

B.S.L. Notes



Notes for the Friends of The Brotherhood of S. Laurence

FITZROY, VIC.

APRIL, 1946.

No. 57

THE SUPERIOR'S LETTER

SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

51 Royal Arcade,
Melbourne C.1.,
March, 1946.

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

I was recently asked "What does Mr. Wilding do?" Mr. Wilding, you know, is our Social Welfare Officer in Fitzroy. There, in a somewhat ramshackle office he interviews all who come for help. Those who come are mostly what are called "down and outs." The Brotherhood's aim is not only to give material aid to such folk but also to ascertain as far as possible the causes that led to the trouble. Herein lies the supreme importance of this branch of our work. In the early days of our social work a Member of Parliament in speaking at one of our functions compared the Brotherhood to an ambulance service. In a sense that comparison is a true one, but with the opening of our Social Service Bureau some four years ago we have tried not only to care for those who have fallen victims to "accidents" but we have also tried to ascertain the cause of the "accidents."

THE CASE OF "JOHN BROWN."

Let me explain my meaning. There is the case of John Brown. That is not his real name, but it will suffice. John is a true product of the slums. His parents were slum folk. The father deserted his wife and family when John was about six years of age. The mother then took into the home another man as "lodger," who seems to have been as great a wastrel as was the father. The home was the scene of continued drinking bouts and worse. In this atmosphere John grew up. He had little schooling, was continually getting into trouble with the police, and spent more than one period in reformatories. At the age of nineteen when he first came under our notice he was an undersized weakling with a mentality below the average, a poor problem lad of a problem family. He is now serving a three years' sentence in prison.

What do we learn from this by no means uncommon story? First of all we learn that the cause of the "accident" lies in the environment in which the unfortunate John was brought up. It is not only a question of the abolition of slums, as important as that is, but contact must be made

with all problem families if they are to be helped. That, of course, is what we aim to do through our Housing Campaign — our campaign for the regeneration of slum people who have become slum minded. Had we been able to help the Brown family when the father deserted them we might have been able to save the situation and John would not now be behind iron bars. I do not know what became of the other members of the family. There were two girls as well as John. Think of little girls being brought up in such an atmosphere as that which I have tried to describe!

The second thing we learn from this case is that our prisons must be made something more than places of incarceration. Just to lock up a lad such as John does more harm than good. And think, too, of the unfairness of such treatment. John got into prison through no fault of his own. He was a victim of environment. The lad had not a chance from the first. While in prison little or nothing will be done towards re-educating him, and he will come out worse than when he went in. This sort of thing is not only un-Christian but it is stupid. It is costing the taxpayer millions of pounds a year.

WHAT IS TO BE DONE ABOUT IT?

Having ascertained the cause of tragedies such as that of young John, what is to be done about it? We must continue to enlist the sympathy and understanding of all people of goodwill. After all it is public opinion that counts. It would seem now that the Government is determined to do away with slums. This decision was made because certain people identified themselves with slum people, and with the knowledge gained from their contact with these unfortunate folk demand was made for reform. I like to think that we have played our part in this direction. The same applies to the housing muddle. In this State at any rate real efforts are being made to bring cosmos out of chaos. Here again I think the Brotherhood has played its part with some success. To speak about all social problems one must be able to speak with authority. Our aim is to learn all we can about social problems. As far as possible we shall pass our knowledge on to you. I know we can continue to rely upon your sympathetic understanding.

I fear I have not fully answered the question with which I began this letter. I could tell you of Mr. Wilding's efforts to find shelter for homeless people, efforts to find jobs for boys who have got into trouble, of his care for wives and families who have been deserted by their bread-winner. Space does not allow me to go into details. I hope, however, that I have said enough to enable you to realise that our Social Service Bureau is doing a worthwhile job.

APRIL 24th AND 27th.

I do hope that all you good people who are not too far away will make a special effort to be with us at our Carrum Downs function, and also at the opening of the "Coolibah" Club. Will all who have cars please fill them with relations and friends and bring them to the Settlement. Those who will not be going by car can travel quite conveniently by train and bus.

By the time you are reading this I hope to be on vacation. Mr. Bishop will deal with all Brotherhood correspondence in my absence. Personal letters should be marked as such. May I have only those of an urgent nature.

