

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

JUNE, 1959

No. 136

The Superior writes on . . . LIVING LONGER — PREPARATION FOR RETIREMENT

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

All problems are the concern, directly or indirectly of us all, for we are "all members one of another" — if one member suffers, all members suffer. Starving millions and slums are our concern, as is the lot of handicapped children, adequate housing for all, proper care for the sick and aged. We are unable to take special interest in all these and the many others there are, but there is one problem which does concern every single one of us. It is a personal matter to us all. I refer to the problem of old age.

I fully realise that old people are the least important group in the community, but yet there is a natural instinct in us all to care for old people. If we ignore that instinct, we are violating our conscience, and this is bad for us as individuals. We have to face the fact that if this nation of ours is failing its old people, this really means that unless we, as individuals, are doing something about this problem, the effect of our want of action will rebound upon us.

There are very few who are not in some way responsible for aged relations or friends. I am very averse to thrusting undue burdens on the young, but yet the young should feel their responsibility and do what they can for those who have reached that stage.

There is still another reason why this is an individual problem. Old age will catch up on the majority. It is said that people are living for 10 or 15 years longer now than was the case a few years earlier. This, however, is not quite true; it is that more people are reaching ripe old age than they did before medical science has reached its present stage.

LIVING LONGER

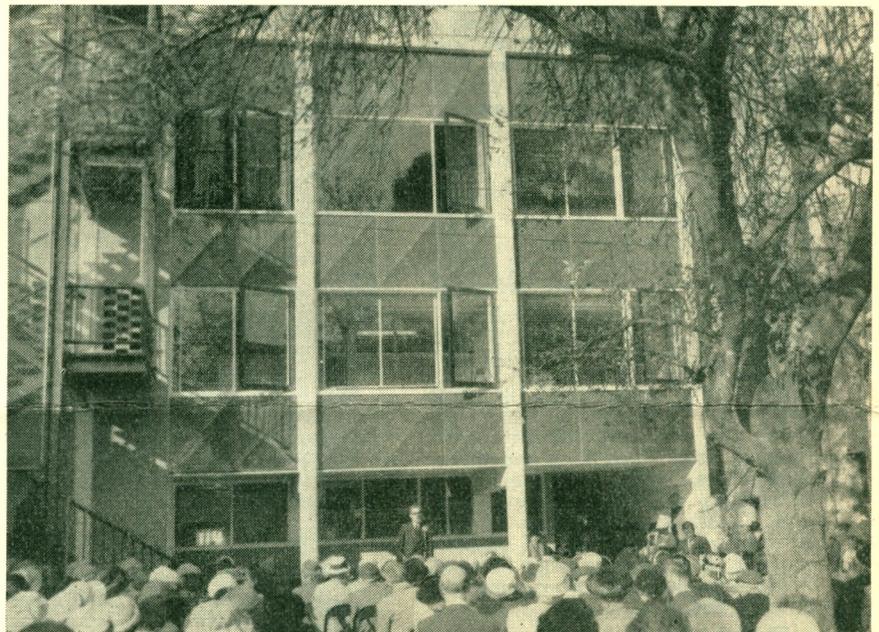
I understand from my medical friends that nothing has been done up to the present to stay the gradual decay of the human tissues, which ultimately causes death in spite of the elimination of diseases. There are, however, indi-

cations that the prevention of tissue decay may be possible in the future. If such is the case, people could continue to live, barring acci-

(Continued Overleaf)

VOLUNTARY HELPERS TO FINANCE FLATS

A cheque for £4,000 was presented to Archdeacon G. T. Sambell by the Mrs. R. Wilson, President of the Voluntary Helpers Shop at Fitzroy on Sunday, May 10. The money is to be used to provide further accommodation for elderly people. Archdeacon Sambell announced that a block of flats would be built in a suburban area for elderly people who wish to remain close to friends or relatives living in the city. Two sites, one north, and one south, of the Yarra, were under consideration, he said.



• The Minister of Health, the Hon. E. P. Cameron, officially opening the new Brotherhood building. The new Social Service Bureau is on the ground floor. Offices for the five Family Service Project social workers and three administrative offices are on the first floor, and the new section of the Children's Centre occupies the second floor. The flat roof is a protected playground for children.

