

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

NOVEMBER, 1940

REGISTER.

Deaths.

Oct. 8—ANDREW LAIDLAW, Woodlands.

„ 22—Mrs. THOM, The Schoolhouse.

EDITORIAL.

Dr. George Morrison of Wellington once said that there were certain stars that to the naked eye seemed to be single points of light, but, that when they were viewed through the telescope, they were discovered to be double stars, two balls of fire, two points of light, two worlds, although to the human eye they seemed as one. That he took as an illustration of the Christian virtue of patience. There were really two kinds of patience although to the unassisted eye it seemed but a single virtue. There is first of all the patience of the Indian who will arrive at a railway station hours before the train is due and sit in unruffled state until it comes. Our ability to be unruffled in life to-day is not so invulnerable as it once was. We find that our tempers are more easily frayed than once they were. This is a result of the war of nerves. We have not the resistance to that which irritates that we used to possess. Our patience is more easily exhausted. What we ought to remember in this respect is that, as we are, so are others. We cannot presume on the same magnanimity that once we have received from them. We should be careful in life by criticism, etc., not to irritate people.

The second kind of patience is what we generally call endurance. It is the power to hold on in a time of suffering or disappointment in the faith that in a short while we shall once again come into a place of peace and of realisation. He endured, said the writer to the Hebrews, as, seeing Him Who is invisible. Through the long night of hostility and of persecution He endured because He knew that God had a plan which He was fulfilling and which He would in a short time perfect. To-day we are passing through such a time of darkness, of disappointment and of anxious waiting; let us then, like our Master, refuse to be discomfited and depressed but hold fast to our Christian faith. All through work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. In a little while, perhaps in the not too distant future, we shall emerge as a nation out of the night of suffering, purified by the fire, into a new day of peace and of happiness. Meanwhile, let us exhibit in our person the Christian virtue of endurance. "The Lord direct your hearts unto the love of God, and into the patience of Christ."

The Boys' Brigade.—It has been decided, after full consideration by the Session, to start a company of the above in our congregation. In Mr. Robertson, who has recently joined our Church, we have one who has had many years experience of this work, first in Langside Hill and later in Green-

bank Church. He offered his services to the congregation in this respect, and, after consultation with our friends in the Mearns Parish Church, who already possessed such an organisation, and finding that they agreed that there was room for two such companies in the district, we have agreed to sanction the inauguration of such a company within our own congregation. For some time past we have felt that we had no organisation to appeal to the youth of our congregation between the ages of twelve and seventeen. The Sunday School provided for the spiritual welfare until the former age. The Y.P.U., the G.A., and the Badminton Club, etc., met the needs of adolescent years but between the two periods there was a gap within which many of our boys seemed to lose touch with the Church. Once that grip had disappeared it was very difficult to re-establish it. Never was there a time when the necessity of guiding and educating the youth of our country was more urgent. Parental control has in many homes ceased to exist. Our Juvenile Courts are proof of that. Therefore the Session received with the greatest sympathy and consideration the offer made to them by Mr. Robertson. In him they are confident that they have one who will not only have the power to appeal to the youth of our Church but also one whose aim is to lead them into the life revealed by Jesus Christ and into service in His Kingdom. They would therefore give to Mr. Robertson their best wishes and their assurance of their unanimous support in this work.

The Woman's Guild.—One of the most encouraging features of the congregational life of the Church this winter is the increased number who are attending the meetings of the Woman's Guild. The Guild is meeting every Wednesday afternoon at 2.30 p.m. in the Upper Hall. On three of the four Wednesdays of the month, the meeting takes the form of a Work Party, and on the fourth it is addressed by a speaker. Tea is served during the afternoon and a very happy meeting thus takes place every Wednesday. While we know some of the ladies of the congregation have their individual groups, in which they are working, there are many of our newer members who have not yet availed themselves of this opportunity of meeting others in the Church, and of doing some work for the Schemes of the Church, and the war work for our country. Wool is given out each week. It takes a little courage to go to a meeting for the first time but you are assured of a most warm welcome, and we give you this invitation to join the others.

Mrs. Thom.—It was with the deepest sorrow that the congregation learned of the passing from our midst of Mrs. Thom, the wife of our Headmaster and our Congregational Treasurer. Although Mrs. Thom had been for a comparatively few number of years with us, she had won a place in our esteem and affection of the deepest kind. Coming to our district in 1931 from Greenock, she

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

at once attached herself to the Woman's Guild, at whose meetings she was a most regular attender and a valuable member. She was appointed by the Woman's Guild as the Jewish Delegate to the S.W. Council and that, coinciding about this time with a visit she paid to the Holy Land, awakened in her heart a passionate interest in and love for the Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. Her ability was recognised early this year by the General Assembly of the Church when she was appointed a member of their Jewish Committee in Edinburgh. Many to-day in our congregation owe their awakened interest in the Jews to her enthusiasm and to her reports. In her home she was a constant inspiration to her husband in his work, and those who were privileged to know her as a friend learned the warmth of her heart and the generosity of her nature. She was a woman of great faith and when she knew that the end was near the presence of her Saviour kept her unafraid. We shall miss her much in the Church for her wise counsel and her readiness to help, and to Mr. Thom and his family we extend our deepest sympathy in his great loss.

Those on Service.—We would make an appeal to all members of the congregation who have any members of their family on service to send their names and addresses to the Session-Clerk, Mr. JAMES POLLOCK, 7 MAIN STREET. It is not easy for the Session to compile a list without your assistance. We like to keep in touch with these members, at this time of the year particularly, and it will be of the greatest help to us, that no one be overlooked, that you should do this.

The Harvest Thanksgiving.—The children of the congregation on the second Sunday of October brought their gifts to the Church and these were sent to the Paddy Black Memorial Mission in Tradeston, Glasgow. The amount gathered was

greater than in any previous year, and at this time would be specially appreciated. We would like to thank Mr. John Russell for the beautiful vase of roses which he provided for the Communion Table and Miss Isa Russell for the arrangements she made for the service.

VARIA.

The attendances at Communion in November were 443 at the forenoon service and 17 at the evening dispensation.

We have invited members and adherents of the Mearns Parish Church to join our Badminton Club this winter. The meetings are on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The Secretary is Mr. C. S. Thom, the Schoolhouse.

The Evening Service is being held in the Upper Hall at 6.30 p.m.

The Y.P.U. has a larger attendance this year than ever before. Between fifty and sixty young people are gathering every Sunday evening in the Upper Hall at 7.15 Come and join them.

And additional teacher for the older scholars has now been provided for the Sunday School during morning worship. You will be made welcome.

We need more members in the Choir. You can help in the work of the Church by offering your services in this sphere.

The beautiful picture of the old Church that is hung in the Vestibule was painted by Mr. Higgins and gifted to the congregation.

The new cloth that covers the Communion Table was gifted by the late Miss Bruce of Torpheen.