Thank you, all good people, for the continued help and encouragement you give us.

I am, dear B.S.L. friends,
On behalf of the B.S.L.
Yours very sincerely,

G. Kennedy Tucker
Secretary B.S.L.

P.S.—I have just received a cheque for £125 from an Ivanhoe friend towards another Bungalow for Carrum Downs. I have a feeling that we will not have to wait very long before the necessary £250 is forthcoming.

G. K. T.

GENERAL NOTES.

Bungalows for Carrum Downs.

We are hopeful of having at least three bungalows for aged and invalid persons in the near future. The Thanksgiving Bungalow is now secured, and is to be officially opened by Mr. F. C. Kimpton on 27th April, when Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe will open the M.G. Park — the area prepared by a party of boys from the Melbourne Grammar School. It is hoped that another bungalow, made by the boys of the Geelong Grammar School with money supplied by 3XY listeners, will be ready for opening at the same time. The third building will be the gift of an anonymous friend.

House of S. Francis.

This building has recently been renovated. Here will be situated the General Office, the Bursar's office and the Board Room. On the same floor will be the "Coolibah" Club (formerly referred to as the Old Folks Club). At the rear will be the staff dining room and kitchen; and upstairs the staff living rooms, with provision for two or three young men prepared to live with the staff and share expenses. All the building will be open for inspection when Mr. Barry opens the "Coolibah" Club on Wednesday, 24th April, at 3 p.m.

"Outward Bound."

As this issue goes to press we have not yet completed the takings for the performance of this play, which was presented by the Melbourne Little Theatre. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all who helped to make the evening a success.

CHRONIC ALCOHOLISM.

The Chronic Alcoholic has presented a social problem through the ages. Many people, both individually and in groups, have striven towards a solution of that problem. A paper by Dr. Cowles, of U.S.A., came into the hands of the B.S.L. last year. Dr. Cowles stated that after years of research work he was convinced that chronic alcoholism was due to an allergic reaction of the brain cells to alcohol. One or two drinks in this type of individual would set up an edema, or weeping, of the meninges of the brain, which caused in turn a vastly increased intracranial pressure. This condition robbed the drinker of the last vestiges of self control.

Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, £100 has been provided to start a special fund to enable the B.S.L. to undertake the treatment of some twenty-odd cases. This treatment has already started, and considerable hope is held for its success.

The provision of medical treatment, however, is only part of the work necessary. Clothes, board and other necessities must be provided for each case before they can earn sufficient to keep themselves.

The psychological aspect is equally important, and treatment essential. These cases cannot stand a setback of any kind. The slightest rebuff is often sufficient to cause them to turn to drink again. In this case they are again brought back for treatment — which often means starting our work all over again.

The claims of Alcoholics Anonymous are also important. The possibilities of starting a group in this State are being investigated.

Every effort should be made to cure alcoholics — not to punish them. Sufficient evidence seems to point to the fact that chronic alcoholism is a pathological condition, and the writer has little doubt that sooner or later a permanent cure will be found. If this can be done, the population of our goals will decrease enormously.

With the object of interesting people in this subject and obtaining support for this specific work, the B.S.L. has had made a cinematograph film entitled "Gaul Does Not Cure." Groups wishing to see this film are asked to contact the Fitzroy office.

D. J. W.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

14th January, 1946, to 2nd March, 1946.

A.—A.D.H., 4/-; Mrs. Alcock, £1/1/-; Mrs. R. Armstrong, 10/-; Ad Valorem, 2/-; A.C.A., 5/-; Mrs. D. S. Abraham, 12/3; Mrs. Armstrong, 5/-; Anonymous (Ivanhoe), £125/6/-; Mrs. J. Austin, £2/2/-; J. Alexander, £1/1/-; 6 Anonymous donations, £1/19/9.

B.—Mrs. D. H. Bailey, 10/-; Miss F. M. Blades, 5/-; Lorraine and Helen Boyce, £1/0/5; Mrs. J. W. Begg, 3/-; Miss Blade, 5/-; Mrs. E. Bourke, 16/-; Miss E. Bedford, 16/-; Mrs. Bunting, 10/-; Mrs. L. G. Boyle, 10/-; Miss Barter, 10/-; Mrs. I. Brown, 5/-; Miss I. Brown, 5/-; Miss Baragry, 2/-.

