

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

DECEMBER, 1940

REGISTER.

Baptisms.

- Nov. 5—ROBERT TAYLOR SINCLAIR.
" 10—JAMES CRAWFORD GILLIES.

Deaths.

- Nov. 1—Mr. MARTIN, Dunbeath Avenue.
" 5—Mrs. HUNTER, 23 Larchfield Avenue.
" 20—Mr. ANDREW EDMUND, 8 Langtree Ave.
" 24—Mr. W. H. FYFE, 5 Carrick Crescent,
Giffnock.

Marriage.

JOHN FORBES and JESSIE CAIRNDUFF.

New Members.

- MARJORIE J. FITZGERALD, 15 Larchfield Avenue.
MRS. CUNNINGHAM, 2 Newton Place.
MARION S. MILROY, 2 Manse Lane.
JANET McL. L. HOGG, The Shieling, Capel Avenue.
JAMES A. MENZIES, 46 Beech Avenue.
MRS. RAE, Lyndhurst, Beech Avenue.
MRS. SCOTT, Miss ANN and Miss NANCY SCOTT, 82
Beech Avenue.
JOHN O. C. HUNTER, Norwood Drive.
Mr. and Mrs. EDMOND, 8 Langtree Avenue.
Mr. and Mrs. ROBERT STEWART, 11 Redburn Ave.
MRS. ANDERSON and Mr. C. ANCELL ANDERSON, 42
Broomvale Drive.
Miss PADKIN, Teesta, Kilmarnock Road.
WILLIAM LAMBIE, Shaw Farm.
ROBERT A. ALLAN, Kilmeny, Craigie Drive.
JEAN G. ALLAN, do.
HELEN McD. ANDERSON, do.
Mr. and Mrs. ROBERTSON, Central Buildings.
MRS. INGLIS, 70 Larchfield Avenue.
MRS. McLUSKIE, 40 Moorhill Crescent.

Attendance of Office-Bearers at Church Door.

1940.

- Dec. 8—Messrs. R. CARSWELL, A. MORELAND and
J. KEIR.
" 15—Mrs. MENZIES, Messrs. W. RODGER and
J. McLAREN.
" 22—Messrs. A. RUSSELL, G. W. LAMBIE and
G. C. CORCORAN.
" 29—Miss OSBORNE, Messrs. J. HOOD and
J. RUSSELL.

1941.

- Jan. 5—Messrs. J. MEIKLEJOHN, J. W. JARVIE
and W. MENZIES.

EDITORIAL.

We have now entered upon the season of Advent in which we call to remembrance the supreme manifestation of the love of God in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. It may be that it is with mixed feelings that many are to-day contemplating the approach of Christmas. There is a familiar story of two cars that were involved in a collision and the owner of the private car got out and spoke very sharply to the owner of the taxi. The latter waited until he had finished speaking and then, pointing to the sprig of holly on the bonnet of the private car, said: "He that would have holly on the bonnet of his car should first have holly in his heart." That, perhaps, crystallises our thoughts on this subject. Before we can set out to celebrate Christmas we feel that we must have the spirit of Christmas in our hearts, and that is exactly what we do not seem to have at this time. The spirit of Christmas is that of friendship towards all, and hatred towards none, and we cannot feel that we possess this at this moment. It is the spirit of joy and not of fear. It is the spirit of love and not of hate. Moreover, many who would have been with us at this season of the year will be unable to be so. The sources of entertainment will be literally "out of bounds." We are being urged by the Government to save and lend to the State. What then ought to be our attitude and behaviour at this the greatest festival of the year, remembering our double rôle as loyal citizens and as Christians?

We ought, I think, to remember the children of our land and do what we can to give to them as bright and happy a Christmas as it is in the circumstances possible for us to give to them. If inroads into their life have been made by war, we should endeavour to make a special effort to counterbalance that by making this Christmas as happy and bright for them as we can. Then, again, there are those who have suffered through the exigencies of war. We have an opportunity to show to them our fellowship with them in their sufferings. We will not need to be reminded to send something to our young men and women on service. That will be our primary task. In giving to those who are immediately around us we will, however, require to learn the great lesson that it is not the value of what we give but the love that accompanies it that is precious in the eyes of God. "The gift without the giver is bare." For the sake of economy, for the sake of saving for the State, for the sake of winning the war we will require to reduce our actual gifts, but they will be offered with all the affection and all the love that hitherto they have borne. Above all, they will contain the message of that unspeakable love that shone in the face of the Infant of Bethlehem.

