

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.*

B.S.L. Headquarters,
67 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, N.6. Phone JA 7055

JUNE, 1960

No. 142

The Superior writes . . .

AN APPRECIATION OF WOMEN HELPERS

Dear B.S.L. Friends,

On Sunday, 8th May, Mrs. Ralph Wilson, on behalf of the Voluntary Helper's Shop, Camberwell, handed me a cheque for £4,000 which will enable us to commence the Keble House Flats which we are to build on our property in North Fitzroy. While helping other organisations in their building projects for the welfare of the aged, the Voluntary Helpers have given us up to date, no less than £16,000. A truly remarkable achievement for which we are profoundly thankful.

WINTER APPEAL TO HELP PENSIONERS

"Winter is the most critical time of the year for Melbourne's aged and invalid pensioners," Mr. David Scott, Social Services Director of the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, said recently.

Mr. Scott was announcing the commencement of the Brotherhood's annual winter appeal for clothing and household goods, which will continue to the end of July.

"Particularly with the recent rent legislation, the task of providing warm clothing has become more difficult for pensioners," he said.

Mr. Scott said that the articles that the Brotherhood could make use of included the following: used clothing, rags, crockery, vases, ornaments, jewellery, kitchen utensils, radiators, electrical equipment and milk bottle tops.

"The clothing we collect is sorted by voluntary helpers, reclaimed and repaired, and is either given to pensioners and needy cases, or sold in the Brotherhood's Opportunity Shop to raise finance for essential social service work," he said. Mr. Scott added that in the metropolitan area, householders could ring JA 3183 for a van to call, or in the country parcels could be freighted free of charge, if addressed to the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, Flinders Street Railway Station.

The recording of what these good people are doing for us inspires me to pay my tribute to the very valuable service women folk are rendering to the community in general and to the Brotherhood in particular. The erection and maintenance of our hospitals and innumerable other such institutions are a continuous reminder of the self-sacrificing service of women, who give of their time, energy and talents for the welfare of others.

NOT GLAMOUROUS WORK

I wish I could record the amount of money that has been raised and the numbers of "woman hours" that have been expended by those who have served the Brotherhood over the years. Apart from the auxiliaries that were formed in the early days, much of the service that women have rendered us began when a handful of women opened a shop for a few hours a week in Fitzroy; some, including some of the now famous "seven sisters", are with us still. That small venture has grown into the Salvage Division with its shops in the suburbs, Dandenong, Mornington and Geelong. There is no glamour in the work involved. To see something of what goes on behind the scene, one should visit the Westgarth Street building where literally tons of clothes, books, papers, etc., are sorted — some to be given to those who come to us in dire need and some to be sold in our various shops. The proceeds from the latter enable the various spheres in the Social Service department to function.

In speaking of the women, I am not unmindful of the help given in the same direction by young men who come regularly to perform some of the heavy tasks, nor am I unmindful of the many auxiliaries which work for the Brotherhood in other ways, in staffing our shops, holding functions and the like. I know that the services rendered involve self-sacrifice in the form of long journeys in over-crowded trams (and the money expended on these journeys), the foregoing of social engagements, the coming home tired at the end of the day and much else besides. I know however that those of whom I write, receive that satisfaction that can only be had from working for causes outside the individual. It is the self-centred person for whom I am really sorry, for those miss so much of the real joy of life — "Give and it shall be given unto you". How true that is.

IF MORE HELPED

What a different world it would be if all followed the example of the "working women" I have in mind. I know that mothers with young families have their hands full and those who have to work for their living have not much spare time, although some women under both the above headings are assisting us. I think of those countless women who seem to have little interest beyond the social round. Bridge playing, cocktail parties and the like can be useful forms of recreation, but those who get no further resemble those who expect to be healthy and

The Superior writes . . .

(continued from page 1)

wise on a diet of cream cakes and chocolates. If those latter to whom I refer could only realise all the good causes waiting to be furthered and could realise the satisfaction that can be realised in tackling a really worthwhile job, many problems which now seem insoluble could be solved, and Australia would be a better place in which to live for us all. I often wonder where all those women and their counterparts are who gave and went on giving during those war years. My prayer is that they, and in fact all of us, would work to win the peace in the same way in which we worked to win the war.

OUR 30th BIRTHDAY

We begin to think of how best to celebrate the 30 years of the Brotherhood's existence, which will be on 8th December, but about this you will read in the next issue.

With Greetings from us all to you all,

G. Kennedy Tucker

Superior B.S.L.

16th ANNUAL B.S.L. STAFF CONFERENCE

The sixteenth annual staff conference of the B.S.L. was held at Carrum Downs recently. Father Tucker opened the Conference; Mr. Greig spoke on the challenge of Christian Service, and Heads of Staff reported briefly on the work of their departments. The conference opened with intercessions.

