

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

APRIL, 1948

Minister—Rev. W. MURRAY MACKAY, M.A., S.T.M.,
The Manse, Newton Mearns.

Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2747.

Session Clerk—Mr. C. J. THOM, J.P., M.A.,
81 Beech Avenue, Newton Mearns.

Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2013.

Treasurer—Mr. WALTER RODGER,
9 Townhead Cottages, Newton Mearns.

Telephone—NEWton Mearns 2467.

Church Services

MORNING—11.30 a.m.

EVENING—6.30 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL—10.15 a.m.

A Class for Beginners and for children living at a distance from the Church is held in the Upper Hall during the Morning Service.

REGISTER

Baptisms

"Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Harriet Wardrop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Munro, 87 Main Street.

Dorothy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, 2 Ashview Terrace.

David Dougall, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joss, Townhead Road.

Marriages

"Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

Cyril Bush and Kathleen Austin Watson.

Cecil Herbert Caterer and Fiona McKay Kerr.

FINANCE

Collection, etc., during the months of January, February and March :—

Systematic Giving	....	....	£373	17	6
Church Door Plate	....	....	65	13	3
Retiring Collections	....	....	14	15	9
Mission Envelopes	....	....	32	17	6
Seat Rents	....	....	65	5	0
Donations	....	....	30	14	3
Interest	....	....	17	5	0
Sundries	....	....	8	16	6

£609 4 9

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, 1948.

The Annual Business Meeting of the Congregation was held in the Church Hall on 9th March, 1948, and was attended by some 150 members.

The Rev. W. Murray Mackay occupied the chair, and opened the meeting with prayer.

Excerpts from Minutes of Board Meetings, 1947/48, were read by Mr. W. T. Davidson, Clerk, and approved by the members present.

The Chairman in his remarks, thanked Mr. A. M. R. Russell for his work in preparing the Year Book. Mr. Mackay stated that the number of members on the Roll at the end of 1947 was 806. He also informed the meeting of the Kirk Session decision to open a War Memorial Fund. A stained glass window and plaque are to be placed in the Church, and later it is hoped to increase the Hall accommodation and erect a Belfry. Mr. Mackay referred to Messrs. Murray and MacRae, Elders, leaving the district, and to the services which they had rendered to the Church.

Mr. Walter Rodger, the Congregational Treasurer, presented the Accounts for 1947 and compared the figures with those of the previous year. Mr. J. W. Jarvie, C.A., followed with his report and complimented the Treasurers on their accounts. Thereafter the Congregational Accounts were approved.

Intimation was made of the retiral of Mr. James A. Anderson, and the Chairman conveyed the thanks of the Congregation to Mr. Anderson for his work as Auditor.

Messrs. J. W. Jarvie, C.A., and G. S. McVean, C.A., were elected Auditors for 1948.

Reports were submitted from the following Organisations:—Sabbath School, Woman's Guild, Girls Association Social and Badminton Club, Boys' Brigade, Life Boys, Girl Guides, Brownies, Young People's Union, and the Golf Club.

On the motion of the Chairman, the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Mr. Walter Rodger, Congregational Treasurer, Mr. A. S. McCance, Systematic Giving Treasurer, Mr. J. Keir, Registrar, and the Assistant Treasurers, Miss E. A. Young, Mr. I. Wood and Mr. John Russell, also to Mr. C. J. Thom, Session Clerk, Mr. Nimmo, Superintendent of the Sabbath School, all Office-Bearers in the Organisations, Flower Providers, including Messrs. J. Russell and McCallum, members of the Choir, the Organist and the Church Officer.

Election of Members to the Congregational Board
Miss H. Connell did not wish to be considered for re-election, and she was thanked for her services. The following were re-elected for three years:—Mrs. W. Rodger, Mrs. C. J. Thom, Miss M. Hay, Messrs. A. Edmond, J. Keir, A. Morton and J. E. Maclaren. Miss A. Wilson was elected in place of Miss Connell and Mr. A. R. McNaughton was elected for one year in place of the late Mr. Donald.

REPORTS READ AT ANNUAL MEETING.

