

Newton Mearns Church Supplement

MARCH, 1955

THE REGISTER.

Baptisms.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Alan Frederick Ogilvie, Dunruden, Glebe Lane.

Alison Hamilton, Broomvale Drive.

Robert Johnston, 55 Netherplace Road.

Deaths.

"Christ, the first fruit of them that are asleep."

George Russell, Newton House.

Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, Main Street.

New Members.

By Profession of Faith.

Mrs. J. Inglis Hill, 8 Hazelwood Avenue.

By Certificates from other Congregations.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham P. Dixon, Westwinds,
Westbrae Road.

Mr. J. Inglis Hill, 8 Hazelwood Avenue.

Miss E. Moore, 82 Main Street.

Mrs. Helen Tennent, Earnock, Hazelwood Avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. James Tweedie, 73 Ayr Road.

Miss Jane Ward, Kilellen, Glebe Lane.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Porter, The Cottages, Netherplace.

THE ALL SCOTLAND CRUSADE.

Mr. Mackay writes :—

We are on the eve of the visit of Dr. Billy Graham to the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. The meetings open on Monday, 21st March, at 7.30 p.m. and extend until the 30th April—the Final rally on that Saturday we understand being in Hampden Park, Glasgow. The tickets issued for the Saturday, 30th April, will admit to the football arena. We hope that many of our congregation will avail themselves of seeing the campaign in action—or perhaps we should say will have the opportunity, for tickets are scarce. We hope that the meeting will be greatly blessed and lead to a revival of religion in the land. I myself have enrolled as a counsellor but whether I will be needed or asked remains to be seen. I think we should all be ready to aid in the great work of evangelism.

The Gospel Hall in our district were able to secure for a night the film "Souls in Conflict," depicting Billy Graham's work. They asked the use of our hall and we readily granted it to them. In February only a comparative few availed

themselves of the opportunity. I was unable to see the first part as I had to attend another meeting, but I learned that some of those who were there, while they enjoyed the film, were a little confused at the manner of the presentation of the Gospel. I trust we will need to realise that there is a difference between the proclamation of Christ through the Church as we know it, and the method of evangelism as employed by Dr. Billy Graham. It is not that it is not the same Christ that is preached. He is the one and only Saviour of the World. Our aim in the Church of Scotland is the same as other communities of the Christian faith to bring people to faith in Christ. After all if we bring people to faith in Jesus does it matter how they have come? That is the supreme goal of all our endeavour—Faith in Christ. At the same time I think it should be understood that there are various roads into the Kingdom of Heaven. In the book of Revelation we read that the City of the New Jerusalem had 12 gates. Now from the study of the present campaign I have come to the conclusion that some have come and still do come to God by the belief in the infallibility of the Church. I refer to the doctrine of the infallibility of the Pope. Now does it matter how they come, as long as they do come. The main thing is that through this gate they pass to Faith in Christ. That is all that matters. Again, others come to Faith in Christ by belief in the unerring of Holy Scripture. Now no one could have a deeper love or reverence for the Bible I hope than I have. I would go further and add that I have never found it wrong. But I would not say that that was the gate by which I passed into Faith in Christ. But this is the doctrine that underlies the evangelism of Dr. Billy Graham. Again, I say, does it matter as long as men are brought to Faith in Christ through it. If we can get men to Faith in Christ, that is what we are aiming at. There is a third way how men come to Faith in Christ (and there are probably others) through the bearing of the character, the teachers, and the Cross of Christ, over this wondrous Resurrection and Risen story. That is the teaching of the Church of Scotland, and the way that many of us have come to Faith in Him. It is not for us to deprecate in any way how a man has come to Christ. We rejoice that he has come. But I think it is not that when we go to these services in Kelvin Hall we should realise the foundation of our own Faith. If we can help in any way we should be ready to do so, and join others in bringing as many as we can to the saving knowledge of the revelation of God in Christ.

May I close by saying that the Session has agreed to fall in with the other churches in the district in holding two Evangelistic Services in October by these churches. Fuller details will be given later.

OBITUARY.

Mrs. Elizabeth Walker.