WINTER APPEAL FOR CLOTHING

The demand for secondhand clothing for aged and invalid pensioners, widows and children, this winter, is expected to be the biggest ever, Mr. David Scott, director of social services of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, said last week.

Mr. Scott made this statement in launching the Brotherhood's annual Winter Appeal for secondhand clothing and household articles.

Pensioners are finding the struggle to provide clothing for themselves, as well as paying for their food and rent an almost impossible task.

The winter months are probably the hardest on these people,

struggling to exist in fireless rooms, with insufficient food and inadequate winter clothing, he said. Mr. Scott added that he expected the Brotherhood would distribute more than 5,000 articles of all kinds of clothing to pensioners and needy families throughout Victoria between now and the end of August.

This includes all types of cloth-

ing ranging from baby wear, children's clothes, men's and women's suits, overcoats, summer dresses, etc.

The clothing is sorted at the Brotherhood's Salvage Division by voluntary helpers and suitable garments are dry-cleaned and pressed. When the clothing requirements of pensioners and needy families are fulfilled, surplus articles are sold in the Brotherhood's Opportunity Shops to raise finance for social service work, he said.

You can arrange for a van to call and collect parcels of clothing and household articles anywhere in the metropolitan area by ringing JA 3183, he urged.

The Superior's Letter (continued)

dents and diseases prone to those of all stages of life, indefinitely. This prospect may not be pleasing, but it is one that has to be faced. Whether we are going to live for many years beyond the present expectant span, the fact remains that the chances are that all today will live considerably longer than did their parents.

PREPARATION

One of the last things we want to be is a burden to others in our old age; we must therefore do something more than just feeling that we don't want to enter into this stage. We must do something about it. We must prepare for old age a long time before it catches up on us.

I think I can say something about the problem; old age has caught up on me and I am living and working amongst those of my own age group. I am also in touch with many hundreds of old people who, at the end of their lives, find life a burden and meaningless. In many cases these dear people have allowed themselves to drift into old age without preparation for the same. This preparation is most important. A long time before retiring age people should have some interest into which they can throw themselves. Nothing advances the infirmities of old age more than does inactivity—a feeling of uselessness. Right to the end of life's journey, the creative urge in mankind remains; this need must be catered for.

The creative urge is not satisfied by merely pottering about the garden or spending the days on the bowling green. There are so many jobs waiting to be done that could be done by old people, and in many cases could be done better than by

the young people. The experience of life which old people have is in itself a great asset.

I think of the many social service causes awaiting to be carried out or augmented, and valuable and worthwhile jobs for the Church which could be done by men and women, although no longer young or even far from young. These jobs are important in themselves, but the doing of them is of tremendous importance to the people doing them.

COUPLES

Just one more thought, and that is concerning aged couples. They have to face the fact that the time will come when "one is taken and the other left". Each in the partnership should see that as far as possible, that the one who is to be left is provided for. So often I find that a woman is left alone in the old family home, lonely and afraid of the future.

The loneliness and the fear hastens the infirmities which come with advancing years. Old people themselves, and those who have their welfare at heart, should see, as far as is possible, that ageing couples are in such a situation that when one is left alone, he or she, as the case may be, still have companionship, a home they can cope with, and an interest in life.

SETTLEMENTS

I fully realise that Settlements, such as we have at Carrum Downs and are establishing at Lara, are not for everybody, but an extension of the scheme would go a long way towards solving this ever-growing problem. I look forward to the time when there are at least 25 Settlements in Victoria for active elderly people.

I heard of an old man being given a small oak tree for his garden. He said, "this is no good to me as I will be dead before it can be of any value". To my mind this poor old fellow had a quite wrong outlook on life. We should all endeavour to leave, in some way, our own memorial.

This may be the furthering of some worthwhile cause which will continue long after the individual has finished his course—as with the oak tree. When busy in providing for one's family, often this cannot be done. When one is free from such responsibility one can undertake such activities as will form some lasting memorial to oneself. The oak tree referred to does not apply to us all, but we should all try to plant some kind of "oak tree".

FITZROY OPENING

It was so nice to see so many of you at the opening of our new building and dedication of our Chapel at Fitzroy. The weather was perfect and everything seemed to go so smoothly. The great debt we owe to you, our Friends, was brought home to me emphatically. Over the years I have watched the work grow as the number of Friends grow. There can be no organisation with Friends with a greater loyalty and steadfastness than has this Brotherhood of ours. All that you do humbles me, all you do fills me with a sense of great thankfulness.