Woman's Guild—This year the Woman's Guild has held fortnightly instead of weekly meetings. These have been, on the whole, well attended, and the speakers have been very good. We were fortunate in having the Rev. David MacMahon, of the Jewish Christian Relations Committee, and Miss Esther Grant of the National Bible Society who were exceptionally good. We have kept up our usual Guild schemes, and provided a Christmas Treat for the old folks in the Eventide Home at Powfowlis House.

A few weeks ago an urgent appeal was issued for clothing for babies and young children in the distressed areas of Europe. In answer to this appeal, three large parcels of clothing were sent for distribution through the Society of Friends. We should like to thank all those who contributed so generously to this great need.

May I make an appeal for more of the younger women to join the Woman's Guild. During his term of office as Moderator of the General Assembly, Professor Baillie addressed the Mass Meeting of Women in the Usher Hall. He said that, on looking round the audience, he could not help thinking that what was needed was a lowering of the age of the members of the Woman's Guild. While this was undoubtedly hard on many good members, there was some truth in his remark. While the older women, with their experience, must always be of value, we need the younger women with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. In a congregation such as ours, there must be many who could spare an evening in the fortnight, and we should give them a warm welcome.

The Sunday School—I am afraid my report must be very much the same as last year. The Sunday School meets in the Church Hall at 10-15 a.m. for Seniors, Juniors and Primary, and a class for beginners is held during the Morning Service. We have 134 scholars on the roll—68

girls and 66 boys. The teaching staff consists of eight ladies and five gentlemen, which I regret to say is decreased from last year, with Mr. Nimmo as Superintendent.

Each Sunday Mr. Nimmo prepares ten questions based on the lessons. The pupils give oral answers to these and most of them are keen to participate.

Mr. Nimmo holds two examinations in the year which are well attended, and the prizes are presented at the end of the session. Prizes for attendance at Sunday School are also presented then.

As you all know, Mr. Pollock left a legacy to the Sunday School to encourage the children to memorise the Psalms and Hymns. Suitable passages are selected for the children according to age, and prizes are presented at the end of the session.

The Sunday School Picnic was again held at Crookfur, through the kindness of Miss Templeton, on Saturday, June 28th, 1947, and every one had a very happy time.

The new session commenced on Sunday, 21st September, 1947.

The parties were held on Saturday, 20th December, 1947, the younger children from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., and the seniors and juniors from 5.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. These parties were again most successful.

A Gift Service was held on Sunday, 21st December, and the gifts were again sent to Stobhill Hospital in time for Christmas, and they were very much appreciated. Scholars are not forced to leave the Sunday School when they attain the age of 12. If they wish to remain they are welcome to do so.

The Young People's Union.—One of the most encouraging features of the current session has been the increased attendance at our meeting. We can now be said to have reached proportions comparable to our pre-war strength.

The present session has been full of interest and variety, with good speakers from the congregation adding much to our enjoyment and advantage.

There is still room, however, for many more young people at this meeting, and we would most earnestly urge all of you here to-night to use your influence to this effect. We of the Young People's Union will welcome them with open arms and we feel sure that their participation will result in a mutual benefit.

Finally, we should like to thank our minister, Mr. McKay, for his never failing courtesy and interest. Without his support the Y.P.U. could not have been resuscitated, and without our meeting we feel that the Church would be the poorer.

The Social and Badminton Club.—The Social and Badminton Club has a membership of 50 persons, a slight decrease of 16 from that of last year. About 70 per cent. of the members attend and play badminton, the others attend the social activities.

It was decided at the beginning of the session to hold only one social evening a month, instead of fortnightly as done previously. The attendance on social evenings has been varied. The Opening Social in October was attended by about 30-40 persons, and the evening was most enjoyable. The Basket Night, in aid of Foreign Missions, was very successful, there being about 15 tables. The proceeds of this function amounted to £3 10/-, which was duly handed over for Foreign Mission Funds. The Christmas Party was also enjoyed by all who attended. The next function in January was the Burns' Night; there were about 80 people present and the programme was most enjoyable. The Military Whist Drive, which was attended by 36 people (9 tables) was also very enjoyable. The Closing Social is being held on 30th March, and we hope for another happy evening on that occasion.