I have to intimate with sorrow the death of Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, who resided in Main Street for many years prior to her removal to a Renfrewshire hospital where she died at the age of 91. I knew her for many years and the longer I did so the more fond I became of her. She was very outspoken at times. That was her nature. But I found that she had a deep affection in her heart, and there was a loyalty in her soul that won one's admiration. Her interest in the Mearns was a very real one, and she would enquire time after time for certain people in it. If she could do a kindness to anyone she was ready to do it, and her deep concern was how her children, and grandchildren and great grandchildren should be brought up in the knowledge and admonition of the Lord. Her daughter, Mrs. Brown, has been for many years residing at Shawlands, but still feels that for her there never will be a church like the Milton Kirk, and is still attached to it, and attends worship in it. To her and her son and daughters, and all her kith and kin, we offer our deepest sympathy in the passing by one they loved.

Mr. George Russell.

Mr. George Russell, died on Tuesday, 8th February, at Newton House. We do not mention his age, for he did not like anyone to know it. That was indeed typical of the man. He never lost the youthful spirit. He was born in this parish and chose as his career the profession of a Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages. He assisted for a while in the Registration Office that used to stand next to the Red Lion Inn at the junction of Old Mearns and Eaglesham roads. His first appointment was in the Cathcart Office, thence he was moved to Maryhill, and finally to Shamrock Street Offices. It was my privilege to meet him on the golf course. He would slip away in the late afternoon to Killermont to return when the office opened again in the evening. He was a very good companion always, full of tales of the Royal and Ancient game, and with a wide knowledge of its personalities. He was a man of a very kindly disposition. Many a man who was "down on his luck" was helped by him. He was a great friend of the children, and his pockets were always full of sweets for them. He took an interest in the choir, and on one occasion bought seats for them all for a concert in Glasgow, and conveyed them thither and back in taxis. He married some twenty years ago, and he and his wife spent most of these happy days in Rothesay, going finally to Canada, and returning a year or two ago. We owe much in our Congregation to his family, and among them Mr. George Russell takes an honoured place. To his widow, to his brothers Mr. Andrew and Mr. David and Mr. Robert, and to all his kith and kin, we extend our deepest sympathy.

PRESBYTERIAL MISSIONARY VISITATION.

We were privileged to have a visit from Rev. N. C. Bernard, M.A., of Central Africa, on Sunday, 23rd January. Before the forenoon service he made a round of the Sabbath Schools and Bible Classes, and he told the Boys' Brigade Bible Class how difficult it was to run a "B.B." in Africa. Darkness falls so early all the year round, and there is such danger from wild beasts, that it needs to be held immediately after school, and that entailed other problems. However they had not given up the attempt. When our own B.B. was facing difficulties it was interesting to learn that others had their problems also.

Mr. Bernard, an Edinburgh man, and an old Heriot's boy, told us that he had no mission station of his own. His was a supervisory job. He was secretary of the Central Africa district. His duty was to go round all the mission stations in Northern and Southern Rhodesia, including Blantyre and Nyasaland. All the modern problems that emerged in running a mission station were referred to him. In addition he had to act as the representative of the missions on all the councils that were set up—especially in connection with the African Federation Scheme of Northern and Southern Rhodesia. He spoke a while on the colour problem, and how there were in that area about 7 million blacks to 300,000 Europeans. He had to see that the dark people were as well represented as the others would allow. The impression he left was that the situation was still in a dangerous state, and how it could only be saved by the sympathetic co-operation of the Whites with the Blacks. Some times the white people were very lacking in understanding. On the other hand the dark races were really not ready to take office, and did not fully realise this. There are in Northern Rhodesia copper mines. These have attracted thousands to the area as workers, and all the problems and evils of industrialism are here to be seen. We enjoyed his visit very much. We feel he was a very capable man, who would see that the interests of the Church in their relationship with the Central African Federation Board were safeguarded. In addition he was a delightful personality in the home.

THOUGHTS ON COMMUNION.

The invitation to preach at the preparatory service for the February Communion extended to Mr. Nelson—the newly placed young Minister of the Thornliebank Methodist Church—was a gracious act on Mr. MacKay's part. It was, too, putting into effect the Ecumenical idea which is all to the good.

It was pleasant also to be told that Mr. Nelson had been received into the Minister's Fraternal and this would greatly help him to establish himself in his Church and with his congregation and a tremendous encouragement.

