

B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence

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

FITZROY

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The Superior writes on . . .

PROGRESS IN THE SLUMS —

NEEDS IN NEW HOUSING AREAS

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

Those of you who have given us of your sympathy and understanding since our coming to Melbourne twenty-five years ago will know that housing has been in the forefront of our programme for social reform. Our chief concern from the outset has been slum clearance. It is cheering for me to walk through certain parts of Fitzroy and see well-constructed, pleasing looking flats which replace the mean sub-standard dwellings of not long ago. I cannot say that I like flats for the use of families and I wish more provision had been made for places in which children could play.

The buildings, however, are a vast improvement on those of the past, and it is good to know that the Government is now tackling the slum problem in a realistic manner. One of the first buildings, erected incidentally in the area I refer to, is named St. Laurence Estate which I take to be an acknowledgement of the part we have played in the cause of better housing.

I wish I could compliment the Housing Commission for the work it is doing in the outer suburbs and in the country. What has been done there is already creating a serious social problem of quite a new kind and unless there is something done to alleviate the trouble the outlook is black indeed for the people who are compelled to live in these new housing estates. The row upon row of monotonous, unimaginative stereotype boxlike dwellings, each on its own tiny block of land, must have a bad psychological effect on the dwellers.

NO IMAGINATION

As one travels through the State these poor type houses which mar the beauty of the landscape can be easily identified. In a vain endeavour, I suppose, to relieve the monotony, in the wall of the tiny porch over each house are let in one, two or three circle apertures which in many cases constitute the only difference to the house on either side. In many cases the estates are some distance from any shopping centre, picture theatre or other places for change and recreation. There is a feeling of

isolation and anything in the nature of community spirit seems to be lacking. The housing conditions in inner suburbs are far from good, but there is at any rate life, movement and interest, and with regular transport near at hand there is opportunity for getting away to beaches and better class localities.

It may be that as time passes and any trees planted reach maturity (it seems to be the policy of the Housing Commission to denude the areas in which they operate of any natural beauty they may possess) that the deadly monotony of the places may be mitigated, but in the meantime the effect on parents and children is bad. The thinking on the part of the Housing Commission seems to be that of 80 years ago when the importance of environment was unrealised. **The builders of modern factories with their interesting looking structures, gaily painted and set in beautiful surroundings, realise the value of such in as much as the conditions under which the staff work creates happiness and contentment and so is good for business. The same principle should be applied to the "factories" in which future citizens live and are trained.**

NEEDS OF YOUTH

Many in a position to speak say that the Housing Commission homes cost far more than should be the case. One working contractor with whom I have been in close touch for some years assured me that he could build a Housing Commission two-bedroomed house for £500 less

NEW BUREAU AT CARRUM DOWNS

The new Enquiry Bureau on the corner of Tuxen Avenue and the main highway at Carrum Downs is now open. The Bureau provides accommodation for a married couple who assist with staffing and manning the switchboard. The new Bureau is more centrally situated than the old one which was beyond the main entrance to the Settlement. The Bureau residence was financed by the Voluntary Helpers' Shop, Burke Avenue, Camberwell.

Two other cottages financed by the Voluntary Helpers' Shop have now been completed. In February work will commence on the "Better Way" cottage. This has been financed from the "Better Way" Fund which has been built up with the donations sent in memory of departed friends and relatives.

than it costs the Commission. If such is the case, and from my own experience at Carrum Downs and from what other builders tell me, there could be a great financial saving, and this could be spent in providing not only a better type house, but houses could be set in the right environment with individual treatment.

What to my mind is the greatest mistake being made by the Commission is the lack of playing facilities on areas set aside for recreational purposes. It should be realised that twice as many hours are spent by children out of school as in school. How are those hours to be spent? How true is the old adage about Satan finding evil for idle hands to do? Should a survey be taken of the result on the lives of those who live in Housing Commission areas I venture to think that the result would be staggering. The first duty of a community is to see that the youth of the country is given every opportunity of becoming useful citizens. This, and speaking of the condition under which children in the slums live, has been our contention over the years.