The late Mr. William H. Fyfe.—It was with very deep feelings of regret that the congregation

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learned from the Minister at morning worship on Sunday, 24th November, of the sudden passing that morning, after a brief illness, of Mr. William H. Fyfe, an honoured member of the Kirk-Session.

Mr. Fyfe came to Newton Mearns about thirty years ago and at once identified himself with the congregation, who appointed him an Elder in 1927. For several years he was the representative of the Session in the Presbytery of Glasgow.

He loved the House of God and served it with the utmost devotion; always interested in the Evangel, he ever supported whole-heartedly all the Missionary Schemes of the Church at home and abroad. Always interested in work among the young, he gave largely of his time to the Band of Hope, and when Sunday School work was started in Mearnskirk Hospital, he was one of the first to volunteer and did excellent work there until the war and the evacuation of the children put an end to the work.

The uprightness of his daily life, his kindly disposition, his broad outlook on life, all these were avenues by which he constantly fostered in the young the Spirit of his Master. His generous influence, and genial personality, whether in extending a warm welcome to join in worship, or in the deliberations of the Session, always made one conscious that he possessed the secret of serenity, obtained only by those whose faith is fed upon the deep things of God.

To Mrs. Fyfe and his family, the congregation would convey their deepest sympathy, sorrowing with them in the loss they feel they share.

Report from our Presbytery Elder.—As a result of war conditions the meetings of Glasgow Presbytery, which were formerly held in the evening, are now held in the forenoon, and this has had the unfortunate result of debarring many of the younger office-bearers from taking part in its deliberations. The meetings are, as a general rule, largely attended, and there is usually a very long agenda of business to be gone through. It is regrettable that a large proportion of the members cannot see the sitting out, and often the Committee Reports, covering all the varied fields of Church work are presented to "a beggarly array of empty benches," and there is little or no time for discussion. In present circumstances it is difficult to see how this can be remedied, certainly a wider and deeper interest in all Church activities is desirable in order to meet the clamant needs of the hour.

The war has created many new and difficult problems. In several districts the military authorities have requisitioned Church Halls and other suitable buildings, consequently many Church organisations are severely handicapped in carrying on their work. Also the black-out regulations make Sunday evening services well-nigh impossible, while, on the other hand, our city streets are crowded at night, not only with the ordinary citizens but with service men and women, many of them far from home. The question of providing suitable entertainment for the strangers in our midst is at present receiving the earnest attention of various committees. Hostel accommodation has been secured at various points, mobile canteens are at

work in certain areas and funds are being raised to provide a Presbytery Hut similar to those already set up in our military camps.

Church Extension work is practically at a standstill owing to the impossibility of obtaining building materials. But the need is as clamant as ever, and recently the Presbytery struck out on a new line of action. In the Giffnock area and at Stamperland new congregations are being formed and to these ministers have been inducted, although church buildings are still non-existent. Meetings are held wherever convenient, in halls and in the homes of the members. The experiment is said to be proving very successful in providing Gospel ordinances for the new housing districts and further development along these lines may be expected in the future.

The Presbytery is fortunate in having as its Moderator this year the Rev. Dr. John White, a man of wide knowledge and experience of Church work. Under his wise guidance we may rest assured that the Presbytery will be safely piloted through the many difficulties and trials which have to be faced during these anxious and troubled times.—J. H.

The Woman's Guild.—The Woman's Guild continues its activities, meeting once a week. The meetings are well attended and a growing spirit of friendliness is evident. The most outstanding have been meetings at which we have had a speaker. In October, we were privileged to have Mrs. Craik, City Group President of the Woman's Guild, and in November, Mrs. Shedden, President of the South-West Council. The latter's address is still fresh in our memories. Her account of the Social Work of the Church was most graphic and a telling answer to those who ask what the Church is doing, describing as she did the many homes which have been established for the care of the destitute, the reclaiming of the fallen and the comfort of those in the eventide of life.

A Conference has been arranged between the officials of the Woman's Guild and those of the Girls' Association in Glasgow, at which the aims of both will be discussed, with special reference to the problem of the G.A. member who leaves that association and does not become a member of the Woman's Guild. We hope that the result of this Conference will be a strengthening of the bonds that unite these two Associations of the Church.