C.—Mr. Jack Crispin, £1; Mr. V. Clow, £1; Mrs. Cross, 10/-; Mrs. Charles, 10/-; Catanach's, £2/2/-; Mrs. Chase, 5/-; Miss Joyce Cooling, 5/-; Curtis Family, 5/-; Mrs. L. Collins, 5/-; Mrs. Cock, 6/-; Miss A. Cochrane, 2/6.

D.—S. E. Dickins Pty. Ltd., £6/15/-; Per "Dorothy," £7/5/-; Mrs. Driscoll, 5/-; Mrs. H. Davis, 5/-; Mrs. G. Duncan, 5/-; Mrs. E. Davies, £1; Miss K. Duigan, 10/6; Miss H. Dowling, 5/-; Dinkum, 10/-.

E.—Mrs. Edwards, 5/-; E.R., 5/6; Mrs. D. N. Evans, £20; The Equity Trustees Co., £25.

F.—Mrs. E. M. Ford, 10/-; Mrs. C. L. Fiddes, 5/-; Mrs. W. Hay Ferguson, £2; Mrs. Frank, £1/1/-; Mr. and Mrs. C. Franklyn, £1.

G.—Prudence's Good Fairies — "Proverbs," £1; "Vive," £1; "Rosemarie," 5/-; "Mignonettes," 10/-; "Maid of the Veil," 5/-; "Pebbles," 10/-; Mrs. Graham, 5/-; Mrs. Goulet,

2/6; E. Graham, £1; Mrs. Griffiths, 5/-; Mrs. Grandin, 5/-; Mrs. G. Gazely, 10/-; Mrs. R. Grouse, 5/-.

H.—Mrs. Harper-Bourne, 3/-; H.B., £1; Mrs. P. B. Hiscock, £1; Mrs. E. A. Huntingford, 5/-; Mrs. Henderson, 10/-; Miss Harris, £5; H.J.O., £250; Mrs. C. Hitchins, 5/-; Miss H. Hamilton, 5/-; J. R. Hartley's Estate, £20; Mrs. Harvey, 5/-; Miss Hendy, 10/-; Miss Hickford, 5/-; Miss F. Hohmuth, 5/-; Mrs. K. Honeybone, £1; Mrs. H. Hooke, 5/-; Hampton, 10/-; Mrs. Hearne, 13/-; Mrs. Hann, 5/-.

I.—Mrs. Iddles, £1; Inasmuch, 6/-; Invisible Mending Staff, 5/-.

J.—Mrs. Johns, £1 1/-; Mrs. A. C. Jackson, £1 2/6; John, 10/-; Miss G. A. Jones, £1.

K.—Miss M. R. Kent, £1; Mrs. Kennedy, 2/-; Mrs. Kincaid, £1.

L.—Mrs. G. Lemon, £3 3/-; Mrs. E. Lane, 5/-; Mrs. Lovett, 5/-; Mrs. Laver, £1; Miss P. Lee, £1.

M.—Mrs. C. Morgan, 5/-; Mrs. Murphy, 5/-; Mrs. Morton, £1; Mrs. Moroney, 5/-; Mr. A. Marshall, £7 10/-; Mrs. Morgan, 5/-; Mr. Montgomery, 10/-; Mrs. R. B. Muir, 5/-.

Mc.—Miss Gwen McGregor, 5/-; Mrs. A. J. McCallum, £1 10/-; Mrs. C. P. McLeish, 10/-; Miss M. McGarvie, £2; Miss J. Mackin, £1; Miss H. McDonald, £2; Mrs. McFarlane, £5; Miss McNeilly, £1.

N.—N.M.C., £1; Mrs. Nelder, £1; Sister Nash, 10/-; Mrs. E. Nicoll, 10/-.

O.—Mrs. O'Neill, 5/-; Mrs. J. P. O'Meara, 5/-; S. Oswald's Fellowship of Prayer, Glen Iris, 5/-; Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, 10/-; Off to England, 5/-; Mrs. O'Mara, 5/-.

