

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

MARCH, 1941

OFFICE-BEARERS AT CHURCH DOOR.

- March 9—Mrs. Menzies, Messrs. W. Rodger and J. M'Laren.
 16—Messrs. A. Russell, G. W. Lambie and G. C. Corcoran.
 23—Miss Osborne, Messrs. J. Hood and J. Russell.
 30—Messrs. J. Meiklejohn, J. W. Jarvie and W. Menzies.
 April 6—Messrs. S. Rodger, T. M. Donald and C. J. Thom.

COLLECTIONS FOR JANUARY.

Systematic Giving	...	£101	2	3
Church Door Plate	...	11	13	11
Special—Retiring	...	1	19	1
		£114	15	3

REGISTER.

Marriages.

William Martin Kyle to Agnes Ballingall Martin.
 William Stewart to Margaret Lough Straughan.

Baptism.

Mary Margaret Macdougall, Whitehill, St. Vigeans Avenue.

Deaths.

Feb. 13—Miss Mary Bryson, 3 Ashview Terrace.
 „ 14—John Macdougall, Gylen, Crookfur Road.

New Members.

Mrs. Browning, 14 Windsor Avenue.
 Mr. and Mrs. T. S. MacCance, 50 Broomvale Drive.
 Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell, Beech Avenue.
 Misses Isa and Jean Muir, Woodburn, Hazelwood Avenue.
 Mrs. Pearce, Beech Avenue.
 Mrs. Robertson, 9 Arthurlie Drive.
 Miss Steel, Knowetop, Kilmarnock Road.
 Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Steele, 5 Edzell Drive.
 Mrs. Semple, 2 Eddington Drive.
 Misses Elizabeth and Wilma Semple, 2 Eddington Drive.
 Messrs. Alexander and James Semple, 2 Eddington Drive.
 Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Williamson, Westbrae Road.
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wood, 114 Beech Avenue.

The Film of Sulenkama.—On Sunday evening last the Evening Service and the Young People's Union held a joint service in the Church Hall at which the film of the work of Dr. and Mrs. Paterson was exhibited by the Rev. Stanley C. Munro, Battlefield West Church, and Mr. Isaac a member of the Session of that Church. The large Hall was filled to capacity and the audience quite visibly enjoyed the panorama of the work in that Mission Station. The film was composed of snatches of reel taken from time to time by Dr. Paterson and knit together or as we ought to say in strictly technical language

“cut” first by Dr. Paterson, and later by the two operators of the evening. Sulenkama is not able to be located on any map of Africa, but it is a valley, and a very beautiful one resembling the uplands of Renfrewshire, about 400 miles inland from Durban. The station consisted originally of two small huts or Kraals but has been extended so considerably that now it is a very large and modern equipped hospital. This has been made possible by grants from the South African Government, and also very largely by the work of the Nessie Knight Dramatic Club at home in Scotland. Many of the beds in the wards have been presented by individual churches and are sustained by their contributions.

The Film besides giving a picture of the work in the Hospital provided an excellent depiction of native African life, its tribal customs, its belief in witchcraft, its love of music and dancing. In addition, the scenery of that part around the Victoria Falls was magnificent. The audience could not but acknowledge also the most valuable work that these two noble and heroic spirits, Dr. and Mrs. Paterson were accomplishing. Mr. Munro, whose “compereing” of the film could hardly have been surpassed, told his audience of the difficulties that the Station was undergoing at the present time, Dr. Paterson having a severe nervous break-down.

The offering at the service was devoted to the work in the Mission Field at Sulenkama and amounted to £4 15s. 10d. In addition the Y.P.U. donated £1 from their funds and the total of £5 15s. 10d. showed not only the interest of this Church in the work in the Foreign Field but the impression that the film had made on the audience. We would add that Miss Nette Downs, who occupied the chair, did so with efficiency and grace, and Mr. C. L. Thom officiated very capably at the organ.

Miss Mary Bryson.—On Thursday, 13th February, almost imperceptibly and in a manner in keeping with the tenor of her life, there passed on Miss Mary Bryson of 3 Ashview Terrace in her 103rd year. Born in the parish of Riccarton, Kilmarnock, she lived the whole of her life in the parish of Mearns. In the employment of Mr. Gordon of Netherplace, she was later in the service also of his son. Of a quiet and gentle disposition her life radiated the atmosphere of peacefulness. To find some way in which she could be of service to others was the key note of her life. Yet, the secret of her unselfishness lay deeper than love of her fellow beings. It was to be found in her faith in the Son of God Who she knew loved her and had given Himself for her. A faithful attender at the Sanctuary until very recent years, she leaves with us a fragrant memory of a life of usefulness and sweetness. To the Misses Bowman with whom she spent the long years of her retirement we offer our sympathy in their bereavement. “With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.”

