

B. S. L.

Quarterly Notes for the "Friends of the Brotherhood of S. Laurence."

Fitzroy, Vic.

January, 1934.

No. 9.

Dear Friends,

Since my last letter to you we have embarked upon two new ventures. The first of these is the establishment of Keble House. The building was at one time part of a series of school rooms, and is attached to S. Peter's Church. It has been loaned to us by the Vicar and Churchwardens. With the money that has come to us through you, our friends, we have furnished the building and adapted it to our use. There are four candidates for the ministry at Keble House, and one young man who acts as our housekeeper, and hopes eventually to become a lay-brother. I, too, have my quarters there. It is becoming more and more apparent to us that if the brotherhood system is to extend we must pay special attention to the training of future brothers. During the last twelve months we have received invitations from four bishops to form branches in their dioceses. Because of the lack of man power these invitations have had to be declined. Except when the money which comes from our friends is "ear marked" for any special purpose, we intend to devote it to the training of future brothers. Almost every week we receive applications from young laymen who wish to come to us for training. Many of these men are of good education and excellent character. They are ready to go anywhere and serve "without money and without price." The Bishops of many of our dioceses are crying out for priests of such calibre, but yet because there is not money for their training their services cannot be availed of. In the meantime, Australia drifts further and further from the things that really matter. It hurts to have to say no to most of the young men who would throw in their lot with us, but we are by no means down

hearted, for we feel that we are doing something to solve one of the problems of our time, and it is becoming increasingly evident that the Church at large realises that we are on the right lines.

The second venture that I want to tell you about is the work we have undertaken in the parish of Lilydale, which is a pretty country town some twenty miles from Melbourne. We have taken a cottage there, which has been furnished for us by the good people of the parish. Two of our laymen go up every week-end for Sunday duty, and a priest once a month. The money we receive for this work enables us to keep one more student, pay the rent of the cottage and our travelling expenses. It is a great relief to us to be able to get away from the city from time to time, and we are hopeful that we shall be of real service to the Vicar of the parish, who has to serve not only the important town of Lilydale, but six other centres as well.

I think I can say that all is going well at S. Mary's Mission. The people have been wonderfully good to us, and we are very happy in our work there. Thanks to the help of Melbourne friends, we are able to supply some of the material needs of the people of the "streets and lanes." This in itself is a big work. We feel that we must not give help indiscriminately, so we try to enquire into the case of everyone who comes to us for help. This, of course, adds to our work, but we feel that it is of importance. The case of the children is often very sad. They are most friendly little souls, and very responsive, but in most cases their surroundings are all against them. Many of them have no playground but that of the gutter. Our great need in regard to the Mission is that of another priest. We have been talking of, and expecting this other priest ever since we began our work in Fitzroy. I am very hopeful that before very long I shall be able to tell you that our hopes in this respect have been realised. I can, though, say no more about this matter at this stage.

Our House of S. Francis, the hostel for unemployed men, is now full, and we feel that we are doing a work that is well worth while. From the way in which people responded to our appeal to establish the House, we feel that we could embark upon other such ventures, but until our staff is

augmented we dare not add to our responsibilities. There are after all only two members of the Brotherhood in Melbourne, and we are responsible for four distinct spheres of work—the Mission, Keble House, Lilydale, and the House of S. Francis. Thanks to the faithful work of the house leader, Mr. J. Corlass, and to Mr. Alwyn Gregory, who looks after the financial side of the House of S. Francis, that part of the work causes us very little worry. When I say that there are only two members of the Brotherhood at work in Melbourne, I am not unmindful of the help given us by the laymen attached to us, but the majority of them are as yet trainees, and most of their time has to be spent in study. I know that every parent is inclined to exaggerate the worth of his children, and I suppose that I am inclined to do the same in regard to my "family," but I really am very pleased with them. As they will read what I am writing I must say no more about them!

We have lately had a visit from Fr. Russell, who is in charge of our Newcastle work. I was glad to learn from him that all was going well with the work there. Bro. Baker, also from Newcastle, is at present with us. Fr. Ford has been "holding the fort" while Fr. Russell has been on holiday. As things are at present, Fr. Cox and I are on twelve months' leave of absence from Newcastle. Before very long we shall have to decide what is to happen when our period of leave has expired. I am going up to Newcastle next month to discuss this matter with the Bishop. I was able to see the Bishop as he passed through Melbourne recently on his way back from England. He was good enough to say that he hoped that the Brotherhood would continue to function in his diocese irrespective of the personnel.

Fr. Ide of the Brotherhood of S. Barnabas, North Queensland, is at present staying with us. It has been a great inspiration to us to hear of what his Brotherhood, which has been established for thirty years, is doing. May we do for the cities something of what the Brotherhood of S. Barnabas and other such brotherhoods are doing for the bush.

Thanks to our organiser, the Rev. George Green, the number of our friends has increased since I last wrote. As we rely so much upon the sympathy and

prayers of our friends, we feel that it is essential that they should increase in numbers as our work increases. We are very grateful to our friends who have gained other friends. If it were possible for all to do likewise, what a great work we could do between us! To think of our work and to pray for us sometimes may not seem very much, but we know that it makes all the difference. We know that we could not have done what we have done were it not for the fact that you good folk are behind us. We really are very grateful for all you have done and are doing for us.