P.—Mrs. Penny, £1; Mrs. Peakman, 5/-; Mrs. Poolman, £5; Mrs. A. Patten, £1; Mrs. I. S. Park, 3/-; Mrs. Phelps, 5/-; Mrs. J. Pomery, 5/-; Mr. P. S. Pearse, 15/-; Mrs. E. Pearse, 5/-; Mrs. Peacock, 2/-; Mrs. Pike, 5/-; Miss Pullman, 5/-; Mrs. Proctor, 5/-.

R.—Mrs. Richards, £1; Miss Rogers, £5; Mrs. J. Rossack, £1; Mrs. Richardson, 5/-; Miss Richardson, 5/-.

S.—Miss C. Stanes, 10/-; Mrs. E. E. Schmidt, £1 2/6; Mrs. A. Smith, 10/-; Mrs. A. B. Samuel, £1; Mrs. J. Streaks, 2/6; Mrs. K. Storach, 5/-; Mrs. Sturde, £1; Mr. P. Serle, £3 3/-; Miss D. Smith, 10/-; M. Sheane, 2/-; Mrs. C. M. Stamp, £1; Mrs. Stevens, 5/5; Mr. Sanders, 10/-; Miss Sherriff, 5/-; Mrs. Spicer, 15/-.

T.—Mrs. H. H. Thomson, 5/-; Mrs. B. Turvey, 10/-; Miss True, 10/-; W/O. G. P. Thomas, £5; Nurse Thornton, 17/-; Mrs. Turner, 18/9; Two Sisters, 10/-; Miss B. Taylor, 5/-.

U.—Miss M. Underwood, 10/-.

W.—Mrs. Wren, £1; Mrs. C. Wilson, 5/-; Mrs. Whitehead, 7/6; Mr. Wilmot, 10/-; Mrs. E. M. Wilson, 5/-; Miss L. Wright and Miss M. Hopkins, 10/-; Mrs. Wilkinson, 6/-; Mrs. E. White, 5/-; Mrs. Watson, £1; Mrs. Woodbridge, 10/-; Mrs. E. M. A. Williams, 5/-; Mrs. A. P. Welsh, 5/-; W.E.L., 10/-; Miss Wright, 5/-; Mrs. Stewart Webster, £1; Mrs. Wyatt, 5/-; Miss C. Wright, 5/-; Miss J. Walker, 5/-.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS IN KIND

14th January, 1946, to 28th February, 1946.

A.—Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. G. Anderson, Mrs. B. Atkinson.

B.—Mrs. Beattie, Miss Breaks, Miss Brown, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. M. A. Bostock, Mrs. Bryans, Mr. A. A. Brett.

C.—Mrs. Canavan, Mrs. Cole, Mrs. Cranston, Carter Family, Miss Crowther, Miss Curry.

D.—Mrs. Davies.

E.—Mr. Eastdown, Mrs. Ebbage.

F.—Mrs. Finister, Mrs. Fewster, Mrs. A. J. Foster.

G.—Miss Grant, Mrs. Griffiths, Mrs. George.

H.—Mrs. Henderson, Miss P. Hyams, Mrs. Hughes, Mrs. Hipwell, Mrs. Hann, Mrs. Highett, Miss Hagger, Mrs. Hogg.

I.—Mrs. Ireland, Miss Irving.

J.—Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Eustace Jones.

K.—Mrs. Knight.

L.—Mrs. Lothian, Mrs. Lee.

M.—Miss Marshall, Miss A. D. Matthews, Mrs. Muncey, Mrs. Mills, Mrs. G. R. Mather, Misses Mardes and Groves, Miss Mitchell, Mrs. W. J. McKillop, Mrs. McLean, Miss McKinnon.

O.—Mrs. C. E. Oaten, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, Mrs. Orme.

P.—Mr. and Miss Pryor, Miss M. Pollock, Mrs. O. B. Purbrick.

Q.—Miss Quarry.

R.—Mr. Rudd, Miss Rutter, Mrs. F. C. Richards.

S.—Mr. F. D. Cumbrae Stewart, Mrs. Solomon, Mrs. Semple, Miss Sager, Mrs. Simmons.

T.—Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Taylor.

