural for the few to resent the indifference of the many; but it is obvious that the many will not be converted by the defection of the few, while meantime the Church suffers. It would be a sad thing, indeed, to draw back now, after having rejoiced that at last we have been given a lead in the right direction.

As the result of a year's work under these new conditions, it may be of interest to compare this year's figures with last, as follows:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of visits</th>
<th>Average attendance</th>
<th>Average collection per Sunday</th>
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<td>4</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>£4.10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>1917</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>£4.14.10</td>
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</tbody>
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There really seems to be little cause for despondency here, especially when experience shows that an increase of Services often means decrease both in attendance and in the collection.

E. F. WINNINGTON-INGRAM.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.

Content, C.P.,
December 2nd, 1917.

My dear People,
I have just started work again after a knock-off of a few weeks, for which I apologise. I suppose it was more my misfortune than my fault. However, a few days in Kimberley Hospital followed by a fortnight's sea-air at Port Alfred has done the trick and restored anything I had of youth and vigour. This trip I am trying to take it a bit easy for a start, to let myself down lightly. But on this sort of work it is rather hard to hit off the happy medium between doing less than one might do and attempting more than one can do.

I had a very happy three-day Retreat at Modderpoort, O.F.S., in September, which I told you in my last letter I was hoping to get. The Bishop of Bloemfontein conducted it—his addresses were splendid. Speaking to us on that passage in S. John's Gospel where Christ calls Himself the Door by which anyone must enter to minister in the sheepfold, he reminded us of the high responsibility of the priestly office. "Brethren, pray for us," S. Paul used to write to his congregations, and we ask the same of you.

To pray strongly for others we need sympathy—to put ourselves in the position of those for whom we pray. For instance, when we clergy pray for you, we should try to imagine ourselves in your position and consider all the difficulties of your life, often so lonely and isolated, often monotonous, with so few opportunities of public worship, such
rare occasions of sacramental grace, all making it very hard to form regular habits of religion. We should try to think of the special temptations that worry you, which we perhaps moving about from place to place do not feel in the same way. And so we would pray for you with sympathy by imagining ourselves in your position. Well, you try to do the same for us. I hope I am not asking you to stretch your imagination too far—imagine yourself a wandering prophet, a roving missioner of the Gospel! Fancy to yourself something of the difficulties of that calling, of doing it well. (Of course anyone can just "go through" with a Service.) How hard it is to live up to all we preach and to be always worthy "stewards of the Mysteries of God." Then your prayers offered for us in that spirit will be a tremendous help.

I may mention one or two places visited lately, though, as I have explained, my recent task has been to get well again.

At POKWANI we had good Services—quite a number came in for the afternoon Service. This is encouraging, and it must be pleasing to God to see people ready to make a journey for religion's sake. It reminds one of the wise men from the East who trekked over the desert to worship Him at Bethlehem. Then we had a crowded congregation of coloured folk for an Evening Service, and a few communicants the following morning. It is a pity we always have to say "a few" for our Lord's own Service, the Holy Communion, because after all He gave us that Gift, not to be a prize for a few good souls, but to be the source of strength to the many weak and struggling ones.

NOLAN LIME WORKS. I had a very happy visit to this little community on a small branch line ten miles from Taungs station. To reach them meant a new experience for me, a journey in an open truck from which you run the risk of emerging in colours, black from smuts and white from lime! The manager was most kind and opened the door gladly to the invasion of the Railway Mission. I much look forward to the next visit. Then there is a certain wayside store (I must not mention the name) inhabited by a keen Church family. The pleasure of a visit here is that instead of arranging Services I find them always arranged for me, and am set to do more than I expected to do. This is a great treat. I wish you would all make us work like that and not spare us!

Every possible good wish to you for the New Year. May you abound in health and happiness.

Your sincere friend,
A. C. Hobson.

S.W. AFRICA.

Arandis, S.W.A.,
Dec. 10th, 1917.