Under the Methodist system the Ministers are "placed" by a Committee of the Annual Conference so it is hardly likely that Mr. Nelson would know where he would be sent or the congregation would know whom they were to expect. Therefore to be received by the local Ministers of the Church of Scotland is something of real value and certainly would be much appreciated.

The opportunity to conduct a service in the beautiful Newton Mearns "place of Worship"—it is the people who meet there who form the Church—will live long in the memory of our young colleague.

But the benefits of the visit were not all on Mr. Nelson's side for his service was received with acceptance by all present and his emphasis on "Fellowship in Christ and among ourselves in all its Height and Depth and Breadth" found a response.

Looking back over the years, and after experience in Scotland, one has the feeling that Methodism lost much in not developing the Service of Communion. The gathering together at stated times the bulk of the Church's membership in a united Service is a real inspiration and brings every individual to the very centre of our religion and really close to Christ, whose sacrifice is so vividly portrayed.

To be privileged at Assembly time to share in the Communion in St. Giles with Elders of the Church from all parts of Scotland is another great experience. No one who is trying to follow the Master can fail to be really moved at a Communion Service as carried through in the Scottish Kirk.

Sunday morning opened fine on February 6th and there was a good attendance when Mr. MacKay opened the Service with :

"To render thanks unto the Lord

it is a comely thing,

And to Thy name, O Thou most High,
due praise aloud to sing."

and a fine volume of praise filled the Temple.

The meditation was based on the 6th chapter of St. John and the Text was the 44th verse, "No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

In the evening there was a larger attendance of Communicants than has previously been present and the total who participated at both services was 496.

ELDERS AND THEIR LADIES.

The Social evening on January 19th was made the occasion to recognise the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. John McCallum and on behalf of the Congregation Mr. MacKay presented an inscribed Bible as a memento. As Mr. McCallum stood to reply, holding the Book in his hand and looking lovingly at it, he presented a figure of sterling modesty and absolute honesty. His heartfelt words

were few as he thanked the Members of the Church for the many expressions of good will that his wife and he had received.

Dr. Dale had been entrusted with the Toast "The Church" and he confined his remarks to Newton Mearns Church exclusively and humourously and with many quips, some of which, unfortunately, were lost to many by the Doctor turning to Mr. MacKay and dropping the pearls into his ear, which was a pity. Mr. MacKay responded to the Toast and was equally happy in his remarks.

During the evening musical items were rendered with acceptance by Mrs. Ferns, Mrs. Thom and Mr. McCance while Mr. Walter Rodger made a real success in mixing the company when he set them to make up a complete copy of the *Glasgow Herald* from the mixed up sheets that had been distributed. This was generally voted a "good game."

The team, consisting of Mrs. Thom, Mrs. Davidson, Mr. J. S. Anderson and Mr. McClure, did not find it easy to elicit what those being questioned had in common, but it did afford not a little fun to the company who, of course, knew the affinity. The name given to this game is "Find the Link."

The gathering proved to have a really family atmosphere and it was very pleasant and most enjoyable.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD.

There is not so much to report from the Guild this part of the Session. The weather and illness are deciding factors at this time of year. The regular members are most faithful and on many nights one has been surprised to see the number who have ventured out in gales and snow in order to be present.

We have had two speakers—a third one was prevented coming by illness. The Opening Night, January 10th, was taken by Mrs. Annie Dunlop who is a famous Scottish Historian. She has done much research work in the Vatican at Rome; a great concession to one of the Protestant Faith. Her talk was made up of items of interest during her stay in Italy and her connection with the Scots' Kirk in Rome.

The other Speaker was Mrs. Hepburn, who is attached to the Blantyre Mission and she gave us vivid pictures of the girls in the School connected with the Mission and of their life there. From her eagerness and personality one could feel she would be a great asset to the Mission.

Two Work Parties have been held and the members are working for the Glasgow Royal Hospital for Sick Children. Many garments have been prepared for the small invalids there.

The Bible Study evening was conducted by our own member Miss Watt. The atmosphere of quiet and the reverence which is created in these

meetings is of great benefit to all and we go home feeling greatly helped to carry on for another stage in the hustle and bustle of our daily life.