Some fifty staff were present, in itself a commentary on the growth of our Brotherhood work and service since the first conference which was attended by twelve in 1945. Present on both occasions were Father Tucker (of course), Mrs. Anderson, Miss Abraham and Mr. Bishop.

The Superior reminded staff that this was the thirtieth year in the life of the Brotherhood. He was particularly satisfied to feel that the Brotherhood spirit goes on; that staff come not just for a job but as a vocation.

Mr. Greig gave more of his experiences overseas and emphasised that all members were part of the Brotherhood with a real contribution to make to the total task. There is a great responsibility on each whatever the job. He hoped that all staff would be involved in the five year plan for the development of a Family Centre at Fitzroy (see "B.S.L. Notes" April).

An innovation was that for a period the conference divided into discussion groups which considered

the following questions:

- How better can we communicate within the organisation?
- Where should we be going as the B.S.L.? Is there any project more urgent than the proposed Family Centre?

Some interesting suggestions were made which are being followed up.

The Heads of Staff reports were admirably concise—they had to be as time allowed only four minutes each. They were:—"Morven" (Mrs. Chisholm); Social Service Bureau (Mr. Fry); Family Service Project (Miss Paterson); Public Relations and Social Action (Mr. Scott); Coolibah Club (Miss Sumner); "NOW!" (Mr. Bishop); Carrum Downs (Arch-deacon Sambell); St. Laurence Park, Lara (Father Tucker); Youth Centre (Mr. Greig); Salvage Division (Mr. Walker); Auxiliaries—Fund Raising (Miss Rawlins); and Finance (Mr. Stanley).

Space does not permit publication of all that was said. The Social Service Bureau report is however given below.

SOCIAL SERVICE BUREAU

Within the Brotherhood programme it is the job of the Social Workers in the Social Service Bureau to apply their particular training to giving direct help to families in distress.

This distress may appear to have come about because of factors over which the troubled family has no control. Apart from their power as electors of the State or Commonwealth, the mother and father have no say over the housing policy of the State or the rate of Commonwealth payments in time of illness. Or the crisis may have arisen because of the particular type of person our client is: we may easily recognise that a more mature person would have avoided inappropriate behaviour, such as spending the rent money as a deposit on a television set, the payments on which cannot be kept up.

It is the job of the Social Worker to apply his academic education in understanding the forces which make for a person's behaviour and to an understanding of the person who has come to us for help. Before we can help our clients understand themselves, we must be able to understand them.

To many of our clients the environ-

ment is hostile and it is our job to interpret to those groups best able to affect changes in social welfare, where there are deficiencies. Mostly this part of our work is done through reporting to Mr. Scott who directs our social action, and also through our own membership of committees.

Frequently the amount of immediate change we can bring about is minimal but it still requires constant attention and interpretation and education to the community.

Most of our concentration and effort is directed to the clients individually and we work with them, accepting the existing welfare provisions of the State.

If we are to be helpful we must gain the trust of the client and secure his co-operation. The centre of our work then is the relationship we can establish with him; we call this the case-work relationship.

It is necessary to get across to the client that he does matter and that he is not fighting his difficulties alone, for it is only when he feels and knows that he has been given personal dignity that he will be confident enough to take that step which frees him from a negative and hope-

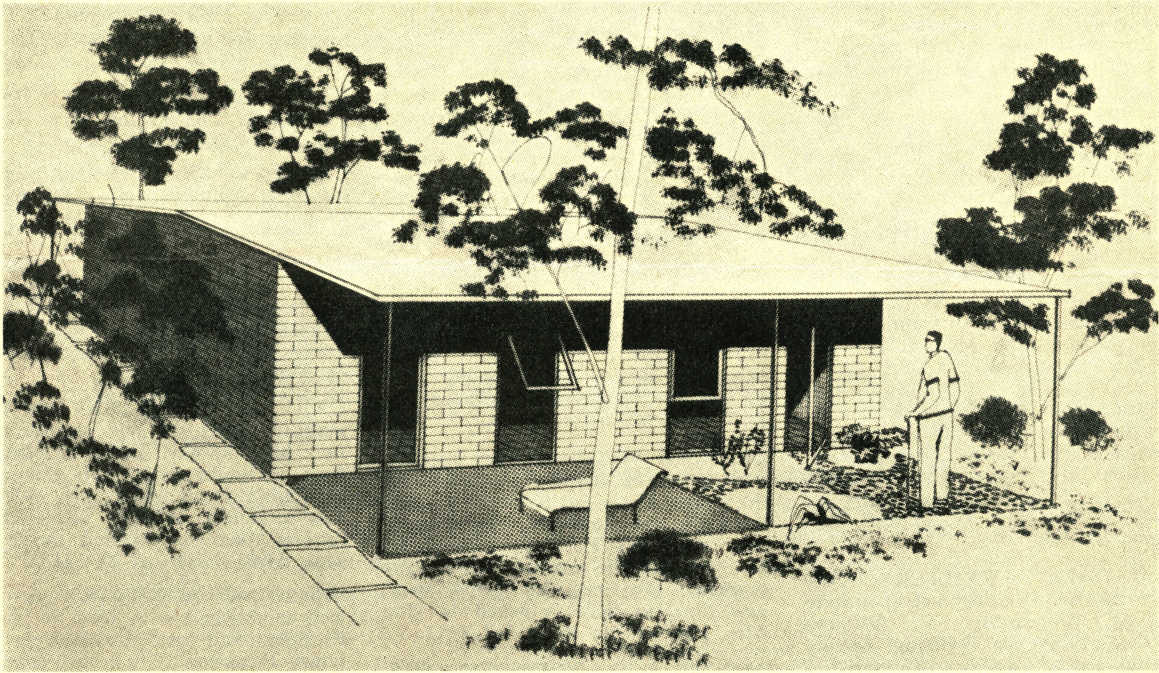
less attitude to life and will set him on the road to a more rewarding and responsible experience.