My dear Editor,

My last letter finished with my meeting the Head and spending three days with him at Walvis. We left on Monday, September 11th, and with very few stops proceeded to Keetmanshoop, stimulated by caboose-made bread, which my boy, demoralised by the responsibility of feeding a Canon, produced in an entirely new form chiefly remarkable for weight and adhesive-ness. On the way I spent a day at OKASISE, that land of milk and vegetables, but failed to obtain the post of assistant-gardener. At ALBRECHTS I christened Mr. and Mrs. Bennett's little daughter and was delighted to hear of mutual friends at Delmas in the Transvaal. At MARIENTHAL we were fortunate in collecting a record congregation for a Sunday evening, holding Service before a belated mail, and the Head showing the war slides afterwards. This unusual treat seems to have unsettled the Staff, for shortly
afterwards there were several changes. Our best wishes especially go with "Tommy" Bolton, who I hear is at Potchefstroom attached to the Mechanical Transport. Later in the quarter I visited what I believe I may call Mr. Eckhart’s kitchen garden, annexed to the pumping station on the Fish River, which would astound some of the people who have despaired of growing things in this country. A few more like this and we shall be ready for competition with the Union.

At KEETMANSHOOP, the Head, finding perhaps that I occupied an excessive area in a house not made for two, sent me off to Grahamstown for a week. Both the doctor and the dentist remarked on the recovery of my health, for which I am indeed thankful. The former attributed the completion of the cure to S.W. and my determination to return. On my return journey I spent a Sunday at Cradock with Mr. White, that good friend of Railway Chaplains.

I crossed the border on the 5th of October, after paying my first visit to LUTZPUTS, where I found my coach waiting for me. The little gathering of children appreciated my new roll of Bible pictures. I was also able to respond to an emergency call for the christening of a sick child. After a short stay at NAKOP, I went on to HAM RIVER, where the Evening Service was very well attended, then went back to ARiEMS VLEY, which had a larger population than usual, chiefly cattle and sheep speculators, delayed at the border by lack of trucks or dipping regulations and not overpleased with the change from the usual get-rich-quick method.

I spent an afternoon and evening with my friends at nieuwefontein, picking up another goods late at night after a solitary vigil on the siding, which is some distance from the cottage. I found the school still flourishing at kalkfontein south, but the attendance at the evening service was rather disappointing. I was lucky in finding the whole family at home at KANUS, where my eccentric behaviour is always forgiven. Last time I said “goodbye” three successive nights, this time it was omitted altogether! On this Section, Nakop to Seeheim, I found about sixteen Railway children of school age with little if any opportunity of attending school. Gangers are not used to expending 15 per cent. or 20 per cent. of their salary on their children’s board, and the outfit they are required to provide for the Keetmanshoop boarding school more nearly resembles the demands of private or public schools in the Old Country than what I remember of similar institutions in the Transvaal. The raising of boarding fees with the arrival of the war bonus seems to me to imply rather a grasping and ungenerous spirit on the part of the Education Authority. We need enterprise and keenness both on the side of the Administration and the parents. Some parents are trying to teach their children without any assistance in the way of books or material from the Department. Naturally we cannot expect permanent buildings under the circumstances. But it should be possible (seeing that goods sheds are movable) to put up temporary school-rooms and living rooms to house teachers and children, and it should be possible to have Railway and Education Authorities co-operating in the grouping of families and proportioning of expenditure. At the same time I should express appreciation of what has already been done for quite small groups of children. KLEINKARAS is a case in point.

I was fortunate in being able to pay an abbreviated visit to GRUNAU, my first. I do not really believe in flying visits, but one has to find out if one is wanted to begin with. Previously I had always passed through in the night. I hope to stop longer the next time.
After another Sunday at KEETMANSHOOP, I managed to get to GAWACHAB, where the ganger kindly put me up, and so was able to see some more of my friends in Mr. Ralph's bridge party. Later on I was asked how I enjoyed “my bridge party” at Gawachab by someone who seriously thought I had gone for the purpose of auction bridge.

Then a Sunday at LUDERITZBUCHT, where I was glad to see the Native Church was going ahead. The departure of the S.A.M.R. is a sad blow, depriving us of that precious possession, a keen Sunday-school teacher.

At GARUB, I threw myself upon the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Cussons, as I was afraid of a refusal to pick up my caboose for the long steep climb to AUS, and I was made very much at home. I was taken by the “General Manager” of the narrow gauge to the pumping station (escaping the usual derailment on the return journey) where I found Mr. Hawarth transferred from Kleinlkaras. At AUS I enjoyed the hospitality of the O.C., who had been in German East, and in the intervals of duty had some excellent tennis. I then hastened north, spent three days at NARIB, where my boy and I were called up as heavy artillery in reserve, as a wandering Ovambo was trying to re-steal clothes which he had stolen from the next siding and of which he had been deprived, the coat and waistcoat being recognised by a near relative of the owner. The solidarity of the Ovambos in divesting the thief of his stolen raiment was greatly admired by the European. I learnt to appreciate still more the loneliness of gangers' wives, who in nine cases out of ten would have to deal with emergencies of that kind with nothing but the telephone to help them.