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

Ye're Hame.

Ye're hame.

A weel-bund sheaf o' gowden grain,
Ripe, ripe for God, and God alane,
Wha waled ye for His very ain,
An' took ye hame.
Ye're hame.

But hame is no' sae far away,
Ye're safely doon Life's staney brae,
Ayont death's burn whaur nicht is day,
An' God is hame.

GILBERT RAE.

Jubilee of the Rev. Dr. W. Macintosh Mackay.

A most pleasing feature of the February meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery was the very cordial reception given to one well-known and honoured by our congregation, the Rev. Dr. W. Macintosh Mackay who recently celebrated his Jubilee as a minister of the Church of Scotland. In an address both eloquent and felicitous, the Moderator, Dr. White conveyed to Dr. Mackay the warm congratulations of the members on his reaching a notable point in his ministerial career, acknowledging with gratitude to God his long years of faithful service to the Church and assuring him of the good will of all loyal churchmen. There were some families in Scotland, he went on to say, who seemed to belong to the tribe of Levi. Dr. Mackay belonged to one which had rendered signal service to the Church in the past and it was noteworthy that his family were following worthily in his footsteps. Dr. White paid warm tribute to Dr. Mackay's work as Convener of the Education Committee of the Presbytery and referred specially to their close collaboration at the time of the passing of the last Local Government Bill which resulted in securing that the Churches had an elected representative on every Education Committee in Scotland.

Dr. Mackay, in his reply, expressed his warmest thanks for the good wishes extended to him and for the generous words of appreciation of his services which had fallen from the Moderator. He had served in three centres—Troon, Aberdeen and Glasgow, and he had been fortunate in this that in each charge he had been surrounded and supported by a loyal and active body of office-bearers. For himself he had always been deeply conscious of the goodness of God experienced all through his long life as a minister of the Gospel. He closed with the simple but touching words, "By the grace of God, I am what I am."

Dr. White took advantage of the occasion to make a statement regarding religious education which is worthy of note.

"In the great scheme of post-war reconstruction religious instruction must have a prominent place given to it in the system of national education. It is not something merely to be tolerated, it must give direction and purpose to all education."

Viewing the matter from the point of view of a war-stricken world, there are few to-day who would question the wisdom of such a declaration.

Kirk Session.—This year it is the turn of our Kirk Session to be represented at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to be held in Edinburgh during the month of May. At a special

meeting of the Session held after the meeting of the Congregational Board on 12th February, Mr. Hood, our Presbytery Elder, was nominated as a Commissioner to the General Assembly.

Christian Democracy.—An eminent American on returning home recently after a somewhat lengthy sojourn in our country is said to have declared, "Democracy in Britain is finished." This was a rather surprising and discouraging statement to the people of these islands, but fortunately we had not long to wait for the antidote. In his inaugural speech early in January, President Roosevelt put forward an eloquent and powerful defence of what he called the American way of life. Democracy, he declared, was neither dead nor dying, although at the same time he stressed the need for keeping alive the spirit which gave it life and meaning.

We know the President as a great democrat; his public utterances proclaim him to be at the same time an earnest and sincere Christian. There is no contradiction in this, for Christianity and Democracy are indeed closely allied; they stand or fall together. The Dictators realise this fact as witness the cruel persecution of the churches in Russia and Germany. In two respects the resemblance is most marked (1) in the high value and importance they place on the individual life and (2) in the view that the individual can best realise himself in an atmosphere of freedom.

The Gospel stresses everywhere the close relationship between the Creator and the creature, indeed this is the very essence of the Christian faith. Christ called His disciples one by one, and to-day the message to the soul of the individual man is "Take up thy cross and follow Me." But there is no coercion or compulsion in the call; man is free to accept or reject the salvation so dearly bought and so freely offered. To that extent he is master of his fate. Similarly in a true Democracy a high value is placed on the individual citizen. The State exists to protect, guide and help him in the path of self-realisation. Yet at the same time he enjoys within the widest limits a real measure of freedom of thought and speech; above all he is free to worship God as his conscience directs.

How different is life in the Totalitarian state. There the State is the master and not the servant of the people, and the individual must subordinate his thoughts, words and actions to the dictates of a soulless abstraction. We have good reason to count our blessings when we reckon up the greatness of the civil and religious liberties which we enjoy in this land of Scotland. Yet it would be folly to proclaim that all is well either with Christianity or Democracy in our land to-day. Great masses of our people have lost touch with all religious influences and have no regard for spiritual matters; even many professing Christians are content with an occasional perfunctory attendance at a Church service and evince little or no interest in the wider issues of Church life and work. So also in civil affairs—Multitudes of our citizens are content to accept without question the blessings of democratic government yet pay little or no heed to the responsibilities which such a way of life demands. They show no desire to undertake any kind of public work, to inform themselves on great issues, or to perform the most elementary duties of citizenship.