If our work is to be helpful we have to show the client that we are realistic in our understanding of his difficulties and have knowledge of any services in the community which may appropriately be used by him. Also this requires that we ourselves are able to be more flexible and understanding than the State in filling gaps through giving of finance and clothing, etc., for immediate difficulties.

It is only because we have the full resources of the Brotherhood behind us that we can be realistic ourselves in accepting and helping with our clients' needs.

The administration, the money from the shops, goods from Salvage, the clubs and all other services, are behind us each afternoon when we open the Bureau and though in some ways, we in our face to face relationship with the people the Brotherhood sets out to serve, are in the front line, our work stands or falls not only by our own effort but by the effort of the organisation team of which we are a member.

NEW TYPE COTTAGES AT CARRUM DOWNS



Four cottages of a new type have been erected at Carrum Downs, in Tuxen Avenue. The sketch above shows one of them. The construction is of Besser brick, which is a comparatively new kind of material. Variety has been given to the group by using different coloured blocks for the walls. Much thought has been given to the planning, equipment and finish. They will provide very comfortable homes for folk who, maybe, have not known comfort and ease for many years. One Carrum Downs resident writes: "Sitting in my cottage on this cold, wet night with every convenience at my fingertips I can visualise the joy and happiness of someone, like myself, who will enjoy life to the full, close to my door".

The "BETTER WAY"

Many Brotherhood Friends already support the "Better Way" fund and it is hoped more and more will come to do so.

The fund was established six years ago and is based on the Flower Fund which has operated in Sweden for many years.

Instead of sending expensive floral tributes as a mark of sympathy when someone has died a gift is sent to the Brotherhood and the Brotherhood sends an "In Memoriam" card. The wording on the card is — "In memory of . . . in whose honour . . . has sent a gift to the Brotherhood.

All donations received are placed in a trust fund from which, when sufficient finance is available, a cottage for an elderly person is built to the memory of all the departed who have been remembered by their friends in this way.

To date £2,500 has been received and one such cottage has been built at Carrum Downs and another at Lara. There is now sufficient finance for a further one to be built.

A leaflet describing the scheme is available from 51 Royal Arcade, Melbourne (Tel. MF 3011) to which address donations should be sent to ensure the most prompt attention.

COMMISSION SHOP GIFT TO LARA

The Commission Shop has recently made a most generous gift to St. Laurence Park, Lara.

It has made available £850 for the erection of a cottage and in addition will provide special fencing and also heating, light, a refrigerator and a washing machine.

B.S.L. CALENDAR

- Sunday, 14th August — St. Laurence Day Celebration.
- Wednesday, 2nd November — All Souls Day Commemoration.
- Friday, 11th November, — Market Fair.
- Sunday, 4th December — B.S.L. Foundation Festival.

"NOW!"

Established in April, 1953, "NOW!" is the Brotherhood's monthly journal on social problems. Incorporated with it since July, 1957, is "Food for Peace News" which is the organ of the Food for Peace Campaign.

"NOW!" seeks to stimulate interest, thought and action on social problems by critical comment on social welfare matters; giving news of new developments in these fields here and abroad; and publishing thoughtful reviews.

The paper is available from 51 Royal Arcade and the annual subscription is 6/-. Why not become a reader today?

BUS TRIP TO CARRUM DOWNS

The next trip to Carrum Downs will be held on Saturday, 16th July. The buses leave at 1.30 p.m. from Batman Avenue, and tickets (price 6/6) are available from the City Shop at 51 Royal Arcade.

NEWS FROM B.S.L. AUXILIARIES

MORNINGTON AUXILIARY: Ladies as well as helping in their Opportunity Shop, which continues to show good profit, have been helping at "Morven", making beds, filling the house with flowers, mending linen and generally helping to make our holiday home a very lovely place for our Pensioners who are on holiday.