After short visits to ASAB and TSES and a Sunday at MARIENTHAL I had to return to FELDCHUHHORN, where I found a variety of work between the siding and a farm nine miles away, a distance I accomplished once on foot and three times in a German ammunition wagon. At KUIBIS also I managed to pay a long-projected visit to Mrs. Radford on Kalkfontein farm, and only wished I could have stopped longer in order to hear more of the early experiences of the pioneer of '61, the first white settler in this country, who gave his name to the bay south of Luderitzbucht. Back to KALKRAND, TSUMIS and HEIDE, where an unusual profusion of trains cut my visit all too short. The children were home early from an outbreak of mumps at Windhuk, and on an excursion to a blue jay's nest with two schoolboys at REHOBOTH I had the unpleasant experience of being caught in a hailstorm, fortunately not severe, or we should hardly have reached the shelter we did eventually reach in a culvert. I hope by now the S.M. will have returned from hospital.

After a restful Sunday at Windhuk I went straight through to USAKOS, where both going and returning I was hung up for a couple of days. One of these happened to be "pay day," and I saw our German employees (some 80 in number, I believe) strolling up in dribbles to be paid, somewhat chastened by the news of the final extinction of German East, which had just come through.

I then spent a week between Usakos and Swakopmund, paying my first visits to TREKKOPJES and ROSSING, and also finding time to spend a Sunday with my friends at ARANDIS, and an evening at STINGSBANK.

This seems to be an enormous letter, and I have still three more things to write about. First of all, there will be an opportunity for members of the English Church to be confirmed in April and May, 1918, as the Archbishop of Capetown is paying a visit to the Protectorate. I shall be away during January, but if any Railway
people away from the depots wish to be prepared for Confirmation, I should be very glad if they would write to me at Windhuk, and I will do my best to help them. I sometimes find that people have started to prepare and then have been transferred at the last moment. It is natural to be disheartened, but I should like it to be known that with adults we smooth the path as much as possible, remembering how hard it is to remedy the neglect of the past.

Secondly, I must not forget to congratulate Keetmanshoop on their new Church-room, already furnished to some extent and with an excellent American organ. It fell to my lot to conduct the services on the first Sunday of its use, and two infants were baptised at the children's service, which helped to mark the occasion, one being the son of Mr. and Mrs. West. A room devoted to worship only is a great advance on services in a Magistrate's Court. May it become a real house of prayer, and a centre of real spiritual life!

Lastly, I am hoping that by February a Library will be circulating from Nakop to Kolmanskop among the eleven sidings and stations which contain book-lovers. The Head has promised a grant. If the experiment is successful it might be extended. More of this in April.

Yours, etc.,
E. G. K. Esdaile.

WOMEN'S WORK.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

December, 1917.

Once again, on returning from England in October, I find myself sent to the southern section of the Line in this Diocese and I am counting myself as fortunate to find so many old friends there, though some of them are certainly in new places. It has indeed been pleasant to receive so many kindly welcomes, better still to see how readily the G.F.S. girls and other children return to their various classes, and best of all to note the numbers of candidates offering themselves to read in preparation for Confirmation. Coach 404 has again made a trip along the Graaff-Reinet and Alexandria Lines, and been literally overflowing with "milk and honey" and other good gifts, though the ever-ready Railway hospitality has prevented many meals from being partaken of within its walls. I have even paid a first visit to MosSEL BAY, where it was highly satisfactory to find five families from various camps so happy that they seem never to wish for further "shifts." War Lanterns have again been the order of the day, or rather of the evenings, and have been held in the following places: Glenconnor, Kleinpoort, Wolvefontein, Klipplaat (Kafir School), Barroe, Alicedale (Kafir School and Church Hall), Addo, Zuney, Kinkelbosch, Coega, Barkly Bridge, Cookhouse (Kafir School). (Each place has received its receipt for the collection, so there is no need to give particulars here.) Collections during November amounted to £5 0s. 6d. and this sum has already been sent to the workshops for wounded soldiers at the South African Hospital, Richmond, England. It is interesting that two of our wounded warriors from Alicedale should now be in the two Hospitals which I visited most frequently while in England—Richmond and Camberwell, so that I can assure their families that they are indeed in favoured spots with every possible surrounding for their comfort, even including parks and deer. In addition to this our old friend Nurse Fuller is able to write personal reports from Camberwell, where she has now been nursing for some months past; though when the war is over she hopes to return to this country—not
SOUTH AFRICAN CHURCH RAILWAY MISSION QUARTERLY.

alas! to the Railway Mission, as her brother, the Bishop of Lebombo, now claims her help.

