

# B.S.L. NOTES

For the Friends of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence

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

FITZROY

FEBRUARY, 1959

No. 134

The Superior writes on . . .

## HUMAN RELATIONS PROBLEMS

### B.S.L. SCHOLARSHIP - CHRISTMAS THANKS

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

We most certainly are living in a scientific age. The majority of us are left gasping at the progress being made. The Russians have now launched an artificial satellite which we are told will remain in orbit for hundreds of years. It is all very exciting but it is also somewhat frightening, especially when we are told by Bertrand Russell that civilisation is "on the road to death" as a result of our interspace exploration.

It is good to learn all we can about this world of ours and the space in which it revolves, but one cannot but wonder where it is all leading. Our leaders tell us that Australia's need is for more scientists and technicians. This great land of ours must of course be developed and for this, highly skilled men must be available. The ordinary one of us is under a great debt of gratitude to the scientists. Life for all of us is easier because of their self-sacrificing labours. Diseases of the body and mind are being eliminated through the skill and devotion of doctors and surgeons. "But man does not live by bread alone."

Science cannot bring peace and understanding amongst the nations nor can it alone heal our social ills, nor again can it promote that "righteousness that exalteth a nation". In the final analysis it is the human relationships between individuals and nations that is of paramount importance. While realising the need of a continued flow into the community of scientists and technicians I believe there is no less a need for skilled men and women to improve the human relationships of mankind.

#### B.S.L. SCHOLARSHIP

All that I have so far written is leading up to tell you something which I think to be of great importance. It is that we can now see our way to the establishing of a B.S.L. Scholarship, the object of which will be to give a specially chosen man three years Social Studies training at the University for service with the Brotherhood. The Brotherhood is, of course, always in need of money to carry out its work, but a still greater need is that of personnel. I have found from the very earliest days that the public is always ready

to support any worthwhile enterprise, but men must be available to carry out that enterprise and those men must be trained for the task.

I believe that there is not one social problem that cannot be solved were the right kind of men and women available, and it is for us to remember that it is the social ills of mankind that are the cause of that tension amongst the nations that bring war with all its horror.

I am hoping that the formation of this scholarship to which I have referred will be the first of many such; the training of a man will cost about £500 a year. I feel sure that when it is more fully realised than is the case at present that the work which the Brotherhood and other such

(Continued overleaf)



His Grace, The Archbishop of Melbourne, with Father Tucker and Mrs. Bigwood during the Archbishop's visit to Carrum Downs prior to Christmas. Mrs. Bigwood, aged 91, is the Settlement's oldest resident.

## MANY WERE HELPED AT CHRISTMAS

Many families and elderly people were helped at Christmas by the staff of the Brotherhood backed by the interest and generosity of B.S.L. Friends who gave of their time and money.

The Coolibah Club was particularly busy. Christmas Dinner was enjoyed by 154 members and there was a good attendance at the Carol singing on Christmas Eve. Nearly 400 age and invalid pensioners received specially made up Christmas parcels. Miss Sumner, Manageress of the Coolibah Club, arranged for sixty-two elderly people to enjoy Christmas dinner in private homes and outings for 250 other pensioners.

One hundred and fifty families on unemployment or sickness benefit or widows' pensions received hampers and toys supplied by the Brotherhood or by the Apex Club of Melbourne.

### HOLIDAYS

On January 3rd the girls' camps opened the holiday season at Morn-

ington. Camps for some 200 children continued through January and children from Brotherhood centres also attended the Albury Apex Club camp.

Day outings to beaches for children who were unable to have holidays were organised for most weekdays during January.

Private holiday placements were arranged through the Social Service Bureau for 25 children. This entailed considerable work for the Social Workers in interviewing people who had offered to provide holidays, seeing the children safely reached the homes and fitted in happily.

**The Christmas programme could not have been carried out without the help of a large number of volunteers. Some helped make up Christmas hampers and toy parcels, some delivered parcels for families and elderly people. Holiday camps and day outings were staffed almost entirely by young volunteers.**

## GOOD RESPONSE TO APPEAL FOR CLOTHES

"Brotherhood friends responded very generously to our appeal for clothes and we would like to thank all those people who took the trouble to sort out their clothes at such a busy time and offer them to the Brotherhood", said Mr. Graham Walker, Manager of the Salvage Division. Mr. Walker said that the Brotherhood's two vans made more than 1,000 calls during December.

"We still need a limitless supply of used clothing and household goods to pass on to needy families and to use in our Opportunity Shops", Mr. Walker added.

