

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

The Brotherhood helps all in need and endeavours to arouse thought and action on social questions.

FITZROY

JUNE, 1955

No. 112



MANY SUPPORT "BETTER WAY"

Recently a funeral notice in the Press asked that no flowers be sent and that instead a gift should be sent to the Brotherhood's "Better Way" fund.

The Fund was established a year ago, when the Brotherhood launched the "Better Way" scheme based on the Flower Fund which has operated for many years in Sweden.

Instead of sending expensive floral tributes a gift is sent to the Brotherhood, and the Brotherhood sends an 'in memoriam' card. The wording on the card is . . . In memory of in whose honour has sent a gift to the Brotherhood.

All donations received are placed in a trust fund, and when sufficient finance is available a cottage for an elderly person will be built to the memory of all the departed, who have been remembered by their friends in this way.

The Better Way Fund now stands at £160. A leaflet describing the scheme is available from 51 Royal Arcade. Tel. C. 2721.

The Superior writes on . . .

GOVERNMENT AID — "COLLINS COURT" SLUMS — JUBILEE APPEAL

51 Royal Arcade,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

I wonder how many times when writing to you I have used the words "rouse the conscience of the Community." That I should often use them is, however, not very strange, for they sum up one of the main objectives of the Brotherhood. In recent years there have been very real indications that the conscience of the Community is being, to an ever increasing extent, aroused in regard to the unhappy lot of countless numbers of elderly folk.

From all parts of Australia news comes of better provision being made for the housing and well-being of those of advancing years. Last year the Federal Government set aside the sum of £1,500,000 to assist Church and other such organisations who were caring for the housing of the aged. I know you were delighted to hear that the Brotherhood is to be granted £37,000 to further our work at Carrum Downs. We are grateful to know that those responsible for the distribution of this money should judge us worthy of the very large sum to be entrusted to us. We are grateful, too, to know that we should be enabled to consolidate our position on the Settlement and to build further cottages there.

NEW "COLLINS COURT"

The greater part of the money given us will be used in enlarging Collins Court—which is a series of flatettes for the use of those who are unable to care for themselves. At present there are only 12 such flatettes. This number can be doubled, and we shall be able to build and equip a new domestic service block. The present one is quite inadequate for the purpose. Through the assistance of the Hospital and Charities Commission we are to enlarge our Hospital. The Commission is to give us £7,000

for the £13,000, which is the estimated cost of the additions to be made.

SUPPORT NEEDED

As grateful as I am to both Federal and State Governments for the substantial help given, I am not unmindful of the extra responsibility which will be ours. Of course our overhead expenses will increase, but we face this further responsibility confident that the warm hearted people of Australia will continue to enable us to continue with and enlarge the work that they have so generously supported over the years. That we Australians have become aware of our neglect of the aged makes me hopeful that before many years are past we will be known as a people who really do care for their elder citizens and will do everything possible to make their latter years, years of peace, happiness and usefulness. The latter state, usefulness, is no less important than the two former to which I refer.

SLUM CAMPAIGN

That our conscience in regard to our duty to the aged has been roused makes me hopeful that the time will come when the same conscience will be roused in regard to those who still languish in slums. By means of the radio I

heard a certain well-known member of Parliament, who was seeking re-election, say "Slum reclamation will be made an urgent and primary task." For years past similar promises have been made, but very little has been done about the matter.

That we should allow such empty promises to be made by those who could have done something about the matter, but did nothing, is indicative of our dullness of conscience in regard to the social evil of which we should be heartily ashamed. With your continued support we shall continue with our campaign for the righting of this dreadful wrong.

JUBILEE

After what I have told you, you can imagine that I am very happy about the future of our work at Carrum Downs. What a wonderful year 1955 is going to be for us if our hopes and expectations in regard to our Silver Jubilee

Appeal for £50,000 are realised, for it will enable us to carry out our building plans at Fitzroy. I cannot say that I am more interested in one branch of our work than another, but Fitzroy was after all my first love, for it was there we began our work and the dear folk there have been for so long neglected. I know that each one of you will do what you can to make our Appeal successful. There are many ways by which you could help. If you would want to know further of the matter, will you get in touch with Mr. Scott at the above address.

Gratefully and hopefully,

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

HELPERS NEEDED FOR FITZROY SHOP

No group of women have so consistently carried out a rather unpleasant job for so long as those who run the Brotherhood's Fitzroy Jumble Shop, which began over twenty years ago. The shop sells clothing at nominal prices to needy families, pensioners and the families of Fitzroy, and in meeting this need it also helps the Brotherhood to carry on its social service activities.