The Badminton side of the club is still in full swing. The attendance on Badminton Nights, though varied, has been most gratifying. The club has two teams in the Churches' League—a first team and a reserve team. The standard of play is very good and both teams are trying to uphold this standard. The position of the first team at the moment is runner-up in the First Division, and the Reserve team third in the Reserve Division, Section A. The badminton season finishes at the end of April.

At the beginning of the season a bus run round the Three Lochs was held; this was most enjoyable. Another bus run is now being arranged for May or June, and we hope the congregation will give us their full support.

This session a Dramatic Section was started and the first production, "Auld Nick," was greatly appreciated by the audience. On the three nights on which this play was done, the Hall was filled to capacity. The sum of £52 was raised by this effort. Our thanks are due to Mr. MacNaughton for his part in taking over the production of this our first venture. The play is being repeated in Stobhill Hospital to-morrow evening for the benefit of the Staff and Patients there.

2nd Mearns Brownie Pack.—We have had 24 Brownies and two Officers and one Pack Leader during the past year.

Three Brownies went up to Guides in September.

Four are going in for their 1st Class Badge in May. Three are new recruits and the others are trying to gain their 2nd Class Badge.

During the year we have gathered 16/- in ship ha'pennies which is being sent to the new Extension Brownie Pack at Philipshill Hospital.

2nd Mearns Guides.—During 1947 we had 26 Guides and three Officers. In the early part of the year there was a competition to see how many could pass the Second Class Tests before spring, with the result that in April we were able to enter five Guides for the First Class tests at Paisley and Blythswood.

In May we had a jam jar drive, when we collected 1000 jars, for which we received the sum of £4 from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society.

During the early part of the summer there was great preparation for our camp which was held at Tayinloan, in August. This camp was a huge success, and the Guides are eagerly looking forward to another such venture this summer.

September saw us gathering rose hips for which the Scottish Medicinal Plant Scheme pay 3d. per pound.

Since September we have been specialising in various badges, including Fire Brigade, Emergency Helper, Health, Astronomer, Music Lover and Artist. Up to date we are proud to say we have had only one failure.

79th Company, The Boys' Brigade.—It is pleasing to report that the 79th Boys' Brigade Company continues to progress and is in a very healthy state. All branches of the work are taken up enthusiastically by the boys, and on Friday evenings the halls are hives of activity from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. A minister once remarked that he had yet to meet the B.B. Captain who was satisfied with the hall accommodation provided, and one is not surprised when one considers the comprehensive nature of a Boys' Brigade Company programme. Each evening the boys are given Pipe and Drum tuition, instruction in Drill, Physical Training, Signalling (Morse and Semaphore), First Aid, Barbells and Tumbling, whilst Pyramid Building, a Dramatic class and other items are now being rehearsed for the Annual Display. It is only by studied and careful planning that it is possible to provide a really all-round training so that the boys are proficient to enter for the numerous Battalion Tests. As usual, these examinations attracted many boys during the session, and the results to date are very encouraging indeed.

On Sunday mornings the Bible Class joins with the other adolescent groups and is well attended by the boys whose parents are connected with the Church. Boys with other Church connections attend their own Bible Class or Sunday School.

At the moment all are very busy preparing for the Display, to be given in May, and it is hoped that this will have the usual support of the congregation. To those who have not attended past Displays a warm invitation is issued to witness one of the most interesting, varied and colourful shows produced by any organisation of the Church. The exact date has not yet been fixed, but full information will be issued in the near future and tickets can be had from any of the officers and boys.

Church Golf Club.—Reporting on the activities of the Church Golf Club, which was revived by the efforts and

enthusiasm of Mr. Mackay, we very soon had a membership of 35—17 ladies and 18 gentlemen. While this response was very gratifying, we feel that there must be many more golfers among the members of our congregation, and we wish to extend an invitation to them to join the Club.

Our activities during the season consisted of one evening meeting each month, from May until August. At those meetings we played 2-Ball Mixed Foursomes, stroke play; prizes being awarded to the winning couples. The meetings were held at Bonnyton Moor Golf Course, and after each game we had a cup of tea in the clubhouse before returning home.