### HELPERS WANTED

Voluntary helpers to assist with sorting clothes at the Salvage Division are urgently needed. The present group of helpers have been on the job regularly for many years but with the expansion of the work of the Salvage Division more helpers are required every day of the week. Anyone who would be willing to help sort clothing is asked to contact the Hon. Secretary of the Auxiliary, Mrs. C. G. Bucknall, at BY 1818.

### *The Superior's Letter (cont.)*

organisations are doing is of vital national importance, the necessary money and personnel will be forthcoming.

I am looking forward to the time when business firms and other groups will make scholarships available. Individuals and groups of people may perhaps desire to perpetuate the memory of a friend or dear one by means of the kind of scholarship to which I have referred.

### VOCATION

The type of men and women we will be seeking will be those with a true sense of vocation, who will think more of the satisfaction that comes in doing the work rather than from the financial gains to be derived therefrom. To me it is very disquieting to hear it said that to get the best man for any task you must pay him an attractive salary. The best men are not obtained by this means. The labourer is most certainly worthy of

his hire and a man should be able to adequately care for his family and to be free from financial worry, but the chief reward for his labours should come from the satisfaction which comes from the work which he is doing.

It is this type of person we are seeking and, I might add, that what good the Brotherhood has been able to do and is doing is due to the fact that we have been able to attract men and women who realise the tremendous satisfaction there is to be derived from improving human relationships and thereby helping to promote that spirit of goodwill which is so necessary for the welfare of this and all countries.

### CHRISTMAS THANKS

I must not conclude without expressing our appreciation to all you good people who were so generous to us, or rather to those whom we serve, at Christmas time. During this month (January) some hundreds of

children will be enjoying your hospitality at Mornington, and at Christmas, scores of families and old people enjoyed some of the good things of Christmas, thanks to your generosity. I suppose it is only those who have actually lived in the locality from which many of them come, can realise the contrast between the two localities and realise too the thrill of the youngsters as they enjoy to the full the holiday by the sea given them by B.S.L. Friends. On their behalf and on behalf of all to whom you bring happiness through us I say thank you very much.

May 1959 be a year of peace and happiness for you all.

I am, dear B.S.L. Friends,

Yours sincerely,

*G. Kennedy Tucker*  
Secretary B.S.L.

## THE NEWS IN BRIEF FROM BROTHERHOOD CENTRES

● Mr. Alex Greig, Director of the Children's and Youth Centre, will leave on an overseas work and study trip in February. Mr. Greig planned to go overseas some years ago but postponed the trip to develop the work of the Children's Centre. Mr. Greig will study youth work in the United Kingdom and the U.S.A.

● Plans are now being prepared for the first two cottages for St. Laurence Park, Lara. They will be submitted to the B.S.L. Geelong Council at its meeting in February.

● The Malvern Opportunity Shop will move from its present site in Glenferrie Road to a new shop two doors from the Malvern tramway sheds. Mrs. Rogers who manages the Shop, and the auxiliary that helps stock and staff it, look forward to the additional space that will be available in the new shop. February 2nd is the date for the opening.

● Mr. R. U'Ren who is carrying out a study of leisure-time activities in a new housing estate expects to complete the analysis and collation of findings in February. Over two hundred people were interviewed by Mr. U'Ren and other interviewers.

● Miss T. Lane has joined the staff of the Brotherhood and will be responsible for the children's and youth clubs at the East Preston Community Centre.

● Social Workers on duty at the Social Service Bureau over the Christmas-New Year period were kept busy by a record number of people seeking advice and material help. Many were people with families who were awaiting receipt of Unemployment and Sickness Benefits or who had been put off work owing to the closing down of factories for the holidays.

● "Morven", Mornington Holiday Home, will be used in February to provide holidays for small groups of mothers in need of rest and a holi-

day. They will be accompanied by their children and social workers will also live in to help look after the children.

● Members of the Brotherhood staff were invited to a Christmas party organised by members of the East Preston Community Centre. Supper and entertainments were provided by residents.

● Carrum Downs residents joined together for Christmas dinner in the Community Centre.

● B.S.L. Friends are reminded that visitors are always welcome at Carrum Downs. If you are driving to the Mornington Peninsula via Dandenong during the warm weather the Settlement is right on the route.

● Some furnishings for the Chapel of St. Mark in the new Fitzroy building have been provided by Brotherhood friends as memorial gifts. If you would like to provide a Chapel Chair or any other furnishings, Arch-deacon G. T. Sambell at FJ 3378

will be pleased to provide details of requirements and costs.