Many will also be glad to learn that I left our old friends Mr. and Mrs. Griggs well and busy in the parish of Ashford, Kent, but still firm as ever in the determination to "return to S. Africa after the war." Other workers hope to come to the Railway Mission also then. Here then are additional reasons to make us long earnestly and pray fervently for that happy time when the Dove of Peace may once more descend upon the earth, and may God grant that it may never leave us again. Surely it is a happy augury that in this country at least the sounds of strife seem slowly fading away, and may the coming Christmas season and New Year bring to us all the blessing of more loving hearts and growing union among all men of goodwill.

[P.S.—Sister Emily wishes to send her grateful thanks to her old friends in Alicedale, Cookhouse, Glenconnor and Zuney who have kindly helped in making surplices for the little choir-boys of S. Mark's Mission, P.E., who will be delighted to wear them at the Christmas Festival.]

M. J. BECKWITH.

NAAUWPOORT.

It is now nearly sixteen months since I became a travelling member of the Railway Mission, and my outlook upon what was to me a perfectly new kind of life has become more and more widened as the months have gone by. The interest never palls. There are such a lot of unexpected pleasures even in what might, to a casual observer, seem very prosaic circumstances. For instance, wind and dust are unfavourable accompaniments to a picnic; but one of the most delightful picnics at which I have been present was the one at NAAUWPOORT last month. After all, we were determined to enjoy ourselves and we did. Everybody was happy and the shelter of the lovely willow trees on Mr. Heslett's farm enabled us to forget the dust and wind which we had thought were going to interfere with our enjoyment.

To the energy of Miss Salveson, Lilian Deverill, Ivy Clarke and Miss Damant, and to the kind help of Mr. and Mrs. Fawdrey are due the treat which both parents, friends and children will long remember with pleasure. Mr. Hamer devoted many hours to the games for the boys and girls and helped in all sorts of ways. The parents and friends sent provisions: Mr. Owtram gave a plentiful supply of sweets and Mr. von Bratt milk. Mrs. Heslett gave us all a very warm welcome and to her kindness in allowing the picnic to be at her farm was due much of the success of the outing. But the main point was the opportunity it offered for social intercourse between church people, apart from the pleasure to the little ones.

The Sunday School prize distribution took place on November 9th; also two Baptisms (Myrtle Kershaw and Gladys Deacon). Naauwpoort church people are looking forward to the advent of the new chaplain, who is to go into residence in January. It is good to know that he will not find any lack of keen workers in the parish. At Rosmead I have been able to do very little, as, there being a regular priest to visit in that district, I have devoted my attention to the places where this was not the case. But I hope before long to go and see how the Sunday School is getting on, and also how the new twins are. There has not been time for me to go to NORVAL'S PONT as often as I could wish, but Canon Jones has paid two visits for Services, and it is good to know that there is quite a strong band of communicants there. Now there is to be a chaplain resident
again at Naauwpoort, Norval’s Pont will get regular ministrations.

STORMBERG has been left some time without a visit, but not through any fault of mine. Epidemics have hindered work there very much. I hope to be there the second Sunday in January. At CYPHERGAT many changes were impending when last I was there. It is a small centre and the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Wood and Mr. and Mrs. Brown reduces the number of our church people sadly. However, we still have Mr. and Mrs. Hogg, Mrs. Macleod and Miss Hind, all of whom give the Mission a warm welcome. At BLANEY I hope to find Mr. and Mrs. Latimer and their family, who have just removed from Stormberg. After their continuous spell of sickness I trust that now they will have a time of rest and that they will all enjoy being nearer a town and the sea. At THEBUSER my friends Mr. and Mrs. Clarke gave me a very happy two days—being without the Coach I had to depend upon their kind hospitality—and I much enjoyed my visit. Miss Emslie kindly let me have a talk to the children in the school. We are glad to hear that Miss Clarke has been appointed assistant teacher at the Victoria High School, Grahamstown. Part of November was for me a holiday which was spent at George—the railway journey by the Garden Route is beyond description. Now we have entered upon a new year with all its hopes and its possibilities, may God help us to do what we ought to help one another live through it bravely and cheerfully!