All clothing sent to the Brotherhood is first placed at the disposal of our social workers and those who run the Children's Centre and the Coolibah Club. They take what they require for their needy cases. The remainder is sold at the shop. Sorting and selling is carried out by the Fitzroy Shop Auxiliary. They could do with more help, and any ladies who might be willing to assist on certain days are asked to contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. Bucknall, BY 1818. The Annual Meeting of the Auxiliary will be held at Fitzroy, on Wednesday, 22nd June, at 12.30 p.m. Shop helpers are asked to attend.

MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES WILL PRESENT CHEQUE AT CARRUM DOWNS

The Minister for Social Services, Mr. A. Townley, will visit Carrum Downs on Saturday, 11th June, to hand over a cheque, which will be a substantial part of the Commonwealth Government's grant to the Brotherhood to subsidise building at Carrum Downs.

Special buses will be arranged for the function. Bus tickets will be available as usual from 51 Royal Arcade.

The ceremony will take place at 3.30 p.m. Afternoon tea will be available.

APOLOGIES TO CAMERA CLUB

In the last issue of the "Notes" we referred to the visit to Carrum Downs by the Melbourne Camera Club. The camera club was in fact the Camberwell Camera Club.

We hope, however, that Melbourne and other camera clubs might select the Carrum Downs settlement as the location for a pleasant outing and a day's "shooting." They will be assured of interesting material and willing subjects.

MAKE A NOTE OF THESE DATES

There will be bus trips to Carrum Downs on the following Saturdays:—

JUNE 11th

JULY 9th

AUGUST 13th

Tickets (6/6 return) must be obtained from 51 Royal Arcade.

VISITORS TO SETTLEMENT

Visitors continue to come from far and wide to see the Carrum Downs Settlement.

Many have a practical objective. The organisations they represent have started, or are planning, to provide accommodation for elderly people. These visitors are particularly welcome because the Brotherhood believes that its main job is to experiment and demonstrate to others possible ways of solving the national problem of old age.

In the ten years the Settlement has been catering for elderly people, the B.S.L. has learned a great deal about the needs of old people and how they can best be met. We still have much to learn and always welcome opportunity of exchanging knowledge with others interested in old people's welfare.

Thanks Be!

Father Tucker's Autobiography

Price 12'6 at 51 Royal Arcade
and all City Booksellers

PREVENTION IS AIM OF HEALTH CLINIC

The next issue of the "Notes" will feature an article on the Coolibch Club.



In the Brotherhood's housing survey carried out last year it was found that 38% of the houses inspected were without baths, or had baths but no water laid on to them.

Providing baths and showers for children from homes such as these is one of the main functions of the Children's Health Clinic at Fitzroy.

The main object of the Clinic is prevention to detect health weaknesses in children before they develop into more serious and chronic complaints.

The Clinic is in charge of Sister N. Hitchcock, assisted by Mrs. J. Baird, who is also a trained nurse. Voluntary helpers also assist.

Most of the children are referred to the Clinic by local schools, and they generally arrive in a very grubby state for a bath or shower. For some it is their first introduction to a hot bath.

SPECIALISTS

The visit gives the Sisters an opportunity to treat the children for other ailments and where necessary to arrange for specialist treatment with doctor, dentist or at the Children's Hospital. Advice is given to mothers on questions of diet and other aspects of child welfare.

The Royal College of Optometry arranges regular eye tests for the children.

In April there were 403 visits by 117 children to the Clinic and 910 treatments were given by the staff.

In Melbourne in 1955 it should not be necessary to bath, "de-louse" and provide such facilities, but as long as such bad housing conditions exist the Brotherhood will continue to provide these "ambulance" services to those who suffer as a result, particularly the children. At the same time the Brotherhood continues its campaign for better housing.

FRIENDS USE THEIR TALENTS TO AID APPEAL

Several more B.S.L. Friends have already returned their "talents," plus a handsome dividend which they have earned in a short time.

One lady used the £1 talent to buy wool, and knitted a bed jacket which was sold for £3 in the B.S.L. Shop, the proceeds going into the Jubilee Appeal Fund.

The Brotherhood will gladly supply B.S.L. Friends with the £1, together with a card listing ways of employing the £1, to earn money for the Jubilee Appeal.

PLANNING FOR MARKET FAIR

The first meeting to plan the 1955 Town Hall Fair will be held on Friday, 10th June, in the Housewives' Association Rooms, Flinders Way, at 2.30 p.m.

Plans for making a special Jubilee effort will be discussed.

The meeting will be attended by the band of hard working ladies who each year organise the Fair. They include representatives from B.S.L. Groups who stock and run stalls and help others to do so.

Any B.S.L. Friends who could give some time to assisting with this big annual event are asked to attend the meeting or ring Mr. Scott at Central 2721 for further particulars.

"POSTSCRIPT" HAS BIG AUDIENCE

In the two years it has been broadcast "Postscript," the Brotherhood's Sunday night radio programme, has built up a big listening audience.