...We blamed those who lived before us for allowing slums to come into being. Unless something is done to improve the conditions in the new housing estates the same accusation will be made against us who without protest allow the future men and women to be deprived of those things which enable them to be worthy of the land of their birth or the land of their opportunities.

If the problem to which I refer is to be solved, community centres with specially trained personnel must be part of the set-up of all new housing estates. If we are to produce the right kind of citizen, this is as important as are schools and churches. The Brotherhood is already demonstrating on a small scale the value of community centres, but what we are doing must be multiplied a hundredfold. I believe that this is the biggest problem for Australia at the present time. I write to you about these matters with the hope that what I say may be of some value and if such is true you will pass on my idea to others. We are all far too complacent.

THANKS

My last word is to thank all you good people for your wonderful generosity at Christmas time. Of course I was not surprised, for you always enable us to give our people some real joy at Christmas time. I wish you could have seen the happiness of the youngsters we had at Mornington during the school holidays, and the smiles of our Fitzroy old folk.

With our thanks and our greetings,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

New Social Workers Join B.S.L Staff

Two new social workers will join the Brotherhood's staff in February. Mr. Peter Fry who has just completed the course for Diploma of Social Studies will join the Social Service Bureau. Mr. Fry has been associated with the Brotherhood for many years and while studying at the University for a Bachelor of Arts degree he was a voluntary leader in the Children's Club.

Mr. Jim Downing, also a Social Studies graduate, will work in the Family Service Project.

In recent months two social workers have been farewelled by Fitzroy staff. Mrs. Margaret Worrall resigned to take up full-time home duties and Mrs. Frances Walker has joined the staff of the Repatriation Department.

Bus Trips to Carrum Downs

Bus trips to Carrum Downs will be arranged on the following days:

Saturday, February 15, and Saturday, March 15.

Tickets must be obtained from the City Shop, 51 Royal Arcade, and cost 6/6 return.

Please Remember —

the Brotherhood can always make good use of
USED CLOTHING, HOUSEHOLD ORNAMENTS

All goods donated to the Brotherhood's Salvage Division are either used by our Social Workers to pass on to needy families and pensioners or sold through the Opportunity Shops to help finance the social work of the Brotherhood.

All goods are collected by the Brotherhood's own drivers and vans. The two vans are zoned to call at certain suburbs on certain days so the Salvage Division can tell you the day on which the van can call for any clothing, household ornaments, milk bottle tops or household articles you don't want.

Owing to the heavy cost involved in collecting furniture we can no longer pick up furniture.

Phone the Salvage Division

JA 3183

AND A VAN WILL CALL IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.

If you live outside the metropolitan area goods are carried free of charge by the Victorian Railways if addressed to "Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Flinders St. Railways Station."

RESIDENTS MAKE A BIG CONTRIBUTION TO THE RUNNING OF THE SETTLEMENT

Residents who worked at the Carrum Downs settlement and were paid under the hourly Unit System contributed 13,000 hours during 1957. This figure was given in the first annual report of the Residents' Committee of the Settlement.

The figure does not include the many hours contributed by those who did not receive any payment. The Committee in its report thanks staff members and "all those residents who, either on a voluntary basis or on the unit system, give their time and talents to the community to oil the works and help the wheels go round."

The report of the Committee is an impressive record of the remarkable extent to which self-help is practised by the 170 residents of the settlement. The Residents' Committee was first elected in September, 1956, and consists of the Welfare and Administrative Officer, the Chaplain, ten members elected by the residents and four nominated by the Brotherhood. The Committee functions through four sub-committees — Community Help, Social, Industries and Fair Sub-Committee with three members on each and power to co-opt.

Highlights from the Annual Report:

- The Community Aid cottage has been fitted up for services such as hairdressing, chiropody and sight testing. These services are provided in a voluntary capacity by retired residents and also by visiting practitioners.

- A flatette in St. Stephen's house has been furnished for visitors to residents who cannot accommodate them in their own homes and other visitors to the Brotherhood. Seventeen visitors have been accommodated during the year.