A. BURT.

BLOEMFONTEIN

DIOCESE.

DIOCESE OF BLOEMFONTEIN.

December, 1917.

Writing so early this month there is very little to record as I have been on leave during November. Perhaps a survey of the year’s work will be helpful.

Sunday Schools first. I found these at NATALSPRUIT, WOLVEHOEK, KOPJES and MEYERTON; the latter closed down at once owing to shifts. Another was started at Klip River in its place and has been fairly well attended, especially lately. The rest have continued and Brandfort and THEUNISSEN added with an occasional attempt at Dover. Natalspruit has kept up well; Wolvehoek dropped badly owing partly to shifts. KOPJES could do much better, but the children from the settlement have a long distance to come and the weather on my Sunday is almost invariably bad. BRANDFORT is my biggest school with thirty on the roll and the children keen, always more than twenty present. Theunissen sends all available children, i.e., twelve. Whether I shall be able to keep all going with the much restricted train service remains to be proved.

Weekday lessons have been given monthly at BETHANY, WHITES, DE BRUG and VAN ZYL TANK with more occasional visits at other places. I think I have called once at least at every station on my section, except Winburg: there are fifty of them to go to. Bible lantern pictures have been shown at almost all. Owing to the kindness of the teachers these have sometimes been held in comfort in the schoolrooms with seats for almost all; at others in the roomy goodsheeds with mealie-sacks forming gallery and dress circle while occasionally the tiny waiting-rooms will accommodate us. Candidates for Confirmation are being prepared at various places and six have lately been confirmed, four in Bloemfontein Cathedral and two in Johannesburg.

P. GLASIER,
CHILDREN’S PAGE.

My dear Children,

Here is another year before us, and another fresh start in all sorts of good things, I hope, for all of us. A new beginning for many of you who are perhaps going to school for the first time or changing your school or class. A very Happy New Year to you all!

Some of you will have been giving Miss Beckwith a warm welcome back among you. She has come back quite ready to stir you all up and give you lots to do and to think about. It really is delightful to greet old friends, and I know many of you will have a happy time when she comes to tell you what she has seen and heard since she left. I want you to go on with the Bible Reading subjects and send to me for the papers to help you as you did last year. You will see the subjects in this issue of the magazine.

Greetings to all for 1918 from
Your old friend,
THE EDITOR.

HOLY BAPTISM.

DIOCESE OF GRAHAMSTOWN.

At Naauwpoort (by Rev. Canon Jones).
July 22—Emma Roberta Murray Willett.
Oct. 7—Verdun Theodora Lear.
Dec. 9—Myrtle Dorothy Kershaw.
Dec. 9—Gladys Deacon.

At Norval’s Port (by Rev. Canon Jones).
Oct. 21—Eric Norval Russouw.

At Cookhouse (by Rev. Canon Jones).
Aug. 12—Daniel Nsanche.
Aug. 12—Benjamin Moses Philip.
Oct. 16—Thomas Henman Presland.
Gysbert Capel Baines.
Nov. 4—Elizabeth Ngozi.

DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.

Sep. 20—Alexina Campbell, at Nolan Lime Works.
Sep. 21—Maria Martha Martelina Smit, at Kameel.
Nov. 26—Absalom Clouts, Windsorton Road.

DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN RHODESIA.

Sep. 2—George Frederick William De Villiers, at Plumtree.
Sep. 5—Wilhelmina Francina Kasnu, at Ramaquabane.
Sep. 5—Nella Goliath, at Bosoli.
Sep. 5—Dora Goliath, at Bosoli.
Sep. 16—Alexander George Duberly, at Raylton.
Oct. 1—John Rudolph Standers, at Gwanda.
Oct. 5—Unica Rhodesia Heydenrych, at Figtree.
Oct. 21—Ronald Percival Shinn, at Raylton.
Oct. 30—Christina Frances Carelse, at Matteta.
Nov. 9—Dennis Rodney Wagenaar, at Balla-Balla.
Nov. 15—Elizabeth Margaret Ray, at Pasipas.
Nov. 26—Bessie Blumears, at Entuba.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

ARCHDEACONRY OF DAMARALAND.