● Miss K. O'Neill, a Social Worker, has been carrying out a four months project of visiting families who were at one time in the Family Service Project but have now moved to Housing Commission homes in outer suburbs. She is finding out how they settled in to their new environments.

● Since its inception in 1954 the "Better Way" Fund has received nearly £2,000 from donations sent in lieu of sending flowers to funerals. The first cottage financed from the fund was opened at Carrum Downs last year and the money now in hand, approximately £1,200, will be used for building other "Better Way" cottages at St. Laurence Park, Lara.

● 7,000 Brotherhood Christmas Cards were sold through the City Office and suburban Opportunity Shops. This was the first year the Brotherhood had its own cards.

● A site for flats or cottages for elderly people is being sought by the Brotherhood in a Melbourne suburb to provide some accommodation for old people who wish to remain in the city.



We don't ask you to follow the example of the man in Weg's cartoon but if you have any used clothing you don't want, the Brotherhood can make good use of it.

PHONE

JA 3183

and a van will call in the metropolitan area.

If you live in the country, parcels addressed to the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Flinders Street Railway Station, will be carried free of charge on the Victorian Railways.

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARIES

As material for this issue of the "NOTES" had to be available by the middle of January, it was not possible to include the usual page of news of the activities of Brotherhood auxiliaries as they were not holding their first meeting for the year until the end of January. The next issue will contain notices of auxiliaries' meetings and proposed activities.

### "NOW!" IN SIXTH YEAR

"NOW!", the Brotherhood's monthly journal on social questions, is entering its sixth year of publication. The 65 issues provide a record of the progress that has taken place in many fields of social welfare and the suggestions and criticisms on social questions made by Brotherhood and other writers.

The January issue features articles on—

- Housing Minister's New Plans.
- Unemployment in 1958.
- Local Community Chests.
- Our Treatment of Neglectful Mothers.
- Adult Education for Elderly People.

"NOW!" costs only 6d. a copy, and the annual subscription is 6/-. Please send subscriptions to 51 Royal Arcade.

### BUS TRIPS TO CARRUM DOWNS

The next bus trip to Carrum Downs will be on Saturday, February 14th. The March outing will be on Saturday, March 21st.

Tickets for both trips are available from the City Shop at 51 Royal Arcade for 6/6 return.

### INCREASE IN BUREAU CASES

In the six months to December, 1958, there was a considerable increase in the volume of work in the Social Service Bureau which is staffed by three Social Workers. A comparison of figures with the same period the previous year shows—

#### July-December, 1957

Interviews	833
New Cases	160
Home Visits	190

#### July-December, 1958

Interviews	1,150
New Cases	301
Home Visits	306

The increase is generally due to the services of the Bureau becoming better known in the community and particularly among clergy and professional workers who refer people to the social workers. Temporary and permanent family breakdowns caused usually by the desertion of the father or the hospitalisation of the mother and are a major reason why people come to the Bureau. These cases involve a great deal of work in making temporary provision for the children and then carrying out casework to improve family relations, or, if the break is irreparable, making permanent arrangements for the mother and children.

## NEW BUILDING NEARS COMPLETION

The Brotherhood's new headquarters building in Fitzroy is nearing completion. The Social Service Bureau on the ground floor is already in use and Social Workers of the Family Service Project moved into the first floor offices in January. The Children's Centre on the second floor and the roof playground should be completed by the end of February.

The official opening will take place some time in April when the grounds have been tidied up and the buildings and fittings entirely completed.

Details of the opening will be announced in the next issue of the "NOTES".

## THEY FILLED 145,300 ENVELOPES

A group of residents at Carrum Downs filled 145,300 envelopes for General Motors-Holden's in the past year. The work involves placing journals in envelopes and sorting them into postal districts and States and earned nearly £600.

These figures were given in the annual report of the Carrum Downs Residents' Advisory Committee.

Residents who received token payment for various jobs on the Settlement worked 26,000 hours during the year and in addition many other hours were worked without payment.

The joinery shop, sales of plants, jumble sales, vegetable garden and Social Sub-committee and other activities raised £2,500 during the year and the Market Fair a further £800.

The Residents' Committee has been active in promoting many improvements at the Settlement and has regular monthly meetings. The joinery shop had made a major contribution to maintenance work in addition to making articles for sale.

The Social Sub-committee has provided hospitality for many hundreds of visitors and organised talks and entertainments at the Community Centre. One resident has started a cake making venture and the vegetable garden is making a big contribution to the dining room and cafeteria.

## Donation Slip

THE SUPERIOR,  
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE  
51 ROYAL ARCADE

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."