We are very pleased with the success of the first student (M. J. Clarke) to come to us. He went into residence at S. John's College, Morpeth, only at the end of March of last year, but in spite of the fact that he had to go into hospital a few weeks before his examination, he was successful in passing the first part of Th.L. We think we can rightly claim our share of this success. We maintain that if students can have a thorough grounding in Greek before going to college the worst of their troubles in regard to study are over. Fr. Cox is our Greek tutor. We congratulate him as we do Bro. Clarke.

I expect to spend a few days in Sydney on my way to Newcastle. I am to preach at S. James' at 11 a.m., and S. Mark's, Darling Point, at 7.30 p.m., on February 18th. I hope that I may be able to see some of our Sydney friends when in that city.

You may be interested in the few details I am inserting in these Notes about our personnel. For the sake of new friends I am giving details already known to those of you who have supported us from the beginning.

With best wishes to you all from us all,

I am, yours very sincerely,

G. KENNEDY TUCKER,

Superior, B.S.L.

BROTHERHOOD PERSONNEL.

Original Members.

The Rev. G. K. Tucker (Keble House), Superior, Rector of Adamstown, on 12 months' leave of absence, Missioner of S. Mary's, Fitzroy.

The Rev. J. W. Russell, acting Rector of Adamstown, in charge of Newcastle centre.

The Rev. G. C. Cox, Assistant at S. Mary's and in charge of Brotherhood work there.

Other Members.

The Rev. R. H. Ford, Assistant at Adamstown.

Bro. A. L. Baker, Assistant at Adamstown.

Associate Members.

M. J. Clarke (Keble House) student for the Ministry*

C. Evans (Keble House) Student for the Ministry.

Novices.

R. E. Wallace (S. Mary's) Aspirant for lay membership.

R. Roberts (Keble House) Aspirant for lay membership.

B. A. Talbot (Keble House) Student for the Ministry.

R. Lawrence (S. Mary's) Aspirant for lay membership.

I. Lean (Keble House) Student for the Ministry.

*Our aim is that the students should take the Arts course. To what extent this will be possible depends to a large extent on what financial support we receive.

ADDRESSES OF THE BROTHERHOOD.

S. Stephen's House, Adamstown, N.S.W.

S. Mary's Mission, Fitzroy, N.6, Vic.

Keble House, Albert Street, Eastern Hill, C.2, Vic.

Brotherhood Cottage, Lilydale, Vic.

"FRIENDS OF THE BROTHERHOOD OF S. LAURENCE."

To these are posted copies of the "Quarterly Notes." Friends are asked to pay the sum of 3/- a year. Those who wish to become friends are asked to communicate with the Superior at Keble House.

SUBJECTS FOR INTERCESSION.

(1) That the Brotherhood may be guided aright in the decisions it has to make in regard to opportunities of further service. [The Brotherhood should be ready to "launch out into the deep," but yet such "launching out" must only be in accordance with the will of God].

(2) For a company of young priests who are considering their call to the Brotherhood life.

[The life does involve sacrifice. It is so easy to think of reasons why that sacrifice should not be made].

(3) For the work of Keble House, the students, and those responsible for their training.

[There can be no real growth in the Brotherhood system until men are trained on Brotherhood lines. Such is being done in England. The same must be done in Australia].

(4) For the work at Newcastle, and all plans for its maintenance and extension. ["The branch" (Melbourne) has grown larger than the "parent stem" (Newcastle), but the work of both is of great importance].

(5) For the work at Lilydale, that it may be for the welfare both of the parish and of the Brotherhood.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Subscriptions (3/- each).—Mrs. H. F. Tucker, Mr. Cecil Smith, Mrs. B. N. Cox, Miss C. Valentine, Mrs. Malcolm Macmillan, Mrs. R. K. Collison, Miss Dorcen Hordern, Mrs. A. C. Morley, Miss Taber, Miss Blencowe, "local" friend (1/-).

Donations (over and above the 3/- subscription).—Mrs. Green, 1/-; Mrs. Stewart Webster, 7/-; Mrs. Henderson, 2/-; Miss Mears, 7/-; Captain Marriott, O.M.G., 17/-; Miss C. Richardson, 10/-; The Ven. Archdeacon Hancock, 18/-; Mrs. Aitkenson, 7/-; Miss M. Gillespie, 7/-; Mrs. A. K. Smith, £6/17/-; Mrs. Pearson, 7/-; Mrs. Begg, 2/-; Fr. Maynard, "The Art of Mental Prayer"; Mrs. Lethbridge, pillow slips; Robert Lethbridge, vegetables; Mr. A. Gregory, vegetables; Mrs. C. B. Davis, table napkins, &c.; Mrs. Fleet, Mrs. King and Mrs. Giban, Christmas cakes, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Tucker, puddings; Mrs. Tolhurst, fruit; Mrs. Stephen, eggs and jam.

The above does not include monies and other donations given for social work, which have been acknowledged in "S. Mary's Notes." Nor does it include gifts in kind sent to Adamstown.