At Albrechts, on Sept. 13:
Rosalie Antoinette Alice Bennett.

At Lutzputs, on Oct. 3:
Philippus Jacobus van der Berg.

At Keetmanshoop, on Nov. 4:
James Arthur West.
Ethne Hilary Daly.

VICTORIA BIBLE EXAMINATION.

May, 1918.

Questions will be set on the following subjects:—
The Creed, The Lord’s Prayer and Ten Commandments, Advent, Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension and Whitsun Days.
Learn by heart: Psalm 15 (Seniors), and Psalm 23 (Juniors). Seniors also to know the meaning of these Psalms.

NOTICE.
Papers of notes on all the subjects can be had from Miss Burt, The Hermitage, Grahamstown. Teachers will find these useful.
At Bethanie District, on Nov. 20:
Samuel Coleman.

N. RHODESIA AND THE CONGO.
Oct. 20—Joyce Aileen van Blerk, at Chilanga.
Oct. 24—Christine Booyen Hartzenberg, at Magoye.
Nov. 18—Margaret Murdock, at Bwana-Mkubwa.
Dec. 25—Arthur Ralph Morris, at Broken Hill.

CONFIRMATIONS.
At Bloemfontein: Charles Jubber, Martha Jubber.
At Johannesburg: Hannah Petzer, Ivy Petzer.

MARRIAGES.
Oct. 23—Francis Cecil Barrett and Hilda Smalle, at Intabanenda.
Oct. 16—Bernard Vivian Guymer Burls and Margaret Tresilian Gash, at Cookhouse.

N. RHODESIA AND CONGO.
Nov. 19—Harold Coote, at Lusaka.

Arthur Philp.

Bwana-Mkubwa, £3/8/6; Nkola, £1/2/9; Kalomo, £6/10/-; Choma, 5/-; Broken Hill, £7/1/3; Lusaka, £2/14/9; Mazabuka, £1/2/-.

Sustentation Fund: Elisabethville, £30.

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DIOCESE OF KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN.
Rev. A. C. Hobson.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA
Rev. E. G. K. Esdaile, P.O. Box 289, Windhuk.

DIOCESE OF S. RHODESIA.
Rev. Ralph Seacome, P.O. Bulawayo.

NORTHERN RHODESIA & THE CONGO.
Rev. E. F. Winnington-Ingram, Broken Hill.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA.
Pretoria—Mrs. Christie.
Bloemfontein—Mrs. Frood, 29, Kellner St.

Port Elizabeth—Mrs. Grant Robinson.
Kimberley—Rev. A. C. Hobson.
East London—Lady Crewe.

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SECERATRIES FOR SOUTH AFRICA
General Secretary in South Africa—Miss Burt, Grahamstown.
Johannesburg—Mrs. Callow, Houghton Ridge.
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INTERCESSIONS.

(After each petition say: “O Lord, we beseech Thee, hear us.”)

Let us pray for the work of the Chaplains ministering to our Forces on Active Service.

That their lives may bear witness to the Faith which is in Jesus.

That they may have strength and courage given them for their work, and a readiness to share the dangers and discomforts of the men.

That the words spoken by their mouths may not be spoken in vain.

That they may be blessed in all their ministrations to the sick and dying.

That the many obstacles in the way of ministering the sacraments may be overcome.

That many sailors and soldiers may be prepared to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Laying on of Hands.

That the Lord Jesus may indeed come to all His faithful ones (engaged in this war) and abide with them, as the Bread which came down out of Heaven, in His Holy Service.

That obstinate sinners, as well as the careless and indifferent, may be brought to repentance.

That the religious faith of men, purged of shams and superficialities in the fire of this war, may be deepened and strengthened and help to make a purer and a nobler England in the days of the peace that is to be.

Let us pray especially for the officers and men of the Railway Contingents from South Africa, that they may have the right spirit of service, courage in danger, endurance in weariness, perseverance in overcoming obstacles.

For ourselves at home, that we may be ready by self-denial to share in the burdens of the war, that we may be cheerful and not grudging givers, that we may be filled with the spirit of quiet confidence, leaving the issues of the war with God, giving no heed to the idle rumours circulated by disloyal busybodies.