W.—Mrs. A. H. Wilson, Mrs. Wansborough, Mrs. F. M. Woods, Miss Wilson, Mrs. Wilkins, Mrs. Whitford, Miss Watson, Cpl. Winston, Miss Warren.

Y.—Mrs. F. Young.

FRIENDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD.

We want more district secretaries, one in every suburb and in every town of the State and beyond. The following are the duties of district secretaries:—

1. To endeavour to secure new friends. (Each new friend would be asked to secure another friend.)

2. To provide district friends with literature, collecting boxes and collecting cards, when desired.

3. To arrange meetings of district friends as occasion requires.

4. To record the names and addresses of district friends. Twelve or more B.S.L. friends constitute a B.S.L. district.

Two Requests:

1. Will any ready to become secretaries for their district please communicate with the Superior.

2. Will friends in the districts already formed please communicate with their district secretary.

What Constitutes a Friend of the B.S.L.?

One who subscribes at least 5/- a year; or one who carries out special duties on behalf of the Brotherhood;

or one who gives to the Brotherhood in kind;

or one who while unable to help in a material sense is really interested in the work and undertakes to give sympathetic and prayerful co-operation.

B.S.L. DISTRICTS ALREADY FORMED.

ESSENDON: Secretary, Mr. P. J. Sanders, 11 Carlyle Street, MOONEE PONDS.

DEER PARK: Secretary, Mrs. R. Wansborough, DEER PARK.

WOODEND: Secretary, Mrs. J. W. Clarke, WOODEND.

EAST KEW: Secretary, Mrs. F. C. Kimpton, 31 Clyde Street, EAST KEW.

PASCOE VALE: Secretary, Mrs. Dobell, Burgandy Street, PASCOE VALE.

EAST BRUNSWICK: Secretary, Miss Laureen Williams, 114 Clausen Street, NORTH FITZROY.

HAMPTON: Secretary, Mrs. Robins, 31 Littlewood Street, HAMPTON.

KEW: Secretary, Mrs. Noble Yule, 14 Derrick Street, KEW.

SANDRINGHAM: Secretary, Miss Klutsh, 94 Vincent Street, SANDRINGHAM.

BROADMEADOWS: Secretary, Mrs. C. Burns, Pascoe Street, BROADMEADOWS.

CAULFIELD: Secretary, Miss Mary Raw, 6 Denver Crescent, ELSTERNWICK.

BALWYN: Secretary, Mr. G. B. Quittenton, 15 Cherry Street, BALWYN.

WILLIAMSTOWN: Secretary, Mrs. N. Spicer, 22 Northern Street, NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN.

MIDDLE CAMBERWELL: Secretary, Mrs. Game, 501 Riversdale Road, SURREY HILLS.

YARRAVILLE: Secretary, Miss Mortimer, 68 Fehan Street, YARRAVILLE.

Two Invitations to all B.S.L. Friends and their Friends

CARRUM DOWNS.

Saturday, 27th April, at 3 p.m.

Opening of the M.G. Park
by Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe, Headmaster M.C.E.G.S.

AND

Opening of Thanksgiving Bungalow
by Mr. F. C. Kimpton

FITZROY (65 Brunswick Street)

Wednesday, 24th April, at 3 p.m.

Opening of "Coolibah" Club
(for old men)

by Mr. William Barry,
Minister for Housing.

65 is a few doors from the corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets. It may be reached by double-decker buses along Bourke Street or East or West Preston trams along Collins Street.



Thanks to Mrs. Robert Wallace, who drew the above, you will all now know how to reach Carrum Downs.

DONATION SLIP

TO THE SUPERIOR, B.S.L.,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.1.

I want to help the Brotherhood help Granny Jones and all the others who come for assistance. I enclose:

£ : : .

Name

Address

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

STOP PRESS!

WRAPPERS FOR B.S.L. NOTES.

We wish to apologise for any errors made in the writing of the wrappers in which these Notes are sent to you. As we are, at present, compiling a new and, we hope, more accurate list, we should be glad if you would let us know where these errors occur. It would help us greatly if you included the incorrect as well as the correct address. Also if you have any friends who might be interested to read the B.S.L. Notes, would you let us have their names and addresses.