NEWTON MEARN'S CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

What is the remedy? How are we to revive what the President called "the spirit of Democracy." Democracy, government by consent, is based on Christian teaching, its spirit must also be sought in the same source. What is needed therefore is a great revival of true religion amongst the nations of the earth. A return to God with firm resolve to honour His laws and walk in His ways would bring other blessings in its train—a new zeal for the extension of the Kingdom of God on the earth, a reawakening of the spirit of service, and a renewed faith in and love of our fellow men which would make the ideal of the brotherhood of man something more than an empty phrase. "Is it possible?" one may ask. With God all things are possible.

POINTS FROM THE PRESBYTERY.

Youth Proposals.—A fresh proof of the keen interest which the Church is taking in work among the youth of this country was shown in a motion submitted by the Rev. R. J. Wedderspoon dealing with a proposal by the Board of the School of Study and Training for the training of Club Leaders. The intention of the scheme is to train those who would assume leadership in such youth activities which are extending all over the country. The motion was unanimously approved with the proviso that the Board should collaborate as far as possible with other agencies working in the same cause.

Fire-watching.—It was reported that steps were being taken everywhere to protect Church property against enemy action and that a circular letter would be sent to all congregations containing suggestions as to fire-watching. It was hoped to find willing volunteers in each congregation to undertake such work.

Army Hut.—The Rev. Alfred Brown reported that there had been a very disappointing delay in securing the funds necessary to provide a Presbyterian Hut, and there was urgent need for further financial support. They needed £1,250 and to date had received between £900 and £1000. When other Presbyteries have already provided such huts, it is hardly creditable that the largest Presbytery in Scotland should lag behind in such an effort.

Maintenance of the Ministry.—Considering the difficulties of the times in which we live there is much room for thankfulness in the fact that the decrease in givings to the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund in the area of the Presbytery last year was only £348. So well has the Fund been maintained all over the Church that it has been found possible to raise the Minimum Stipend from £305 to £310—a step in the right direction.

The Woman's Guild.—The speaker at the February meeting of the Guild was Miss Agnes Gibson, who out of her wide knowledge and experience, gave a most interesting address on work among the Jews, with special reference to the international situation.

Beginning on Wednesday, 5th March, the Work Party will meet once a fortnight at 3 o'clock until further notice.

The Girls' Association.—Every Branch of the G. A. in Scotland has by virtue of its existence as a training ground for young women, to undertake certain responsibilities. These are many and varied—the upkeep of a number of Missionaries both at home and abroad, Presbyterial and working expenses, support for Foreign, Home and Jewish Missions, etc., truly a heavy task. For this money is required and required more than ever under present conditions if the work of the Church is not to suffer unduly.

In order to raise funds our G.A. intend giving a Concert on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 12th, 13th and 14th March in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Those who have attended previous Concerts given by the G. A. know the excellent quality of the entertainment provided and this year's effort is to be the best of all shows.

The Programme consists of Plays, Solos and Concerted items. On each Play royalties have to be paid amounting to a considerable sum. Donations have already been received but not sufficient to meet the total cost, and as none of the proceeds of the Concerts may be used to defray expenses if Entertainment Tax is to be avoided, your donation will be greatly appreciated.

Tickets, 1s. each, may be had in the local shops or from any of the G.A. members.

A "Spotting" competition has been devised by Miss Helen Clyde and Entry Forms, price 3d. each may be had from G.A. members.

The Young People's Union.—A very interesting address was given by Mr. John Brownlee of Mearns-kirk Hospital on "The Christian outlook on War." In the course of his address Mr. Brownlee contrasted the background of the Galilee of Christ with the civilisation of our time and questioned if the literal pacifism of the Gospels forbade the exercise of force to resist an evil imposed by force. Wars whether ideologic, imperialistic or economic were all alike evil and the problem facing the world to-day was the organisation of society so as to proscribe war. Nationalism has reduced civilisation to its present state and only a broad internationalism based on Christian principles could guarantee peace. Unless the Churches of Christ were persuaded to abandon their nationalism and work together for the common expression of the will of Christ on earth, then the power of organised Christianity to influence world movements would wane.

A discussion of the subject "Is my life predestined" led by Misses E. Young and R. Downs and a "Hat Night" occupied the attention of the members on two evenings, while the exhibition of *Nessie Knight Film*, reported in another column brought to an end a very full month's work.