Throughout the season we also played off the annual competition for the Templeton Cup which was very kindly presented to the Club by the late Mrs. Templeton of Crookfur. The winners in this competition were Miss Betty Young and Mr. Jas. Allan Davidson, the runners-up being Mrs. Riddel and Mr. J. W. Jarvie.

To round off the season's activities we had a Social Evening in this hall on 18th November last, when the Cup was presented to the Winners and individual prizes to the four finalists. The following Office-Bearers were re-elected:—President, Mr. Mackay; Captain, Mr. John Russell; Secretary and Treasurer, myself.

I should like to express the thanks of the members to those of our number who so kindly provided transport for the outings, etc., and also to those members who kindly donated prizes throughout the season.

Regarding the prospects of Monthly meetings this season, I am trying to get a reasonable quotation for a bus to convey us to and from the Course. I hope, soon, to arrange a meeting with Mr. Mackay and Mr. Russell, when ways and means of carrying on our activities can be properly discussed, and our conclusions can then be conveyed to the members by circular letter.

Life Boys' Report will appear in next issue of Supplement.

RE-ROBING OF THE MINISTER.

At the end of the tea interval at the Annual Business Meeting the Session Clerk took the chair. After the singing of the 2nd Paraphrase Mr. Thom briefly narrated the events leading up to this ceremony. He then called on Mr. Russell, one of our senior Elders whose family had been connected with the Church for four generations, a man greatly loved and highly respected in the community both for his work in the Church and for his public services, to make the presentation of Pulpit Robes to Mr. Mackay on behalf of the organisations of the Church.

Mr. Russell said: "Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mackay, ladies and gentlemen, my duty to-night is a very pleasant one, to make the presentation of Pulpit Robes to Mr. Mackay, on behalf of the various organisations of our Church. This is a very unique occasion in the history of our Church, for I do not believe there is anyone in our Church to-day who has witnessed such a ceremony before. In my connection with our Church I have served under ten ministers and have been present at the Ordination and Settlement of nine, including Mr. Mackay, and have witnessed the robing of these ministers and these were happy times. During that period our Church was really a country charge, but now it has become a suburban charge. Since Mr. Mackay's coming to Mearns there have been many changes. The district has grown rapidly with the building of new houses. Many of the new residents joined with us in our Church and it was not long before it became evident that our old Church was unable to accommodate all the members, so we had to begin planning and finding ways and means for the erection of a new Church. Mr. Mackay bent all his energies and wrought very hard, sometimes against many difficulties, but in the end we accomplished our task and we now rejoice in our beautiful new Church. We also rejoiced that in a few months after the opening of the building, thanks to the generosity of the members and friends, it was free of debt. Much of this was due to the inspiration and influence of Mr. Mackay. We were scarcely finished with our Church when war broke out and we all know what that meant to us all. The young men and women had to leave home and friends and

those of us at home had to carry on the Church's work in all its departments. Mr. Mackay and a Committee of workers organised a very successful Canteen for the members of the Forces in this district, and an evening service was held in the Hall on Sunday evening for all. A good work was done and Mr. Mackay deserves praise and credit for the amount of work he put into this great effort and for the success achieved. With so many young people away it was wonderful how we managed to carry on the various organisations through all the war period. We can also say that the congregation has been maintained in vigour, and with a membership of over 800 a great amount of work has to be borne by the Minister. Many activities have been developed among the young people. In fact, on looking back over the period since Mr. Mackay came 16 years ago, more has been accomplished among the young people than during any similar period during the last 60 years. In our Church we have a great tradition and it is our duty to maintain it. We also rejoice in the great help given in the various departments of Church work by the many good friends who have joined with us since Mr. Mackay became our minister. I sometimes feel lost among so many, and to those who have come recently a hearty welcome is extended, and we hope you will feel at home amongst us and enjoy our fellowship."

After referring to Mrs. Gilmour, who was to robe Mr. Mackay, as a lady who is known to all by her genial, pleasant smile and her gracious personality, Mr. Russell turned to Mr. Mackay and said: "Mr. Mackay, on behalf of the various organisations of our Church, I have much pleasure in asking you to accept these Pulpit Robes as a token of their appreciation of all the help you have given them and an expression of their thanks for the interest you have shown in them. It is their earnest hope that in the going out and in among your people you may have the greatest of all joys, the joy of service to your Lord and Master."