FORTUNAS AUXILIARY: This busy group of young married women are holding a Ball later on in the year. A Morning Tea is being held at Mrs. Bennet's on 3rd June and a card afternoon at Mrs. Chadwick's on the 18th July to help defray expenses for the Ball. Other plans for the near future include a visit to Como House on 7th July and a Theatre Party to see "Music Man" on 19th July. Anyone interested in attending any of these functions could contact Mrs. McLachlan (Secretary) 85 9946.

ARMADALE AUXILIARY: The ladies of this Auxiliary are at present meeting bi-monthly. In between meetings they are knitting babies' clothes and tea cosies in preparation for the Annual Fair to be held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on 11th November.

HUGHESDALE - MURRUMBEENA AUXILIARY held their quarterly meeting on 9th May. As membership is increasing a workable constitution has been formed. More members are needed to sort at the Salvage Depot. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Curtis, 5 Fellowes St., Hughesdale on Monday, 9th August, at 12 noon.

CAMBERWELL AUXILIARY: The next International Luncheon to be held by this Group will be at the home of Mrs. J. Blanch, 32 Christobel

Street, Camberwell, on Wednesday, 22nd June. This will be an English Luncheon at which the Guest Speaker will be The Reverend Howard Hollis, Chaplain of Geelong Grammar School and formerly Minor Canon at Westminster Abbey and Chaplain to the Queen. Anybody who would be interested to attend should ring Mrs. J. Blanch, BX 4949.

DANDENONG AUXILIARY ladies are planning a drive for used clothing and household goods. The drive will take place to coincide with the finish of the extensions to our Opportunity Shop in Thomas Street. Meetings of the Auxiliary are held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at St. Peter's Hall at 2 p.m.

ORMOND AUXILIARY are urgently needing more helpers in their Opportunity Shop in Kallandra Road (opposite the Station). The shop is now open on Tuesdays and illness has reduced the number of regular workers. Anyone who could spare any time to help is asked to ring Mrs. Parr at the shop, WL 1912.

MELBOURNE YOUNGER SET: Although not much has been heard about the Melbourne Younger Set lately they meet fortnightly and are very busy organising a large Children's Carnival to be held at the end of September in Como Park.

SEWING AUXILIARY: This group continues to be busy and after two months have made goods to the value of over £100 as well as doing many repairs and renovations to garments and so made them saleable in the shops.

CHELTENHAM-MENTONE AUXILIARY are very pleased with the results of their Jumble Sales. They have had a shop in Parkdale lent to

WANTED KNITTERS

Knitters are very urgently needed to knit for our Opportunity Shops and also for the Baby's Wear Stall at the Annual Fair—Wool supplied. Please ring Miss Rawlins at the Brotherhood of St. Laurence, 67 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy (JA 7055) if you can help.

them and have made over £150. Cards are arranged on the 2nd Monday of every month at the Mentone Town Hall. If anyone would care to go please ring XY 3939.

CROYDON AUXILIARY are busy making goods for sale on the stalls they have booked in the Market for later on in the year. This group are still fairly small and would welcome new members. Anyone interested in joining them should ring the President, Mrs. Bolton at 72-32385.

SUNSHINE AUXILIARY is now well established with Mrs. J. Lee as President and Mrs. R. Lamb as Secretary-Treasurer. Their first function was held at the home of Mrs. G. P. Forestal when an enjoyable afternoon was spent by all. The next meeting will be at 1.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9th June, and will be held at the home of the Vice-President, Mrs. V. Davis, 59 Cornwall Road, Sunshine.

BRIGHTON AUXILIARY: This group are very busy with activities arranged for every month of the year. These include 5 Street Stalls to be held in Brighton and Hampton. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Stalls or join the Auxiliary should ring the President, Mrs. Dobson, XM 1734.

PRESTON AUXILIARY: These ladies have been very active with Street Stalls and card evenings. The card evenings are held on the fourth Friday of every month in the Guide Hall. If any of our Preston friends would care to attend ring Mrs. Grindrod at JU 3220.

BOX HILL AUXILIARY: Box Hill held a very successful afternoon at St. Peter's Hall on 30th May with Miss Shirley Broadway as Guest Speaker. The Group meet on the 3rd Monday each month and are anxious to have new members.

FITZROY AUXILIARY: At a recent meeting of this Auxiliary members were happy to learn that Mrs. R. Jones—previously of St. Albans Shop and Fitzroy Staff—is to be Manageress of the Fitzroy Shop. The shop will now be open from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with Auxiliary members helping as usual.

DONATION SLIP

THE SUPERIOR,
BROTHERHOOD OF ST. LAURENCE,
51 ROYAL ARCADE,
MELBOURNE, C.I. MF 3011

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"