79th Glasgow Coy., The Boys' Brigade.—Some years ago a celebrated preacher, addressing a mothers' meeting, said "Every mother should send her boy to the Boys' Brigade. The B.B. Officer understands your boy better than you do yourself—after all, he has been a boy himself, you have not!" Well, whether we agree or not matters little, what it is desired to point out is that the B.B. can do something really worth while for your boy

NEWTON MEARNS CHURCH SUPPLEMENT

if you send him along. Although enrolled just over two months ago the following classes are being held and the subjects taken up enthusiastically by the boys.

Drill, Club Swinging, Tumbling, Wayfaring, First Aid, Signalling, Physical Training, Education (Temperance). Pyramids.

It is interesting to note that the progress made in Drill has justified the Company entering for the Glasgow Battalion Drill Cup Competition. Already nine boys have sat the Battalion Ambulance Examination so it will be seen that real headway is being made. Next month will see more boys entering for the Signalling Test and the Education Badge Test will follow in due course. Other activities await tackling but have had to be put aside meantime owing to lack of accommodation. The Officers hope however to solve this problem by obtaining a room outwith the Church premises and if successful Arts and Crafts and other interesting subjects will be introduced.

With a view to encouraging boys to contribute towards the National effort the Brigade recently introduced a badge to be worn by boys who had given at least one hundred hours of their spare time to voluntary work of National importance. A scheme was drawn up by the Officers and submitted to the authorities at Mearnskirk Hospital. On this being approved the matter was submitted to the boys and it is interesting to note that every boy immediately volunteered for whatever task might be given him. Truly a great spirit and one which is to be encouraged.

79th Glasgow Team, The Life Boys.—Ask any boy of the Life Boy Team which is the most enjoyable night of the week and, without doubt, he will answer "Friday." Truly no happier group of boys could be found than that which meets each Friday in the Hall at 6 o'clock. Happiness, however, is not found in running wild but in being hard at work with Handicrafts, Figure Marching, Physical Exercises, Group Talks, Story Telling, Singing, Nature Study and Games. The Staff and boys alike have a most enjoyable and helpful time and any boy between the ages of 9 and 12, who is not already a member of the Team, should make a point of joining as soon as possible. It is interesting to note that membership of the Life Boys involves regular attendance at Sabbath School and attendance cards are examined each Friday to see that no boy neglects this obligation.

Social Club for Young People.—In the January Supplement mention was made of a Committee which had been set up by the Congregational Board to discover how best some sort of Social activity could be undertaken for the youth of the Church.

After much deliberation and several meetings with representatives of the Young People's Union, it was decided to open the old Parish Council room—the use of which has been kindly granted to us—on Tuesday, 18th March. Games, Magazines, etc., will be available.

The following articles of furniture would be very gratefully received from any kind friends who have a surplus: Carpet, Rugs, Easy Chairs, (Basket or otherwise) Card Tables, pretty pictures for the walls.

Current numbers of Magazines will also be a welcome contribution to the success of this venture, and we ask for gifts of these to be sent regularly when you have finished with them.

CHILDREN'S CORNER.

"Search the Scriptures."

Practically all the words in the Cross Word Puzzle represent the names of persons or places mentioned in the Bible.

Clues:—

Across.

Down.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gen. 13. 18. | 2. 1st Kgs. 19. 16. |
| 7. Jud. 15. 9. | 3. Deut. 13. 13. |
| 8. Josh. 7. 2. | 4. Acts. 12. 13. |
| 9. Gen. 11. 27. | 5. Luke 7. 11. |
| 11. Gen. 10. 15. | 6. Jos. 2. 1. |
| 12. Ps. 40. 15. | 10. Gen. 46. 13. |
| 14. Num. 22. 13. | 13. Exod. 3. 14. |

1	2	3	4		5
6	7				
8		9		10	
	11				
12					13
14					

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Service of Dedication for members of the Girls' Association on Sunday, 2nd March, when the address will be given by an official of G.A. from Headquarters, Edinburgh.

Concert by the members of the Girls' Association on 12th, 13th and 14th March.

On Tuesday, 18th March, the new Social Club will be opened. Turn up all you young people, at the old Parish Council Chambers, at the top of the Kirk Lane, on that evening.

The Sunday School Party has been fixed for **Saturday, 22nd March.** Owing to the increase in the Roll of the school this year it has been found necessary to have two separate parties—one for Primary children from 2.30 till 5 p.m., and the other for the older children from 5.30 till 8 p.m.

"SUPPLEMENT."

Contributions for April, 1941, issue should be sent to the Editor, Mr. C. J. Thom, The Schoolhouse, Newton Mearns, not later than Sunday, 30th March, 1941.