After placing the robes on Mr. Mackay's shoulders, Mrs. Gilmour was presented with a bouquet by Miss Morag Hay, the seventh generation of the Hay family who have been connected with the Church.

Mr. Rodger, the Congregational Treasurer, then presented Mrs. Gilmour with a Bible bearing the following inscription: "Presented to Mrs. Gilmour on her 89th birthday by the organisations of Newton Mearns Church, on the occasion of her re-robing the Rev. W. Murray Mackay, M.A., S.T.M., 9th March, 1948."

In his reply, Mr. Mackay said: "Mr. Thom, Mrs. Gilmour, Mr. Russell, members of the organisations of this Church, and friends, I would begin by thanking Mrs. Gilmour for the honour she has conferred upon me by placing these robes on my shoulders to-night. However much they mean to me, their value is enhanced by the fact that you have presented them to me. Your family has played a very worthy part in the life of this congregation; your late husband was the senior Elder when I came to Mearns, and was a man greatly respected in the district. Your children have been closely connected with the life of the Church—Mrs. Jean Anderson, Springbank, Miss Nan Gilmour who has looked after you so faithfully, and Mrs. James Carswell, Giffnock, being specially known to me. Your grand-children and great grand-children are now members of the Church. You placed the robe on my beloved predecessor, the late Rev. Godfrey Macfadyen. No happier choice could have been made than that you should perform this task. I thank you very much for performing this service to-night."

"You also, Mr. Russell, I would like to thank for accepting the responsibility of addressing these kind words to me to-night. You represent another famous family in this parish whose forbears have been closely associated with this Church. The earliest Title Deeds of the latter reveal that a Mr. James Pollock, your great-grandfather on your grandmother's side, gifted the land that formed most of the original glebe. Your father and mother occupied the first Manse of the Church, and your own family have been born in the second Manse. You

have been for many years an Elder of the congregation, and connected with the Sabbath School all your life. Indeed you have never been out of it, being Superintendent for a great number of years. You were deeply interested in the building of the new Church and assisted the late Dr. Boyd Scott in gathering material for the bi-centenary book, "Old Days and Ways in Newton Mearns." Your daughter is married to a minister of the Church of Scotland and a former member of this congregation, Rev. William B. MacLaren, M.A., of Bothkennar. Your son is also an Elder of our Church, and it is seldom that father and son are Elders in the same congregation. The roots of your life are deeply mingled with the ecclesiastical life of this Parish and congregation, and I would thank you for the kind words that you have spoken about me to-night."

"It adds to the value of this gift to-night to me—for few will deny that it had become necessary;—that it should have come from the organisations of the Church. The Woman's Guild, the Sabbath Schools, the Y.P.U. and the G.A., the Junior Choir, the Brownies, the Guides, the Lifeboys and the B.B. have all contributed to the cost of purchase of these robes. To you all I would like to say thank you. You have all helped to give your minister a New Look; Whenever I put them on and remember from where they have come, they will inspire me with new zeal in the cause of Christ's Kingdom."

"You will pardon me if I look back to-night across the 16 years since I was ordained to the Ministry and inducted to this charge on 11th September, 1931. On that occasion it was the late Mrs. Templeton who robed me, and the Rev. R. E. Macintyre of Giffnock was the chairman that night. There have been many changes in the Kirk Session since that date. 'Many that we loved have left us, reaching their first journey's end'—men like James Pollock, John B. Mather, Arthur Gilmour, James Taylor Anderson, Robert Anderson, William Fyfe. These were great men—men among whom it was a privilege to serve. Looking back, however, across the years, what most impresses one is that the life of the Church goes on. God buries his workmen but He carries on the work. That is a humbling and at the same time an inspiring thought. None of us is indispensable. We can add lustre to the work of the Kingdom but the Kingdom carries not for men. A new band of workers has arisen for which to-day we thank God and take courage."

WOMAN'S GUILD.

A meeting of The South-West Council was held in Pollok Church Hall on Thursday, 15th January. The speaker was Mrs. Sutherland, President of the Woman's Guild, whose voice is known to many since the Diamond Jubilee Broadcast. Here are some extracts from her address which was practical and comprehensive.