- The Annual Market Fair at the Settlement raised £400 towards the overall expenses of the Brotherhood.

- The Social Sub-Committee has arranged talks, concert parties, Adult Education programmes, community singing and picture nights as well as providing tea and hospitality for large and small groups of visitors. Forty five buses have brought visitors from Church Guilds, Mothers' Unions, C.W.A. and other organisations and 2,406 people have been served with cups of tea during the year.

- The Indoor Bowls Club attracts many residents and quoits and hookey have also been provided.

- The Industries Sub-Committee has organised the preparation of envelopes for posting for G.M.-H. of Dandenong and this has earned the Industries £150.

- The Joinery Shop makes step ladders, ironing boards, sink cupboards for outside sale as well as carrying out jobs for residents. In three months this earned £48 in cash. Value of work done on the Settlement amounts to £126 and value of goods awaiting sale is £85.

- Sale of plants through the roadside plant house amounted to £110 and through the "Dilly Bag", £250.

- The Vegetable Garden worked by Mr. Hansen supplied in six months £147 worth of vegetables to the kitchens, and sold the surplus, worth £22, to residents.

- Jumble Sales on the Settlement raised £663 from nine sales.

- The village store, known as "The Tucker Box", had a record turnover of nearly £5,000 and a net profit of £63 — goods being sold as cheaply as possible to residents.

- The Industries Account received a total of £1,460 from teas, joiners, enveloping, jumble sales, plant sales, kitchen, garden and television donations. It paid out £1,300 in "unit claims" to residents who worked at specific jobs.

- At present the Residents' Committee is expanding the "Good Neighbour" Service of advice and assistance to residents and is re-furnishing the Craft Room in the Community Centre as a community sitting room for residents and friends.



A meeting of the Residents' Committee attended by the Welfare Officer and Chaplain

NEWS FROM BROTHERHOOD AUXILIARIES

The MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET: Our newest auxiliary, The Melbourne Younger Set, had their first drive for funds to help the Brotherhood, just before Christmas, and, by a street collection, raised, in one day, the sum of £1,080. After this tremendous effort the group is now planning many interesting and social events for this year. The President, Mr. Gary Gray (WY 3121), or the Secretary, Miss Barbara Stone (WA 2492), would always be glad to hear of young people who would care to join the group. Because of the group's fine effort, the Brotherhood are able to add a new social worker to the staff.

BRIGHTON AUXILIARY: are holding a Card Afternoon at "St. Ninians", St. Ninians Road (off Bay Street), Brighton, commencing at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 5th March. Admission will be 5/- per person, which includes afternoon tea. Would any potential players be good enough to bring along a pack of cards please. Tables for 4 are at £1. For any further particulars please ring the President, Mrs. Green, at XB 1085 (after 5 p.m.), or Miss Rawlins, B.S.L., at JA 3057.

PRESTON AUXILIARY: are holding a Speedboat Carnival at Edwards Lake, Reservoir, on February 2nd, starting at 1 p.m. This will be a thrilling afternoon and there will be trophies up to £40 in value. Soft drinks, tea and biscuits will be available. Anyone interested is cordially invited to attend. For further particulars, telephone the Secretary, Mrs. Biddle, at JU 3241.

ESSENDON GROUP: are taking a tea party down to our holiday camp for boys at "Morven" on January 26. This is the fifth year they have been down and they fully expect it to be another enjoyable day.

CAMBERWELL AUXILIARY: will hold their first International Luncheon on Thursday, March 6th, at the home of Mrs. E. H. Hudson, 26 Christowel Street, Camberwell. Anyone desirous of attending is welcome and for any further information, please ring the Secretary, Mrs. Roberts, at WF 5050.

HUGHESDALE/MURRUMBEENA GROUP: will hold their next meeting on Thursday, 20th February, at the home of Mrs. Curtis, 5 Fellows Street, Hughesdale, at 2 p.m. For any further particulars, please ring Mrs. Curtis at UM 3128.

ARMADALE AUXILIARY: will hold their first meeting for the year on 12th February at the home of Mrs. Thorn, 81 Kooyong Road, Armadale (phone UY 7169).