The Work Party continues its work of making comforts for the Forces. Since April we have knitted 474 articles which have been sent to the Women's Voluntary Services at Giffnock, along with gramophone Records, a wireless set, clothing for refugees, notepaper for the canteen and donations amounting to £13.

The Girls' Association.—The meetings are held in the Upper Hall on alternate Monday evenings at 7.30 p.m.

The most outstanding meeting so far this winter was that held on 25th November when Miss Helen Clyde, one of our own members, gave a very interesting demonstration in Hand Work with particular reference to the making of flowers from pieces of felt.

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We hope to have a Christmas Party on the evening of 9th December, and a very cordial invitation is extended to all girls of the congregation who are over fifteen years of age.

The Young People's Union.—This live organisation is having a most interesting and instructive series of addresses and debates this winter.

During last month the minister gave an address, two members led a debate as to whether the passing of the Old Scottish Sabbath was to be regretted, and, contrary to the general expectation, the meeting decided by a majority that there was cause for regret at the passing of the old days and ways. Mr. John S. Anderson, another of the members, gave a most provocative address on "Inspiration." His thesis was that as a nation we practised Christianity without really believing in it, and that the teachings of the Church had been absorbed into our culture, so that we now had a code of honour and morals based on tradition, and we alienate them from Christ. He deplored the tolerance shown in the world to-day and pleaded for a great revival in the Church which would be opportune at the end of hostilities. As was to be expected, there was a very vigorous discussion after this address.

The attendance at the meetings is excellent, there being usually between forty and fifty members present.

The Badminton Club.—The season is now in full swing, and although the Mearns Parish Church Club has joined with us, the membership is still small although the members are keen.

The Club intends to have an "At Home" on the evening of Wednesday, 18th December, at which all members and their friends are expected to be present.

Owing to the war conditions, the Glasgow and District Churches Badminton League has been suspended, and no matches have been arranged for this season. It is hoped, however, that friendly matches with clubs in the neighbourhood will be arranged.

The usual monthly tournaments are being run, and, so far, have been well supported. The winners for November were Miss E. Russell, Miss M. Crawford and Mr. C. MacIntyre.

As play is now possible on Saturday afternoons it is hoped that the members of the former Afternoon Section will avail themselves of this privilege.

Hospital Sunday.—The Retiring Collection for the Glasgow Hospitals amounted to £12 10s. 5d.

Presentation to Miss Maud Corcoran.—There was an interesting gathering in the Upper Hall after the morning service on Sunday, 24th November, when members of the Choir, the Praise Committee, the Badminton Club and a few friends presented Miss Maud Corcoran with tokens of their esteem on the occasion of her leaving the district.

Mr. Mackay, in a few well chosen remarks, referred to Miss Corcoran's services to the Choir, the Praise Committee and the Badminton Club, of which she was Secretary for a number of seasons, and asked her to accept of an Electric Toaster, a Crystal Bowl and a Crystal Jug.

Miss Corcoran in her reply thanked the company for the gifts and spoke of the pleasure it had always given her to help in every way possible in the work of the Church and its organisations and said that she had done the work because she had always wanted to do it.

Miss Blue, representing the Choir, and Mr. McKinlay the Badminton Club, were in charge of the presentation.

The Boys' Brigade.—Our new Company of The Boys' Brigade is now in being and the officers are encouraged by the keenness and enthusiasm of the boys. It is felt, however, that all eligible boys in the Church have not yet come forward and a warm welcome awaits them when they overcome their shyness. An extensive and interesting programme, including physical training in various forms, ambulance and first-aid work, signalling, etc., is being embarked upon immediately, and boys desirous of taking full advantage of the training should attend at the Hall on Friday first at 7.30 p.m.

The Life Boys, the junior organisation of The Boys' Brigade, caters for boys of nine to twelve years of age, and, as there are quite a number of boys between these ages in the Church, it has been decided to start a Team without delay. To enable boys to be home early, it is proposed to hold the parade on Fridays from 6 to 7.30 p.m., and arrangements are being made to escort boys to within easy reach of their homes. This side of B.B. work is commended to all parents who have boys eligible, and they are asked to send them along for enrolment on Friday first at 6 p.m.

Our New Editor.—Mr. C. J. Thom, our Congregational Treasurer, has very kindly consented to become Editor of the "Supplement." This will be for me a considerable relief, and I would personally thank him for agreeing to do so. It will considerably add to the interest of our members if the secretaries of the various organisations will send to him accounts of any happenings that they feel would be of interest to the congregation.