She began by saying that before the broadcast she tried to recapture the atmosphere of the period round about 1887 in which year the Woman's Guild was formed. Among other books, she read a little one called, "The place of woman in 1887." Two passages specially struck her. One was to the effect that a certain firm of hosiers had started to make silk stockings and had found some women brazen enough to wear them. The other passage amused her, as an ex-hockey player. It stated that no girl would be allowed on the hockey field if her hat pins protruded more than two inches beyond her hat. How far away these days seem from those of nylon queues and hatless, stockingless girls. Small items in themselves, they are an indication of the spirit of the age, and we can understand that it took a great deal of courage in Dr. Charteris to found an organisation for women. Like all pioneers he and his colleagues met with much opposition. But the sixty years that had passed had more than justified his action. The Woman's Guild now numbered 128,000.

Mrs. Sutherland went on to say that looking back was not enough; we must look forward and we must avoid complacency. The Guild member must realise her responsibilities to her Branch, to the Church and to the wider world. She must be alive to and interested in the national and international situations. She should be persuaded

that, no matter what political and economic plans were made, the Church alone held the key to world peace.

The speaker made a special plea for younger members in the Woman's Guild. While the experience and judgment of the older women were invaluable, younger women would bring a fresh outlook on many subjects and fresh enthusiasm in the work.

More than anything, she stressed the importance of the Devotional part of the Guild meeting. Be it long or short, it was the mainspring of the whole work and should never be neglected.

FLOWERS.

With the approach of Spring, flowers are becoming more plentiful and in a few Sundays it should be possible to put up the list with the names of those ladies who are willing to provide flowers. As in former years, the Flower Fund is available when they have to be purchased. During the winter months we have been greatly indebted to Mr. John Russell and Mr. John MacCallum, who have provided such lovely flowers for the Communion Table. To many in the congregation these flowers have been an inspiration. To these two gentlemen and to the ladies who provide the flowers during the year, we tender our sincere thanks. The flowers are given to the sick, with greetings from the congregation and are greatly appreciated. The list will be put up in the Vestibule in a few Sundays and as there are one or two vacant dates, anyone willing to supply flowers might put down his or her name. Those who put them in Sunday by Sunday are notified by postcard.

VARIA.

The Anniversary Services of the foundation of the Congregation as a Praying Society in 1738 will be held on the 18th April at 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m., and will be conducted by the Rev. Professor John Mauchline, M.A. No more popular visitor comes to our pulpit than the Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature, and we look forward to his coming into our midst.

On the 2nd May the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be dispensed at 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. in the Church. On this occasion we are to have a visiting minister with us—the Rev. A. E. Howard, M.A., of Lansdowne Church, Glasgow. It was in Lansdowne Church that Dr. Boyd Scott ministered for many years and we will give a warm welcome to one of his successors who has come forth of the border.

The Preparatory Service on Friday, 30th April, will be conducted by the Rev. J. C. Alexander, M.A., of Tollcross Central. During the ministry of the latter an outstanding fact has been the number of men who have been members of the congregation and have studied ultimately for the Ministry.

The Dramatic Club were asked to give their play, "Auld Nick," at Stobhill Hospital for the entertainment of the patients and the staff. The audience numbered between 400 and 500, and the Dramatic Club excelled themselves. Altogether it was a very happy evening, and the staff gave us a most enjoyable tea at the close. One felt that one was doing a well worth job in taking the play to such a place.

The War Memorial.

The contract for the erection of the Stained Glass Window has been given to and accepted by the City Glass Company (Mr. Douglas MacLundy, Architect). Designs will be submitted to the Kirk Session at an early date, from which the final selection will be made. It is hoped to complete the installation within 15 months with the plaque underneath it.

A letter has been prepared and will be sent out to the congregation asking for your financial support.

The Junior Choir Concert.

You will not forget the dates of the Junior Choir Concert—the 14th, 15th and 16th April, in the Church Hall, at 7.30 p.m. Mr. Paterson has worked very hard, ably assisted by Miss Welsh. The children are very enthusiastic and it just needs your presence to crown their efforts. Last year's Concert was a great joy to hear, and we look forward with keen anticipation to this one.