PLEASE TIE SHOES TOGETHER

When sending shoes to the Salvage Division, will you please tie them together. This saves the time and trouble involved in sorting and matching separate shoes.

We welcome these New B.S.L. Friends

Mr. J. Cook, Geelong West; Mr. C. C. Fisher, Brunswick; R. E. Kahn & Clark, Melbourne; Mr. Buchanan, Surrey Hills; Mrs. Edmonson, Hawthorn East; The Rev. Canon Millard, Maryborough; Mrs. Vines, Glen Iris; Mrs. J. Pitman, Ashburton; Mrs. L. Bird, Glen Iris; Mrs. Wilkins, Murrumbeena; Miss Love, Armadale; Miss R. Were, Malvern; Miss Sherlock, South Yarra; M/- J. S. Deravin, Toorak; Mrs. C. Oates, Chiltern; M/- A. Sharman, Canterbury; Mrs. H. F. Creswick, Toorak; Mrs. Ross Lilley, Warragul; Mrs. Arnold, Albert Park; Mrs. J. B. Hillis, Brighton Beach.

Mrs. E. Longstaff, Middle Park; Mr. N. C. Westerman, Brighton; Mrs. Cummings, Melbourne; Mrs. Engel, Murrumbeena; Mrs. Martin, Murrumbeena; Mrs. J. F. Sinclair, Belmont; Lady Newton, South Yarra; Miss M. L. Davis, Armadale; Mrs. W. A. Borthwick, Armadale; M/- E. W. Muntz, Dimboola; Mr. W. G. Moss, Bendigo; Mrs. N. G. Baker, Brighton; Mrs. P. Stuart, Hawthorn; Mrs. M. G. Sutherland, Northcote; Mr. A. G. Fartch, North Essendon; Mrs. D. M. Dean, Malvern; Mrs. L. Tait, Kew; Mr. W. J. & N. J. Ray, Springvale; Miss E. Bastian, Prahara; Mrs. A. Hagger, Sandringham.

Miss V. Thomas, Hampton; M/- F. K. Doselt, Middle Brighton; Mrs. D. Nichol, Belmont; Miss A. A. Bill, Elwood; Miss K. Ward, Toorak; Miss Honey, Malvern; Miss L. Ewe, Hughesdale; Mrs. J. Botterill, Glen Iris; Mrs. R. Todd, Moolamein; Mrs. W. A. Bishop, East Malvern; Mr. E. Hite, Pascoe Vale South; Miss J. H. Jamieson, Toorak; Mr. E. Cornish, Croydon; Mrs. Pearce, Mitcham; M/- Chilvers, Upper Hawthorn; Mrs. G. Grant, McKinnon; Mr. & Mrs. Walton, Tallarook; Mr. R. J. Kerr, Caulfield; Mrs. Neilson, Sth. Caulfield; Mrs. Forsythe, Elsternwick.

Mrs. V. Vines, Surrey Hills; Mrs. L. Evans, West Preston; Miss L. Bennet, West Preston; Mrs. J. D. Hayter, Elsternwick; Mrs. E. Brandon, Caulfield; Mr. T. Davidson, Cheltenham; Mr. B. J. Jackson, Mt. Macedon; M/- R. Martin, Wonthaggi; M/- L. E. S. Brown, Toorak; Mr. F. P. Tonkin, Brighton; Miss E. Raynor, Elwood; The Rev. W. L. McSpedden, North Fitzroy; M/- M. I. Macavean, Beaconsfield; M/s D. Kemp, Castlemaine; Mrs. F. Beattie, Gembrook; A. B. & C. Forbes, Camberwell; M/- R. R. Player, Balwyn; Dr. Gwynne Villiers, Melbourne; Mrs. Wilbur-Ham, Malvern; Mrs. Brookhouse, Glen Iris; Mr. G. Wright, Dandenong; Dr. Chenoweth, Toorak; and Mrs. Kirk, Carnegie.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I. Central 2721

Please find my donation £ : :

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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