The half-hour programme, broadcast from 3KZ each Sunday at 10 p.m., is conducted by the Rev. Geoffrey Sambell. The musical programme has something to suit all musical tastes, and Mr. Sambell tells of Brotherhood activities and needs, and comments on questions of the day.

Make a point of tuning in to 3KZ on Sundays at 10 p.m.

We welcome these new B. S. L. Friends

Mr. Anderson, East Malvern.
Mrs. Laurence, Canterbury,
M/s Male, St. Arnaud, Vic.
Mr. Parker, Bayswater.
Mrs. Ronald, Mt. Macedon.
Mrs. Lemon, Hawthorn.
Mrs. Simmonds, Dandenong.
Mrs. Casey, Toorak.
Mrs. Milne, Carnegie.
Mrs. Scott, Strathmore.
Miss Seletth, Brighton.
Miss Harris, Kew.
Miss Lander, Kew, E.4.
Mrs. J. F. Warren, Toorak.
Mrs. Kerr, Armadale.
Mrs. Elliott, Burnley, E.1.
Mrs. Craig, South Yarra.
Mrs. Spencelegh, Kew, E.4.
Mr. Hunt, Elwood.
Miss McCaughey, South Yarra.
Mr. E. Nichols, Melbourne.
Mrs. E. Shaw, Wodonga.
Mr. Harvie, Cranbourne.
Mrs. Pammerton, Warragul.
Mrs. Strickland, Toorak.
Mrs. Hodgson, Kooweerup.
Mrs. Booth, Caulfield.
Miss Henderson, South Yarra.
Mrs. L. Stewart, McKinnon.
Miss Burniston, Sassafras.
Miss Fletcher, Yarragon.
Miss Cooper, Sandringham.
Mrs. Nichols, Croydon.
Miss Wilson, East Kew.
Miss Pearce, Glen Iris.
M/s Oxley, Olinda.
Mr. Fohr, St. Kilda.
Mrs. Arnold, Ormond.
Mrs. Gourley, Wyyong.
Mrs. Green, Tasmania.
Miss Lucas, Box Hill.

Mrs. Brown, Armadale.
Mrs. Hansen, Mornington.
Mrs. Faull, Ormond.
Mrs. Cook, East Ormond.
Mr. Scott, East Ormond.
Mrs. Silcock, Bentleigh.
Mrs. Lindsey, East Bentleigh.
Mrs. Missens, East Bentleigh.
Mrs. Greig, East Bentleigh.
Mrs. Nelson, Ormond.

B.S.L. FRIENDS ARE ASKED TO . . .

1. Take a sympathetic interest in B.S.L. activities.
2. Interest their friends in the Brotherhood and to get them to become B.S.L. Friends, and perhaps join a "B.S.L. Group," whose aim is to organise an annual function for B.S.L. Funds.
3. Pay 5/- a year to help defray the expense of printing and posting the "B.S.L. Notes."

Humanly speaking, the success the Brotherhood has had over the years is due to a very large extent to its Friends. As our Friends have grown so has the B.S.L.'s work. The effect of what we do in the future depends on our success or otherwise in gaining new Friends.

CHELTENHAM GROUP HAS BIG PROGRAMME

The Cheltenham - Mordialloc Group has arranged a varied programme of activities for June and July.

Tuesday, 21st June, Card Afternoon. Thursday, 1st July, Street stall at Cheltenham, for which donations of goods will be welcome. Friday, 14th July, Social Evening in St. Matthew's Parish Hall.

Anyone who would like to assist or attend any of these functions is asked to contact the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. D. Geer, 30 Latrobe Street, Mentone. XF1480.

Mrs. CHISHOLM ON LEAVE FROM HOLIDAY HOME

To the many elderly and invalid people who have spent holidays at the B.S.L. Holiday Home, Mornington, the name of Mrs. Chisholm brings back memories of a happy holiday made memorable largely through Mrs. Chisholm's cheerful hostessing.

Mrs. Chisholm has sailed for England on six months' leave of absence to visit her family.

Her good work will be carried on by Mrs. McLaren, who is well known to Mornington residents.

JOINERY SHOP OPENED AT CARRUM DOWNS

It was once just an idea that there should be a workshop on the Settlement where men could usefully spend their time woodworking. Now it is a reality, and the credit for the spacious, well equipped joinery and carpentry shop recently opened belongs to the four residents at Carrum Downs who built the shop and the good friend who financed the equipment.

The workshop now hums with activity, and the men are concentrating on providing much of the joinery and furnishings for the new Community Centre.

The workshop is a big step forward towards our objective of providing some kind of useful occupation for all who would use their skills and capacities.

Visitors are invited to see the workshop. It is off Prudence Avenue, some distance from the cottages, so that residents are not disturbed by the noise of saws and hammering.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

Please find my donation for £ : :

NAME

ADDRESS

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."