PRESBYTERY NOTES.

A short time ago the subject of Temperance was revived in the Presbytery by a resolution presented by the Rev. Mr. Wallace, Blochairn Church, calling on all members of the church to provide non-alcoholic beverages at social gatherings or functions such as weddings, etc. All this with a view to discourage drinking among young people specially. The opportunities extant for indulging this practice were many and varied and it behoved the church to educate public opinion on the dangers of forming this habit, while allowing liberty of conscience on such a matter. The resolution was adopted by the Presbytery unanimously, and though the speaker somewhat spoiled his case by a tendency to overstatement and diffuseness, there was no mistaking the sympathetic hearing and appreciation which his call received. He also referred to the Corporation's refusal to allow licensed premises in the new housing areas and commended the authorities for this action.

Dr. A. R. R. Reid of Belmont and Hillhead Church submitted a report on behalf of the Education for the Ministry Committee, when the need, an ever recurring reminder, for candidates for the Ministry, was again stressed. He said that this need could be met if each congregation produced one suitable candidate once in 20 years, or if 20 congregations among them produced one suitable candidate each year. This was a most interesting and effective deduction to make, but he went on to say that the most direct method of recruitment is the personal contact of ministers with young men in their congregations and the main effort of the church should be directed accordingly. An interesting point emerged from the statement, too, that Hebrew was not now a compulsory subject for entrance and that special consideration can be given to graduates who have been unable to study elementary Greek. The very intriguing assertion was added that the Committee was not convinced that the economic factor was a primary deterrent in recruitment, though it had an influence and bearing on the minds of some parents especially.

It is matter for great regret that the provisions of the Bantu Education Act should be fraught with such reactionary effects to the Church's Foreign Missions in South Africa. We heard the report given by the convener of the Foreign Missions Committee with grave misgiving. The results of this Act mean that in its application all teacher-training must be done by Government and it will be financially impossible to retain other mission schools. This retrograde step is the outcome of the policy of "Apartheid," whose aim it is to keep the natives in a position of inferiority. The Church cannot but deplore the operation of a policy which

frustrates the efforts of Missionaries of the Gospel.

The Committee on films recently appointed has had its inaugural meeting, and all members gave unanimous expression to a conviction that the employment of visual aid as a complement to the teaching efforts of the Church is long overdue. It was decided that the Committee's first step should be concerned with reviewing suitable films both strip and motion, at the various centres—Community House, Woodside Place, etc. The matter even of making a film, by the work of the Committee was discussed, but there again the question of finance would be a problem. Certain it is that a fund is essential in any case, rather than draw on the slender resources of the Assembly's fund, and on this point it is gratifying to know that our church here at home is viewing this, sympathetically.

SOCIAL, BADMINTON AND DRAMATIC CLUB.

The Badminton Season is now drawing to a close and the concluding League match will be played on Saturday, 5th March. In some ways this has been a disappointing year and the First team has only escaped relegation by a narrow margin. In spite of injuries and team troubles, the Reserve team has had much the better season and at time of writing, the team seems likely to finish third top of the League. A worrying feature has been the poor attendances on club nights. No team can hope to be successful without constant practice and at times the attendances have been deplorable.

In the individual championships of the Glasgow Churches' League, Ann McDougall played exceptionally well to reach the semi-final of the Ladies' Singles. There she was unlucky to meet the ultimate winner and reigning champion, Miss Marjorie Forrester. As Miss Forrester is an internationalist and a player of the highest class, there was no disgrace in losing to her. Congratulations Ann on a very fine performance!

The Dramatic Section organised a very successful Country Dance on Saturday, 26th February. The night was very cold but some sixty enthusiasts made light of the weather conditions outside. So lively was the dancing that doors had to be opened at intervals during the evening to admit the cooling air; Mr. MacLeod once again acted as Master of Ceremonies and his expert instructions helped some of the less experienced dancers through the intricacies of reel and strathspey. The funds of the Section benefited by approximately £9 and Margaret Hunter and Murray Hanna are to be congratulated on a successful and well organised dance.

In conclusion may an appeal be made through these columns to all members of the Club? We have already experienced the decline in this Church of Organisations of great social and moral value. Enthusiasm cannot be forced on members, it must come from within.