I am,

Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker

Scherer B.S.L.

500 ATTEND OPENING OF NEW BUILDING

More than five hundred people attended the opening of extensions to the Brotherhood's headquarters in Fitzroy and the dedication of the Chapel of St. Mark on Saturday, May 16th. The function was held in bright sunshine on the gravelled courtyard at the rear of the new three-storey building.

Father Tucker, in welcoming the guests, recalled the early days of the Brotherhood, and spoke of the rapid development of its social service activities.

"This has only been made possible by the loyal and continuing support of B.S.L. Friends and the devotion of the staff to their jobs of helping those in need," he said. "The work carried on by those at Fitzroy had been maintained under the most difficult conditions, and the new building would increase the efficiency and scope of the Brotherhood's social work," Father Tucker added.

Mr. D. Lovegrove, M.L.A. for Fitzroy, responded to the welcome on behalf of the guests. The Minister of Health, the Hon. E. P. Cameron, then officially opened the new building.

The Minister spoke of developments in welfare activities in Victoria which were largely due to the effective partnership that existed between Government and voluntary agencies. Mr. Saxil Tuxen, an original member of the

Board of the Brotherhood, thanked the Minister for his attendance and for opening the building.

DEDICATION OF CHAPEL

During the singing of a hymn, the Archbishop and clerical members of the Board moved to the Chapel of St. Mark for the dedication of the altar and furnishings and the Chapel.

The Archbishop, in his address, referred to the value of the Brotherhood's work to the Church and to the people the Brotherhood served. He emphasised the two-fold ministry of the Church which was the forgiveness of sins and healing. The Church could not fulfil its obligations unless it carried out both tasks.

After the opening, afternoon tea was served and the visitors inspected the Social Service Bureau, Chapel, offices for social workers, Children's Centre club rooms, craft rooms, library and canteen and the roof playground.

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NOTES OF B.S.L. NEWS

• The Rev. David Green will commence duties as Chaplain-Manager at Carrum Downs Settlement early in July. His main concern will be the welfare of residents. It is intended that Mr. Green will become an expert in the welfare of elderly people and he will also do some Chaplaincy work in geriatric units. Mr. Green will be responsible for the general running of the settlement and will be aided by the new Matron, Sister Thompson, and Maintenance Officer, Mr. John Hare.

• Groups of voluntary helpers from the Young Anglican Fellowship who help at the Salvage Division in the evenings have been supplemented by working parties of students from the University Women's College.

• Statistics from the Social Service Bureau show a big increase in the numbers of people approaching the Brotherhood for help with family problems. In the past five weeks the three social workers have seen an average of twenty people each afternoon in the Bureau. Unemployment and housing problems are major factors in the increased demand for advice and help.

• The first four cottages at St. Laurence Park, Lara, are nearing completion. Two elderly married couples and two single people will occupy them. Father Tucker will live in the Staff Cottage and he expects to spend more time at Lara as the Settlement progresses.

• A new Opportunity Shop in Station St., St. Albans, opened two months ago, is proving most successful. It is managed by Miss Jill Killen, who established the Dandenong Shop some two years ago.

• The Coolibah Club for elderly people was given a "face lift" before the opening of the new buildings at Fitzroy, and club members are most appreciative of the bright appearance of the club.

• Mrs. Griswold, wife of the Dean of the Harvard Law School, visited Carrum Downs during her recent visit to Melbourne. Mrs. Griswold gave Father Tucker a copy of an article from the "New York Times", written by Dr. Howard Rusk, American authority on rehabilitation, who visited the Settlement three years ago and opened the new Collins Court. The article praised Father Tucker and Settlement's emphasis on resident activity and participation.

(Continued Overleaf)



• The Archbishop dedicates the Chapel of St. Mark. On the left is Canon Britten and on the right the Rev. Michael Clark, a member of the B.S.L. Board and an original member of the Brotherhood.

News from B.S.L. Auxiliaries

MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET are having a Cocktail Party at Scotts Hotel on Monday, 8th June, at 5.30 p.m. This is being held for a special drive for new members and also to form a new and bigger committee. Mr. Ian Pittman, former treasurer, is going on a business trip overseas. All present members wish him every success.

DANDENONG: A meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. F. Moodie, Kays Avenue, Dandenong, on 27th May, at 2 p.m. There will be entertainment and the usual gift-table. On June 24th, at St. James Hall, the annual meeting will be held. Miss Rawlins and a speaker from the Brotherhood will be present. An apron competition is being arranged and the best apron will receive a prize. All aprons become the property of auxiliary for sale, with whatever other gifts come along. Afternoon tea is free to all who come along that day.

CHELTENHAM-MENTONE: This auxiliary hopes to raise enough money this year to heat the Community Hall at our Carrum Downs Settlement. To aid their funds, they have arranged a well-stocked street stall to be held in Mentone Parade, Mentone, on May 29. A jumble-sale will be run in the near future, the date of which will be advertised. Card nights are run each month by the Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Walker, and the next will be on June 8th. For any inquiries, please ring Mrs. Kelly at XY 3939.

BOX HILL: This auxiliary is holding a big street stall on Friday, 25th September, and all are working very hard to make this a huge success. Any new members would be most welcome.

FORTUNAS AUXILIARY has been very busy with several fund-raising functions since the beginning of the year, and the next function is the theatre night on 19th May for "My Fair Lady". On Friday, June 19th, this auxiliary is holding a cabaret ball at Whitehorse Inn, Balwyn, and are hoping that perhaps members of other auxiliaries would be interested in joining them on that evening. At the June meeting the auxiliary are having a demonstration of Sunbeam Electric products, and in July they will welcome a speaker from the Anti-Cancer Council. Any enquiries, ring WL 8457.

GLEN IRIS AUXILIARY held their annual meeting on May 5th at which Archdeacon Sambell was guest speaker. A card evening will be held on Saturday, June 6th, at the home of Mrs. Smart, 181 Glen Iris Road, Glen Iris. All are very welcome.

CAMBERWELL AUXILIARY held their first International Luncheon for the year, which was an Australian Luncheon, and at which Father Tucker was guest speaker. A "bring-a-gift-buy-a-gift" table proved to be ever popular. The auxiliary is very grateful to the Little Theatre directors who are generously giving the theatre for a charity performance. This will be a gala premiere on Friday, 9th June, and promises to be a very enjoyable evening.

Anyone desirous of attending should write to Mrs. John Blanch, 32 Christowel Street, Camberwell, or Mrs. John Bignell, 11 Christowel St., and enclose £1 per seat. Tickets will be forwarded after May 26th.

BUS TRIP

The next bus trip to Carrum Downs will be on Saturday, July 11th. The bus will leave Batman Av. at 1.30 p.m. Tickets must be obtained beforehand at 51 Royal Arcade.

ORMOND held their annual meeting in April when a cheque for £100 was presented to Archdeacon Sambell, guest speaker. An interesting talk was given at the May meeting by Mrs. Nancy Benton, on Australian literature. The Ormond shop is getting along steadily under their own management.

The next meeting for the "Fair" committee will be held in the rooms of the Housewives' Association at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 10th, 1959.

New Building Opened (cont.)

The guests included Mr. C. Langford, of Clements, Langford Ltd., the firm which constructed the building, and Mr. G. Mitchell, of Mockridge, Stahle and Mitchell, architects of the building.

Films of the opening were screened on two television news programmes, ABV2 and HSV7.

Approximately £10,000 is still required to pay off the cost of the Children's Centre floor. Many friends have already subscribed to the appeal and a Trades Union Committee is at present raising some funds for the Centre.

Notes of B.S.L. News (cont.)

- More than one hundred old age pensioners have enjoyed holidays at "Morven", the B.S.L. Holiday Home at Mornington, in the summer and autumn holiday season. In the winter months "Morven" will be used to provide holidays for small groups of mothers and children.

- Social Workers in the Social Bureau are helping to carry out two surveys. One is a study of the living patterns of low-income families, and it is being organised in conjunction with the Family Services Committee of the Victorian Council of Social Service. The second survey is concerned with housing conditions of families who approach the Brotherhood for help. Many are living in apartment houses, rooms or overcrowded, sub-standard accommodation for which they are paying high rents.

- Geelong Grammar School boys have planted nearly six hundred trees at St. Laurence Park, Lara.

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."